# Accessible reading in the digital age: finding the right tech that works for you. Webinar Transcript

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Hi. Welcome, everyone. My name is Rosalie Best. I am one of the peer trainers here at CELA for the Expanded Delivery Options Program.

I would like to start off by acknowledging that CELA operates across Canada and we acknowledge that there are traditional territories of all First Nations meeting and Inuit people. For myself, I am on Treaty One territory, which is the traditional land of the Anishinabek Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene people, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

All questions will be answered at the end of the webinar, but there is someone who's monitoring the chat. So if you're having technical issues and can access the chat, please put your questions in there and we'll try to be mindful if sound isn't working or if video isn't working. There's also closed captioning turned on that you will be able to see what we are saying.if you are hard of hearing.

So just to give a little bit of a background, is an accessible library service providing books and other materials Canadians with print disabilities, but not everything that we mentioned here in this presentation will be accessible through CELA. This is more of an overview of accessible reading and all of your options.

Now I'm going to let my coworkers introduce themselves, starting with my co-worker. Yves. Yes. Good afternoon. My name is Yves Séguin. I'm totally blind. To give you a little bit of background, I've been working in the public service, the federal government, for about 30 years in human resources and also in technology. I was the head of a technology centre for employees with disabilities and federal public service. So obviously, I've always had an interest about technology and about how to make things more accessible for persons with disabilities and persons with print disabilities in particular. And now to my colleague, Joanna.

Hello, everyone. My name is Ioana Gandrabur. I was born in Romania. I lived in Germany, and now I live in Montreal. I am blind since birth also, and I'm a musician. But technology is my passion and I often commodeerate technology lists. And I am a bit of a geek and I'm always happy to share my experience in helping others when it comes to accessible technology. Okay, thank you.

And I just want to mention for the closed captioning, if you're finding they're in your way, you personally can turn them off on your end or you can move them or make them smaller at the bottom of the screen, there are options to do that. We, however, will be keeping them on. And for those who are having a hard time hearing us through their computers, sometimes if you call in, it will help you to hear audio better. So now we'll move on.

So our learning objectives today are what is a print disability, what accessibility devices are available to you, what accessibility software and apps are out there, different alternative formats, sources of digital reading material on how to access them.

So first things first. What is a print disability? A print disability is a learning, physical or visual disability that prevents a person from reading conventional print. More specifically, a print disability can be a learning disability which is an impairment relating to comprehension, a physical disability which causes the inability to hold or manipulate a book, and a visual disability which is either the severe or total loss of sight and the inability to focus or move one eyes. These would make people have a hard time using traditional print. So what are ways that we can access printed material? Access to the printed world can be achieved through various ways Besides just a plain old traditional print book. If you do have a traditional print book and you want to try using magnifier, that is one way that you can access that. You can either use a digital or a regular front of the mill magnifier. You can ask to have your printed materials converted to audio or Daisy books, or to a document that you can read aloud. With our screen reader, you can scan printed materials to adopt and transform them into more accessible digital formats. And then you can add readers notes to convey and describe images and graphics that's particularly useful for people with low vision or no vision. And if they are wanting to read graphic novels or even children's books that are illustrated and things like that, so on to my colleague Yves, Rosalie, choosing the right techniques or the right technology might be a bit challenging and daunting, especially for someone that newly acquired print disability. There is no right way or wrong way, but whatever techniques work for you is what you should be striving for. In order to determine that, well, you can consult friends, colleagues, you can talk to rehab specialists, technology specialist, and then try to make your determination based on the advice that you're receiving.

The solutions that you will be adopting will be based on the type and degree of the print disability. Also on the type of reading that you would like to do. If, for example, you want to read a couple of pieces of mail that are coming in to know what they are, well, it's not necessarily going to be the same technology you would use to read scientific books, books or document in a word context. So various technology exists to help you out in that endeavour. And let's talk a little bit about equipment that you can use to accomplish this. We will be mentioning some equipment by name, and it's not necessarily endorsement on our part, but it's to give you an example. We base them into broad categories mainstream devices versus specialised devices. The mainstream devices such as tablets, computers, smartphone offer obviously multiple possibilities. You can accomplish various tasks with them, reading included, but many other things, but you have to attain a good comfort level in order to use them to their full potential. And it gives you access to multiple content Kindle books, Apple Books, EPUB, you name it, and we will try to demystify some of that throughout the presentation. Although they can be difficult to master at first, it is a good idea to keep going and try to get familiar enough with them to be able to attain their full potential. The drawback on some of those equipment, especially tablets and smartphones, so it makes it difficult to learn at the beginning, but it's well worth it afterwards. Now, moving on to the specialised equipment. Well, the main characteristic of those is that they have raised tactile buttons, making it less of a learning curve to use. Another factor also to keep in mind is that in most provinces they are subsidised equipment, so that cost is not as much an issue as with regular commercially available equipment. Now, let's talk a little bit about accessibility devices for reading, but through audio. Yes, you can listen to audio content and audiobooks.

