

Accessing Digital Learning Materials PACER Simon Technology Center 2006

The PACER Simon Technology Center has compared the following products and sources to help consumers and families choose which program or organization best suits their needs for the purposes of reading digital learning materials. Many additional sites offer free and low-cost e-text that can be accessed for leisure reading purposes. For assistance in finding these sources, please contact the Simon Technology Center.









This information is current as of January 2006, but is subject to change. It is not intended to endorse one product or service over the other. A reminder to always evaluate a program and source based on features required for the intended user.

Copyright-Protected Digital Material

Organization	Website	Materials	Formats	Membership Criteria	Membership Fee	Special Player or Software
Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic	www.rkbd.org	Textbooks, instructional	Digital audio (DAISY)	Documented print disability	Yes, individual, institutional	Yes, special software or portable player
American Printing House for the Blind	www.aph.org	Textbooks and leisure reading	Braille (BRF) and text files	Documented blind or visual impairment only	Authorized entities (such as schools) only	Will need special equipment to read Braille files
Bookshare.org	www.bookshare.org	Textbooks and leisure reading	Text (DAISY 3) and Braille (BRF) files	Documented print disability	Yes, individual, institutional	Yes, authorized text readers –see website for listing
Accessible Book Collection	www.accessiblebookcollection.org	Leisure and educational	Text in HTML	Documented print disability	Yes, individual, institutional	No

Non-Copyrighted Digital Material (free)

Source	Website	Materials	Formats
Librivox	www.librivox.org	Public domain digital audiobooks	MP3 digital audio, book podcasts
Electronic Text Center at University of Virginia Library Online	http://etext.lib.virginia.edu	Public and restricted domain	SGML, XML text files
Project Gutenberg	www.projectgutenberg.org	Public domain	ASCII (plain text)
The Alex Catalogue of Electronic Texts	www.infomotions.com/alex2	Public domain, literature and philosophy	Multiple text formats

PRODUCT	<u>Victor Classic +</u> 	<u>Victor Vibe</u> 	<u>Victor Wave</u> 	<u>Scholar</u> 	<u>Professor</u> 	<u>Plextalk PTN1Pro</u> 	<u>Book Courier</u> 	<u>BookPort</u> 
Manufacturer	Humanware www.humanware.ca	Humanware www.humanware.ca	Humanware www.humanware.ca	Telex www.telex.com	Telex www.telex.com	Plextor www.plextalk.com info@plextalk.com	Spring Technologies www.bookcourier.com	APH for the Blind www.aph.org
Phone	(800) 722-3393	(800) 722-3393	(800) 722-3393	(800) 828-6107	(800) 828-6107		(925) 242-0310	(800) 223-1839
Vendor/Reseller	RFB&D	RFB&D	RFB&D	RFB&D	RFB&D	RFB&D	Check website	
Version	Desktop	Portable	Portable	Portable	Desktop	Desktop	Portable	Portable

SPECS								
Price	\$375.00	\$199.00	\$249.00	\$199.00	\$349.00	\$350.00	\$379.00	\$395.00
Weight	2.64 pounds	9.7 ounces	1 pound	1.65 pounds	6.2 pounds	2.65 pounds	6 ounces	
Computer Requirements	None	None	None	None	None	None	Windows 2000, ME, XP with USB port	Windows 2000, ME, XP with USB port
File Types	Digital Audio	Digital Audio	Digital Audio	Digital Audio	Digital or Tape Audio	Digital Audio	Digital Audio or Text	Digital Audio or Text
File Formats	MP3 and Daisy 1.0, 1.1, 2.0, 3.0	MP3 and Daisy 2.X	MP3 and Daisy 2.X	MP3 and Daisy 2.X	MP3, Daisy 2.X, 3.0. and NISO Z39-86	MP3, Daisy 2.X	MP3, Daisy 2.X, 3.0, Grade 2 Braille, .txt, other programs	MP3, Daisy, Internet Explorer, Contracted Braille

FEATURES								
LCD Display	No	2 lines	4 lines	6 lines	Yes	No	No	No
Key Describer	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Memory Card	No	No	No	No	No	No	Compact Flash	Compact Flash
Variable Volume	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Variable Speed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes – Text files only	Yes
Variable Tone	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	
Variable Pitch	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Variable Voices	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Bookmarks	2000	100 / books	1500	32 / books	32 / book	10,000	Unlimited	Yes
Go-To-Page	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Voice Recording	Classic+ w/ recording: \$475	No	No	No	No	PTR2: \$895 features recording & creating	Yes	Yes
Pause	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Rewind & Fast Forward	Higher speed	Higher speed or navigation element	Higher speed or navigation element	Higher speed or navigation element	Higher speed or navigation element	Higher speed	Higher speed or navigation element	Navigation element
Built-in Speaker	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Headphone Option	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rechargeable Batteries	5 hour life	10-14 hour life	7-9 hour life	Non-Rechargeable	8-10 hour life	5 hour life	Non-Rechargeable	Unknown

PRODUCT	ReadPlease Plus	AspireReader	eClipse Reader	EaseReader	Victor Reader Soft	TPB Reader	Book Wizard Reader
Manufacturer	Read Please Corp. www.readplease.com	Aequus Technologies www.aequustechnologies.com	Innovative Rehab Tech www.eclipserereader.com	Dolphin Audio Publishing www.dolphinusa.com	Humanware www.humanware.ca	Daisy Consortium www.daisy.org	APH for the Blind www.aph.org
Phone	(807) 474-7702	(877) 627-7473	(800) 322-4784	(866) 797-5921	(888) 723-7273	Unknown	(800) 223-1839
Vendor	Download	www.donjohnston.com	RFB&D	RFB&D	RFB&D	N/A	N/A
Version	2003	4.0	2.0		1.5	1.1	

SPECS							
Price	\$59.95	\$229.00	\$84.95	\$45.00	\$79.00	Freeware	\$49.00
Platform	Windows 95 and up	Windows 98 and up Mac available spring 06	Windows 98 and up	Windows 98 and up	Windows 95 and up	Windows 95 and up	Windows 98 and later
File Types	Text	Digital Audio, Text, or combination	Digital Audio or Text	Digital Audio, Text, or combination	Digital Audio	Digital Audio or Text	Digital Audio, Text, or combination
File Formats	Copy & Paste	Daisy 2.X, 3.0, NIMAS, rtf, txt, web	Daisy 2.X	Daisy 2.X Daisy 3, NISO in future	Daisy 2.X	Daisy 2.X	Daisy 2.X

FEATURES							
Purpose	Text reader	Digital talking book reader, web accessible, talking word processor	Digital talking book reader	Digital talking book reader, accessible information, e-books	Digital talking book reader	Digital talking book reader	Digital talking book reader. Works directly with BookPort
Dictionary	No	Coming in summer 06	No	No	No	No	No
Variable Speed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Variable Voices	AT&T Natural	Microsoft SAPI 5	NeoSpeech	Yes	Microsoft SAPI 4	Microsoft SAPI 4	Microsoft SAPI 4
Bookmarks	No	Yes	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	Unlimited
Advanced Navigation	Higher speed	Navigation element	Higher speed or navigation element	Navigation element	Navigation element	Navigation element	Higher speed or navigation element
Note taking	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Highlight	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Begin Reading Anywhere	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Custom Font	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Custom Background Color	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Custom Pronunciation	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Keyboard shortcuts	No	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Multiple Users	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Other		Replaced CAST eReader		Comes in Producer to create digital talking books			Comes in Producer to create digital talking books