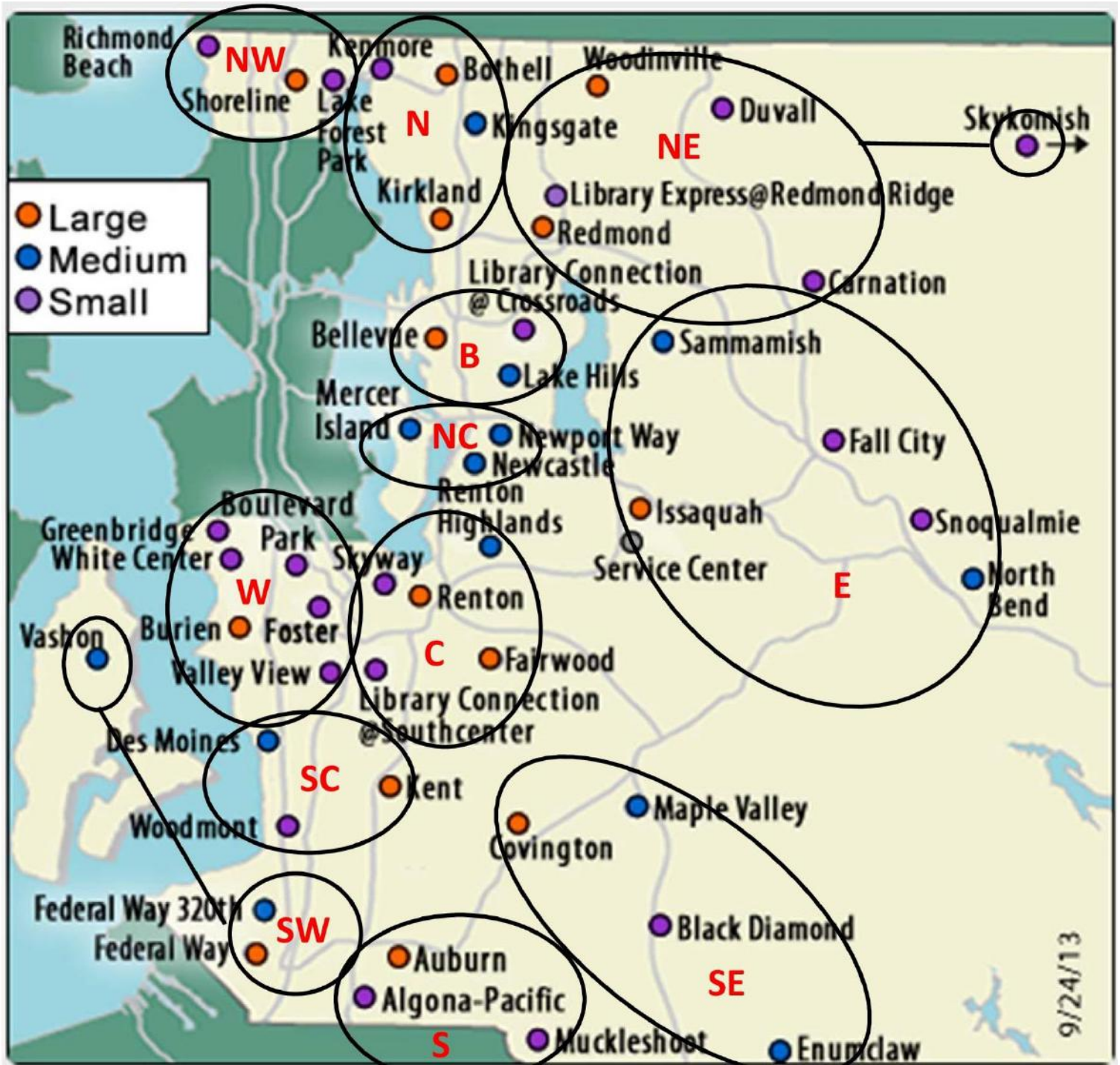
Assistive Technology

King County Library System

Wendy Pender
Older Adults Project Specialist, King County Library System (WA)



About KCLS:

- 49 locations
- 36 cities
- 2,300 square miles
- 19 school districts

	NAME	LIBRARIES	# LIBS
1	**Northwest**	LF/RB/SH	3
2	**North**	BO/KG/KL/KM	4
3	**Northeast**	CA/DU/RE/RR/SK/WL	6
4	**Bellevue**	BE/CR/LH	3
5	**Northcentral**	MI/NC/NW	3
6	**East**	FC/IS/NB/SA/SN	5
7	**West**	BP/BU/FO/GB/VV/WC	6
8	**Central**	FR/RH/RN/SO/SW	5
9	**Southcentral**	DM/KT/WM	3
10	**Southwest**	F3/FW/VA	3
11	**South**	AP/AU/MK	3
12	**Southeast**	BD/CO/EN/MV	4

Assistive Technology – what is it?

