

Digital audio books from Calibre

Calibre's audio books are available in a choice of digital formats. Digital audio books have many advantages including better sound quality, easier postage, and fewer breakages. There are over 9,000 titles available in our digital service with more being added all the time. All of them are human voice recordings, not synthetic speech.

Our digital service is presented in MP3 format and is currently available on CD or USB memory sticks (also known as thumb or pen drives) and also for online streaming.

What does this mean?

MP3 is a format that allows us to get a lot of information into a small place. The CDs look like any ordinary CD however, instead of only running for up to 80 minutes, in MP3 format they will run for 12 – 14 hours. This allows us to get a complete unabridged book on one CD or on a relatively low capacity memory stick.

You may already have a player which will play our digital books and in some cases we can send a test book for you to try. However, if you do need to purchase a new player we offer reasonably priced players within our joining package. We have also sourced other suitable players and will be happy to send you detailed leaflets including supplier information.

For leaflets or further advice on the players available please call our membership services team on 01296 432 339 or, alternatively, our player information leaflets are available on our website www.calibre.org.uk

Calibre digital books can be played on:

- Any CD player which states it will play MP3 recorded CDs on the casing

- Most DVD players
- Any audio system that has a USB port
- Most memory stick audio players
- The British Wireless for the Blind Fund Concerto (but not the Symphony)
- RNIB Daisy machines (play our MP3 discs only)
- Most computers
- iPods and other solid state MP3 players – very portable, but can be expensive and you need a computer to use them

What features should I be looking for in a player?

- **Will it keep your place?**

Many players go back to the beginning when you turn them off, which can be very inconvenient. The players covered in our leaflets will all keep your place, even if you turn them off (often called a 'resume' function). If you are buying a player we advise you to check that it will do this.

- **Where do you listen to books?**

Do you only listen at home or do you want to take your player out and about? You should check if the player is only mains operated or will also run on batteries.

- **Do you have a hearing problem?**

If so, you may need to buy good quality headphones or speakers, or consult your hearing aid provider about loop systems for your player.

- **Do you have some useful sight?**

The players mentioned in this leaflet can be used by people with little or no sight. However if you have some sight you may want to choose a player with a good clear display.

- **Do you want large contrast buttons on your player?**

There are specialist players with large buttons which make them easier to use. However you can also stick Bump-ons or other markers onto ordinary players and this is usually a much cheaper option.