

Hiroshima Prefectural Braille Library

The Braille library is:

Under the Law for the Welfare and Physically Disabled Persons, the Braille library aims to provide persons with visual impairments with information by Braille books and recorded books (cassette tapes and DAISY* books on CD-ROM). It also aims to train and give guidance to people who wish to be involved in volunteer activities. The library was established by Hiroshima Prefectural Government, and it is administrated and operated by the Hiroshima Prefectural Federation of Organizations of Persons with Visual Impairments, social welfare corporation.

* Digital Accessible Information System

1. Outline the Braille Library

Name:	Hiroshima Prefectural Braille Library
Establishment:	April 20, 1962
Established by:	Hiroshima Prefectural Government
Operated by:	Federation of Organizations of Persons with Visual Impairments, social welfare corporation

2. History

April 20, 1962	Established the Hiroshima Prefectural Braille Library (within the Hiroshima Prefectural School for the Blind).
Aug. 1, 1962	Authorized by the Minister of Health and Welfare, as a facility for rehabilitation and support of persons with physical disabilities under the Law for the Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons
Oct. 1, 1964	Entrusted its operation to the Hiroshima Prefectural Welfare Corporation, social welfare corporation.
July 15, 1969	Relocated to the new building in Ushita-shinmachi, Higashi-ku, Hiroshima City
Sept. 1, 1988	Relocated to the new building in Hesakasenzoku, Higashi-ku, Hiroshima City

- April 1, 1990 Entrusted its operation to the Hiroshima Prefectural Association for the Blind, social welfare corporation.
- April 1, 2005 Hiroshima Prefectural Federation of Organizations of Persons with Visual Impairments, social welfare corporation started the administration and operation as a designated administrator

<< What is the Designated Administrator System? >>

Due to a partial amendment of the Local Autonomy Law, instead of the conventional management commission system, the designated administrator system became applicable also to the public facilities of local governments.

This system aims to provide more effective and efficient services by making most use of capacity of private sector in operating the public facilities.

3. Services

◎ Information Provision Service

(1) Lending books

We lend books in Braille, recorded books (cassette tapes and CDs), magazines in Braille, and recorded magazines for free of charge.

(2) Production of books

We produce Braille books, recorded books (cassette tapes and CDs), magazines in Braille, and recorded magazines with cooperation of volunteers

(3) Reference service

We assist people who are looking for certain books to read or listen to. Utilization of NAIVE-net (information network for persons with visual impairment)

(4) Individual services

Service to transcribe books that one possesses or various instruction manuals into Braille, or make those into sound materials.

(5) Face-to-face reading service

This is a service which a volunteer reads documents face-to-face in the library. A volunteer requested by the library is in charge of reading.

(6) Braille classes for persons who lost their eyesight in the midterm of their lives

We provide Braille classes for persons who lost their eyesight in the

midterm of their lives under the joint auspices of the Hiroshima City Welfare Association for the Visually-Impaired.

(7) Consultation, etc. for persons who lost their eyesight in the midterm of their lives

We provide consultations to persons who lost their eyesight in the midterm of their lives

◎ Volunteer Program

Training of volunteers

We hold training courses and seminars for Braille transcription volunteers who transcribe books into Braille, and transliteration volunteers who produce recorded books.

- Braille transcription volunteers → transcribe books and documents into Braille
- Volunteers for reading service → read books and documents
- Proofreading volunteers → check whether the transcription into Braille or transliteration is conducted correctly as original texts
- Editing volunteers → convert tape-recorded contents into DAISY version (digitalization)

Number of volunteers registered with the Hiroshima Prefectural Braille Library (March 31, 2007)

87 Braille transcription volunteers

74 transliteration volunteers

* There are other volunteers in charge of various tasks in the library.

◎ Promotion and Awareness Program

- Issuance of the journal "Braille Library Letter"
- Provision of opportunity to experience welfare devices and convenient goods
- Provision of opportunity to experience movies with sub-sound explanation

- Computer seminar (in collaboration with Hiroshima Prefectural Information and Technology Support Center)
- Users' meetings (for concerts, storytelling, etc.)
- Assembly to promote friendship
- Visit places to give lectures
- Holding of welfare classes to deepen the understanding about persons with visual impairment

4. Number of Books (as of March 31, 2007)

Braille Books	10,480 titles	34,725 books
Tape-recorded books	10,534 titles	48,385 tapes
DAISY books	3,749 titles	

5. Number of Books Lent (Fiscal Year 2006)

Braille Books	600 titles	2,710 books
Tape-recorded books	6,680 titles	40,452 tapes
DAISY books	5,300 titles	5,466 CDs
General CDs	211 titles	250 CDs
Magazines in Braille	11 kinds	551 magazines
Tape-recorded magazines	91 kinds	32,541 tapes
DAISY magazines	13 kinds	1,332 CDs
General CD magazines	13 kinds	127 CDs

Individual Service (Fiscal Year 2006)

Transcription into Braille	91 cases
Reading service	36 cases

6. How to Use the Braille Library

(1) Use of the Braille library

Registration is required in order to use the Braille library. Any persons residing in Hiroshima Prefecture who have visual impairments and the certificate of persons with physical disability are eligible to register.

(2) How to borrow the books

Books are available for borrowing by visiting the library or by mail. Users can request books they want to borrow by phone, fax, letter or e-mail.

(3) Period of lending and the number of titles

Period is 15 days. In principle, up to 2 titles per person.

No limitation in the number of titles for magazines.

No charge for borrowing the books or magazines.

(4) Borrow and return of books by mail

No fee is charged to mail Braille books etc. in Japan as is designated under the Mail Law.