"Assistive technology is any product or service that makes tasks easier or possible" *www.watap.org*

Assistive Technology for Vision includes

MAGNIFICATION *Font* **Contrast** Lighting!

Normal changes with aging (from WebMD)

Hearing

Over time, changes in the ear make high-frequency sounds harder to hear and changes in tone and speech less clear. These changes tend to speed up after age 55.

Vision

Most people in their 40s develop a need for reading glasses as the lenses in the eyes become less flexible (presbyopia). It's also normal for night vision and visual sharpness to decline. Also in the later years, glare increasingly interferes with clear vision.

Assistive Technology for Hearing:

Amplification!

Note mike position: It's a trumpet, not an ice cream cone

Wendy's "Breath Mint" rule of using a microphone: If amplification is offered, **TAKE IT!** You are the not the person who decides whether or not you are loud enough. Make it easy on your listeners so they don't have to strain to hear!

aphy | Mary | KCLS Intranet - Home | 50+ | King County Lib | AmazonSmile: Online | Events | Staff Only Room Book | Health Awareness Mo | Vital Agin

Washington Assistive Technology Act Program

Technology for Independence

Services | Learn About AT | About Us | Contact Us | Administrative Backdoor

Sort Content by Activity

- Tools for Everyday
- Communicating
- Accessing a Computer
- Environmental Adaptation
- Recreation and Leisure

Sort Content by Function

- Seeing
- Hearing
- Speaking
- Managing Information
- Fine Motor & Getting Around

Articles

- WATAP is Recruiting for Our Advisory Council
- A Story to Tell: Reading Again

Follow Us

What Is AT?

Assistive technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, or product that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities.

What is Assistive Technology

Assistive technology is any product or service that makes tasks easier or possible. Find resources and learn more about tools to help people live, work, and play independently

How Can WATAP Help?

- Borrow a Device
- Device Demonstration
- Get Equipment
- Ask us a Question

What's Up in Washington

There's is no upcoming events currently. Please check later.

Assistive Technology makes life easier – for everyone!

E.g., interactive GPS, Amazon Echo, the microphone which allows talk-to-text on smartphones

“But I don’t have a budget” …what can you do?

- Establish a committee inside or outside the library inviting people to look at your library with an eye toward assistive tech – enroll your PTA, FOL, Library Advisory Boards

- Have magnifying glasses at every service desk

- In computer/ereader trainings, highlight features such as changing font and enhancing contrast

- Amplify when possible – microphones, hearing loops and smartphone apps such as https://snapguide.com/guides/use-your-iphone-as-a-hearing-aid/

- Don’t let people get away with NOT using a microphone
- Educate your staff that they can certify people to use WTBBL
- Add LP titles and audiobook titles to booklists - make it an everyday experience to use these formats (shorter holds lists!)
- Help get the word out about http://www.choicemagazinelistening.org/, a free talking magazine
- Ask your town if they provide real time captioning for events – they may be willing to provide a captioner (like a court reporter who records what is happening as it is happening)

Computer **A**ided **R**eal **T**ime (**CART**) Captioning in action

Life is easier with friends!
(We don’t have to do it all ourselves)

Work with your community partners – help amplify their efforts! Here’s one method, an Assistive Technology Fair in the library:

ClearCaptio
Programs and Services

Vendors at KCLS 2016 Assistive Technology Fair

Bellevue Network on Aging

Bridge Disability Ministries

City of Bellevue ADA

ClearCaptions

FizzBrain

Hearing Loss Association of Washington

Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center

Hopelink Transportation (Mobility Coalition)

Seattle Public Library/LEAP

Seattle Deaf-Blind Service Center

SightConnection

Sound Generations (formerly Senior Services)

Washington Access Fund (now the Northwest Access Fund)

Washington Assistive Technology Act Program

Washington Talking Book & Braille Library

ADA
Accessibility Kits & Assistive Software
ublic Library

Assistive Technology & Resources Fair

Saturday, April 29, 11am-3pm, Auburn Library

Assistive technology is any product or service that makes tasks easier or possible.
Learn about community resources and tools to help people live, work and play independently.

Visit representatives from the following organizations and others to learn what they can do for you!

Northwest Access Fund
City of Auburn
Hopelink Transportation (Mobility Coalition)
Washington Talking Book & Braille Library
Hearing Loss Association
Washington Assistive Technology Act Program
Bridge Disability Ministries
Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center
Seattle Public Library/LEAP
SightConnection **AND MORE!**

Please make arrangements for ASL Interpreting services at least 7 calendar days in advance. Please contact jacavinta@kcls.org by April 20. This flyer is available in Braille upon request.

Reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities is available; please contact the library prior to the event if you require accommodation.

Auburn Library • 1102 Auburn Way S • Auburn, WA 98002 • 253.931.3018

Monday-Thursday, 10am-9pm • Friday, 10am-6pm • Saturday, 10am-5pm • Sunday, 1-5pm

kcls.org/auburn • facebook.com/AuburnLibrary

Be an advocate for your patrons – and your older self!