One interesting format to listen to audiobooks is the Daisy format. My colleague Ioana will actually give us a demonstration of that, but it makes it easier to navigate through the book when using that format. On the hardware side, there are different options. If we're looking at the Daisy players, you have the Victor Trek, the Victor Reader Stream, the Stratus, Plextalk and a few others. And the new kit on the block, if I may call it that invoice Connect is right now being tested by CELA. It's an audio player. It's not a full fledged Daisy player, but in some situations it might be quite useful, given it's a cheap price to be using that as an alternative.

Now, to give you an example of what a Daisy player sounds like, we will show you a Daisy player, which is the Victor Reader Stream. Now for a brief demonstration of the Victor stream. Well, I just want to mention, if the video is a little bit quiet, please just turn up your volume. Unfortunately, we haven't had luck turning up the volume on the video itself.

For those of you who can't see it on its surface, it has a telephone style keypad plus seven other buttons to accomplish different functions. For example, if I press the number one key, I will cycle through all of the available applications bookshelf, sell it direct to player and back to seller, direct to player. I will now listen to a next surf of a book.

[Victor Stream]:

Chapter one, Houston.

At this point, if I press the six key, I will move to the next chapter. Chapter two, Manned Spacecraft Centre, chapter three, East Berlin. And the four key would move me back one chapter at a time.

[Victor Stream]:

Chapter two, to the moon.

It is also possible to speed up the playback speed, so this is a quick demonstration of the Victor Reader stream. It also has a sleep timer function. If you like to read at night before going to sleep. So that's a brief overview of Daisy Player.

Now to talk a little bit about Braille displays and devices. Well, they come in various sizes and shape and number of Braille cells, and obviously that has an impact on the price. The main purpose of those displays is either to use them to take notes locally that is not being connected to a computer or some other models. You can connect them to a computer or a tablet or a smartphone and they will provide a Braille representation of the information that is coming up on the screen. Some of those devices are web based on the Android platform for most of them, and they will offer both note taking that you can take on the go and then send to your computer when you come back home or at work and do some further editing. Or they will give you access to applications that have been especially developed by the companies that produces them. Or you can use some of the applications available on Google Play Store, not all of them, but some that are compatible.

And now we're going to be looking at two real displays side by side.

One of them is equipped with a QWERTY keyboard that is a regular size full size keyboard. And the other model is equipped with a Perkins style keyboard based on the six dots, the space bar and the back space, and so on and so forth. And while we're looking at them, just let me remind people that came in during the presentation, the presentation is being recorded, microphones are muted, and you can type questions in the chat and we will answer them at the end.

Now I pass it on to my colleague Ioana. Yes, thanks, Yves. So we had a bit of an overview of the specialised devices. I would like to say a few words about accessible reading on smartphones. As we already mentioned, the advantage of using mainstream devices if you can do many things with one. And I'm telling you, I love my iPhone. If I could Cook or clean my

house with the iPhone, I would. But in any case, one of the extra functions that is worthwhile noting when you are learning to use a smartphone is something that is also indirectly related to accessible reading.

And I'd like to talk about the app Be My Eyes. This app is very helpful and it exists also on iOS, so on the Apple devices and also on Google Android operating system phones. And this app, what it does is it connects people that need sighted assistance with volunteers around the world. And so you can start a video call anytime, night or day. And I have used them many a time when I needed to quickly know what was in my mail. It was faster than trying to scan the page or just knowing what kind of tea I'm putting in my preparing. So it is a really useful app if you're going to learn how to use a smartphone. And if you're starting out or with a print disability, as I already mentioned a little bit, we have two main operating systems.

We have the iOS and Android for Apple and Google respectively, and each offers advantages and disadvantages. So Apple offers a very robust user interface and it's very nicely standardised. So if you know how to operate one part of the phone, you can extrapolate and everything works pretty much in the same way and everything works well and it's a smooth user experience. This advantage also becomes its own disadvantage because you have less flexibility in customising the phone according to your needs.

So this is where Android. If you are interested in having more flexibility and more choice in the design, even the physical design of your phone, you have some much more options and they're also less expensive than the iPhones in general. That being said, the problem with Android is that the operating system is more fragmented, so not all Android phones are created equal. Some things will work better on one phone than on another, so there is more experimentation and research to be done. If you want to go the Android page.

Now I would like to discuss in general all the different accessibility settings that you can expect to find in mainstream devices and smartphones. We have the screen readers that we have the speech settings and I will discuss all of them in more detail shortly. These both pertain to people with visual disabilities. We have also, for low vision users, settings for display accommodations of changing font size or font. We have the magnifier that allows you to enlarge printed information using your camera. You can also just use an enlarged font on your screen, which is called Zoom for motor disabilities. You have the voice control setting that allows you to control your devices using only your voice. And all these settings work in different flavours and implementations on both Apple and Android devices. The screen Readers The general function of a screen reader is to read out loud the information that's presented on the screen. For smartphones and for touch screen devices. They do this by completely changing the way you interact with the screen. The gestures that are being used are altered. We have two main screen readers, VoiceOverover for the Apple ecosystem and Top back for the Android phones. The way the interaction is changed is that rather than it allows you to touch the screen and the information that is under your finger is going to be read out loud and later on you will see this screen reader in action in a demo.

