

# Lifelong Learning with Bookshare

## Professional Development Workshop



# Workshop Outcomes

- Understand Bookshare, its eligibility criteria and membership options
- Explore free and low cost assistive technology to access Bookshare materials
- Search and request books from the Bookshare online library

Bookshare is a project of Benetech - [www.benetech.org](http://www.benetech.org)  
Benetech's nonprofit motto: *Technology Serving Humanity*

# What is Bookshare®?

- Bookshare launched in 2002 to make reading accessible to people with print disabilities
- Received 5-year OSEP awards in 2007, 2012, 2017
- Introduced “Born Accessible” and “Buy Accessible” guidelines in 2015; “Build Accessible” and “Accessible Classroom” guidelines in 2016
- World wide organizational, individual and student memberships
- More than 627,900 titles, ~1000 added each month

# What Bookshare Offers

- Digital books for individuals with print disabilities
- 24/7 access to books
- FREE memberships for *qualified* U.S. students through OSEP award.
- FREE assistive technology software for members



# How Does Bookshare Help?

- Access to AEM in a timely manner
- Equalize educational opportunities
- Help students with print disabilities keep up with classmates
- Encourage them to read and study independently



# Types of Memberships

**For Students:**  
**Organizational**  
**Individual**

**For Non-Students:**  
**Individual Paid Subscription**

# Organizational Memberships

## Benefits:

- Free for U.S. Educational Institutions (public & private schools, colleges, universities)
- Sponsors (teachers) sign up students
- Sponsors assign reading material to students, limited access to Bookshare library
- Students read assigned books using free or low cost assistive technology
- Sponsors should encourage Individual Memberships to allow for greater independence and access

# Individual Memberships

## Benefits:

- Free for U.S. students in secondary or post secondary educational institutions
- Students under 18 must have parent/guardian sign them up, over 18 they can create own account
- Student downloads books independently
- Full access to Bookshare library
- Easy to sign-up or connect an existing membership.
- FREE for all students who qualify, sign them up today!

# Individual Memberships: Non Students

- \$50 per year
- Must have qualifying disability
- Full access to entire Bookshare library

# Bookshare Eligibility Pre-Quiz: True or False

- In order to be eligible for Bookshare a student must have a documented print disability.
- Any student with a diagnosed disability qualifies for Bookshare.
- A student with documented ADHD who has difficulty staying focused during reading is eligible to receive Bookshare services.
- A student who prefers books in an auditory version can qualify for Bookshare.

# How does Bookshare have access to books and why is eligibility so important?

- Bookshare operates under an [exception to U.S. copyright law](#) which allows copyrighted digital books to be made available to people with qualifying disabilities.
- The exemption is referred to as the Chafee Amendment
- The law states that it is **not** an infringement of copyright for an authorized entity (Bookshare is an authorized entity) to reproduce or to distribute copies of materials *if they are reproduced or distributed in specialized formats exclusively for use by blind or other persons with disabilities.*

# What is a Print Disability?

- A print disability is a physically or neurologically-based disability that makes it very difficult or impossible to read standard print.
- These include:
  - blindness or low vision,
  - a physical disability in which an individual cannot hold a book or turn the pages of a book, or
  - *A documented* learning or reading disability

# Eligible Students

**Record of disability kept at school!**

Disability	Qualified/Not Qualified	Examples of Competent Authorities
Visual Impairment (VI) Blindness / Low vision	Qualified, if confirmed by a listed Competent Authority	A family doctor, ophthalmologist, optometrist, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Special Education teacher; Certification from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in the U.S. or similar national body in other countries
Physical Disability (PD)	Qualified, if confirmed by a listed Competent Authority that the disability significantly affects the use of printed materials	A family doctor or other medical professional, physical therapist, occupational therapist, resource specialist, Special Education teacher
Learning Disability (LD) Reading Disability	Qualified, if confirmed by a listed Competent Authority, that the disability has a physical basis and significantly affects the use of print	A neurologist, psychiatrist, learning disability specialist, Special Education teacher, school psychologist, or clinical psychologist with a background in learning disabilities
Autism Emotional disabilities ADHD	<b>Not qualified under this diagnosis,</b> unless accompanied by a qualifying visual, physical, learning or reading disability as certified by a Competent Authority as above	Examples listed above
ESL and ELL		

# Identifying Students with Learning and Reading Disabilities

## Eligible

- Students with severe learning or reading disabilities that struggle to obtain information from print using standard print-based instructional materials
- Students who continue to struggle to access print despite high quality instruction and interventions

## Not Eligible

- Students learning English as a second language who do not have a print-based disability
- Students who may be struggling because they haven't been exposed to quality instruction
- Students who prefer books in auditory format

# Students must be certified by a Competent Authority \*

\*Examples: Assistive Technology Coordinator; Dyslexia or Reading Specialist; Special Education Teacher; Teacher of the Visually Impaired; Physical Therapist; Physician; Ophthalmologist

In addition, **membership in Learning Ally** or NLS (National Library Service) **is certification of qualification for Bookshare.**

# Bookshare Eligibility Post-Quiz: True or False

- In order to be eligible for Bookshare a student must have a documented print disability. **TRUE**
- Any student with a diagnosed disability qualifies for Bookshare. **FALSE**
- A student with documented ADHD who has difficulty staying focused during reading is eligible to receive Bookshare services. **FALSE**
- A student who prefers books in an auditory version can qualify for Bookshare. **FALSE**



# Let's explore the **BOOKSHARE WEBSITE**

[www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org)

# Connect with Bookshare

- Visit - <https://www.bookshare.org/cms/get-involved>
- Sign-up for our Newsletter (My Bookshare → My Account → Preferences)
- Read our blog
- Follow us on social media:

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Connected!**



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# Contact Information

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**Thank you.**

