



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 physically-based 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.
- All audio books in the library are narrated by professional voice-over actors.
- The library has access to over 35,000 books in audio and 12,000 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. They can even tell us subjects they don't want. 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.

- All books have a 4-week loan period and there are no fines for overdue books.
- 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 Physically Handicapped (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.