Questions?

Wendy Pender, MLS
425-369-3285
wgpender@kcls.org

See also www.kcls.org/browse/50

What Is a Print Disability, and How Can I Still Read Books?

Amy Ravenholt
Assistant Manager
Washington Talking Book
& Braille Library

“When you can’t read
a damn thing,
what in hell you going to do?”

Eva, WTBBL patron

Accessible Book Timeline

1824 – Braille invented
1877 – Phonograph invented
1931 – NLS starts providing braille books
1933 – First audio book on LP records
1952 – Blind children eligible
1966 – People with physical disabilities eligible
1969 – NLS loans first books on cassette tape
1976 – Kurzweil/OCR & text-to-speech software
1998 – Audible offers first downloadable audio books
2002 – Bookshare.org formed/members scan books and share digital files
2003 – public libraries start offering digital downloads for e-books and audio

2009 – NLS releases digital player & BARD download site

2013-15 – talking books went mobile on Apple and Android devices

2017 – pilot test of custom cartridges,
all books available all the time – jump the digital divide

And in 2019?

- Circulate refreshable braille displays in place of bulky braille
- Transmit audio books wirelessly to any patron

WTBBL Talking Book Service is

FREE

No overdue fines, no postage charges,
no cost to download books, no rent for player!
Made possible through state and federal funding
No, Medicare doesn't cover it because it doesn't cost anything

Open to any Washington State resident
who has a **print disability:**

Anyone who can't read a standard print book

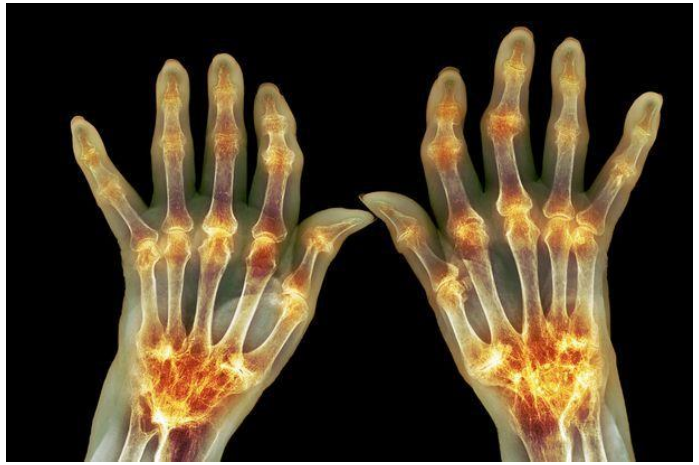
due to a visual or physical impairment

Eligible due to **vision loss** if it prevents them from reading standard print

Often due to:

- Diabetes
- Retinitis pigmentosa
- Glaucoma
- Cataracts
- Age-related macular degeneration
- Eye trauma

Eligible if a **physical condition** prevents them from holding a book steady, turning pages, or reading for a long time



Examples: arthritis, stroke, multiple sclerosis, paralysis, Parkinson’s disease or other movement disorders

Eligible due to reading disability

resulting from organic dysfunction, of sufficient severity to prevent reading of printed material in a normal manner.

Only medical doctors are allowed to certify a WTBBL application for cases of reading disability.

School personnel can certify students for other programs like LearningAlly.org and Bookshare.org to get access to text books, etc., through text-to-speech software.

