# Transcript of the webinar: “How to read CELA audiobooks and magazines: Transitioning from reading on CDs to other devices”

Webinar date: June, 2025

## Introduction and land acknowledgement

00:00:08

**Faline Bobier:** “How to read CELA audiobooks and magazines. Transitioning from reading on CDs to other devices.” Welcome to this webinar, of how to read CELA’s audiobooks. My name is Faline Bobier. I'm the training and outreach coordinator with CELA, and I'll be presenting the webinar.

Before we begin, I'd like to read a brief land acknowledgment. I live and work in Toronto, which is the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples. Wherever we find ourselves today across Turtle Island, we can be grateful to the First Nations for their careful stewardship of the land.

So in terms of the learning goals or agenda for this webinar, I'm going to talk about what CELA is, what are the different player options that you can choose from, and then go through some tips to help you choose which one would work best for you. I'll then describe the additional support we're providing while you transition from using CDs to another option.

## What is CELA?

00:01:33

First of all, what is CELA? People with print disabilities require books in accessible format. CELA, or the Centre for Equitable Library Access, is a comprehensive accessible library service providing over 1.4 million books, magazines, and newspapers to people with print disabilities living in Canada. CELA is a national not-for-profit organisation that provides accessible reading services to the approximately three million people across Canada with print disabilities.

Our services ensure that people with print disabilities across the country are more able to fully participate in learning, work and community life, and to contribute to the social, cultural and economic development and success of their local and broader communities.

CELA’s mission is to support public libraries in the provision of accessible library collections, and to champion the fundamental right of Canadians with print disabilities to access media and reading materials in the format of their choice. We'll break this down for you.

## About CELA’s audiobooks

00:02:57

CELA’s collection is mostly Canadian titles, a wide collection of favourite authors, in a variety of topics, in English and French, audio magazines, professional recordings, including celebrity and author narrators. CELA gets our audiobooks from commercial audio producers and other libraries like ours from around the world.

## What does DAISY mean?

00:03:35

DAISY stands for Digital Accessible Information System. DAISY equalizes print reading and audio reading by giving advanced navigation features. By using the buttons on your player or on the EasyReader app, you can navigate to specific parts of a book, such as by chapters or paragraphs.

Now, I'm going to describe the most popular audiobook player options that will play CELA’s books and magazines.

## Alternatives to CDs

00:04:19

We know that many of you enjoy receiving your books on CDs that arrive at your home, or that you get from your public library. While this format works well for many users, the fact is that CDs are an older technology which is being replaced by other ways to read books.

We've known that CDs would start to get more expensive for us to produce, so about two years ago, we introduced a new player called the Envoy Connect. We have also recently launched an Alexa smart speaker device, where all you need to do is speak to it and it will play the book you want. I'll describe this in more detail later on.

We are committed to supporting you as you find new ways to read. We will stop circulating CDs on July 31st, 2025. We will, however, continue adding to our audiobook collection as well as our other formats, including e-text or electronic text, braille and printbraille.

## What does Direct to Player mean?

00:05:39

Because this is the format that you'll be wanting to use from now on. So basically, when you're searching for a title on the CELA catalogue, and you find the title you want, you're asked to choose the format that you would like from a drop-down menu. So what you're going to be choosing from now on is DAISY audio Direct to Player format.

Once you place a hold on the Direct to Player format of a title, the title will appear on your CELA account on your Direct to Player bookshelf. So if you go to the My Account in your CELA account, you'll find the Direct to Player bookshelf.

## Envoy Connect

00:06:35

The first device that I'm going to be talking about is the Envoy Connect. So the new Envoy Connect device is another way for you to access CELA books. Envoy Connect is an easy-to-use, portable and affordable option for reading accessible audiobooks. It can be reloaded by downloading books or magazines directly from the patron’s CELA Direct to Player bookshelf with our software called CELA Connect. Or, you can mail your Envoy Connect device to CELA, post free, to be loaded with new titles.

Many public libraries are also loaning out Envoy Connect devices and loading books for people with print disabilities. This option is becoming more popular with libraries, who are seeking newer and less expensive ways to offer reading devices.

You can purchase the Envoy Connect from CNIB SmartLife for $97. So now, I'm going to show you a video of our staff person Ioana Gandrabur who’s going to demonstrate Envoy Connect, as well as our free CELA Connect software.

