

TALKING BOOK VOICES PODCAST EPISODE THREE

NARRATOR:

On today's episode, you'll get a two for one special. We're discussing talking book programs, Youth Services with our Librarian Kayleigh, and our Digital Literacy Training Specialist, Olivia, is going to tell you all about the helpful apps that you can use to read on your smartphone or tablet completely for free.

KAYLEIGH:

Welcome to this episode of the Texas Talking Book Voices Podcast. My name is Kayleigh and I'm the Youth Services librarian at the Talking book program. I'll be giving you all the info on our youth stuff. But first, let's talk about what I'm reading now. I'm nearly finished with a Greek mythology retelling called ELECTRA by Jennifer Saint. You can find that in our collection under DB number 107930.

The latest kids book that I read was HELLO UNIVERSE by Erin Entrada Kelly, and that was for the summer Reading Book Club. I highly recommend. The DB number for that is 88222.

Okay, why I'm really here is to tell you about the Texas Talking Book Programs, Youth Services Department.

First, who qualifies for service? Anyone with a visual print, physical, or reading disability that keeps them from reading standard print. Kids with reading disabilities can get info from school, and teachers can refer their students to us.

What do we offer? Monthly newsletters with events, book lists, interesting information, and a section for grown-ups. Helpful tips for Bard are download service and app. Bluebonnet Award voting, a summer reading program. Book clubs for kids and teens check our website for up-to-date info on that. More events like author talks and writing workshops are coming soon.

What's on our book collection? We have mostly audiobooks and have the same types of books you'll find in a public library. We also have large print and braille, too.

We have classics like A WRINKLE IN TIME and new books like WE DESERVE MONUMENTS. We have over 140,000 titles, so we definitely have something you'll like.

We have print braille picture books which are picture books with braille overlays and we have Bluebonnet award nominees and winners.

A pro tip is to get the audio from us since it doesn't expire and then get the print version from your local library. If you want to create a read along.

Call us at 1-800-252-9605 or e-mail us if you need anything. You can also stay up to date on our website, which is linked in, the episode description, and sign up for the Youth Services newsletter. If you haven't already. Remember, reading audio books is reading.

NARRATOR:

If everything Kayleigh just talked about sounds interesting to you or a young person you know, we'll hope you'll visit www.texasTalkingbooks.org to learn more. And now, here's Olivia to guide you on how to use free books on your smartphone mobile device.

OLIVIA:

Hi podcast listeners. My name is Olivia Ochoa and I am the Digital Literacy Training Specialist here at the Talking book program. Digital literacy is a massive topic and covers everything from staying safe online to writing an e-mail to using the latest gadgets. But today, the digital literacy rabbit hole we're going to dive into is using apps on your mobile device, like a smartphone or a tablet.

And we're going to talk about my favorite kind of app as a Librarian, which is the kind of app that allows you to read or listen to books completely for free. So, it's going to be fun.

Before we get into the nitty gritty of the technology, you may be wondering what exactly does a Digital Literacy Training Specialist do? A good question, since it's not a very common job title. And the answer is just a little bit of everything. I plan and run trainings for the technology that we use here at TBP. I help with outreach. I answer patron questions and pretty much do whatever needs to get done.

And about my background, I'm new to the agency. I just started here in May, but I'm a Librarian by training and I began my library career volunteering at the Washington talking Book and Braille Library. So, you could say that I know my way around talking books.

And I've also worked in a whole bunch of library and bookstore settings in Texas over the last few years, so hopefully it's clear that I love to talk about books, technology, and accessibility for all Texans. And that's kind of how I got here, was just loving to talk about those things. So hopefully that answers your question.

My first big project at TBP has been the launch of our iPad lending program, which starts in November. If you're a TBP patron and you haven't heard about this, call us to get more information and get on the wait list.

The loan period is six months with an option to renew and it comes preloaded with the app BARD Mobile, which is where you can find the digital books in our collection. And with access to several other apps, including the ones we're going to talk about today.

So, if you're receiving an iPad from TBP, or if you already own an iPad, iPhone or other smart device, there is a whole world of books and audio books that are open to you. Today, we're going to talk about for apps that you can use to access books. And as I said at the top, the best part is that every single one of these is free.

We'll talk about BARD Mobile, but you have access to it if you're a TBP patron. E-ReadTexas, which TSLAC provides for all Texans, no matter where you are in the state and the Libby and Hoopla, which you can usually access through your local public library.

We're going to focus on how these apps run on iOS, a.k.a., Apple devices today, but by in large, what I'm going to talk about can be applied to Android devices, as well.

All four of these apps have Android versions, and the navigation and layout will be pretty much the same on both operating systems. So, if you have a Google Pixel or a Samsung phone for example, never fear, this podcast episode is for you too.