There is also a very useful setting that allows you to read continuously. So let's say you want to read a longer block of text, like an article or a webpage or even a digital book. You can perform a special gesture and the smart device will start reading continuously. So you can relax and enjoy your book. If a touch screen is intimidating, or if you have trouble using it, you can perform all of the commands specific to the voiceover or talk back screen reader by connecting a Bluetooth keyboard. And that is very practical for people with motor disability.

For the low vision accommodation, we have the as I already briefly mentioned, the large font Android here, as you can see, has more flexibility. Android allows you to actually change the font completely, so you can use a font that is more legible and suited to your needs. You can adjust contrast, you can change colours, you can basically adjust the screen in ways that make it easier for you to read. The speech options are very interesting and they are useful either for low vision people or for people that have a learning disability or comprehension disability.

And you can wonder why do I need speech accommodations instead of screen readers? And the truth is that sometimes you might be tired reading your screen and you can quickly invoke some gestures that allow you to read either a specific sentence or to read the text that's under your finger, or basically just invoke the ability to read content on your screen without changing the whole interaction of your phone. So that's a very useful option that only needs this sporadically.

We have the magnifier and that's very useful. And even people that have no print disability. I know my husband who sited often uses the magnifier just to read small print on medicine labels and such, so it's a very useful feature and now I wanted to pass it on to my colleague Rosalie to talk about motor accommodations.

So reduced mobility accommodations. I will be talking about how to use them with computers and with your smart devices. So users with mobility disabilities use assistive technologies to access computers and touchscreen devices, such as an alternative keyboard. Examples of that could be like a one handed keyboard, a larger keyboard for those of maybe fine motor or tremendous. I personally use a smaller keyboard which is also flat so that I can accommodate my motor disability. You can use the sticky keys feature, which is a feature that allows you to not have to hold down multiple keys at once. So let's say you're doing control, alt delete and you don't have use of both hands or it's difficult, while the sticky key features allows you to click control followed by all, followed by the lead, and hold those down and do that option and you turn it on and off quite easily. There are also alternative mouse inputs, so if a traditional mouse is too difficult, you can have just the track ball, which is a little ball that you roll around, or a touchpad which we find on a lot of laptops, actually. Then we have things called switches and the switch is kind of like a mouse and you connected to your device and it's programmed to do different tasks.

On my right of the screen I've inserted an image of different types of switches. You can have round switches with different colours for different devices, and you can have a switch device that is all inclusive and so has multiple switches on one kind of base. And then you have a joystick type switch that can be used to navigate. Maybe if pressing is a little difficult for you, then people can use eye tracking technology. So if you have no use of any sort of limbs at all, you can just use your eyes to use your computer or use your phone that requires a download of the software and then you can use your wheelchair joystick. If you connect an adapter into your wheelchair joystick, you're able to use your joystick to be able to navigate your phone and your computer as well. And then finally, sip and puff technology. Some people use a sip and puff technology to drive their chairs and what that is, it's a straw looking device that comes out and you either blow in or you blow out. Sorry, or you suck in to make your wheelchair go back and forth. You can use that same device to navigate your devices. And so when it comes to reading, you're able to access digital files more easily.

Then we'll move on to e-readers.

E-readers are great for those who are having a difficult time transitioning from print to digital with more paper like screen. It's nice and lightweight and has touchscreen for those who can't push down on buttons as easily. However, all of them do have a power button that may be a little bit difficult to press, but once it's on, it's all touchscreen and it's quite handy. Then you can load books onto it or you can purchase books. Depending on the e reader. You may be able to load the library book, but some might take a little bit of finagling and it might not be an option for everyone. You can adjust the font, the contrast and the brightness. This is great if you have low vision and or if you're reading in different settings like outside, or maybe at night. If you have a partner sleeping next to you and you don't want to turn on the light. It's great for that. You have the option to use the Open. Dyslexic font. The Open. Dyslexic font was created for people dyslexia to be able to track letters better and to be able to read in a more continuous manner. It's also great if you have a document you can ask someone to put it in Open. Dyslexic font to help you to read. That and then great thing about the e readers, it's a distraction free reading option, so whether you have it online or not, there won't be notifications popping in and it's really just there to read, so it's a lot more like a book as opposed to your phone or your iPad, which yes, you can put on Do Not Disturb, but it's still you have the option to go off and do other things, which I myself do have ADHD. And so I find that if I'm on my phone, I'm going to get distracted and I'm going to want to do other things. So the Ereader is a great option for me.

