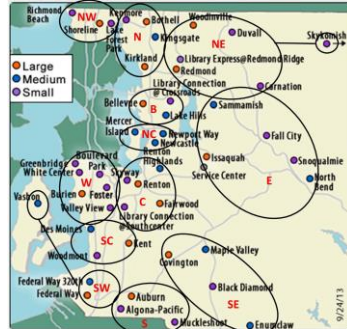


## Assistive Technology King County Library System



About KCLS:

- 49 locations
- 36 cities
- 2,300 square miles
- 19 school districts

NAME	LIBRARIES	# LIBS
1	Northwest	3
2	North	4
3	Northwest	6
4	Bellevue	3
5	Northcentral	3
6	East	5
7	West	6
8	Central	5
9	Southcentral	3
10	Southwest	3
11	South	3
12	Southwest	4

### Assistive Technology – what is it?

“Assistive technology is any product or service that makes tasks easier or possible” [www.watap.org](http://www.watap.org)

Assistive Technology for Vision includes



**MAGNIFICATION** *Font* **Contrast** Lighting!

### Normal changes with aging (from WebMD)

#### Hearing



Over time, changes in the ear make high-frequency sounds harder to hear and changes in tone and speech less clear. These changes tend to speed up after age 55.

#### Vision



Most people in their 40s develop a need for reading glasses as the lenses in the eyes become less flexible (presbyopia). It's also normal for night vision and visual sharpness to decline. Also in the later years, glare increasingly interferes with clear vision.

Assistive Technology for Hearing:

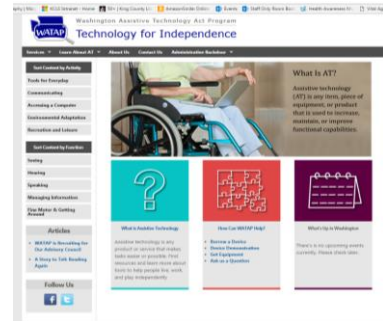
## Amplification!



Note mike position:  
It's a trumpet, not  
an ice cream cone



Wendy's "Breath Mint" rule of using a microphone: If amplification is offered, **TAKE IT!** You are the not the person who decides whether or not you are loud enough. Make it easy on your listeners so they don't have to strain to hear!



Assistive Technology makes life easier – for everyone!



©bebo - illustrationsOf.com/25044

E.g., interactive GPS, Amazon Echo, the microphone which allows talk-to-text on smartphones

**"But I don't have a budget" ...what can you do?**

- Establish a committee inside or outside the library inviting people to look at your library with an eye toward assistive tech – enroll your PTA, FOL, Library Advisory Boards
- Have magnifying glasses at every service desk
- In computer/reader trainings, highlight features such as changing font and enhancing contrast
- Amplify when possible – microphones, hearing loops and smartphone apps such as <https://snapguide.com/guides/use-your-iphone-as-a-hearing-aid/>

- Don't let people get away with NOT using a microphone
- Educate your staff that they can certify people to use WTBBL
- Add LP titles and audiobook titles to booklists - make it an everyday experience to use these formats (shorter holds lists!)
- Help get the word out about <http://www.choicemagazinelistening.org/>, a free talking magazine
- Ask your town if they provide real time captioning for events – they may be willing to provide a captioner (like a court reporter who records what is happening as it is happening)

Computer Aided Real Time (CART) Captioning in action



Life is easier with friends!  
(We don't have to do it all ourselves)

Work with your community partners – help amplify their efforts! Here's one method, an Assistive Technology Fair in the library:



## Vendors at KCLS 2016 Assistive Technology Fair

[Bellevue Network on Aging](#)[Bridge Disability Ministries](#)[City of Bellevue ADA](#)[ClearCaptions](#)[FixxBrain](#)[Hearing Loss Association of Washington](#)[Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center](#)[Hopelink Transportation \(Mobility Coalition\)](#)[Seattle Public Library/LEAP](#)[Seattle Deaf-Blind Service Center](#)[SightConnection](#)[Sound Generations \(formerly Senior Services\)](#)[Washington Access Fund \(now the Northwest Access Fund\)](#)[Washington Assistive Technology Act Program](#)[Washington Talking Book & Braille Library](#)

## Assistive Technology & Resources Fair Saturday, April 29, 11am-3pm, Auburn Library

Assistive technology is any product or service that makes tasks easier or possible.  
Learn about community resources and tools to help people live, work and play independently.

Visit representatives from the following organizations and others to learn what they can do for you!

Northwest Access Fund	Washington Assistive Technology Act Program
City of Auburn	Bridge Disability Ministries
Hopelink Transportation (Mobility Coalition)	Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center
Washington Talking Book & Braille Library	Seattle Public Library/LEAP
Hearing Loss Association	SightConnection <b>AND MORE!</b>

Please make arrangements for ASL interpreting services at least 7 calendar days in advance. Please contact [jacovinta@kcls.org](mailto:jacovinta@kcls.org) by April 20. This flyer is available in Braille upon request.

Reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities is available; please contact the library prior to the event if you require accommodation.  
Auburn Library • 1102 Auburn Way S • Auburn, WA 98002 • 253.931.3018  
Library • Tuesday - 10am-5pm • Friday - 10am-4pm • Saturday - 10am-3pm • Sunday - 1-5pm  
kcls.org/auburn • facebook.com/auburnlibrary

Be an advocate for your patrons –  
and your older self!

Questions?

Wendy Pender, MLS  
425-369-3285

[wgpender@kcls.org](mailto:wgpender@kcls.org)

See also [www.kcls.org/browse/50](http://www.kcls.org/browse/50)

## What Is a Print Disability, and How Can I Still Read Books?



**Amy Ravenholt**  
Assistant Manager  
Washington Talking Book  
& Braille Library

### Accessible Book Timeline

- 1824 – Braille invented
- 1877 – Phonograph invented
- 1931 – NLS starts providing braille books
- 1933 – First audio book produced on LP records
- 1952 – Blind children eligible
- 1966 – People with physical disabilities eligible
- 1969 – NLS loans first books on cassette tape



- 1976 – Kurzweil Reading Machine (optical character recognition and text-to-speech software)
- 1998 – Audible.com offers first audio books for download
- 2002 – Bookshare.org formed so members can scan books and share digital files
- 2003 – public libraries offer digital downloads for e-books and audio

- 2009 – NLS releases digital player, and launches free BARD download site



Future? Circulate refreshable braille displays, and transmit audio books wirelessly to the traditional player

- 2013 - BARD Mobile app for Apple
- 2015 - BARD Mobile app for Android



WTBBL Talking Book Service is

# FREE

No overdue fines, no postage charges,  
no cost to download books, no rent for player!  
Made possible through state and federal funding

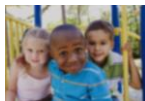
No, Medicare doesn't cover it because it doesn't cost anything

Open to any Washington State resident  
who has a **print disability**:

**Anyone who can't read  
a standard print book**  
due to a visual or physical impairment



Eligible due to  
**vision loss**  
if it prevents them  
from reading  
standard print



Often due to:

- Diabetes
- Retinitis pigmentosa
- Glaucoma
- Cataracts
- Age-related macular degeneration
- Eye trauma



Eligible if a **physical condition** prevents them from holding  
a book steady, turning pages, or reading for a long time



Examples: arthritis, stroke, multiple sclerosis, paralysis,  
Parkinson's disease or other movement disorders

**Eligible due to reading disability**

resulting from organic dysfunction, of sufficient severity to prevent reading of printed material in a normal manner.

Only medical doctors are allowed to certify a WTBBL application for cases of reading disability.

School personnel can certify students for other programs like [LearningAlly.org](http://LearningAlly.org) and [Bookshare.org](http://Bookshare.org) which give them access to text books.



**Copyright and Special Formats**

Copyright = exclusive right to regulate reproduction and distribution  
 Special format = books are duplicated in a format not used by the general public (braille, audio that plays at half the "normal" speed, encrypted files)

NLS may produce accessible versions of any literary work as long as they use a specialized format and only distribute them to the blind or other persons with disabilities

Sweet ☺ (and cheap) if you want to read titles that NLS has produced!!

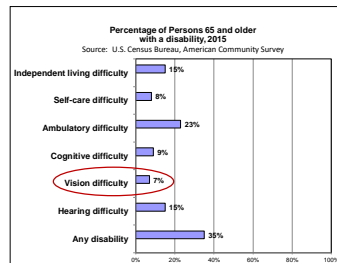
Sour ☹ if you want any of the other 99.9% of books published

Reading disabilities are a bone of contention

Is NLS too harsh? Or politically wise?

We are an accommodation for something the market doesn't provide.

When will all books be "born accessible?"



Washington State has 1,036,046 people over the age of 65

72,500 (7%) of WA seniors report vision difficulties

WTBBL serves 1 in 7; What about the rest?

**Professional librarians – yes, you! – may certify applications for people with visual or physical impairments.**

Other certifiers include doctors, nurses, social workers, and activities directors.

Public library staff are the one best chance most people have to hear about this program, and to get their application completed.



Patrons choose their level of service, from the independent smartphone user, to the technophobe who asks us to mail him “a good book”



**WTBBL offers:**

- Choose your own titles, or let the library choose for you—anything from “no dirty language,” to “50 Shades of Grey”
- Series books in order and favorite author feeds
- Book group support & customized book duplication
- 27,000 titles available for mail circulation, up to 15 at one time
- All 70,000 titles available to download now, and keep as long as you have storage
- Locally-produced audio and braille books/Northwest focus
- 40+ audio magazines, and specialized music collection
- Bi-monthly catalog of new titles; order online, mail in, or call—always a live voice M-F, 8:30 am-5:00 pm.