All right, that was a lot of intro. So, let's dive right into these apps and get to the fun part, which is the reading.

So, first things first, we're going to talk about BARD Mobile. If you're not aware, BARD stands for Braille and Audio Reading Download and allows you to download thousands of books from the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled or NLS, for short. In both braille and audio to your tablet or phone. This includes the 2,000 Texas titles that have been recorded right here in our recording studio at TBP.

You don't have to wait on a holds list, which is awesome, though there is a limit to how many books you can have downloaded at one time. It's 100, so you still have plenty of room to read lots and lots of book.

BARD Mobile's interface works a lot like our digital talking book players that we send out to our patrons, if you're familiar with those. There's a play pause button, a sleep timer, and the ability to change the speed of the audio book that you're listening to, among other settings. And if braille is your way to read, then BARD Mobile also works with a Braille display, if you have one. You can add books to your library directly from the app and then can play them immediately.

Our librarians have lots of experience working with BARD Mobile and we often answer patron calls about this app, so if you're a TBP patron and you're having trouble, you can always call or e-mail for help.

The Library of Congress also has a great video series on YouTube that shows you how to use Bard Mobile for iOS and Android. That's another great on-demand tech support option, if we're closed.

E-Read Texas is another cool service that I learned about when I joined the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. This service is geo locked, which means if you are physically in Texas, you can read any of the books on this website for free. They do have an app if you want to create an account. The app is called Simply E, but you can also just use your web browser to go to <https://e-readtx.biblioboard.com/home> and read a wide variety of books, mostly on Texas related topics for free. The accessibility features on E-Reads Texas include the ability to enlarge the text and change the font to open dyslexic, which is a font that is more accessible to dyslexic readers, and it should also work with screen readers as well.

Libby is next, and Libby is quite possibly my favorite app of all time. If you have a library card at your local public library, ask them if they have access to Libby and your local librarian can help you get set up. Once you've registered your library card on the app, you have access to your libraries, entire e-book, and audio book collection. A downside of Libby is that if a book is popular, you might have to wait on a holds list for a while, like you would, with a physical book, but on the plus side your books get returned automatically on the due date, so you never get charged any late fees.

Accessibility features on Libby include the ability to enlarge the text and changing the format to a dyslexia friendly font, and it should work with screen readers like, Voiceover, as well.

And then another app you can ask your local library if they have is hoopla. Hoopla is a lot like Libby, but also has videos and music in their collection in addition to audio books and e-books, there's no hold times, but there is a limit to the amount of items you can borrow per month. That amount is going to be up to your library, so ask your local librarian or check on their website. Hoopla works well with voiceover and on e-books. You should be able to change the font size.

Well, that is just about all my time. Today's episode was a short one, but there is such a wide world of reading and accessibility apps out there. If you want to explore these apps further, we'll have links in the show notes for you to check out more information. I hope you'll try out some of these apps and explore all the free books and entertainment that are out there waiting for you. Thanks for listening and we'll see you next time on TBP Voices.

Welcome to the Talking Voices, the podcast. Get ready to embark on the adventure with us as we dive into and celebrate the magic of the Texas Talking Book Program. Let's raise our voices together and make the world of literature accessible for all. The Texas Talking Book Program is a division of the State Library and Archives Commission and serves as a regional library for the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, a Division of the Library of Congress.

The Talking book program provides specialized library services to individuals who have a qualifying, visual, physical or reading disability such as dyslexia. In each episode of the Talking book, voices will delve into the heart of the program, uncovering its history, sharing inspiring stories and exploring the vast collection of materials it has to offer. We'll bring you the latest updates, interviews with program experts and patrons, and useful tips to make the most of this invaluable program for Texans and beyond.

So whether you're an avid reader, someone who with a print disability seeking, accessible materials, or just curious to learn about this great program, this podcast is made for you. Don't forget to visit us at www.texas.talkingbooks.org for more information. So let's begin. The Texas Talking Book Voices, a podcast by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

On today's episode, you'll get a two for one special. We're discussing talking book programs, youth services with our librarian Kayleigh, and our digital literacy training specialist. Olivia is going to tell you all about the helpful apps that you can use to read on your smartphone or tablet completely for free. Welcome to this episode of the Texas Talking Book Voices Podcast.

My name is Kayleigh and I'm the youth services librarian at the Talking book program. I'll be giving you all the info on our youth stuff. But first, let's talk about what I'm reading now. I'm nearly finished with a Greek mythology retelling called Electra by Jennifer Saint. You can find that in our collection under DB number 107930. The latest kids book that I read was Hello Universe by Erin in Trotta Kelly, and that was for the Summer Reading Book Club.

I highly recommend the DB number for that is 88222. Okay. Why I'm really here is to tell you about the Texas talking book programs, youth services Department. First, who qualifies for service? Anyone with a visual print, physical or reading disability that keeps them from reading standard print. Kids with reading disabilities can get info from school and teachers can refer their students to us.

