



Library Services to Visually Impaired People

Fact Sheet April 2017





Waltham Forest Libraries

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Library Services to Visually Impaired People

If you enjoy reading, but find print difficult, Waltham Forest Libraries can help.

A wide range of services are on offer to visually impaired children and adults. Many are free and these include:

- Large Print Books
- Audio Books on CDs
- Access Library Membership
- E-Books and E-Audiobooks
- Home Library Service
- Reading Groups
- Local Talking Newspapers
- Digital Library
- Internet, Computers and Wi-Fi
- Assistive Technology
- Magnifying Aids
- Other Sources of help

Large Print Books

All libraries stock a wide range of large print titles to suit every taste and interest. Titles are listed on the library catalogue, which is also available online at www.walthamforest.gov.uk/libraries

Audio Books on CDs

Audio books on CDs are available at libraries. Titles can be requested free of charge through any library, by telephone or from the website at www.walthamforest.gov.uk/libraries

Access Library Membership

Anyone with a visual impairment can borrow and request audio books and language courses free of charge. It's easy to set up this type of ticket at any library. You simply need to provide confirmation of your sight problem along with your name and address details. To apply for a card, please ask library staff.

E-Books and e-Audiobooks

E-Books and e-Audiobooks are now available via Waltham Forest Libraries website. You need a current library ticket to sign up and the first time you login you will be asked to create





an account. You can borrow/download up to 5 titles at any time for 7 to 21 days depending on the format. Adult, teen and children's titles are available.

Home Library Service

There are many reasons why you may not be able to visit your library including disability, ill-health and caring responsibilities. The Home Library Service is there to ensure that you can still access library services from your own home when you find it difficult to travel to a library. We will deliver books to your home via a courier service every four weeks and take away those that you finished with. There is no need to worry about books being returned late as we keep everything up to date.

If you would like to apply for the Home Library Service please ask a member of staff at your local library or download at www.walthamforest.gov.uk/libraries

Reading Groups

If you enjoy reading or listening to spoken word, why not share your ideas with others and join a reading group. For more details contact your nearest library or visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/libraries

Local Talking Newspapers

Waltham Forest Libraries in partnership with Waltham Forest Talking Newspaper (WFTN) offer free audio versions of the news in your area on a memory stick. Please visit one of our Library Plus to find out more.

Digital Library

Our website www.walthamforest.gov.uk/libraries gives further details of all our services, and instant access to the library catalogue. You can also search, request or renew items via the website any time of the day.

Internet, Computers and Wi-Fi

Waltham Forest Libraries offer free access to computers, Internet and Wi-Fi.

Assistive Technology

The following special equipment is available at libraries:

- Large Keyboards** (available on request) – have keys four times larger than a standard keyboard
- Browsealoud** - Innovative support software adds speech, reading, and translation to the website facilitating access and participation for people with mild visual impairments.
- Basic Magnification** - all our computers have basic magnification capabilities that allow you to increase what is on screen by up to nine times.

Magnifying Aids

Every library has small hand-held magnifiers for customers to use.





Other sources of help

Waltham Forest Talking Newspaper (WFTN)

Do you struggle to read the local newspaper because of a visual impairment? Well, we can help. We are "Soundwave" the Waltham Forest Talking Newspaper. On a weekly basis we read the news from the Waltham Forest Guardian on to memory sticks for the visually impaired within the borough. As a small local charity we provide this service totally free of charge and we will even loan you a player if you do not have access to a computer to enable you to play the memory stick. If you are interested and would like more details then please leave your telephone number on 07811 245695 and we will contact you as soon as we are able.

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)

Talking Books is a free service, giving readers access to over 25,000 titles in a wide variety of genres. You can borrow a digital version of the book, or have it sent to you on a DAISY CD or USB, so that you can enjoy the book in your own time and in your preferred format. For details and sign up to Free Talking Book Service visit <https://www.rnib.org.uk/talkingbookslanding>

Big Print is a weekly large print newspaper with a TV and radio listing. For a sample copy, please contact RNIB Big Print, on 0303 123 9999 or visit the website www.rnib.org.uk/bigprint

Reading Sight

Reading Sight is a website that enables readers to find books in accessible formats, join libraries and participate in reading groups and activities. For more details visit <http://readingsight.org.uk/>

The National Talking Newspaper Service

The National Talking Newspaper Service provides over 200 national newspapers and magazines on cassette and CD and an electronic service, using e-mail and the Internet. Visit www.tnauk.org.uk or telephone 01435 866102.

The Calibre Audio Library

The Calibre Audio Library provides a free postal cassette digital MP3 service, offering thousands of titles delivered direct to a customer's home. A wide range of children's titles are also available. For details telephone Calibre on 01296 432339 or visit www.calibre.org.uk

Getting in Touch

For more details, contact Stock and Reader Development Manager based at
Leytonstone Library
6 Church Lane
Leytonstone
London E11 1HG
Telephone: 020 8496 3169
E-mail: Libraries.Support@walthamforest.gov.uk
Website: www.walthamforest.gov.uk/libraries

A copy of this fact sheet can be translated into alternative languages, and can be provided in other formats on request.

END 04/17

