

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

Notice: Records relating to recipients of Library of Congress reading material 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. This completed application should be sent to the library for the blind and physically handicapped serving the state in which you reside. If you do not know the address, send the application to the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to forward it to the appropriate library.

Please Print or Type

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____

Street address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (daytime) () _____ Date of Birth _____

Telephone (evening) () _____ Sex _____

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

Name _____ Telephone () _____

By law, preference in lending of books and equipment is given to veterans. 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 standard printed material. See definitions under eligibility criteria, section A, page 4. Check only one box.

Blindness
Visual handicap

Physical handicap
Reading disability

Deaf-blind

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

You may borrow any of the following items. Check those 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 and magazines recorded on audio cassette with standard cassette player

Books and magazines recorded on audio cassette with easy cassette player

Books (prior to 1996) and magazines (prior to 2001) recorded on discs and cassette with combination machine

Books (prior to 1996) and magazines (prior to 2001) recorded on audio discs with record player

Braille books

Braille magazines

Amplifier--solely for use by readers with profound hearing loss. Request a separate application.

Remote control unit--Request a separate application

Breath switch

Extension levers

Pillow speaker--issued solely to readers confined to bed

Music materials

Music scores in braille

Music scores in large print

Music instruction on audio discs

Music instruction on audio cassettes

Music magazines in braille

Music magazines on audio cassettes

Accessories

Headphones--issued solely for use where speakers are not permitted.

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

Return of Equipment

Playback equipment and accessories are supplied to eligible persons on extended loan. If this equipment is not being used in conjunction with recorded reading material provided by the Library of Congress and its cooperating libraries, it must be returned to the issuing agency.

Reading Preferences

Check **A** or **B**

- A.** Send only the specific titles I will request. Do not select books for me.
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, or write your reading interests in the space provided below:

Adventure stories	Drama	Occult, supernatural
Animals, wildlife	Family stories	Philosophy
Bestsellers	Fantasy	Poetry
Bible, religion	Folklore	Psychology, self-help
Denomination _____	Gardening	Romance
Biographies	Gothic novels	Science
Business, economics	Government, politics	Science fiction
Career, job training	Health	Short stories
Children's fiction: reading level _____	Historical fiction	Sports
Children's nonfiction: reading level _____	History--U.S.	Spy stories
Classic novels	History--world	Stage, screen
Computers	Humor	Suspense stories
Cooking, homemaking	Music appreciation	Travel
	Mysteries	War, war stories
	Nature	Westerns

Other categories are: _____

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

To Be Completed by Certifying Authority (See Section B, page 4, for definitions.)

Please print or type:

Name _____

Title and occupation _____

Street address _____

Telephone () _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____

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

Signature _____

Date _____

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

- A.** 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 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 standard printed material.
 - (b) Persons certified by competent authority as unable to read or unable to use standard printed material as a result of physical limitations.
 - (c) Persons certified by competent authority as having a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity to prevent their reading printed material in a normal manner (see section **B.2**).
- B.** Certifying Authority:
1. In cases of blindness, visual impairment, or physical limitations, "competent authority" is defined to include 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, caseworkers, 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.
 2. 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.
- C.** Residency or U.S. Citizenship: Eligible readers must be residents of the United States, including the several states, territories, insular possessions, and the District of Columbia; or, American citizens domiciled abroad.

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.