And then we'll talk a little bit about voice control that is on your touch screen devices as well as your computers. It allows a hands for use of your phone. You can use words or numbers to identify what you want to select and assistance like Siri and Google Assistant can really be great to open apps and other things. So here's a little example of what the voice control screen kind of looks like. So you have a bunch of Tags for whichever app that you want to open. So you can choose to use Tags that are names or Tags that are numbered. And so you would tell your device, open one or click on one, click on two, and then you have the grid option, which is also numbered. And some people find that it's easier for more precise selection. So you have a grid of about, I would say maybe 24 options there. Smart speakers are another great option for reading when you have mobility issues. Smart speaker is an internet enabled speaker that is controlled with spoken commands. You have options, multiple options, but maybe two of the more popular ones, maybe the Amazon Echo or the Google Home. I personally find it great if I'm in a position where I can't reach my phone or I can't reach an Er reader, I can just ask my sports speaker to start reading a book and it will. So it's great for that. I'll pass it back over to my colleague Yves.

Thank you very much, Rosalie. Previously, you want to talk to us about screen reading software, so I won't repeat what that is, but I will give you some examples. Under Windows, probably the one that is the most known is Jaws. It's been around forever, even in the Dos days. And another option that is available now is NVDA, which is accomplishing pretty much the same task except that it's free, which is a huge advantage for some people. And there's also Narrator, which is integrated into the Windows operating system. I wouldn't say that it is as powerful as Jaws and or NVDA, but they are making progress. It's a little bit more robust than it was when it was first introduced on the Apple side. Obviously there's VoiceOver, which is interesting because it is part of the operating system.

So when the operating system is updated with VoiceOver, hopefully with not too many bugs, but they're usually resolved pretty quickly. On the Magnification side, under Windows, we have Zoom text, which is also quite known by people, and also Fusion.

Fusion being a combination between Zoom text and Jaws, which makes it possible for someone with low vision to take a break and to rest their eyes by listening to the text being read by the Jaws portion of Fusion, especially if it's a long document that might be quite handy to do.

Text to speech options are also developed by Kurzweil File. The package that is most well known is the Kurzweil $3,000. Basically, this is being used by persons with print disabilities and it's essentially voicing web based content, digital text or scan text. And once it is being voiced by Kurzweil 3000, you can save it as an mp3 trial and then you can put it on your smartphone, your tablet, and you could listen to it anywhere. Basically, you don't have to be tagged down to your computer.

Now that we've looked at all these options that are available, now it's time to put them to good use. So let me talk a little bit about the different library services that are available to mention that more than likely you would need a library card. Obviously to access the different libraries. Some of them will accept a self declaration of a print disability. Others you will need to provide approve of disability completed by a doctor or a professional. If we look at CELA, the members or patrons and libraries that are affiliated have access to books, newspapers and magazines, and that is available in different formats audio, digital text, Braille, print, Braille, picture books. So as you can see, there's a variety of options available, and these books and magazines can also be directly downloaded to a Daisy player such as the one that I've shown you before.

The Bookshare service provides also access to books for school, work and leisure. These books from Bookshare are audio based and they are rendered by a synthesised speech synthesised voice. It's not human narration that is provided mostly in English, some available in French. They can be obtained through the Bookshare website or through CELA, but you do need a proof of disability to access them.

There's also the National Network of Equitable Library service NNELS. It has a digital collection of files that are available either in electronic text or audio format. Some are open access that is there in the public domain and anyone can get access to them. Contrary to what's available on CELA, these books cannot be sent to patrons on CD. That's something that I forgot to mention. CELA books are available on CD as well, and can consult obviously this website for more information on what's available.

The last service that I would like to mention briefly is the SQLA, which is service adaptee and it's based in the province of Quebec with partnership between CELA. The books are made available to Francophones outside of Quebec. Books again are available in audio and Daisy formats, electronic text, CD director players.

So they have a huge collection of books that are available. That's it for me. So back to Ioana.

So now that we discussed a bit of the specialised libraries, I wanted to discuss what options we have in the main range of accessible reading options.

Audible is the first one that comes to mind. It is a huge collection of books, from current bestsellers to classic books, and they're human narrated. This is a service that you can subscribe, you can have a monthly subscription that gives you one or a certain number of books per month. This is owned by Amazon, so then interesting. So it works very well also on smart speakers from Amazon. And I would have to say, though, that it is always the process. If you're already a member of CELA, or if you have a membership to a public library, sometimes they have agreements with Audible. So if you're interested in a book from Audible, first cheque your library and see if they have it, because you might be able to get away without having to purchase it.

Kindle is, in a way, the digital equivalent of Audible. Kindle is a book service from Amazon that you can buy books in text format and you have all sorts of books. Some might be free, but most of them are paid and they have a very interesting integration with Audible that allows you to, for example, if you are willing to buy the book in both text and audio format, you can start it as an audiobook and then you can pick up later on your screen to read it digitally as a text, and it will be all synced seamlessly. So that's an interesting option.

Overdrive is a service that allows you to connect remotely to your public libraries and download material from them. A word about the Overdrive app. Unfortunately, it will be discontinued, but they have a successor, which is Libby, and that one is, as of now, less accessible. But they promised that they will release very soon an update that supposedly fixes all these issues. So let's hope that this option will be available for a larger variety of users.

Librivox is an interesting option for people that this is a collection of books in the public domain, so they are free. You can download them in all sorts of formats and because they are not Copyright protected, you can even burn them onto a CD. Basically, you have a lot of flexibility. They are read by volunteers and you have books in multiple languages, and so these are the main sources of mainstream accessible reading.

