



**established  
in 1973**

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library of the  
National Library  
Service for  
the Blind and  
Physically  
Handicapped

# Worcester Talking Book Library

Fund: 7000-9402

The Worcester Talking Book Library (WTBL) was established in 1973 as a sub-regional library of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress. Located at the Worcester Public Library, WTBL provides large print books for children and adults, digital audio, braille children's books, audio described DVDs, and magazines, as well as the necessary equipment and readers' advisory services to vision-impaired and physically disabled individuals of all ages who are unable to read standard print materials due to a visual, physical, or reading disability. WTBL provides these services to individuals, as well as the institutions and organizations that serve them, free of charge; all materials and equipment are delivered and returned postage free through the U.S. mail. The library loans books with a wide variety of subjects in English, and multiple foreign languages.

## Why the Worcester Talking Book Library is Important

The library's services enable blind, vision-impaired and physically disabled individuals of all ages to enjoy the pleasure of reading and pursuit of life-long learning opportunities – equal to that of sighted individuals. The library provides free door-to-door delivery of audio, large print and braille materials, including books, magazines and newspapers, to those who are unable to visit the library, allowing them to read independently in formats that are most comfortable to them.

## How a Lack of Funding has Affected the Worcester Talking Book Library

- Scale-backs in the number of large print book purchases.
- Reductions in the bi-monthly printing and mailing of new large print book catalogs to library patrons.
- Cutbacks in purchase of outreach materials and outreach visits to promote the program and less staff attendance at state and national library conferences.

## What the Worcester Talking Book Library would do with Increased Funding

- Update the department's eleven computers with new Dell micro-computers.
- Install compact shelving to gain storage space for the library's large print and digital audio collections.