Copyright and Special Formats

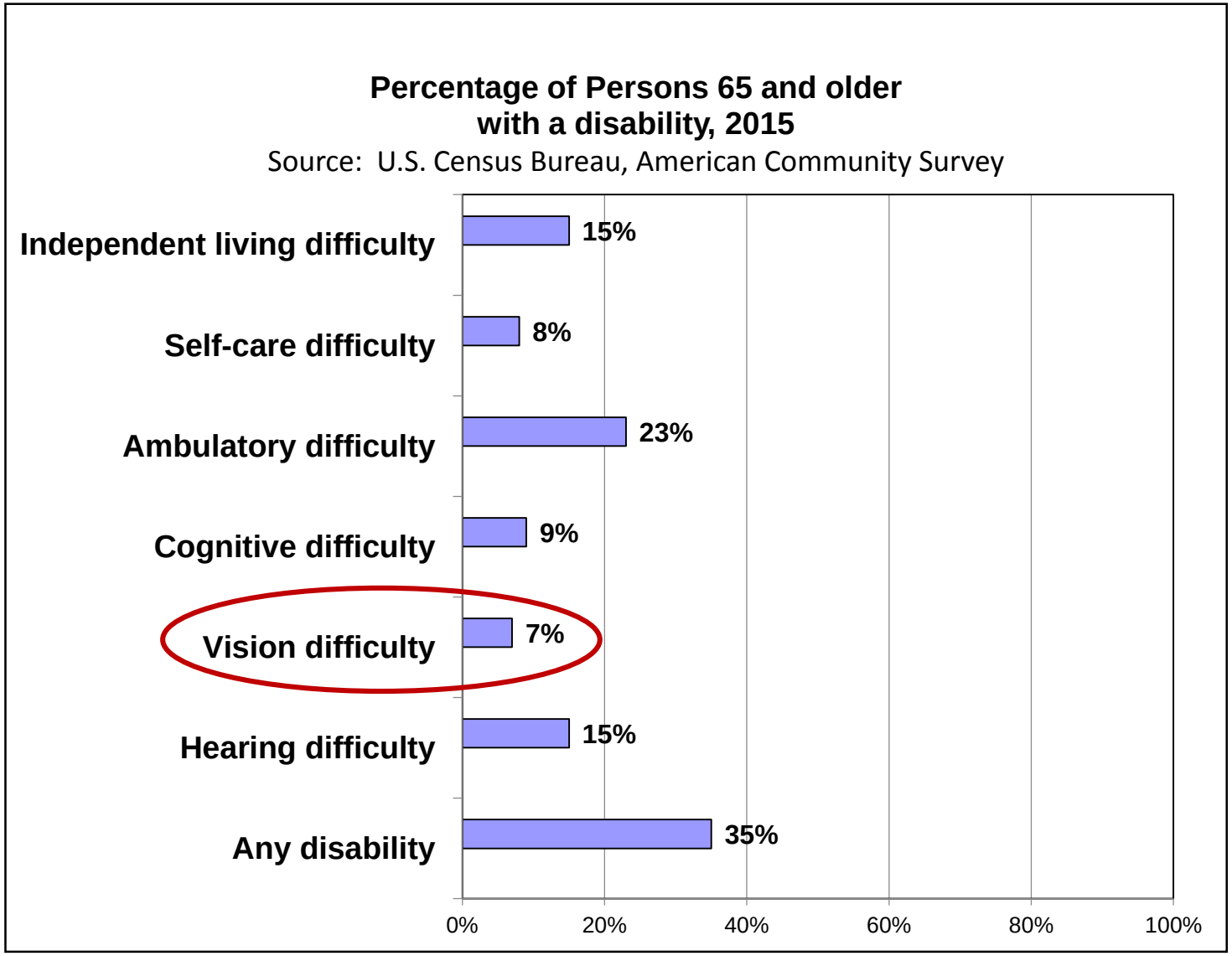
Copyright = exclusive right to regulate reproduction and distribution

Special format = books are duplicated in a format not used by the general public (braille, audio that plays at half the “normal” speed, encrypted files)

NLS may produce accessible versions of any literary work as long as they use a specialized format and only distribute them to the blind or other persons with disabilities

Sweet ☺ (and cheap) if you want to read titles that NLS has produced!!

Sour ☹ if you want any of the other 99.9% of books published



Washington State has 1,036,046 people over the age of 65

72,500 (7%) of WA seniors report vision difficulties

WTBBL serves 1 in 7; What about the rest?

WTBBL patron Dottie, Richland, WA, age 79:

I lost my sight at 19. Bothered me when people snickered when I did things wrong. Asked my husband to help me hide this disability. Now I have a hard time going to the grocery store by myself. I have to ask someone there to help me. I try not to let it stop me. Some days it gets to me.

For years and years I didn't read. **Then my local library put me on to this. The librarians had been watching me come in for books on cassette. They called me and said "We would really like you to try getting books from Seattle."**

I fall asleep on a book every night. Helps me go to sleep. What a comfort it is to me. I really enjoy it.

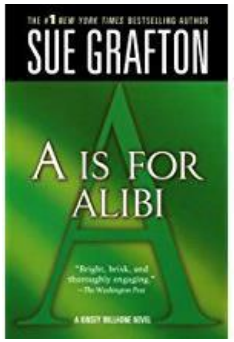
Professional librarians – yes, you! –
may certify applications for people with visual or physical impairments.

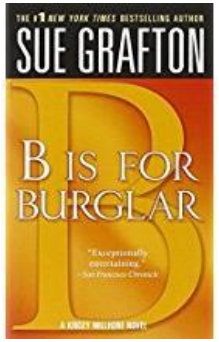
Other certifiers include doctors, nurses, social workers, and activities directors.

Public library staff are the one best chance most people have to hear about this program, and to get their application completed.