A few words about the Daisy format, we mention it briefly. Daisy is a specialised format used by libraries that produce material, especially for people with print disabilities. And Daisy stands for Digital Access Information System. What this allows us is to have a very good way to navigate books from heading to heading. You can jump to a specific chapter, even sentence by sentence, so it gives you a very flexible way to interact with your books. And again, you will see this in action when I demonstrate the use of a Daisy app. So all these different services, each of them comes with their own app or software implementation. Audible has their Audible app and it works both for Android and iOS, and you can also listen on your computer. Kindle is the same.

We have also the Apple books if you have an iOS device, so you can purchase books from them and you have the equivalent, which is Google Play for Android. A few words about now about the specialised players that play Daisy format.

I want to start with the EasyReader reader, which is a Daisy player both for iOS and Android, and where this app shines is, and it's very seamless integration with libraries such as Fila. In terms of downloading books, you can just very easily search a book and select it, and then it very immediately appears on your device and is ready to be listened to. The app that is my app of choice personally for reading books in Daisy format is the Voice string reader. This is a very powerful app. It actually was created originally with people with the learning disabilities in mind, so it has a host of adaptations in terms of changing font using a focused reading mode, all sorts of adaptations geared specifically for people with Dyslexia or with other comprehension disabilities. And of course it has a very clean and powerful interface for people using screen readers.

And I would like to show you this app in action. Open Voice Dream Voice Dream Reader Add Button as you can see when I first opened the app, the focus for voiceover lands on the Add button. So if I now double tap the screen add document adding, we will be presented with a list of all the various options I have for adding books to this app. Close Book Scanner Scanner allows me to take a picture of a printed page and have it read out file Browser File Browser allows me to browse for a file that's located either on the phone or online Bookshare. I also have Bookshare and CELA configured, so if I tapped on CELA, I would be brought to the web page where I can search for books and add as if I was on a web page. I already have the book I want to show you on my phone, so I will return there. Add button.

[VoiceDream Reader]

21 Lessons Search Now Reading 21 Lessons for the Now Read Library button.

I can now find the Play button either by swiping right until I reach the Play Control Document Control Audio Setting Visual settings, but I also know where it is on the screen play button adjustable, so I touched it and brought the focus there. Now I can double tap.

[VoiceDream Reader]

Secularism is sometimes defined as the negation of religion, and secular people are therefore carried through.

As you can hear, this is a synthesised voice, because the text that I have loaded is a digital text, so it's not human narrated. I can change the speed by finding the audio settings where I can also change the voice that the reader will use. Document Controls Audio Settings Button Adjustable Adjustable means that I can swipe up or down and change the speed 210 words per minute, slowing it down. Another great option that to my knowledge is you need to do clear select text starting with secularism. So it's the ability to select text and it tells me which word starts selecting. So I will start selecting with the word secularism. Sometimes if it has P, I'm swiping down to increase the selection. Now if I double tap, secularism is sometimes defined as the secularism. So I have these were selected and I can create a note. Share this, make a highlight and all sorts of other options, so it's great for an in depth interaction with the book.

[VoiceDream Reader]

Copy Cancel button Play View the Next Padding BOOKMARKS and Highlights button.

You can also view the structure of the book by tapping the Heading BOOKMARKS and Highlights button.

[VoiceDream Reader]

Close Selected Headings BOOKMARKS Highlights Heading Level Level Cover Level One Other Titles Level Title Page Level One Copyright Level Dedication Level One so I would tap anywhere Level One.

It will start from there to my mother Nina and to my grandmother Fanny. So this is a quick overview of the Voice Reader app. Okay.

So to conclude really quickly, just so we can get the questions, we just want to see that adapting to a print disability or even any change in living circumstance is daunting. And while it's tempting to stick to familiar ways of doing things, it's going to become less and less efficient, especially if the disability should progress. So we hope that this webinar, although it didn't cover absolutely everything, because if it did, we'd be here for 5 hours.

We hope that it encouraged you to kind of base the learning curve and with support from professionals and peers to kind of explore options that are out there for you and not to resign yourself to the limitations of old ways that might no longer be helpful to you.

So now we're going to move on to questions. We have a couple of questions in the chat. I'm just going to stop the sharing, okay? And I'm going to read the questions aloud and whoever might have the answer will just jump in and answer that. And then we will answer raised hands. We'll give you the ability to talk.

So someone said, I think I believe I'm at the first. I'm just going to go right up to the top here. Which programmes or devices have the best voices? My teen hates the robotic voices. Do we have an answer? I'll take that one. I think the answer depends a little bit on what kind of device you use. But I can say that if you are using a smartphone, the Voice Stream Reader app has a huge selection of voices that you can buy so you can have more voices available. Again, there are the Acapella voices and other voices that are pretty high quality, but of course they will not be great actors. So you might want to read Shakespeare with these voices, but they do the job and you can buy them also for the computer. I think Acapella stands out for me. There are a bunch of other ones, but experiment with all the voices available on your device and you might find one that works for you. This is a very personal choice, so somebody might love one voice and somebody else would hate it if you have any other ideas. Yeah, well, I tend to agree with you. There's EVONA voices, nuance. There's quite a few. Most of them you are able to hear a sample of what they would sound like, albeit a short one, but at least it can give you an idea and it is a matter of user preference. Definitely.