### Envoy Connect and CELA Connect demonstration

00:08:11

**Ioana Gandrabur:** So, as you can see, here is the Envoy Connect player. It is quite small. It's about the size of a deck of cards. So it is very simple to put it in an envelope and send it by mail, for free, to CELA so that it can be reloaded and sent back to you. I will focus on the accessibility-specific features of this player.

First of all, all buttons are very clearly labeled and I can identify them by touch. Then, I will first play you some content so you can see the quality of the speaker, which I think is quite good given its size. And...

**User guide narrator:** Last updated, March 2023. What's in the box? Included in the box are the Envoy Connect player—

**Ioana:** So this is actually the user guide that is pre-loaded on every player. So, a user can receive it and right away learn how to use it simply by turning the player on.

The next feature that I want to show you is, I'm able, without seeing the LED button, to check the battery status. So if I press and hold the Rewind button...

(device beeps three times)

...we hear three beeps, so I know that the battery is fully charged. The last feature I want to show you is the solar panel. So, on the back, we have a solar panel that allows me to go off grid and go camping and still be able to charge my player and listen to my favourite books.

Let's move on now to the other method of adding and removing books on the Envoy Connect, which is the free app called CELA Connect.

We are now on the opening screen of the CELA Connect software. I will press Enter to connect to the library.

**Screen reader:** Enter. Status. Read only. Edit. CELA Connect. Envoy Connect.

**Ioana:** Enter again.

**screen reader:** Enter. Status. Read only. Edit.

**Ioana:** By the way, I'm using the JAWS screen reader that tells me everything that is on my PC screen. After this connection with CELA Library has been established, we will have a list of books that are currently loaded on the player that we can choose to remove, and then we will move on to the next step, which will be downloading a book from the CELA bookshelf.

**Screen reader:** CELA Connect. Select titles to remove. This is the list of titles on your Envoy Connect.

**Ioana:** Now I can tab over to the list of books.

**Screen reader:** List view not selected. “Tiohtià:ke.” DAISY—

**Ioana:** I have only one book, which I will press Spacebar and Select and press Enter.

**Screen reader:** Space. Enter. Status. Read only. Edit. Please—

**Ioana:** We are at the next stage, where we can choose a book to download. I will tab like previously.

**Screen reader:** List view. Not selected: “Leviathan wakes: Book one.” “A Suitable Boy.” “Wool...”

**Ioana:** And choose, let’s say...

**Screen reader:** I. “Indian in the Cabinet.”

**Ioana:** “Indian in the Cabinet.” I will press Spacebar and Enter.

**Screen reader:** Space. Check.

**Ioana:** Now we get a confirmation dialogue where we are asked to confirm whether we want to remove a book and download one book. Pressing Enter again.

**Screen reader:** Enter. Status. Read only. Edit. Please wait. Checking your bookshelf.

**Ioana:** After the book is downloaded, we will have a confirmation dialogue telling us that it is safe to unplug the player.

So now we have the confirmation message.

**Screen reader:** Message. Read only. Your content has been updated. You can now unplug the player.

**Ioana:** I will press Enter.

**Screen reader:** Enter.

**Ioana:** And we are back where we started. So, as you can see here—

## About DAISY players

00:11:50

**Faline:** So the next device that we're going to look at are DAISY players. Many of you may have a Humanware Victor Stratus or Victor Stream player that you might own. Or maybe you borrow one from your public library. It has a CD slot that can be used to play music CDs or other audiobook CDs that you can borrow from your public library.

The Stratus player has large buttons and was designed for blind and low-vision users because of its durable and accessible features. The Victor Stream is a smaller, more portable handheld player. Both models will play DAISY audio and can be configured to connect to a local Wi-Fi connection, so that books are loaded straight onto your player from your Direct to Player bookshelf. If you have a stable internet connection through Wi-Fi, then the Direct to Player service is a good option. You can also load a book or magazine zip file by connecting the player to a computer or using an SD card.

These players are sold through CNIB SmartLife or through the manufacturer, Humanware, for $655 for the Stratus, and $595 for the Stream.

## Configuring your Stratus or Stream DAISY player

00:13:28

“Configuring your Stratus or Stream DAISY player.” So those of you who have a Humanware Stratus player or Stream and an internet connection at home may prefer to configure your player so your books and magazines are loaded straight onto it. You will need to contact us to help you configure your player, and you will need to know your SSID name and Wi-Fi password. This is a one-time step. Afterwards, you can enjoy your books at home. Just think, no trips to the mailbox to pick up or return any books.

