



THE
PUBLIC
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and
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release

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Public Library Awarded Grant to Assist Blind and Visually Impaired

Most of us take for granted the ability to sit down, open a book, and begin reading. But for more than 20 million Americans who report experiencing significant vision loss, this is not possible. To help meet the needs of the estimated 16,000 blind or visually impaired area residents in Greater Cincinnati, the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County was awarded a federal IMLS Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Special Grant for \$8,325 to purchase 30 VictorReader Stream digital players. Fitting into the palm of a hand, the Reader allows users to download books ranging from novels to textbooks and complex manuals. It is compatible with many digital library collections including the National Library Services' new digital talking books and the Ohio eBook Project.

"The Library is committed to providing the best possible service to everyone in the community and the VictorReader Stream is an excellent resource for serving blind and physically disabled patrons," said Library Services Director Greg Edwards. "Making the VictorReader Streams available at the Library will allow users with visual disabilities to make use of a large amount of downloadable content from a wide variety of resources."

The VictorReader Stream machines complement and enhance the Library's services and adaptive equipment currently offered to meet the needs of blind and visually impaired users. Among these are ZoomText that magnifies the contents of a computer screen, CCTV (Closed-circuit television) that enlarges text from normal text size, and SARA (Scanning and Reading Appliance) that works like a computer scanner that reads text aloud.

The readers will be made available to visually impaired Library users for use in book clubs and checkout through the Outreach Services Department at the Main Library. Please contact the Outreach Services Department at 513-369-6963 for details.



Outreach Services Department Manager, Elizabeth Zuelke, demonstrates one of the new VictorReader Stream devices now available at the Public Library.

