Share Our Vision That All May Read

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

DRS
Oklahoma Department
of Rehabilitation Services

OUR SERVICES

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides free use of books, magazines and other reading materials on specially formatted audio cartridges along with the player needed to read them.

Items are sent through the mail. Postage to and from the library is classified as “free matter” so there is no charge for our library services at all. Each book is loaned for two months. A one-month extension is granted as needed. Magazine lending times vary depending on the publication.

The OLBPH also provides Braille library services by contracting with the Utah State Library for the Blind and Disabled. We can sign you up for Braille magazine subscriptions and to receive Braille books from Utah. Once signed up, you will deal directly with Utah for your Braille service while continuing your audio service from OLBPH.

LIBRARIANS AND INTERNET ACCESS

When you become a patron, you start with two books checked out at a time. You are encouraged to contact our

professional librarians who are available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, to increase your allotment and update your preferences.

Our librarians can help you find what you want, offer suggestions and order reading materials for you. Items listed in the library's catalog may also be searched, requested or reserved online and thousands of titles may be downloaded from BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download), all accessed on the OLBPH website.

READING EQUIPMENT

The digital talking book player you receive right after you are signed up (loaned with no fee required) can be used for as long as you need it.

If the player stops working correctly, call our repair personnel from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please return the player when it is no longer being used.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR SERVICES?

Most OLBPH patrons are in one of two major categories:

- Legally blind – best eye has acuity of 20/200 or worse and/or peripheral vision is less than 20 degrees.
- Visually impaired – unable to read regular print, even with correction, due to eye disease or other vision loss.

Library services are also available to people who

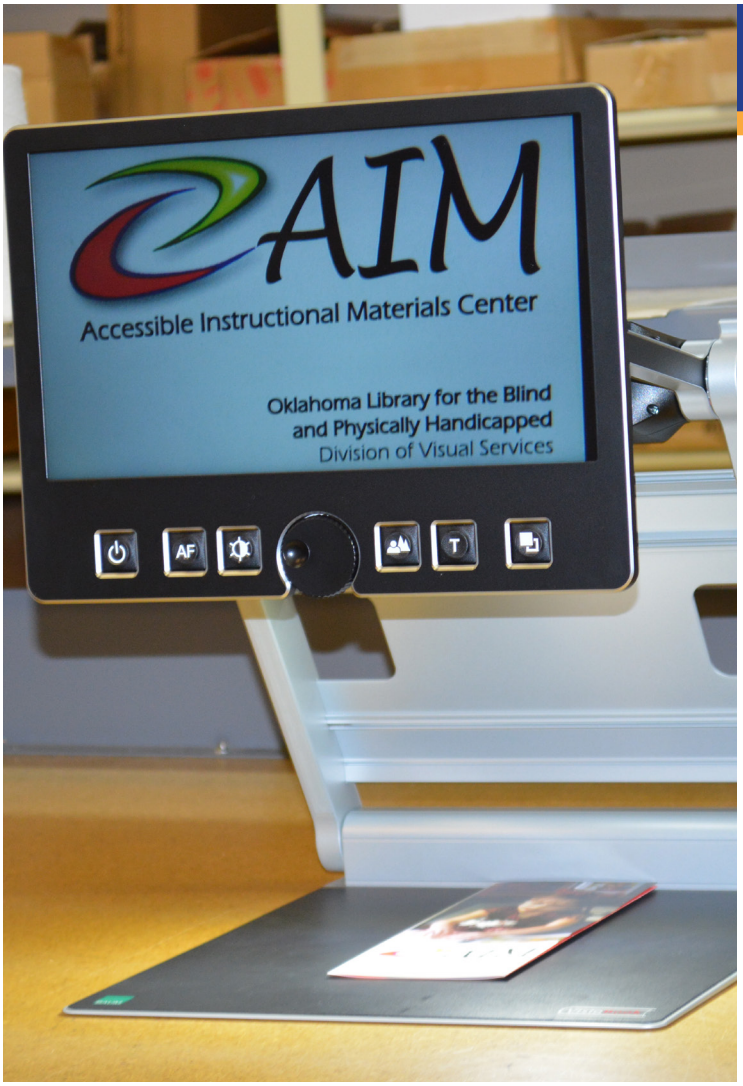
are unable to use regular printed material due to physical limitations, organic dysfunction and deaf-blindness. Conditions are certified by authorities such as doctors, registered nurses, therapists, and professional staff of hospitals, senior care facilities and public or private welfare agencies. Certification can also be made by professional librarians. The one exception is reading disability, which can only be certified by a medical doctor.

APPLYING FOR SERVICES

To apply for library services, please call us or visit the website at www.olbph.org. You can speak to a librarian or you can download the application and mail, email or fax it. See our contact information on the back of this brochure.

Your application will be processed within 72 hours of our receipt. The library staff strives to make accessing our services as easy and as convenient as possible with the goal of enhancing the quality of life of our visually or physically impaired readers. The equipment and materials are the highest possible quality, technology and the most desirable that we can provide. Our patrons often tell us that the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is “a lifesaver,” “the best thing ever,” “has

made life so much better," etc. Please let us serve you, too! And help us spread the word so we can serve others.