So, if you do have a Victor Stratus or Victor Stream and you would like to have it configured so that books can be transferred directly from your Direct to Player bookshelf in your CELA account to your player, all you need to do is get in touch with CELA’s Contact Centre, and they can help you set this up. The Contact Centre telephone number is 1-855-655-2273. Or you can email us at help@celalibrary.ca

## Dolphin EasyReader app

00:14:59

The next reading device we're going to look at is the Dolphin EasyReader app, or application. You or a family member or a friend may own a handheld device, such as a tablet or smartphone, which is like a mini computer all in one. The common types are iPads, iPhones, or Android devices.

To play CELA books on one of these, you need to download an app, or an application, that can read DAISY book files. The app that works with our Direct to Player service is called EasyReader, and is available for Apple and Android devices, as well as on desktops or laptops. The app is free, and you can search our catalogue on the app and add books and magazines to the bookshelf.

If you select books by logging in to the CELA website, we recommend selecting the Direct to Player format for audio or text, since this simply loads the book straight onto the app. If you'd like to have more options, such as syncing books across all your devices with the app, you can pay for the Premium Edition, which costs $49.99 CAD per year.

You can also access our books and magazines as zip files for DAISY audio, several e-text formats, and electronic braille files. It also lets you read our books on many different apps, including Voice Dream app, Google Read&Write, plus many more.

### EasyReader app video demo

00:17:00

So, we are now going to listen to the CELA staff person Ioana again demonstrate for us the EasyReader app. She is using VoiceOver, so you will hear that during this video.

**Ioana:** I will now use VoiceOver, which is the screen reader for all iOS devices, and open the EasyReader app.

**Screen reader:** Braille screen input. E-A-S. EasyReader. Opening EasyReader. Portrait. EasyReader loading, ellipsis.

**Ioana:** Here I will open the side menu to show you how we can access the CELA library directly from this app.

**Screen reader:** Side menu. C-E-L-A library. Waiting for, ellipsis. C-E-L-A library.

**Ioana:** Here we have two options. We can either search or browse for a book that we can add to our bookshelf, or I can go to the bookshelf where I have already added books, either through this app or through the web interface.

**Screen reader:** Direct to Player bookshelf. Show results in Direct to Player bookshelf.

**Ioana:** This app can open either DAISY audio or DAISY text. And “DAISY” just means that this is the specialized format with enhanced navigation possibilities that I will show you in a minute. I will look for the book Denison Avenue that is already on my bookshelf.

**Screen reader:** Denison Avenue, Cristina Wong, DAISY-- Denison Avenue. Open button.

**Ioana:** I have already downloaded this book, so it shows me that I can open it.

**Screen reader:** One. “Gong Gong and Poh Poh—”

**Ioana:** So it remembered my previous position. I will now demonstrate the navigation possibilities.

**Screen reader:** Play. Book navigation. Button selected. Headings, button one, level one, two percent.

**Ioana:** So it tells me that I'm on the first heading and it is at level one. Incidentally, all headings are at level one on this book.

**Screen reader:** Preface, level one, two percent.

**Ioana:** I will click on preface.

**Screen reader:** Preface. Vertical scroll. A novel. Text settings.

**Ioana:** As you can see here, we can change the text size, the foreground colour, background colour, margins, line spacing, and much more. Let's return.

**Screen reader:** Vertical scroll bar. Five pages. 50—

**Ioana:** I will now demonstrate reading with the help of the TTS, text to speech.

**Screen reader:** Play.

**Synthetic voice:** Preface. Our story primarily takes place in Toronto's Chinatown Kensington Market.

**Ioana:** You can also change the speed and the quality of the voice in the audio settings of the app. So this gives you an overview of the EasyReader functionality for improved accessibility. I will now use--

## Transferring books

00:20:07

**Faline:** It's also possible, particularly if you have-- if you don't have internet access at your home, you or a friend or a family member could also load books onto an external storage device like a USB stick or an SD card, and add books from your CELA account onto your DAISY player or Envoy Connect that way.

## Player options with Wi-Fi

00:20:31

So to review the player options, if you do have internet access at home. With the Envoy Connect, how do you get books and magazines? On a computer using the CELA Connect software. The cost of the Envoy Connect device, again, is $97.

