

Communications

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LIBRARIES MAKE READING MORE ACCESSIBLE

Do you or someone you know have vision impairment or a print disability and have a keen interest in reading? Would you like to be part of one of Libraries ACT's organised book groups but haven't been able to participate due to not having access to the right reading tools?

"Libraries ACT now has for loan 15 DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) readers which can play audio books on CD, MP3 or flash drive," said Vanessa Little, Director Libraries ACT.

"The DAISY devices will be available for loan for up to six months. It is expected that after a three month initial trial, customers who find that the DAISY reader meet their needs will then contact Vision Australia to discuss options for getting a machine of their own after the loan period is up.

"Over 12,000 audio books available on CD, MP3 as well as selected downloadable 'Overdrive' audio books held by Libraries ACT are able to be used on the DAISY device. Customers are also able to utilise the services of the Vision Australia library to borrow titles which may be available in the DAISY format.

"Audio books are of great benefit to anyone with a print disability who cannot access print in the standard way. A print disability can be a learning disability, a visual impairment, or a physical disability."

Ms Little said that the provision of these readers was made possible thanks to a grant made to the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

"Having these readers available for loan makes the reading experience easier and more enjoyable for people with an vision impairment or print disability.

"It gives the library service great pleasure to have these machines available for loan, particularly during the National Year of Reading as we celebrate reading in its many formats," she said.

To find out how you can loan a DAISY reader visit: <http://www.library.act.gov.au> or call 6205 9000.

Statement ends

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