AIM CENTER

The AIM Center maintains a central repository of Braille and large print textbooks, novels and specialized instructional materials for loan to Oklahoma students who cannot use regular print. Specialized equipment includes tools such as Perkins Braillers, iPads, talking calculators and bold-lined paper and notebooks. The program serves children through 12th grade who attend public and private schools or are home schooled in Oklahoma, or receive services from SoonerStart. The students are blind or visually impaired; have a physical disability that makes it difficult to use regular printed books and school materials or have a medically diagnosed learning disability that makes it difficult to use regular print.

For more information, call the library or visit the website at www.olbph.org and click on AIM Center.

TELEPHONE READER SERVICES

The Oklahoma Telephone Reader is a free, on-demand, dial-up information service. Seven days a week, volunteers record articles from “The Oklahoman,” “Tulsa World” and other publications into the OTR system.

OKLAHOMA TELEPHONE READER

These articles become digital files accessible through the telephone to anyone signed up for the service. OTR content includes news and editorials, sports, grocery ads, obituaries and a variety of other information not normally available on radio and/or television news sources.

CUSTOM MATERIALS IN BRAILLE

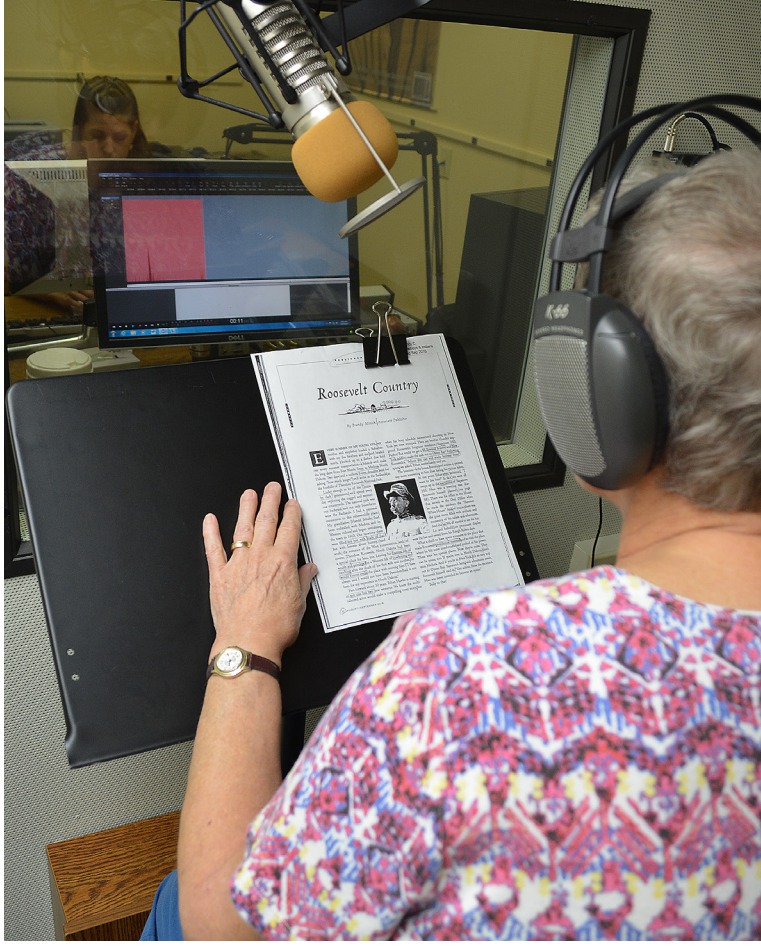
The OLBPH can produce Braille copies of standard printed materials such as brochures, event programs and restaurant menus at no charge. For larger products such as manuals, magazines and books, please seek out commercial Braille transcription services.

DIGITAL RECORDING STUDIO

The Talking Books and Magazines Studio produces audio versions of two bi-monthly magazines, Oklahoma Today and Cowboys & Indians, as well as books with an Oklahoma connection. Books of significance and lasting

permanent value are selected by committee for addition to the collection, with a particular interest in Oklahoma history and Oklahoma authors.

The studio produces high quality audio in accordance with National Library Service standards, and a number of our productions have been accepted into the NLS permanent collection. To learn more, go to our website and explore the “Studio” tab.



VOLUNTEERS

The **Digital Recording Studio** utilizes volunteers in a variety of ways. We have a need for individuals with computer skills (digitally editing audio in a recorded file at our studio) or narration skills (narrating print material in a live recording session at our studio).

Volunteers also help with clerical tasks in preparation for recordings. Recording for the **Oklahoma Telephone Reader** can be performed by volunteers from the comfort of their homes, making this an attractive non-traveling opportunity.

Our valuable volunteer force is a big reason why the library’s quality of service is so high. Volunteering at OLBPH requires an ongoing commitment.

To inquire or apply online to volunteer, visit our website, select the “Resources” tab, then the “Volunteer” heading.

OKLAHOMANS FOR SPECIAL LIBRARY SERVICES

If you would like to support special projects not covered in our annual budget, join OSLS. Examples of projects funded by OSLS include sponsoring volunteer recognition activities, the AIM Center's Summer Reading Program, providing hospitality for volunteers, purchasing special Braille and recording equipment, and assisting with public awareness events.

CONNECT WITH US

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