Okay then we had a comment that I wanted to point out saying most provinces do not have accessible device programme, so not everyone can access the required equipment and that is absolutely fair. Yes, I believe maybe the three of us might come from provinces where we do have subsidisation available, but yes, in some provinces they're not necessarily any subsidizations. I do want to mention CNIB, the Lions, Ibank will often subsidise things. There are different options other than just your provincial subsidisation, so it might take some research unfortunately. But yeah, it is good to keep in mind.

I believe we answered if we can play Daisy files from an iPad and that's by using one of the apps I was mentioning like Voice, Dream Reader or Easy Reader, right? Yes. Okay. If I choose to use my Android phone, what is the choice I make when asked what format I want to use? I'm not sure about that question. I think that most formats that are available for iOS are available for Android also. I would just say that if you choose to go on Android, I would recommend that you stick to phones like Samsung or Pixel just because that was not your question. But it just brings me to an advice about Android because they are more robust and better user interface. But I think that all formats that you can read on the iPhone or others you can read on iOS, they're just different apps.

The Voice Stream Reader app has an equivalent ledger on the Android side. Yeah. Okay.

Someone asked if it's possible to get one on one training courses for various technologies for low vision people. Depending on the province there's Vision Loss Rehab which is a division of CNIB and they will have accessibility trainers. However, again, it's not going to be available in every province and in every branch of student ID. Sometimes maybe reaching out to a local organisation, disability organisation might be able to hook you up with someone who can help you with technology, even if it's not an expert. I mean, we all become experts when we use the device, right? So maybe it's someone who has experience using the device. That's the advice I would give for that. Oh, sorry. No, go ahead. Yeah, I would add that don't underestimate the power of communities like mailing lists and things. And you might find people that actually give training, so sometimes they might charge, but some will do it for free.

And in this era of COVID, remote learning has come a long way. So maybe you can find somebody that can help you with a specific problem or actually give you help if you look for low vision groups or where you can find answers to the questions you speak.

Someone asks, how do I activate voiceover when I have an attachment? I believe you would just go to your accessibility settings on your phone and you can choose to create a certain gesture that will allow you to open voiceover either by clicking the lock button a few times or any gesture you want. Actually. Right. You can use the attached if you have any trouble, activating those. But my method of choice, the easiest thing is to ask Siri to turn on and off voiceover. And that will be probably the easiest way to accomplish this. Right. I'm making it so complicated. Well, I know I tend to make things complicated for myself.

Someone says they hate using Kurzweil 3000. And do we have any other recommendations? Well, I did a really quick Google search and there is a thing called Balabolka that seems to be able to also save text files as mp3, mp4, or Wave files, anything you want. But we're going to add a link to a resource page that will be going up to show what alternatives might be available for you. Again, our simple Google search too sometimes can help you find alternatives. And I think it's also going to come down to trying different things. And you might be able to find free options that are just as good because Kurzweil tends to run pretty expensive.

And obviously with the time we had, we couldn't necessarily cover everything that is out there. Nor that perhaps do we know everything that is out there because there's new advancements. But as Rosalie said, Google search talking to Rehab CNIB there are various ways of trying to find out what would work best for you eventually.

Okay, someone asked how can I get step by step instructions of how to load and navigate books and return books for Victor Reader. And one of our coworkers mentioned that there are instructions on how to transfer a book to a Stratus or Stream. You may be able to find a tutorial on YouTube too, if that helps. Has different tutorials and FAQ to assist in doing various things, so that might be a good starting point.

How can Francophones outside of Quebec access the SQLA collection or can they even? Well, they can. If someone from CELA wants to correct me or give more information because of the partnership that I mentioned, I would think that the books from the SQLA collection are already available through the CELA website.

But if someone wants to jump in from CELA, please do so. But that is my understanding. Hi, this is Rachel. And yes, you're absolutely correct. The books that are in SQLA are in CELA’s website so that you can access English and French contact from Sqla through our site. Thank you. Okay.

We were asked if we can share the PowerPoint presentation following the session. I'm not sure about that. And maybe Rachel, do you know if we'll be sharing the PowerPoint presentation? We could post it somewhere and create a link to it if you like. Yeah.

