

MEDIA RELEASE

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New library program helps people with print disabilities access books

With the launch of a new provincially-funded library program, public libraries across Canada are enabling Canadians with print disabilities to access literature like never before.

Thanks to funding from the Government of Ontario, Brockville Library card holders now have the opportunity to borrow from the 80,000-title collection of alternative format materials at the CNIB Library, including audio, braille and descriptive video.

For people who can't read print, the news means unprecedented access to a broad collection of accessible materials - books, magazines and newspapers - through the Brockville Public Library. All library users who have difficulty reading conventional print due to visual, physical or learning disabilities are eligible to participate.

About the CNIB Library

- Canada's largest collection of literature for people with print disabilities (stocks more than 80,000 titles)
- Circulates 2 million books across Canada annually
- Funded largely by public donations

Available Services

- Children's Discovery Portal and 60 Plus Portal
- Books of all kinds for all ages in English DAISY audio books, French DAISY audio books, Braille, and PrintBraille
- Newspapers and magazines online
- Descriptive videos
- Braille music scores

In addition to the collection available through Interlibrary Loan, the Brockville library has a permanent collection of books in Daisy format. New titles will be added to this permanent collection twice a year. DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) is a standard for digital talking books. The DAISY format allows users to hear and navigate written material presented in an audible format and brings users closer to an authentic reading experience. For example, DAISY books allow a blind listener to navigate an encyclopedia; this is impossible using conventional audio recordings because they lack search and navigation features and they require linear listening. While reading a DAISY book, a reader can go to the next or previous page, chapter or sentence.

Books in DAISY format have special navigation functions, which are accessible using special players or playback software. The library currently has one of these special players available for loan for eligible patrons.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the services offered by this new partnership, please contact Amanda Robinson at 613-342-3936 ext. 24 or by email at amanda@brockvillelibrary.ca. For more detailed information about this service, visit <http://www.brockvillelibrary.ca/cnib-collections.htm>

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