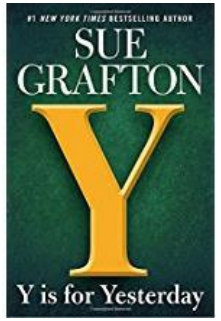
WTBBL offers:

- Choose your own titles
- Or let the library choose for you—anything from “no bad words,” to “50 Shades of Grey”
- Series books <u>in order</u>





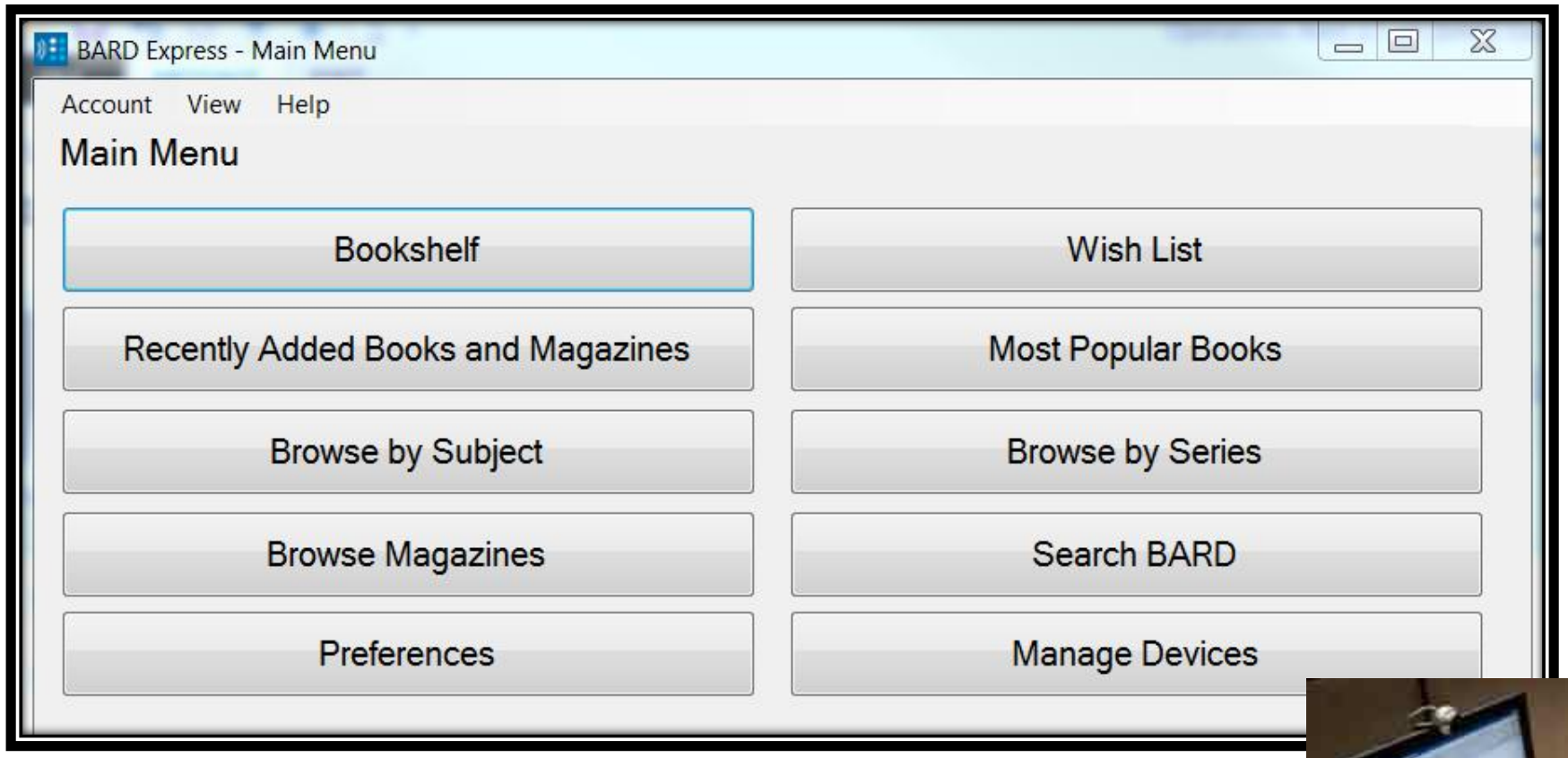
and favorite author feeds



- Book group support & customized book duplication
- 31,000 titles available for mail circulation, up to 15 at one time
- All 79,000 titles available to download now, and keep as long as you have storage
- Locally-produced audio and braille books/Northwest focus
- 40+ audio magazines, and specialized music collection, and bi-monthly catalog of new titles
- order online, mail in, or call—always a live voice M-F, 8:30 am-5:00 pm.

Patrons choose their level of service,
from the independent smartphone user,

to old-school, non-computer users
who just want us to
mail them “a good book.”



BARD Express software simplifies steps, unzips books for patrons, saves them to the flash drive, etc.

Patient WTBBL staff can show you in person how to download books, or coach you over the phone.

Questions?

