

What is Bookshare®?

Bookshare® is the world's largest accessible online library for people with print disabilities.

Bookshare operates in the U.S. under a copyright exemption—the Chafee Amendment—which grants nonprofit organizations the ability to make books available to people with print disabilities without publisher permission. Bookshare receives publisher permission to provide books to members outside the U.S. and receives significant publisher cooperation in building its collection.

Thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), Bookshare is free for all qualified U.S. students. Qualified individuals who are not students pay a nominal annual fee for their membership. Our membership partners may also cover part or all of the membership fees.

Who Can Join

In order for you 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. Anyone in the world with a qualifying print disability may join Bookshare.

A person with a learning disability such as dyslexia qualifies for Bookshare as long as a competent authority confirms that the learning disability significantly interferes with reading.

Who Doesn't Automatically Qualify?

People with disabilities such as:

- autism
- intellectual disabilities
- attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (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.

Frequently Asked Qualifications Questions

For more information on Bookshare's qualifications, read the frequently asked qualifications questions. <https://www.bookshare.org>