Is voicedreamer free? And is it available for Android as well? It is not free, but I think it's around $10 or so or maybe changed less since I bought it. I think you will need to buy the add on if you are interested in scanning documents and it is really a truly powerful scanner. Also, as I mentioned, the equivalent for voice stream reader on Android side is called Ledger and it will be part of the resource list. I was looking at the ratings. I can't say because I don't use Android, but the ratings weren't as high on the Android side. That being said, some people were really happy. They said that the only reason why they didn't switch from iPhone to Android was because of voicemail reader and they were very happy to find out that Ledger was now an option for them. Someone mentioned the cost and I believe they're right. I was checking this up. The cost was about $27.99 since I bought it and then add on add ons. The cost for add ons varies, so you're just going to have to look that up and see what's up with that. We were on the cutting edge. One hint if I may, sometimes not all the time, but around Christmas time, some companies will have discounted prices on various apps. So it may be a good time to go in the App Store and look because I've seen it on a few occasions as a Christmas or New Year's gift to people, they will reduce the price of the app. So it might be a good time to look for them. Unfortunately, you just missed it. But next year maybe. And does the app work for text in other languages? Yeah, absolutely. Yeah. Great. Yeah. I read in Romania and all sorts of languages. Yes, totally. Okay.

Someone has asked if we know where we can access human Narrative University textbook, either existing or where can they pay to have them read to them? Really good question. I know that you can send book suggestions, but I'm not sure how quick CELA would be to translate those, if at all. It depends, I guess, on their priority. I know that some disability organisations can help with potentially. I know that I got help when I was in high school in converting material for school for accessibility, but I'm afraid I don't know. It looks like Virginia might have the answer. Her hand is up. Do you have an answer, Virginia, or no, you're muted so Virginia should be able to talk now. Okay. Yeah. So I believe PAL, which is an organisation that Rachel had already mentioned in the chat. From what I understand, they primarily do textbooks like a lot of educational material and they will do it on demand. So it's PAL. I can't remember what that stands for, but if you Google it and also Rachel had posted in the chat the link to that as well. So as far as I know and Rachel, you may know better than me, I think they do on demand recordings, audio recordings of items. And primarily I think it's often textbooks for students. That's my understanding too. They'll take anything and record it for you and it's for free as well. I'll post the link again in the chat just so it's here and just a comment about textbooks. Usually it's the University or College or school resources that will provide an alternative format copy of the book for you. They may go through provincial educational resources. So for example, in Ontario it's an organisation through the Ministry of Education called AERO A-E-R-O. So it's best if you need a textbook to go to student services or ask your teacher how it could be made into an alternative format. Sorry, just one last thing. So CELA does not have textbooks so you wouldn't really want to submit a title suggestion for that. So it's best to go to someone at your school and ask them.

Okay, I'm going to take just a quick break from the chat questions and go to some of the in person questions just because people had their hands up for a bit. So we're going to start with unfortunately just this Galaxy Tab S3. So you need to unmute yourself. But you can go ahead once you do that and unmute is does anyone know what the shortcut alt A. And if you don't have a question anymore, just lower your hands, please.

Okay, so we're going to move on to Ian. Please unmute yourself. And if you don't have a question, go ahead. I accidentally read the hand and then loaded. I didn't have a question. Okay, great.

Next is going to be John. You had your hand up and unless that was a mistake that I can lower your hand. John.

Okay, in the interest of time, I'm just going to move on to Susan. What was your question? You already answered my question. Okay, great. Earlier. Thank you. Nice. Okay, great.

And we have Ivy you're muted. And if you've answered your question, can you let us know? Can you hear me? Yes, we can hear you now. Okay. It's banging. Yeah. There we go. It stopped. I don't know why it's doing that. Can you hear me? Yes, we can hear you. Okay, I'll ask the question anyway. I've been using the Victor Stream Reader with Douglas from CELA directly. I recently put on my iPhone the Easy Reader. Can I have downloads on both the Victor Stream Reader and the iPhone? Or I have to. How do I choose if it's going to one of them on it? You can have it on both, I believe. Right. On your Victor Reader and your Easy Reader. Right? You can. Yes. You download it to both. Okay. Thank you. Thank you.

Okay, now we're going to go to Lynn. Hello. I'm moving from Ontario to Alberta and I just wondered if I have to do anything more than provide a change of address to continue receiving books on CD from CELA? No, as far as I know. Just advise them of your change of address and you should e good to go to continue receiving books on CDs. Thank you. You're welcome.

And then we've got Linda. Yes. Hi. Thank you. I just want to know what gesture you do use to perform the continuous reading. You said it was a really simple gesture. What is it? It is on iOS. You flick down on the screen with two fingers and then this starts reading from wherever you're focused with. If you want to go from the top of the article, you flick up with two fingers and it does the same thing, except that it starts from the beginning no matter where you were before. Okay. Perfect. Thank you. Welcome.

Okay. And then we've got Wendy. Sorry if I'm butchering names here. That's okay. Okay. I have been using EasyReader in order to listen to books, but what I have been finding is that after about a month it stops reading it. And so then I have been uninstalling, reinstalling, downloading again, everything. But that's getting really tedious. Is there an alternative to EasyReader Dolphin? I suppose that would be the VoiceDream reader if you're willing to. But I have Android. I don't have Ledger or whatever. I think Legere is in Italian. Anyway, Legere and we will provide the link in the resource list is an app that reads Daisy books and basically does all that on Android. So are you going to send that in an email? You said that you would provide a link. I'm just wondering where I'm going to find that. I'm not sure exactly what the logistics may be. Rachel or somebody from CELA can confirm how this will work. Yeah, we'll post a link to those resources on our website. The specific spot is yet to be determined, but we will be sending an email to everyone with a link to the survey. And hopefully by then we'll have the resources up so you'll be able to find it through hopefully through the email that contains the survey. And we can also feature it in our next open book issue as well. I'll make a note to do that. Okay, good. Thank you. Okay.

