



MLBPH @ CMPL FAQ

The Macomb Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped @ CMPL (MLBPH @ CMPL) is a FREE library that loans books and magazines in special formats to people who cannot see standard print, cannot hold a book, or have a reading disability.

What does that really mean?

Here is a handy guide to help you understand more about Talking Books:

About the Library

- MLBPH audio books are NOT just for blind people. The library is available to people who experience physical disabilities or illnesses that prevent them from holding a book, sitting up for periods of time, or turning the pages of a book.
- Our library serves people of ALL ages, from toddlers through senior citizens, and we have books for all tastes and interest levels!
- The service is completely FREE. There is no charge for the books, the talking book player, or the postage to mail the books back to the library.
- The MLBPH is located inside the Clinton-Macomb Public Library – Main Location and serves all eligible Macomb County residents by shipping books through the US Postal Service.

Books and Equipment

- **What kind of books does the library have?** All kinds! Our library has the same books that are found in your public library.
- The library has access to over 200,000 books in audio and 74,000 in Braille with new books added each month.

- **When books go out in the mail how do you know what to send?** The main way that our users get books is by telling us what subjects and authors they like. We call it “auto-selection.” Users can also get books by giving us lists of requests. Any time a request is available, it will go out ahead of an “auto-selected” book.
- The audio books require special playback equipment—but that is provided by the library for free and the machine can be kept indefinitely, as long as it is being used.
- **What happens if the books get lost in the mail?** If the books are lost or damaged just call the library—there is no charge for lost or damaged materials.
- **What about the player?** Same thing applies—call the library and they will order a replacement player right away.
- **Are there fines for overdue books?** All books have generous loan periods and there are no fines for overdue books.
- **Does the library offer other materials?** In addition to audio and Braille books, MLBPH loans large print books, audio magazines and audio described DVDs.
- The library also provides access to downloadable books (BARD) and NFB-NEWSLINE (newspapers by phone).

Registration

- **How does a person get signed up for this service?** The process is very easy. Just fill out an application for service and have the “Certifying Authority” box signed by a nurse, doctor, librarian, therapist, activity director, social worker, or teacher.
- If you are not sure who qualifies to sign an application for somebody, call us and ask! **586-286-1580 or 1-855-203-5274.**
- Return the signed application to the Macomb LBPH. We will contact you to confirm details and process the application. Within a few days of us processing your application you will receive a talking book player and books in the mail.

Downloadable Books (BARD)

- BARD stands for the Braille and Audio Reading Download.
- All of the audio books (and most of the Braille books) provided by our library are available for on-demand download.
- Download the books to a flash drive for use with the player provided, or use the BARD Mobile app on your iOS mobile device (iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch) or Android device.
- This part of our library is also FREE.

History

- The Library of Congress started (what would become) the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) in 1931 after the Pratt-Smoot Act was passed.
- The MLBPH has existed in Macomb County since 1983.
- Talking Book and Braille Services is a joint partnership between the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the State of Michigan Library, and Macomb County.

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