The Difference between Audio Books and E-Books (TTS)

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Alignment with State Priorities

Georgia’s Systems of Continuous Improvement

Special Education Division Priorities:

IEP Development and Implementation
Non-Endorsement Statement
Georgia Department of Education

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Audio Books vs E Books (TTS)

“I care that you read, not how.”
— Ann Patchett

Ann Patchett is an American author. She received the 2002 PEN/Faulkner Award and the Orange Prize for Fiction in the same year, for her novel Bel Canto.
Audio Books vs E-Books (TTS)

An **audiobook** is a sound recording of a book. It may be in CD or MP3 format. The student listens to audiobooks.

An **E-Book** is a digital representation of a printed book. The student reads an E-book. Not all E-Books are downloadable (though many are), some can only be viewed within a browser, web app or webpage.
Audio Books compared to E-Book

Audiobook sound
• Is a book that has been audio recorded and can be listened to with a device.

E-Book (Text to Speech)
• Is a book that uses technology to read out loud the digital text. This can be a book, the newspaper, or an article from a magazine being read aloud on a device.
Sound of an Audio Books vs an E-Book

Audiobook sound
• Human voice
  • There is change in tone and emotion
  • There is natural pausing
• These books are often read by actors.

E-Book (Text to Speech) sound
• Computer generated voice
  • Words could be pronounced incorrectly
  • Could be pauses in places that don’t make sense
• Limited tone and emotion
• Digital Voice
How an Audio Books and an E-Book are formatted for listening

Audiobook format

• This is typically an MP3 file that will play on a computer or handheld device.

E-Book (Text to Speech) format

• TTS can be played using software or programs. Many E-Books can be played on a computer or handheld device.
Audio Books vs E-Book visual display

Audiobook display

• Students typically listen to the text read aloud and follow along with a printed copy of the book. They might have access to the printed word on a screen.

E-Book (Text to Speech) display

• Student can listen to the text as it is read aloud by a computer-generated voice as they follow the printed text on the screen.
Audio Books vs E-Book Highlighting

Audiobook highlighting

• Many audiobooks do not have a highlighting function as the words are read aloud. There are some newer versions that will synchronize the audio with digitally formatted text. Students can then follow the highlighted words as the text is read aloud.

E-Book (Text to Speech) highlighting

• May of the apps, software and programs have a highlighting function so students can see and hear the words at the same time.
How does E-Books Support Students?

Similar to TTS, E-Books give students the opportunity to hear and see text when reading. This is being immersed within the reading experience. Research has found that the combination of seeing and hearing text when reading can help students to comprehend the material.
Learning Ally
previously known as RFB&D

Bookshare
AudioBooks Learning Ally (RFB&D)

AudioBooks – Learning Ally [https://learningally.org/](https://learningally.org/)

- Learning Ally annual membership is $135, this gives you access to all Learning Ally services
  - But not just *anyone* can qualify for these services. In order to comply with federal copyright law, Learning Ally is able to produce audiobooks *only* by documenting that their members have disabilities. And because only children who have a documented learning disability, visual impairment, or physical disability can receive assistance from Learning Ally, *verification of the disability* must accompany a membership request.

- More than 80,000 human-read audio textbooks
E-Books - Bookshare

E-Books with Bookshare [https://www.bookshare.org/cms/](https://www.bookshare.org/cms/)

- Individual - For students, adults, seniors, veterans and other individuals with print disabilities
  - U.S. Students: FREE
  - U.S. Nonstudents: $50/year

- Organization - For schools, districts, and other organizations, Sign up qualified members, Manage your member's accounts, Find and get books for your members, Access free reading tools for your member
  - U.S. School: FREE

- More than 763,454 titles
E-Books – Bookshare Eligibility

• In order to become a Bookshare® member, an expert must confirm that you have a print disability that severely inhibits or prevents you from reading traditional print materials:
  • Learning Disability
  • Low Vision/Blindness
  • Physical Disability

• All disabilities do not automatically qualify;
  • Autism
  • ID
  • ADHD
  • Hearing Loss
  • Dysgraphia
  • Dyscalculia
  • and people whose first language is not English **DO NOT QUALIFY ON THESE CRITERIA ALONE** under the laws and agreements that determine Bookshare eligibility.

• However, it is quite possible that a person with one or more of these disabilities could still qualify for Bookshare because of an accompanying print disability. For example, a person who is both deaf and blind, or who has ADHD and significant dyslexia, could qualify.
AudioBooks - Learning Ally Eligibility

• Have an IEP or 504 plan
  • Do not have to send the full evaluation/assessment
  • Evaluators contact information
  • Diagnosing evaluators signature
  • A page that defines or summarizes the disability type

• Do not have an IEP or 504, but a clinician has diagnosed you with a print disability
  • 2 step process – get a Learning Ally “Qualified Clinician” form signed and fax or mail in the form.

• I have Bookshare member and or an NLS member
  • Learning Ally can ask the qualifying organization to verify the membership

The use of our audiobooks is restricted to those who have a demonstrated learning disability, visual impairment, or physical disability that makes it difficult to read using traditional print.

• All disabilities do not automatically qualify:
  • Autism Spectrum Disorder
  • ADD, ADHD
  • Developmental Disability
  • Hearing Impairment
  • ESL

(If a diagnostician can verify that an accompanying qualified disability exists, then membership can be made available.)
Use of Audiobooks in a school library Audiobook club

Use of Audiobooks in a School Library and Positive Effects of Struggling Readers’ Participation in a Library-Sponsored Audiobook Club

Jeff Whittingham, Stephanie Huffman, Rob, Christensen, Tracy McAllister,

A study was conducted to figure out the effect of the use of audiobooks with struggling readers in a school library audiobook club. The participants met weekly in the school library with the school librarian and researchers to discuss audiobooks and make reading recommendations to their peers. Standardized test data as well as pre- and post-study interviews and surveys, teacher lists of questions, parent lists of questions, and student interviews were carefully studied. The findings showed that struggling readers use of audiobooks improved reading skills and attitudes toward reading. These findings are significant given that there is very limited research directly related to the effect of audiobooks.
POLL
How does Audio Books and E-Books Support Students?

• Improves word recognition
• Increases the ability to pay attention
• Helps students to remember information
• Allow students to focus on comprehension instead of sounding out words
• Increase student's attention for completing reading assignments
It supports differentiation

Differentiation means tailoring instruction to meet individual needs. Whether teachers differentiate content, process, products, or the learning environment, the use of ongoing assessment and flexible grouping makes this a successful approach to instruction.

What does the student need, they need to have access to the content and to be able to show what they have learned.
Top 10 Assistive Technology Supports for Every Classroom

• Using the technology/AT that is currently in the classroom
• Text to Speech (TTS)
• Audiobooks and/or Digital Books
• Speech to Text (Dictation)
• Built in Accessibility Options
  • PC - Ease of Access
  • Mac Book - Accessibility Options
  • Mobile Devices – Accessibility Options
• Graphic Organizers
• Using Extensions and/or Add-ons with internet browsers
• Mobile Devices
• Visual Supports (classroom and/or behavior management)
• Closed Captioning
Contact Information

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Services and Supports

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