

Options for Getting Textbooks in Alternative Format: Bookshare

What is Bookshare?

Bookshare (<http://bookshare.org>) is an organization that provides digital text versions of books, including some postsecondary textbooks, for students with qualifying disabilities. Anyone can search Bookshare's collection. Disability Services, however, will set up memberships as necessary and download books for registered students. Students will also be asked to set up a free Individual membership.

Bookshare books are in a format that can be read on a free web reader. Alternative reading tools are available for student purchase.

Advantages:

- Bookshare's reading tools are user friendly and have customizable reading support features (e.g., text highlighting, voice options, speaking rate adjustment, color contrast options, etc.).
- If a book is available in Bookshare's collection, Disability Services can easily add it to a student's "reading list" for timely access.

Disadvantages:

- Bookshare's collection of postsecondary textbooks is growing, but not extensive.

What do students need to access Bookshare books?

To read Bookshare books on a laptop (Mac or PC), the free [Bookshare Web Reader](#) is recommended. It opens directly in a web browser (optimized for Google Chrome). To use Bookshare Web Reader, students need to complete a free Individual Membership application. Disability Services will assist in this process.

Alternative reading tools are available for Bookshare. Visit [Bookshare Reading Tools](#) for information.

For more information about Bookshare, please schedule an appointment with Disability Services:

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