

Options for Getting Textbooks in Alternative Format: “Self Service”

What do we mean by a “self-service” option?

If you can purchase your textbook in the format you need, you can bypass the process of requesting an alternative format version through Disability Services. This means no delay in access to your book and, oftentimes, a better user experience since you’ll be reading the book on the publisher’s own ereader.

Where can I find my textbook in an alternative format?

Commercial sources of etextbooks (digital text or audio) include the UNE Bookstore, Amazon, CourseSmart, and Audible. Here’s a summary of each.

UNE Bookstore

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If a digital version of a textbook is available for purchase from the Bookstore, it will be listed in the table with other formats (e.g., hardcover, paperback, or spiral). Before purchasing the digital version, please contact Disability Services so that we can confirm that the publisher’s ereader will meet your individual accessibility needs.

Amazon

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Kindle eBooks can be read on a variety of devices, including iPhones and iPads; Android Phone and Tablet; Windows Phone; Windows Tablet; Kindle Fire; and other Kindles. Here are some helpful resources to determine if Kindle eBooks are a good option for you. Please contact Disability Services for further assistance.

- [Features Available in Kindle Books: Text to Speech](#)
- [Amazon: Whispersync for Voice](#)
- [Amazon: Switch between reading and listening with Whispersync for Voice](#)
- [Android: Enable Talkback](#)
- [Kindle for Android: Read Aloud with TalkBack](#)
- [Kindle for iOS: Read Aloud with VoiceOver](#)
- [How to Enable Text to Speech on iPad & iPhone for Kindle, iBooks, etc.](#)

CourseSmart

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CourseSmart sells etextbooks that can be accessed on multiple devices. In addition to computers (laptop/desktop), CourseSmart has free apps for iPad/iPhone, Kindle, Android devices, Kindle Fire, Windows 8.1 tablets. CourseSmart books support assistive technologies for accessibility by users with vision and hearing impairments.

In addition to the following instructions, CourseSmart books may also be read aloud using the text-to-speech feature built into your (e.g., Speak Selection in iOS and TalkBack in Android). Please contact Disability Services for further assistance.

- [Contact CourseSmart with questions regarding a specific device](#)
- [From Penn State: Using CourseSmart etextbooks with VoiceOver](#)
- [From Penn State: Using CourseSmart etextbooks with Kurzweil](#)
- [CourseSmart: Using Read & Write Gold 11 for Text to Speech \(Windows\)](#)
- [CourseSmart: VoiceOver Instructions](#)
- [General information about acquiring an accessible textbook from CourseSmart](#)

Audible

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Help

For assistance with the "Self-Service" option for acquiring alternative formats of your textbooks, please contact:

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