



Bookshare®: Making Reading Easier Worldwide

People with visual and learning disabilities who are unable to read standard print face numerous barriers. According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 285 million people worldwide are visually impaired, 90% of whom live in developing countries. Globally, less than half of children from this population receive an education. UNESCO has reported that if all students in low income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty, equivalent to a 12% cut in world poverty.

Why Bookshare?

At Benetech, we believe that access to information is a universal human right. Bookshare is an ebook library that makes reading easier for people with reading barriers. Library members can customize their experience and read in ways that work for them. Hundreds of thousands of people with visual impairments, dyslexia, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and other reading barriers have read millions of Bookshare books. It has empowered them to study for school, pursue careers, and read for fun.

Read Your Way: Listen to books, follow along with karaoke-style highlighting, read in braille or large font, use specialty devices, and customize your reading experience with ebooks in formats that work for you.

Huge collection: World's largest accessible library. Readers in over 70 countries can explore, listen and follow along with more than 400,000 titles in 34 languages.

Read on the device you choose: Computers, tablets, smartphones, braille devices, and more.

24x7 availability: Read where you want, when you want

The Bookshare Platform

- Automatic conversion of books from publisher feeds or volunteer-provided sources into five accessible formats
- Support for ebooks, electronic braille, human-narrated audio, and braille music.
- Trusted digital rights management with fingerprinting and watermarking
- Ecosystem of reading application and hardware partners, integrating with modern API calls
- Member management system
- Adoption of accessibility and publishing standards
- Scalable and stable, cloud-based services providing fast, secure storage

bookshare.org





Bookshare Global Offerings

There are currently three international options to employ the Bookshare technology platform and services. For more information please contact globalbookshare@benetech.org.

Features	National	National Partner	Private Label
Requires print dsability proof	Yes	Yes	Yes*
Access to global collection	Yes	Yes	Yes
Localized language website	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reduced librarian workload (for int'l export + import)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Training		Yes	Yes
Custom look & feel of website		Yes, Branding	Yes
Custom repository for your collection of accessible titles			Yes
Member information (PII) stored locally			Yes

* Required for access to Bookshare Global Collection