Braille Bibliography – Adults

Note: NLS order numbers following some titles are for patrons of the National Library Service network of Braille and Talking Book libraries.

LOUIS BRAILLE--BIOGRAPHIES

Books

NLS: This title not available.
Lively and carefully researched biography of Louis Braille, with richly detailed information about the social and political climate of the era.
This title is out of print, but many libraries have a copy.

Available in print (112pp.) or braille (116pp.). $14.
A reverential telling of the life of Louis Braille.
Available from Louis Braille Center:
320 Dayton St., Suite 125, Edmonds, WA 98020 / (425) 776-4042
www.louisbraillecenter.org

Plays

 Begins with the childhood accident which blinded him, and ends with his invention of braille at the age of fifteen.
Appropriate for school-age and adult audiences.
Available only from Dramatic Publishing:
P.O. Box 129, Woodstock, IL 60098 / (815) 338-7170
www.dramaticpublishing.com
**Websites**

*Louis Braille.* Joseph E. Sullivan.
A short biography of Braille and an explanation of the system, written by the founder of Duxbury Systems.
www.duxburysystems.com/braille.asp

*Louis Braille.* Royal National Institute for the Blind.
Another telling of Braille’s life story. Reading level appropriate for older children and adults.
www.rnib.org.uk/wesupply/fctsheet/braille.htm

*The History of Reading Codes for the Blind.* New York Institute for Special Education
Brief outlines of the life and work of Louis Braille and others who were instrumental in developing writing systems for the blind. Includes a lengthy excerpt from *War of the Dots* by Richard Irwin, which provides in-depth historical information on the history and development of braille and other reading systems.
www.nyise.org/blind/barbier2.htm

This well researched history of braille includes copious information about the life of Louis Braille.
www.brailler.com/braillehx.htm

**HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF BRAILLE**

**Books**

NLS: RC50969, BR13188
This comprehensive book includes information on the origins of braille, contemporary braille codes, assistive technology, electronic distribution of braille, and speculations about future developments. Includes a section about visiting Louis Braille’s birthplace in France. Single print copies are available at no cost from:
www.loc.gov/nls/  
82pp. Braille only, $10.  
NLS: BR010878  
This engaging essay, originally written in 1955, is an account of the long and passionate struggle to establish uniform standards for a reading code among English-speaking countries. The print version may be difficult to find through interlibrary loan. Most of the text is available on the internet: www.nyise.org/blind/irwin2.htm.  
Braille version may be purchased from Louis Braille Center:  
320 Dayton St., Suite 125, Edmonds, WA 98020 / (425) 776-4042  
www.louisbraillecenter.org

Videos  
Not available with audio description.  
Tells the story of Louis Braille and his invention.  
Presented by a blind actress, this video focuses on sight-impaired participants who demonstrate the value of braille as a vital tool for independence, education, literacy and opportunity. A British video with relevance to all audiences.  
Not easily found, but obtainable through interlibrary loan.  
Can be purchased from Landmark Media, Inc.:  
3450 Slade Run Dr., Falls Church, VA 22042 / 1-800-342-4336  
www.landmarkmedia.com/

Websites  
An excellent succinct presentation of braille. Explains the six-cell system of braille and includes a very brief sketch of Louis Braille’s life.  

Perhaps the most comprehensive and well researched presentation of the history and development of braille on the internet. Includes information about the life of Louis Braille, both as a child and adult.

www.brailler.com/braillehx.htm

Braille Authority of North America

The Definition of Braille section includes charts for contractions and abbreviations.
A Short History of the Braille Authority of North America gives a chronology of the many competing braille codes in North America.

www.brailleauthority.org

Richard Irwin. 1955.

An expanded version of Irwin’s engaging 1955 essay, this is a first-hand account of the long and passionate struggle to establish uniform standards for a reading code among English-speaking countries.

www.nyise.org/blind/irwin2.htm

LEARNING BRAILLE

Correspondence Courses

Hadley School for the Blind

Offers free correspondence courses for family members of blind and severely visually impaired people. Courses cover Grade 1, Grade 2, and Nemeth mathematics code.
The Hadley School for the Blind, 700 Elm Street, Winnetka, IL 60093-2554 USA / 1-800-323-4238

www.hadley-school.org

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress offers free courses in braille transcribing, which leads to certification as a transcriber.


www.loc.gov/nls/bds.html
Books


Short, lively, and inexpensive, this introduction to Grade I braille includes games and exercises. Aimed at children, but also suitable for adults.

Garlic Press, 1312 Jeppesen Ave., Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 345-0063
www.garlicpress.com


A self-instruction book designed for sighted parents of children who are learning braille. Covers some Grade 2, includes many practice exercises, flashcards and chart.

National Braille Press
88 St. Stephen Street, Boston, MA 02115
(617) 266-6160 ext. 20 or (800) 548-7323
www.nbp.org


A thorough presentation of braille, Grades 1 and 2. Includes numerous practice exercises.

American Printing House for the Blind
P.O. Box 6085, Louisville, KY 40206-0085 / (800) 223-1839
www.aph.org

Websites

BRL: Braille Through Remote Learning.
This site offers a free online braille instruction program for teachers, parents, social workers, and current/future braille transcribers. The three self-paced courses include an introductory course which covers all Grade 2 contractions; a transcriber’s course; and specialized codes. The BRL program was developed with funding from the U.S. Department of Education’s Braille Literacy Program.

www.brl.org

HotBraille

A braille letter service. The user types in the text, which is transcribed into braille and sent at no charge. Website includes quizzes, braille practice exercise, and a service for locating commercial vendors to transcribe braille.

www.hotbraille.com