Amy Ravenholt, MLS 206-615-1783

amy.ravenholt@sos.wa.gov

Washington Talking Book & Braille Library

800-542-0866 / www.wtbbl.org

2021 9th St., Seattle, WA 98121

A program of the Washington State Library
and the Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

All photos are of WTBBL or NLS patrons, except for: Slide 3 photo: https://abilitytools.org/blog/ray-kurzweil-assistive-reading-and-writing-software/
Slide 7 photos from Getty Images; Slide 8 photos Wheel-life.org, Mirror.co.uk, PatientTalk.org
Slide 9/11 photo: http://blog.poolcenter.com/article.aspx?articleid=6505
Slide 12 statistics from: https://aoa.acl.gov/aging_statistics/Profile/index.aspx

Library Equal Access Program (LEAP), at Seattle Public Library

CJ Glenn, Library Associate IV

Assistive technology available throughout the Seattle Public Library system:

- ZoomText, a screen magnification software and JAWS, a screen-reading software, are available on all library computers throughout the system
- Accessibility Kits which include a variety of magnifiers and writing guides as well as a large-type, high-contrast PC keyboard, are available at all branch locations
- Accessible e-books, downloadable audiobooks and audiobooks on compact disc are available for patrons to borrow

Accessibility Kits

Large Type/High Contrast Keyboard

Low Vision Note Writing Frame

Low Vision Signature Guide

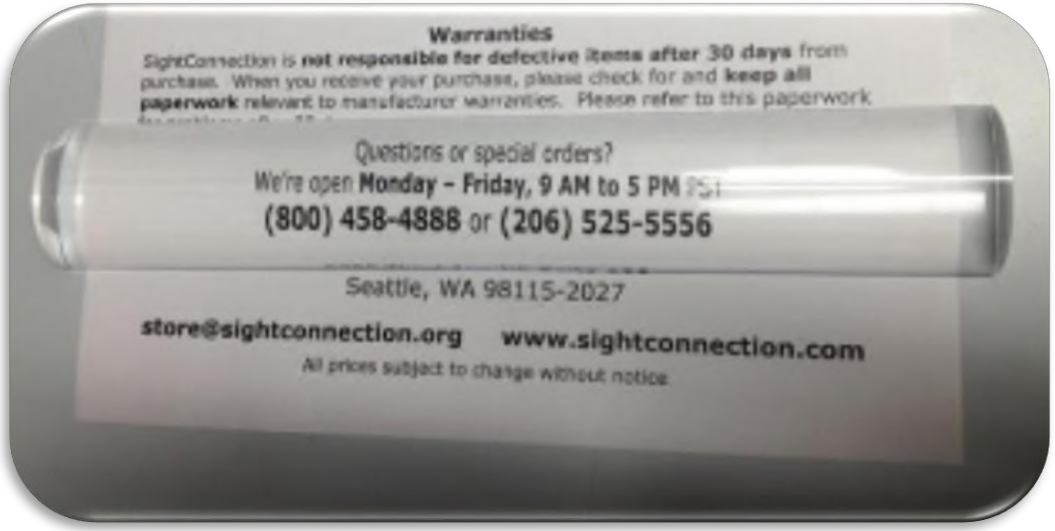
Low Vision Writing Tablet

Thick Pen (20/20 Marker)