What do we offer? Monthly newsletters with the events, book lists, interesting information, and a section for grown ups. Helpful tips for Abad are download Service an app Bluebonnet Award Voting A summer reading Program Book Clubs for kids a teens. Check our website for up to date info on that. More events like author talks and writing workshops are coming soon.

What's on our book collection? We have mostly audio books and have the same types of books you'll find in a public library. We also have large print and Braille too. We have classics like A Wrinkle in Time and new books like We Deserve Monuments. We have over 140,000 titles, so we definitely have something you like. We have print Braille picture books, which are picture books with Braille overlays, and we have Bluebonnet award nominees and winners.

A pro tip is to get the audio from us since it doesn't expire and then get the print version from your local library. If you want to create a read along, call us at one 800 2529605 or email us if you need anything. You can also stay up to date on our website, which is linked in the episode description and sign up for the Youth Services newsletter.

If you haven't already, remember reading audiobooks is reading. If everything Kayleigh just talked about sounds interesting to you or a young person, you know, we'll hope you'll visit WW w not Texas books dawg to learn more. And now here's Olivia to guide you on how to use free books on your smartphone mobile device. Hi podcast listeners. My name is Olivia Ochoa, and I am the digital literacy training specialist here at the Talking Book program.

Digital Literacy is a massive topic and covers everything from staying safe online to writing an email to using the latest gadgets. But today, the digital literacy rabbit hole we're going to dive into is using apps on your mobile device like a smartphone or a tablet. And we're going to talk about my favorite kind of app as a librarian, which is the kind of app that allows you to read or listen to books completely for free.

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The loan period is six months with an option to renew, and it comes preloaded with the app Bard Mobile, which is where you can find the digital books in our collection and with access to several other apps, including the ones we're going to talk about today. So if you're receiving an iPad from TBP or if you already own an iPad, iPhone or other smart device, there is a whole world of books and audio books that are open to you.

Today, we're going to talk about four apps that you can use to access books. And as I said at the top, the best part is that every single one of these is free. We'll talk about Bard Mobile, what you have access to if you're a TBP patron. You read Texas which t slack provides for all Texans no matter where you are in the state and Libby and hoopla which you can usually access through your local public library.

We're going to focus on how these apps run on iOS, a.k.a. Apple devices today. But by and large, what I'm going to talk about can be applied to Android devices as well. All four of these apps have Android versions and the navigation and layout will be pretty much the same on both operating systems. So if you have a Google pixel or a Samsung phone, for example, never fear, this podcast episode is for you too.

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You can add books to your library directly from the app and then can play them immediately. Our librarians have lots of experience working with Bard Mobile and we often answer Patron calls about this app. So if you're a TBP patron and you're having trouble, you can always call or email for help. The Library of Congress also has a great video series on YouTube that shows you how to use Bard Mobile for iOS and Android.

That's another great on demand tech support option. If we're closed. Reed Texas is another cool service that I learned about when I joined the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. This service is geo locked, which means if you are physically in Texas, you can read any of the books on this website for free. They do have an app if you want to create an account.

The app is called simply EA, but you can also just use your web browser to go to a HTTPS pull and slash slash. E. Dash r. E. ADT x dot Biblio Board dot com slash home and read a wide variety of books, mostly on Texas related topics for free. The accessibility features on EA read Texas include the ability to enlarge the text and change the font to open dyslexic, which is a font that is more accessible to dyslexic readers.

And it should also work with screen readers as well. Libby is next, and Libby is quite possibly my favorite app of all time. If you have a library card at your local public library, ask them if

they have access to Libby, and your local librarian can help you get set up. Once you've registered your library card on the app, you have access to your library's entire e-book and audiobook collection.

A downside of Libby is that if a book is popular, you might have to wait on a holds list for a while, like you would with a physical book. But on the plus side, your books get returned automatically on the due date, so you never get charged any late fees. Accessibility features on Libby include the ability to enlarge the text and changing the format to a dyslexia friendly font.

And it should work with screen readers like voiceover as well. And then another app you can ask your local library if they have is hoopla. Hoopla is a lot like Libby, but also has videos and music in their collection. In addition to audiobooks and ebooks. There's no hold times, but there is a limit to the amount of items you can borrow per month.

That amount is going to be up to your library. So ask your local librarian or check on their website. Hoopla works well with voiceover and on ebooks. You should be able to change the font size. Well, that is just about all my time. Today's episode was a short one, but there is such a wide world of reading and accessibility apps out there.

If you want to explore these apps further, we'll have links in the show notes for you to check out more information. I hope you'll try out some of these apps and explore all the free books and entertainment that are out there waiting for you. Thanks for listening and we'll see you next time on TBH. Voices.