Fact Sheet

VISABILITY

Accessible Information Services

In Australia, it is estimated that as many as 1.3 million people have a print disability. The term 'print disability' includes, but is not limited to, people:

- With dyslexia and related learning disorders
- Who are unable to hold, carry, turn the pages of or focus on printed materials
- Who have dementia, intellectual disabilities or other conditions preventing them from reading and understanding printed materials

VisAbility's Library provides a wide range of **innovative services** to make materials accessible for people who are blind or vision impaired, or who have a print disability.

The **Dr Geoff Gallop Resource Centre** holds a collection of alternative format resources for clients of the Association to browse and borrow. The collection holds fiction and non-fiction titles and resources in a range of formats including:

- Braille
- Audio Books
- Audio Described DVDs

The Library operates an **Accessible Media Production Service** which produces materials in a variety of alternative accessible formats for consumers on demand. Materials can be converted into Braille or audio format.

In 2009 the **library digitisation project** transferred our collection of books, cassettes and CD's into an online catalogue of downloadable digital files.

Today, the Association is proud to have the **largest digital library** in the world which caters solely for print disabled clients.

People with a vision impairment or print disability can access downloadable resources through the **online catalogue** in audio or digital Braille format.

Audio resources are available in DAISY format, a world-wide standard developed specifically for people who have print disability that can be played on any mainstream MP3 player, iPods and mobile phones. Many **audio books are available with human and synthetic voice narration** provided through the Association's narration recording studios.

The Library also operates a state-wide **Postal Lending Service** where DAISY format audio books are posted free of charge to clients at VisAbility.

Online Library Catalogue Statistics
Number of users: 3,000+ (800+ in WA)
Searchable titles: 70,000+
Catalogued items: 10,000
Immediately available audio titles: 7,000
Borrowing during the 2013 financial year: 78,000+

To find out more about Accessible Information Services please contact:
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