Pen or Pencil Grip

Accessibility Kits: Magnifiers

Dome Magnifier



Bar Magnifier

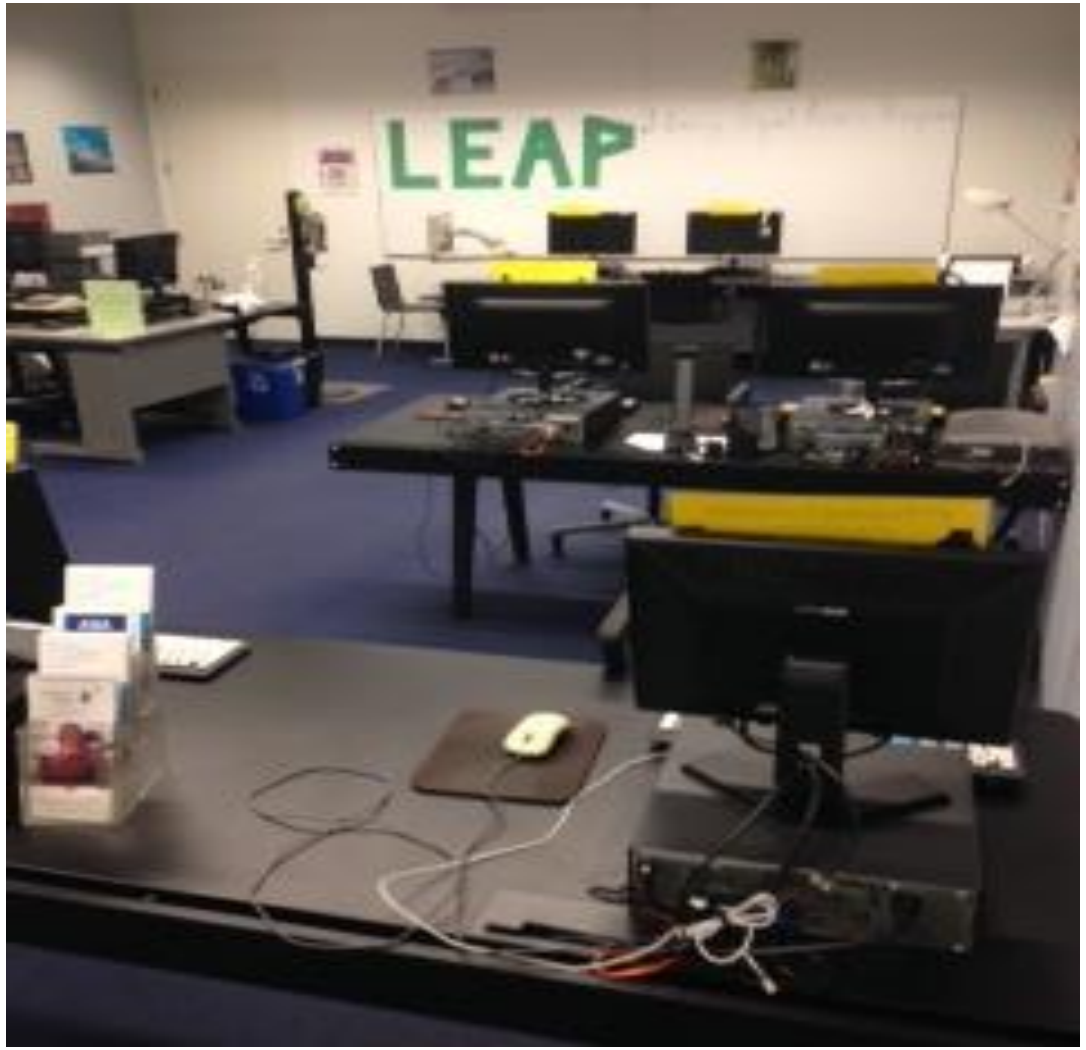
Sheet Magnifier

Additional Assistive Technology Available Regionally (Southwest, Columbia City, University and Broadview):

- One Computer with ZoomText Image Reader

- One Focus 40 Braille Output Display unit

In the LEAP Assistive Technology Lab at the Central Library:



- Two Focus 80 refreshable braille systems for reading and inputting computer-generated text in braille

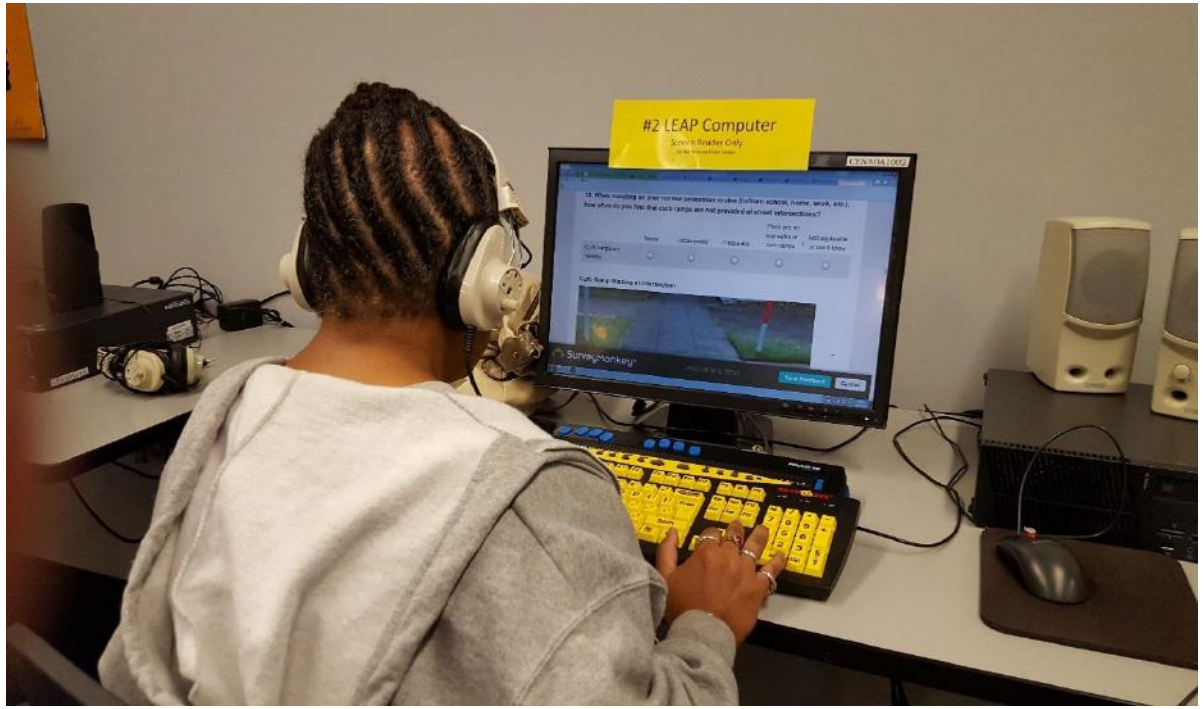
- Duxbury text-to-braille translation software, used with an Index D Braille Embosser which allows patrons to emboss braille documents