And then we've got Andrew, because I got a quick comment and a quick question. I just turned 70 years old. I've been using registered with the CNIB in the old days when we use the floor track tape and went through all the other formats. My question is this, my vision is low. So what I use is I usually download from CELA that my books in Word format simply because I can enlarge the print on the screen using the big screen and read it well. So my question is, are Word format going to be expanded or I'm hoping that it's not going to be phased out or something because I love that format because I love to read my own material. Is this a question for climate? Like, is Word format going to me going to stay or is it going to be expanded? I think it's likely going to stay. Exactly. That's what I was going to say, too, that all the Bookshare books in our collection are in Word and we're gradually getting more and more books in Sealer's collection in Word. So definitely it's here today. And by the way, I also use a Motorola One Android phone. And I've had no issues with the software that you people have been talking about. Right. That's good to know. That's including Dolphin Reader. I was going to make a comment actually about that. So we have made Dolphin the company that makes easy reader aware of issues that the other person was talking about. So they're working on a fix for those issues where the player just stops all of a sudden and some other issues as well. So we're aware of it and we've let the vendor know. Good. Thank you very much. Thank you.

And then we've got Selena. There we go. Hi. There actually two questions, and one of them I did post in the chat and I'll ask both questions and then I'll allow you to answer both.

My first question, Yves, you were mentioning a Braille display that has a QWERTY keyboard, which seems to be a really good option for those of us like myself. I have a Braille display with a Perkins keyboard, but I'm more comfortable on the Cordi keyboard. And I'm wondering what the name of that display was.

My other question is in regards to SQLA. I also speak French and I want to be able to read more content in French. So my question is kind of a twofold question. One of them is, is all of the material on SQLA available through CELA? And my other question is, is it only the audio books that are available through CELA from SQLA or other formats available as well. So I'll let you answer both questions. Thank you so much. Well, thanks. Regarding the Braille display, the one I'm using is Perkins style Keyboard, but I think and any one of the panellists can chime in. But I think the Braille Note Touch has a standalone QWERTY keyboard and there might be others. To be totally honest with you, I would have to do a bit of research to find exactly which models have it. There probably is more than one. One other suggestion that I might make to you would be to cheque with the various vendors of Braille displays, Human Ware being one of them, and there are others. So I wouldn't want to mislead you and tell you that one has it and only to find out that it doesn't. So that would be my suggestion on that. And if you're not able to find it, you could, I suppose, call us on the Peer Trainer phone line and we could try to help you out with researching that. Regarding the CELA collection, and again, Rachel can assist me. I think that all the collection is available, and I would think that it would extend beyond audiobooks. I think that it would include Braille books as well, but I'm not entirely sure on that. Awesome. Thank you so much. You're quite welcome. Before we get to that, the Mantis is the newest Braille display that came out, and it's with a QWERTY keyboard. The Braille Note is more of a note taker, so it might have all sorts of functions that not everybody needs in terms of standalone applications. But the Mantis is mainly a Braille display and has a QWERTY keyboard. It's pretty new, so maybe there are cheaper options, but this one is definitely the latest buzz, and it's available from APH, and it's distributed by Humanware.

Okay, so we're going to have to wrap it up real quick because we're now going into 20 minutes past the time.

I have one more question here. Can I download a book on my desktop and then transfer to my phone? The phone print can be difficult to use. I don't have an answer for that. I think it depends on the phone that you have. It is much easier to do this on Android because then you stick the phone, you connect it with a cable, and it shows up like a drive for your computer, and you can then place it there. With iOS, what you need to do is probably the easiest thing. If you happen to have an online file service such as Dropbox or other ones, then you can put the files there in your computer and access them through your phone. There are other options, but that's one of the problems with iOS. It is a bit more of a tight system that is not so flexible. Any other tips? No, you've covered it exactly. A file sharing option might be the way to go. It's unfortunate that the iPhone is still a closed system more or less. It's easier to do stuff like that on Android but there are ways around it like you want to mention file sharing being one of them.

Okay so one last sorry. This is the last one. Will the Zoom recording be available for people? Rachel I think this is for you. Yes definitely. We'll make the recording available. Okay great. So that I think ends our presentation. Thank you so much everyone who joined and if there are questions that were unanswered again like we said Google is a wonderful powerful thing or you can even just call your local CNIB they might have answers for you or you can call CELA if it's a CELA-related question we have a contact centre and then our numbers on the website I don't know it offhand. So thank you so much for joining us today and you'll get information on how to access this presentation, the survey and then our resource list. The phone number is now in the chat shortly we should mention 1-855-655-2273 as well. I want to thank you for your participation. You found something useful out of it. Thank you everyone. Thank you. Bye.