



Figure 1: Logo of the Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

## **Literature Resources: Borrowing, Purchasing and Downloading**

This information was archived in September 2012 from a previous version of the GDABVI website. We have done our best to update the website links but we will not be able to offer future updates. We apologize for any inconvenience and welcome your call to our office for any search assistance you may need (313) 272-3900.

This page contains information on producers and distributors of recorded, Braille, and large print materials of interest to the blind and visually impaired. We are also trying to compile resources for electronic texts available over the Internet. If you like to read, you've come to the right page.

### **Sources for Borrowing or Purchasing Materials in Special Media**

- [Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic](#) is the premier source of recorded textbooks for the visually impaired. They have traditionally produced their texts on audio cassette tapes but they are branching out into new digital media as well.
- [International Electronic Braille Book Library](#) offers over 1000 electronic text titles free for the downloading. These titles are provided in grade 2 Braille rather than plain ASCII text. They are suitable for embossing directly on a Braille embosser or for reading on a paperless Braille device like a VersaBraille or a Braille Lite. Because these titles are stored in a special format specifically for the visually impaired, they fall under the exemptions of recent copyright legislation providing for the production and distribution of copyrighted material in special formats. This service is offered by the National Federation of the Blind's International Braille Research Center.
- [The American Printing House for the Blind](#) is one of the leading Braille producers in the United States. APH is also a producer of

talking books, consumer products, and other materials related to visual impairment and blindness.

- [National Braille Press](#) is a nonprofit Braille printing and publishing house established in 1927. They produce Braille books for sale as well as offering a transcription service and a children's Braille book club.
- [Seedlings Braille Books for Children](#) is a nonprofit corporation producing low cost Braille books for children from preschool through junior high school reading levels. Seedlings sells its books at prices roughly the same as the cost for the standard print editions.
- [The Braille Superstore](#) sells Braille, cassette and print/Braille books for all age categories. In addition, they offer other products for visually impaired persons.
- [Audible.com](#) caters to those who like listening to books "on the go." They offer assorted literature for sale to be downloaded in a audio format for iPods and MP3 players.

### **National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress**

- [National Library Service](#) for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) provides a wide range of materials, free of charge, to U.S. citizens and legal residents. Their home page includes information on NLS services and a web-based system for searching for materials in the NLS collection.
- [Library of Michigan](#) in Lansing houses the Braille book collection for National Library Service patrons throughout the state of Michigan.

### **Internet Audio Services for Literature**

- [Assistive Media](#) offers audio recordings of periodical literature via the Internet in RealAudio format.

### **General Internet Resources on Literature Available Over the Internet**

- [Read How You Want](#) offers books in a wide range of large-type formats for people who require different formats like Braille and DAISY. Their print formats are optimized for readability so that readers can choose the format that suits them best.
- [The Internet Public Library](#) is a truly extensive source of all manner of literary materials, all freely browsable online.

- [Michigan Electronic Library](#) is a project of the Library of Michigan and the University of Michigan, University Library. It provides access to a wide variety of literature available over the Internet.
- [National Academies Press](#) is an educational publisher with a great number of its books available online. The amount of information available online may well make the NAP site worth exploring.
- [International Digital Publishing Forum](#) supports The Open eBook Forum and is an organization for stakeholders interested in electronic books. OEBF members include publishers such as Random House, technology companies like Microsoft, and other organizations eager for industry standards that can make electronic books a mainstream publishing success. This forum includes some household names in publishing for the blind and visually impaired like the American Foundation for the Blind and the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.
- [Project Gutenberg](#) is an effort to make as much literature as possible freely available as text files over the Internet within the limits of copyright restrictions.

### **Digital Talking Book Research**

- [Daisy Consortium](#) is group working on standards for digital talking books of the future. This group's recording system was developed by the [Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille](#).