If you're using the EasyReader app on a tablet, a smartphone, or a computer, you can use the search feature on the app or choose DAISY Audio Direct to Player if you're logged-- if you’re searching for books while logged in to the CELA website. EasyReader is a free app, but obviously there would be a cost for the device you're using, whether it's a tablet, smartphone, or a computer.

If you're using a DAISY player like a Victor Stratus or a Victor Stream, you can have your player configured to connect to your CELA Direct to Player bookshelf in your CELA account. The configuration is free and can be done by contacting CELA’s Contact Centre.

## Player options without internet access

00:22:00

If you don't have internet access, what are your options? With an Envoy Connect device, you can mail the device post-free to CELA, we’ll load it with books and send it back to you post-free. You might also consider asking your public library if they're able to help. Some libraries actually lend out Envoy Connect devices and will pre-load the device with books for the library patron.

If you have a DAISY player, but you do not have internet access, you can go to your public library. Many public libraries will have deposit collections of DAISY-- of CELA books on CD that they have received prior to July 31st, and most public libraries will also have their own audiobook collection of... of commercial audiobooks on CD that you can also play on a DAISY player.

If you have an EasyReader app on your phone or device, but you don't have internet access, all you need to do is bring your tablet or your smartphone to a location with Wi-Fi. You can download books onto the app there and then take the device away. You won't need access to the internet to simply listen to the books that you have downloaded onto the app.

There are other reading devices that people can use to read CELA books. For example, CELA e-text, or electronic text books, in the EPUB file format will work in the following devices: Google Read&Write, Kindle, Kobo. However, it's important to note that CELA’s books do not work in the Libby app, which is an app that's available through many public libraries.

## Voice control

00:24:33

We're very excited to tell you about a new way, another way to choose and read books from CELA. By speaking aloud, you will be able to ask a device called an Amazon Alexa smart speaker to play your books. This new technology might sound familiar to you if you've used Siri on your iPhone, or if you have a smart speaker at home. Just ask the smart speaker to perform a function, and it will do it.

Apps through smart speakers are called skills, and CELA’s is called the Accessible Reading Canada skill.

So I'm now going to play an audio demo of our staff member, Ioana, opening the app, using the menu options, such as resuming a book, and going through the player options.

(device chimes)

**Ioana:** Start Accessible Reading Canada.

(device chimes)

**Alexa:** Would you like to resume your most recent book in progress, access your books, or browse the library?

(device chimes)

**Ioana:** Resume.

(device chimes)

**Book narrator:** Coming Together as Things Fall Apart by Astrid Taylor, narrated by Rebecca Mitchell.

(device chimes)

**Ioana:** Next.

(device chimes)

**Book narrator:** Meanwhile, in the US, the new Repub—

(device chimes)

The New—

**Ioana:** Next.

(device chimes)

**Book narrator:** Chapter two. Barons or commoners?

(device chimes)

**Ioana:** Previous.

(device chimes)

**Book narrator:** Meanwhile, in the US--

(device chimes)

**Ioana:** Volume up.

(device chimes)

**Book narrator:** For a long time now, people—

(device chimes)

**Ioana:** Stop.

(device chimes)

Start Accessible Reading Canada and bookshelf.

(device chimes)

**Alexa:** You have four books on your bookshelf. First book, The Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri. Would you like to start reading or skip to the next book?

(device chimes)

**Ioana:** Help.

(device chimes)

**Alexa:** Your bookshelf is a list of books that you have chosen from our website, or that have been selected for you based on your preferences. You can find them on the CELA website by selecting the Direct to Player option for any audiobook. To navigate between the books on your bookshelf, say “previous” or “next.” To return to the main menu, say “main menu.”

(device chimes)

**Ioana:** Stop.

(device chimes)

**Alexa:** Got it. Goodbye.

(device chimes)

## We can help!

00:27:35

**Faline:** “We can help!” So, we can provide further support to you through our Contact Centre. Please call us to make changes to your account information, to get help with ordering books, and also for help with the apps and devices that play our books.

To help you during the transition from CDs to another device, we are also offering weekly support sessions, weekly Q&As, that you can call in to or join online through Zoom.

The last item to mention is our monthly newsletter called Open Book that provides news regarding new titles we’ve added, any service announcements, and the upcoming webinars for that month. We encourage you to subscribe if you haven't already.

If you do have a question about your service, the CELA Contact Centre staff can answer your questions about changing your library profile, requesting a new service, etc.

Thanks for participating in today's webinar, and we hope that you have gotten the information that you need to help you transition from CDs to another device.

**End of webinar transcription.**