

Washington, DC 20540

202-707-5100

www.loc.gov/nls

Application for Individuals Seeking Free Library Service

National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) at the Library of Congress is a free braille and talking book library service for people with temporary or permanent low vision, blindness, or a physical or reading disability that prevents them from using regular print materials. Through a national network of cooperating libraries, NLS circulates books and magazines in braille or audio formats, that are instantly downloadable to a personal device or delivered by mail free of charge.

Please complete this application and submit to the library serving blind and print disabled individuals in your state. To find your local cooperating library, go to www.loc.gov/nls/find-your-library or call 888-NLS-READ (888-657-7323). The application may be sent by email, fax, printed and mailed, or printed and hand delivered.

Eligibility of Blind and Other Print-Disabled Persons for Loan of Library Materials

The following people are eligible for service: residents of the United States, including territories, insular possessions, and the District of Columbia, and American citizens living abroad, provided they meet one of the following criteria:

1. An individual who is blind or has a visual impairment that makes them unable to comfortably read print books.
2. An individual who has a perceptual or reading disability.
3. An individual who has a physical disability that makes it hard to hold or manipulate a book or to focus or move the eyes as needed to read a print book.

Please see <http://www.loc.gov/nls/how-to-enroll/apply-for-nls-services> for the full eligibility information.

Reader Preferences

Once your application is received and approved, a Reader Advisor from your local cooperating library will contact you to discuss your preferences, such as how you would like to receive material, and to help set up your reader profile. You may choose to receive only the books that you specifically request, OR you can have titles automatically selected for you based on your interests. You may also subscribe to a wide range of magazines available in both braille and audio formats.

Use of Government Property: NLS program equipment, materials, and products, both online and physical, are federal property. Users shall acknowledge the purpose for which these items were intended and accept responsibility for accessing these items. All materials and equipment (including digital talking book cartridges, hard copy braille, players, and accessories) must be returned when no longer needed.

Personal Information: Personal information is confidential except for those portions defined by law as public information. To learn what information provided on this application form may be released to other individuals, institutions, or agencies, please consult the agency to which you are submitting this application.

Please Print or Type

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

Street Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Primary Telephone _____ Date of Birth _____

Alternate Telephone _____ Email _____

Alternate contact:

Name _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Parental Acknowledgment for NLS Services and Devices, Required for Applicants Who Are Minors (Under 18 Years Old):

As the parent/guardian of the applicant, I acknowledge that my child will receive services and equipment and that my child will have access to the entire NLS catalog of reading material. All materials and equipment (including digital talking book cartridges, hard copy braille, players, and accessories) must be returned when no longer needed.

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

Relationship to patron _____ Email _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Veterans: Persons who are blind or have a print disability who have been honorably discharged from the United States military receive preference in the lending of books, recordings, playback equipment, musical scores, instructional texts, and specialized materials (Public Law 89-522).

☐ Check here if you were honorably discharged from the United States military.

Indicate the Primary Disability Preventing You from Reading Printed Material:

- ☐ Blindness ☐ Physical Disability ☐ Deaf/Blindness
- ☐ Visual Impairment ☐ Reading Disability

If you also have a hearing impairment, please indicate the degree of hearing loss:

- ☐ Moderate – Some difficulty hearing and understanding speech
- ☐ Profound – Cannot hear or understand speech

Certifying Authority

Eligibility must be certified by one of the following: doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, ophthalmologist, optometrist, psychologist, registered nurse, therapist, or professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or welfare agencies (such as an educator, social worker, case worker, counselor, rehabilitation teacher, certified reading specialist, school psychologist, superintendent, or librarian).

To Be Completed by Certifying Authority

Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

☐ I certify that this applicant is eligible for NLS services.

Signature _____

Date _____

A typed or handwritten signature is acceptable after certifying data is completed.

BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) is an online, password-protected service that provides access to hundreds of thousands of audio and braille books, magazines, and music scores available from NLS. The service is available as an application on a Mac or Windows computer or on an iOS or Android mobile device. The mobile application, known as BARD Mobile, includes built-in playback features so you can enjoy talking books anytime, anywhere. BARD Express allows you to play talking books on a Windows computer.

Service Delivery for Library Materials (Check All That Apply):

- ☐ I have a personal mobile device (iPhone, Android, iPad, or Kindle Fire) and Internet or cellular access. I want to download digital talking books and/or eBraille materials to read instantly with the free BARD Mobile application. Please provide your email address for BARD registration.
- ☐ I have a personal mobile device and would like to access the free BARD Mobile application, but I would also like materials sent to my home by USPS Free Matter for the Blind. Please select the types of materials you want mailed to your home. (Check all that apply)
 - ☐ Digital talking books and magazines on cartridge/flash drive
 - ☐ Hardcopy braille books and magazines
 - ☐ Music appreciation/braille or large-print scores/instructional talking books and magazines on cartridge/flash drive
- ☐ I do NOT have a personal mobile device. I want my library to send books by USPS Free Matter for the Blind to my home. I would like materials in the following format. (Check all that apply)
 - ☐ Digital talking books and magazines on cartridge/flash drive
 - ☐ Hardcopy braille books and magazines
 - ☐ Music appreciation/braille or large-print scores/instructional talking books and magazines on cartridge/flash drive

(Note: The NLS Music program does not provide recorded music for recreational listening.)

How Did You Learn about the NLS Free Library Service? Check Up to Three:

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|---|--|
| ☐ Veterans Affairs/Defense Health Agency | ☐ Other Health Care Professional |
| ☐ School | ☐ Vocational Rehabilitation Center |
| ☐ Friend/Family | ☐ Public Library |
| ☐ Consumer/Support Group | ☐ Event/Expo |
| ☐ TV Ad | ☐ Radio Ad |
| ☐ Other Ad (specify below) | ☐ Internet/Social Media (specify below) |

☐ Other (specify below)