

## Services - Visually Impaired



### **Do you know someone who cannot read due to a visual or physical disability?**

*The Talking Book Center provides free access to recorded, large-print and Braille books to people of all ages who cannot read due to a visual or physical disability.*

The Homer Library is the place for Talking Book needs!

1. Stop by the front desk to pick up a Talking Book application.
2. Take the application to a healthcare provider, to certify eligibility.
3. Check out a \*NEW\* digital Talking Book Player.
4. Browse the selection of Talking Books available at the library.

### **How is the Talking Book Center possible?**

The Talking Book Center is a joint effort between the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the Alaska State Library.

### **Who is eligible?**

The Talking Book Center serves individuals of all ages who have a visual or physical disability that limits use of standard print. The application must be approved before joining this program. Please feel free to contact the library with questions.

### **How is service started?**

Application forms are available online at the [Talking Book Center](#) or upon request at the Homer Public Library. Fill out the application and take it to a healthcare professional, to certify your eligibility. Mail your completed application to The Talking Book Center. After receiving your application they will loan you a digital player for your use. The Talking Book Center then works with you to determine your reading preferences and how often you want to receive shipments of books.

### **How do you find books to borrow?**

#### Your Library

The Homer Public Library has a selection of recorded books available to eligible patrons.

#### Catalogs

The National Library Service provides a complete listing of titles in its catalog on the World Wide Web. You can receive paper or recorded catalogs and bibliographies in the mail to help you select books.

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### Newsletters

You may also receive *Talking Book Topics*, an NLS newsletter that describes the newest cassette books. This publication includes an easy order form to request titles. *Braille Book Review*, which tells about the newest books produced in both Braille and cassette formats.

### Specific books

If there is a specific book you want but cannot identify in a catalog or newsletter, you can contact the Center to see if it is available through interlibrary loan.

### The Library of Congress Website

[www.loc.gov/nls](http://www.loc.gov/nls)

### National Library Services for the Blind and Handicapped

Individual patrons who have high-speed internet access may also sign up for Braille & Audio Downloads (BARD) from the National Library Services for the Blind and Handicapped website. Please contact the [Talking Book Center](#) or your local librarian for more information.

### **How does this service work?**

- Books are automatically sent according to the frequency you marked on your reader profile.
- Books are mailed to you.
- Postage is free.
- The loan period is one month.
- No fines are charged for overdue books. You can always request a title again.
- Turn-around service is a popular choice with many readers. When your returned books arrive at the Center, staff select and ship the same number of books to you, so a fresh supply is always on hand or in the mail to you.

### **Web Links**

[EquipmentTalking Book Center](#)

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