

Application for Free Library Service: Individuals



**National Library Service
for the Blind and
Physically Handicapped**

The Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20542
(202) 707-5100

Please complete this application and send it to the library for the blind and physically handicapped serving the state in which you reside. If you do not know the library's address, send the application to the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, which will forward it to the appropriate library.

Please Print or Type

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Middle) _____

Street address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (daytime) (_____) _____ Date of Birth _____

Telephone (evening) (_____) _____ Gender _____

E-mail address _____

Please give the name of a person to contact if you cannot be reached for an extended period:

Name _____ Telephone (_____) _____

Please check here if you have been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States.

Indicate the primary disability preventing you from reading regular printed material. See definitions under eligibility criteria on the next page. Check only one box.

- Blindness** **Physical handicap** **Deaf-blind**
 Visual handicap **Reading disability**

Notice: Records relating to recipients of Library of Congress reading materials are confidential except for those portions defined by local law as public information. To find out the extent to which the information provided on this application form may be released to other individuals, institutions, or agencies, consult the agency to which you are submitting this application.

Eligibility of Blind and Other Physically Handicapped Persons for Loan of Library Materials

The following persons are eligible for service:

1. Blind persons whose visual acuity, as determined by competent authority, is 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses, or whose widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.
2. Other physically handicapped persons are eligible as follows:
 - (a) Persons whose visual disability, with correction and regardless of optical measurement, is certified by competent authority as preventing the reading of regular printed material.
 - (b) Persons certified by competent authority as unable to read or unable to use regular printed material because of physical limitations.
 - (c) Persons certified by competent authority as having a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity to prevent reading printed material in a normal manner.
3. Residents of the United States, including the several states, territories, insular possessions, and the District of Columbia; and American citizens domiciled abroad.

Certifying Authority:

- In cases of blindness, visual impairment, or physical limitations, "competent authority" includes doctors of medicine; doctors of osteopathy; ophthalmologists; optometrists; registered nurses; therapists; and professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or private welfare agencies (e.g., social workers, case workers, counselors, rehabilitation teachers, and superintendents). In the absence of any of these, certification may be made by professional librarians or by any person whose competence under specific circumstances is acceptable to the Library of Congress.
- In the case of reading disability from organic dysfunction, competent authority is defined as doctors of medicine and doctors of osteopathy who may consult with colleagues in associated disciplines.

To Be Completed by Certifying Authority (Definitions of certifying authority are listed above.)

I certify that the named applicant requesting library service is unable to read or use regular printed material for the reason indicated on page one of this form.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please print or type:

Name _____

Title and occupation _____

Street address _____ Telephone (_____) _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Lending of Materials and Classes of Borrowers

Veterans. In the lending of books, recordings, playback equipment, musical scores, instructional texts, and other specialized materials, preference shall be given at all times to the needs of the blind and other physically handicapped persons who have been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States.

Institutions. The reading materials and playback equipment for the use of blind and physically handicapped persons may be loaned to individuals who qualify to institutions such as nursing homes and hospitals, and to schools for the blind or physically handicapped for the use by such persons only. The reading materials and playback equipment may also be used in public or private schools where handicapped students are enrolled; however, the students in public or private schools must be certified as eligible on an individual basis and must be the direct and only recipients of the materials and equipment.

Reading Preferences

Check A or B

A. Do not select books for me. Send only the specific titles I request.

B. I wish to have books selected for me.

Note: If you wish to have books selected for you, the library needs information about your reading interests. Please check the types of books or subjects you prefer. You may also write your reading interests in the space provided below:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adventure stories | <input type="checkbox"/> Fantasy | <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animals and wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Folklore | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychology and self-help |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bestsellers | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion, denomination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible | <input type="checkbox"/> Gothic novels | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biographies | <input type="checkbox"/> Government, law, and | <input type="checkbox"/> Romance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business and economics | politics | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career and job training | <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Science fiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's fiction: | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> Sea stories |
| grade level _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> History—U.S. | <input type="checkbox"/> Short stories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's nonfiction: | <input type="checkbox"/> History—world | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports |
| grade level _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Humor | <input type="checkbox"/> Spy stories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classic novels | <input type="checkbox"/> Music appreciation | <input type="checkbox"/> Stage and screen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking and | <input type="checkbox"/> Mysteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspense stories |
| homemaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drama | <input type="checkbox"/> Occult and supernatural | <input type="checkbox"/> War and war stories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family stories | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Westerns |

Other preferences: _____

Check this box if you wish to receive books in English language only. If you wish to receive books in other languages, list the languages:

I do not wish to receive books that contain:

- Strong language Violence Explicit descriptions of sex

Patron's name _____

In addition to any of the qualifying disabilities above, do you also have a hearing impairment?
If yes, indicate the degree of hearing loss.

- Moderate**—some difficulty hearing and understanding speech.
 Profound—cannot hear or understand speech.

Books, Magazines, and Equipment

Please check the box provided for any of the following items that you wish to receive.
(Consult the enclosed *Facts: Playback Machines and Accessories Provided on Free Loan to Eligible Individuals and Institutions* for a full description of machines and accessories.)

- Books recorded on audiocassettes with standard cassette player
 Magazines recorded on audiocassettes
 Books recorded on audiocassettes with easy cassette player
 Braille books
 Braille magazines

Music Materials

- Music scores in braille
 Music scores in large print
 Music instruction on audiocassettes
 Music magazines in braille

(Note: Recorded music for recreational listening is not available through this program.)

Accessories

- Headphones (issued solely for use where speakers are not permitted)
 Amplifier (issued solely for use by readers with profound hearing loss; ask for the separate application.)
 Remote control unit (ask for the separate application)
 Breath switch
 Extension levers
 Pillow speaker (issued solely to readers confined to bed)

Return of Equipment

Playback equipment and accessories are supplied to eligible persons on extended loan. If this equipment is not being used for reading recorded material provided by the Library of Congress and its cooperating libraries, please return it to the issuing agency.