**BARD Express** simplifies steps, unzips books for patrons, saves them to the flash drive, etc.





Library staff can show you in person how to download books, or coach you over the phone.



Service travels with you across the country, or overseas



Questions?

Amy Ravenholt, MLS 206-615-1783  
[amy.ravenholt@sos.wa.gov](mailto:amy.ravenholt@sos.wa.gov)  
 Washington Talking Book & Braille Library  
 800-542-0866 / [www.wtbb.org](http://www.wtbb.org)  
 2021 9th St., Seattle, WA 98121

A program of the Washington State Library  
 and the Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

All photos are of WTBB/ or NLS patrons, except for: Slide 3 photo: <https://abilitytools.org/Mag/gray-harwell-assistive-reading-and-writing-software/>  
 Slide 7 photos from Getty Images; Slide 8 photos: WheelLife.org, Mirror.co.uk, PatientTalk.org  
 Slide 10/11 photos: <https://blog.globeinter.com/articles/step-by-step-40000>  
 Slide 12 statistics from: [https://saa.act.gov.au/aging\\_statistics/Profile/index.aspx](https://saa.act.gov.au/aging_statistics/Profile/index.aspx)

Library Equal Access Program (LEAP), at Seattle Public Library

CJ Glenn, Library Associate IV



Assistive technology available throughout the Seattle Public Library system:

- ZoomText, a screen magnification software and JAWS, a screen-reading software, are available on all library computers throughout the system
- Accessibility Kits which include a variety of magnifiers and writing guides as well as a large-type, high-contrast PC keyboard, are available at all branch locations
- Accessible e-books, downloadable audiobooks and audiobooks on compact disc are available for patrons to borrow

### Accessibility Kits



Large Type/High Contrast Keyboard



Low Vision Note Writing Frame



Low Vision Signature Guide



Low Vision Writing Tablet



Thick Pen (20/20 Marker)



Pen or Pencil Grip

### Accessibility Kits: Magnifiers



Dome Magnifier



Bar Magnifier



Sheet Magnifier

Additional Assistive Technology Available Regionally (Southwest, Columbia City, University and Broadview):

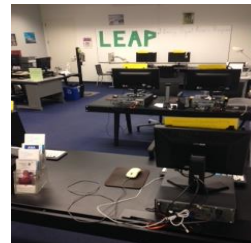
- One Computer with ZoomText Image Reader



- One Focus 40 Braille Output Display unit



In the LEAP Assistive Technology Lab at the Central Library:



- Two Focus 80 refreshable braille systems for reading and inputting computer-generated text in braille



- Duxbury text-to-braille translation software, used with an Index D Braille Embosser which allows patrons to print braille documents



- Two Closed Circuit Television Systems (CCTV) allow people to magnify printed materials, handwritten materials and images



- Free-standing magnifier that patrons can use to read print materials



LEAP Programs and Services



Drop-in Technology Lab



Low Vision Book Group



ASL Story Times



### Full Life Memory Care

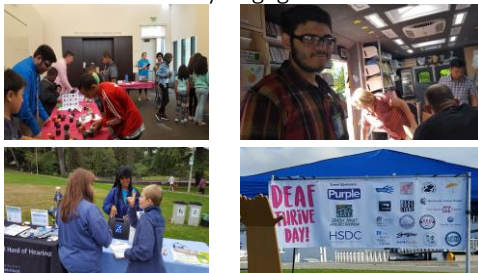


### Accessibility to ALL Library Programs and Services

Ways in which we strive to make ALL of our programs and services welcoming to everybody, including:

- ASL and tactile interpreters for patrons who are blind or deaf-blind
- Assistive devices for deaf and hard of hearing patrons
- ADA accommodations by request

### Community Engagement



Engage with colleagues in other departments and branches within the library system in order to reach all age groups and audiences:



## Mobile Services



- Home Service
- Books by Mail
- Lobby Stop Service
- Deposit Service

## Relationships with Agencies and Organizations

- WTBBL
- KCLS
- DESC's DAETN (Downtown Access Engagement and Transition Network) lunchtime meeting
- Seattle Public Schools
- ARC of King County
- Municipal Court Orientations
- Hearing Speech and Deafness Center
- YMCA
- Sorenson Video Relay Services

## Resources and Services Information Referrals

- LEAP as a resource to which our colleagues can refer patrons
- 1:1 appointments with LEAP staff here at Central or at a branch location
- Compile and maintain information about outside resources and services for people with disabilities and keep colleagues informed about those resources

## Questions?

CJ Glenn Library Associate IV, Seattle Public Library  
 Library Equal Access Program (LEAP)  
 (206) 615-1380 [c.j.glenn@spl.org](mailto:c.j.glenn@spl.org)  
 Seattle Public Library  
 1000 Fourth Avenue  
 Seattle, WA 98104  
[www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org)