



New Mexico has a lot of different types of libraries all over the state, but did you know that the New Mexico State Library has a division specifically for the [Blind and Print Disabled](#)?

This division of the Department of Cultural Affairs has been active in New Mexico since 1967 and as of this writing there are over 3,000 New Mexicans taking part in this program. Patrons utilizing this service can access braille and talking book materials at no cost to them.

This program was established as the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled to serve adults through an act of Congress in 1931 and is active across all 50 states plus Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. It was expanded in 1952 to include children and again in 1966 to include those with other disabilities. There are also many counterparts across the globe including the Danish National Library for the Blind and Vision Australia. The focus of all these initiatives is to bring library materials to all people that need them.

In early 2019 the United States joined the Marrakesh Treaty which allows participating libraries to access material in other languages from around the world.

Do you or someone you know need access to these resources? There are two ways that you can become a member. Fill out the online application [here](#) or call at 505-476-9770 or 1-800-456-5515. This questionnaire will help the librarians understand your needs and reading preferences.

Once you are a member you will receive a digital talking book machine (pictured below) in the mail, and remember this is all free for patrons!

Once you have your machine you can start looking for books you want to read. The State Library has many different avenues you can use to request your items: phone, fax, email, postal mail, BARD (app) or the online catalog. Plus, if you are looking for something and don't find it, staff will look for that item through interlibrary loan. Books are available for all age groups and interests.

Plus, if you are a magazine reader, they have magazines such as *People* and *National Geographic* too!

Another great resource offered by the Library is the Currency Reader or iBill (pictured below). This device allows a user to insert a bill into the device, press a button, and it will identify the denomination. A great resource!

The library also relies on volunteers to offer such great resources. There are several ways you can help. First, be a reader! The library welcomes volunteers to that wish to help with recording and audio production, an often time-consuming task. They also periodically need assistance

with technical maintenance on the players, so if you are handy with either of these things this might be the perfect fit for your next volunteer project.

Another way you can help is through their Friends of the Library group. This group supports and assists the library to increase and improve access to information and resources for those that are blind or print disabled.

Thank you to the New Mexico State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled for all the work you do across the state and nationally so “that all may read.”

