# An Overview of Bookshare

Bookshare books are scanned copies of print books or electronic books that we have received from publishers. This means that there is text in addition to audio for each book in our collection. We do not have human narrated audio for our books, but there is electronically voiced audio available for each title.

There are several ways to read Bookshare books. If you prefer to listen to books, then we have text-to-speech software that reads the books aloud. This is an electronic voice, but some of our electronic voices do sound fairly human-like. Different book reader programs (reading tools) use different voices and we invite you to try several options to see which works best for you.

One major advantage to our book formats is that print can be displayed along with the audio while one is listening to the book. Many of our blind or low vision members like our books because you can enlarge the font, change the contrast, hear how words are spelled, or read the book in electronic Braille.

The type of technology you would use to read our books depends on what type of reading experience you prefer. Would you like to listen to the books, read them in print, read them in Braille, or a combination of these? Also, what device would you like to use to read our books? Do you currently prefer a computer, smartphone, tablet, or another portable device? In other words, the type of reading tool you'll choose depends on how you'd like to read the book.

# Extracting (Unzipping) Downloaded Books

## Windows Users

1. Download and save Bookshare books to a folder on your hard drive where you can easily locate them.
	1. **Note:** Firefox, Google Chrome, and Safari generally download to your computer's **Downloads** folder by default. Internet Explorer generally saves downloaded books in the last place you saved a file. Internet Explorer users may wish to check both the **Documents** and **Downloads** folder for their downloaded files.
2. Locate the downloaded zipped book.
3. **Right-click** (or press **Shift** + **F10**) the file (.zip format), then select **Extract All**. This will open the "Select a folder to extract files to" dialog box. Make sure the “Show Extracted Files When Complete” checkbox is unchecked.
4. To save the extracted book in a folder within the current location, select the **Extract** button.

## Mac Users

Depending on your browser's settings, you will either have a zipped file or book folder within your **Downloads** folder. If you have a book folder (not .zip format), it is not necessary to unzip your book.

If you do have a zip file, press **Command** + **O** or **double-click** the zipped file and it will self-extract into your **Downloads** folder. Once it self-extracts, a new folder with the book's title will be created, which will contain your book files.

## Opening Extracted Books

### DAISY Books

The book folder will contain at least eight files. Our DAISY readers typically open the **.OPF** file. Most web browsers will open the **.XML** file; after opening the .XML file you can copy and paste the text into your word processor. If the XML file won’t open in your browser, you can rename the .XML file with an .HTML file extension.

* On Windows, rename a file by selecting the file/folder and pressing **F2**.
* On a Mac, select the file and hit the **Return** key to rename a file.

### BRF Files

The book folder will contain a single **.BRF** file, which you can copy and paste into a flash drive for use with a Braille Note taker or other device.

Please refer to the instructions for your particular device or reading program for further information about how to open your extracted book.