- Two Closed Circuit Television Systems (CCTV) allow people to magnify printed materials, handwritten materials and images

- Free-standing magnifier that patrons can use to read print materials

LEAP Programs and Services

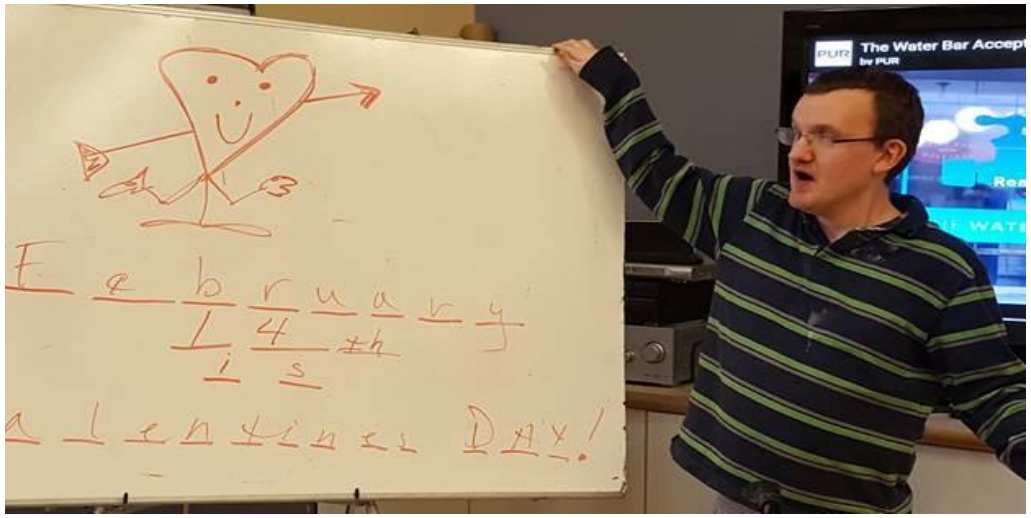
Drop-in Technology Lab

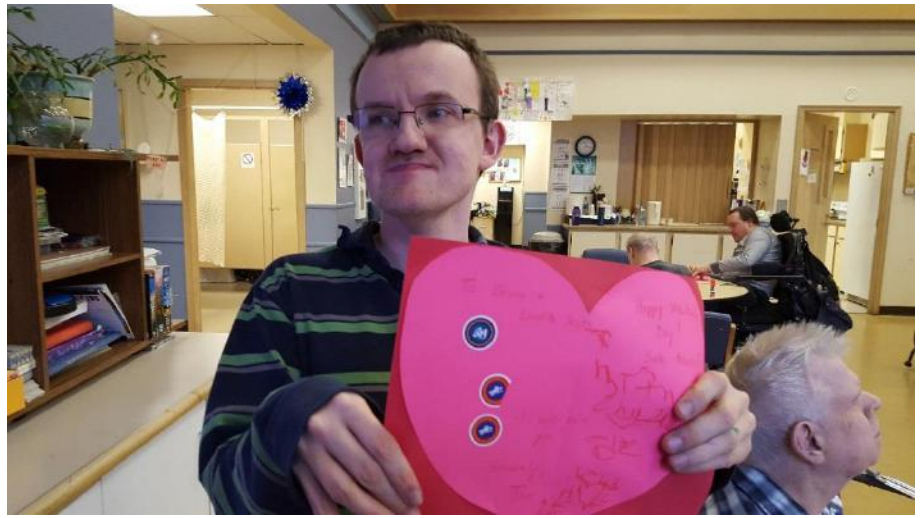


Low Vision Book Group

ASL Story Times

Full Life Memory Care





Accessibility to ALL Library Programs and Services

Ways in which we strive to make ALL of our library's programs and services welcoming to everybody, including:

- ASL and tactile interpreters for patrons who are blind or deaf-blind
- Assistive listening devices for deaf and hard of hearing patrons
- ADA accommodations by request

Community Engagement

Engage with colleagues in other departments and branches within the library system in order to reach all age groups and audiences:

Mobile Services

- Home Service
- Books by Mail
- Lobby Stop Service
- Deposit Service

Resources and Services Information Referrals

- LEAP as a resource to which our colleagues can refer patrons
- 1:1 appointments with LEAP staff here at Central or at a branch location
- Compile and maintain information about outside resources and services for people with disabilities and keep colleagues informed about those resources

Questions?

CJ Glenn Library Associate IV, Seattle Public Library

Library Equal Access Program (LEAP)

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Seattle Public Library

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