

Services for the Print Impaired

Policy

Chinook Arch recognizes that individuals who are unable to read or hold conventional print materials have a right to access materials which are specifically produced to meet their needs, and will facilitate such access in partnership with member library boards.

Procedures

Audio books may be purchased in a variety of formats including CDs, MP3s, and digital downloads for use by all current System libraries and System card holders. DAISY CDs, a format created especially for the print impaired are restricted to use by library patrons with a “print impaired” designation in the System database.

Chinook Arch has access to the collections and services of two national organizations that serve print-impaired library patrons through funding by Municipal Affairs’ Public Library Services Branch. The Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) administers use of the CNIB Lending Library by public libraries across Canada. Through CELA, patrons can receive physical or digital items delivered to their library or to their home. The National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNEELS) allows print impaired library users to download audiobooks in accessible formats.

Chinook Arch provides training and consultation for member libraries in regards to accessing services for print impaired library patrons.

Guidelines

- Eligibility criteria for access to formats created especially for the print impaired are established by the Canadian Copyright Act, section 32 (b.1).
- Patrons eligible for services for the print impaired are registered by member libraries. Member libraries are responsible for determining patron eligibility. Eligible patrons should be listed in System database with “print impaired” profile name
- All materials collected under this policy will be included in the System catalogue.
- Member libraries are encouraged to point patrons to the DAISY block collection, CELA, NNEELS, or interlibrary loan for resources in their preferred formats.

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