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User's Guide to
Federally Funded
Accessible Media Producers

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User's Guide to Federally Funded Accessible Media Producers

Accessible media producers, otherwise known as AMPs, are agencies or individuals who produce instructional materials in specialized formats such as Braille, large print, audio, or digital text for students with print disabilities.

AMPs and NIMAS. AMPs may use source files formatted according to the National Instructional Materials Standard (NIMAS) to convert materials into student-ready specialized formats or they may produce materials from a variety of other sources. They are eligible to download files directly from the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) at <http://www.nimac.us/> as agents of authorized users (AUs) or they may be designated as an AU by a state education agency (SEA).

Learn about who qualifies for specialized materials converted from NIMAS source files (<http://aim.cast.org/learn/policy/local>). Please note that students who do not meet these eligibility requirements may still qualify for services under other programs offered by each AMP.

There are increasing numbers of private and nonprofit accessible media producers in the United States, each offering a distinct set of services. The table below summarizes the services and eligibility requirements for the three national AMPs who receive federal funding through the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP): **American Printing House for the Blind (APH)**, **Bookshare**, and **Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D)**.

HOW TO USE THIS TABLE:

The Table presents an overview of the services provided by each AMP to students with print disabilities. Review the table to determine if an AMP listed provides the types of services needed, using the links to get more detailed information on the AMPs' web sites. You may also want to refer to the separate FAQ documents for each AMP, created by members of the AIM Consortium (*see left navigation bar on web page for links*). Please note that services listed are those directly provided by the AMP; however, files obtained from the AMP may be converted into other specialized formats using other software and hardware solutions.

Federally Funded Accessible Media Producers: Summary Table

The development of this project by the AIM Consortium and the Utah State Office of Education was funded by Grant # H327S070003 from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).



AMP Name:	American Printing House for the Blind (APH)	Bookshare	Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D)
Address	1839 Frankfort Avenue Louisville, KY 40206	480 So. California Ave. Suite 201 Palo Alto, CA 94306	20 Roszel Road Princeton, NJ 08540
Phone	502-899-2370	650-644-3400	609-520-8028
Fax	502-899-2219	650-475-1066	609-520-7990
Web Address	http://www.aph.org	http://www.bookshare.org	http://www.rfbd.org
Contact for further information	Textbooks: Jane Thompson at jthompson@aph.org Student Eligibility: Cindy Ambeck at cambeck@aph.org	General information: support@bookshare.org Membership: membership@bookshare.org	NIMAS orders: nimas@rfbd.org Membership/Services: custserv@rfbd.org
STUDENTS SERVED			
Blind	✓	✓	✓
Visually Impaired	✓	✓	✓
Physical Limitations		✓	✓
Reading Disability/Organic		✓	✓
Certification Requirements	Any student who is blind or visually impaired in an educational setting below college level.	All registrants must meet eligibility criteria as outlined in copyright law. To receive materials converted from NIMAS source files, K-12 students must have an IEP	Documented print disability signed by a competent authority as outlined in copyright law. To receive materials converted from NIMAS

		and be eligible under copyright law.	source files, K–12 students must have an IEP and be eligible under copyright law.
Student Registration Requirements	Through the APH annual census see http://www.aph.org/fedquotpgm/quickfed.htm .	Register online at http://www.bookshare.org .	Register online at http://www.rfbd.org/membership.htm
Membership Fees	No	Depends on circumstances	Depends on circumstances
Individual Students	N/A	No	No
Institutions/organizations	N/A	No	\$350–\$950 depending on quantity of books used
Other	N/A	\$50 + \$25 sign-up fee	N/A
Membership Description	None	No charge for students of any age who qualify under copyright law; \$50.00/year for non-students with one-time sign-up fee of \$25.00.	Individual memberships for students or adults with a print disability. Learning Through Listening institutional membership program for schools or other institutions.
SERVICES AVAILABLE			
XML conversion		✓	
Original transcription	✓		✓
Downloads	✓	✓	✓
Scanning	✓	✓	
NIMAS file conversion		✓	✓
Other	✓	✓ (conversion from .rtf)	✓
Services available to:			
Authorized users	✓	✓	✓
State agencies	✓	✓	✓
Local education agencies (LEAs)	✓	✓	✓
Teachers	✓	✓	✓
Other	✓ (see FAQ)	✓ (paid subscribers)	✓
Process for Accessing Services	Contact state <i>Ex Officio</i> Trustee	Sign up authorized students, then download books. See FAQ for further details.	Register for services, then order books. See FAQ for further details.

SUPPORTED FORMATS			
Braille			
Contracted embossed	✓		
Uncontracted embossed	✓		
.brf (Braille-Ready Format)	✓	✓	
Tactile graphics	✓		
Other	✓		
Large Print			
Large print (paper)	✓		
Large print (e-file)		✓	
Other			
DAISY (Digital Talking Book)			
2002 HTML	✓		✓
2005 XML	✓		
Digital recording (human voice)	✓		✓
Digital recording (synthetic)			✓
Audio File			
.mp3			✓
.mp4			
.wav			
Digital			
.pdf			
.rtf	✓		
Word	✓		
KES (Kurzweil proprietary format)			
HTML		✓	
Other	✓	✓ (html and text)	
Assistive Technology Required	No	Yes	Yes
Provided by AMP		Victor ReaderSoft Read: OutLoud	RFB&D-enabled specialized playback systems. Available for purchase at https://cuthub.rfbid.org/BrowseProducts.asp

Available from other sources		Screenreader, refreshable Braille reader (hardware device), other DAISY readers	RFB&D-supported devices may be purchased directly from vendors.
Average time from order to receipt of book	Varies (see FAQ)	NIMAC books: 1–2 weeks Other textbooks: 1–2 months	AudioPlus books: 5–10 days from time order is processed. Books available for download: Immediately NIMAS files: 7–10 days for conversion
Digital rights management policies	NA	Digital fingerprint, watermarking, proof of print disability required, signed user agreement, copyright notice included in books.	Copyright acknowledgement agreement, copyright notices; books enabled for RFB&D members only.
Return of books when no longer needed	Check with state <i>Ex Officio</i> Trustee for state policies.	Books are student’s to keep but may not be transferred to another user.	Books do not need to be returned but CDs should be destroyed when no longer needed. Downloaded books will not be playable past membership period.
Data collected	Aggregated annual APH census results are published. Individual customer information is not shared. FERPA compliant.	Proof of disability, valid email address. Individual customer information is not shared. FERPA compliant.	Aggregated statistical information is public; no personally identifiable membership information is shared. FERPA compliant.
Link to instructions for accessing services	http://www.aph.org/fedquotpgm/fedquota.htm	http://www.bookshare.org/about/membershipFAQ	http://www.rfbd.org/training_support.htm
Designated Contact for AIM Survey	Jane Thompson	Betsy Beaumon	Pam Johnson
Email	jthompson@aph.org	betsy.beaumon@benetech.org	pjohnson@rfbd.org

American Printing House for the Blind (APH): APH is the official supplier of educational materials for visually impaired students in the U.S. who are working at lower than college level. APH primarily serves people who are visually impaired, although many of the products have application for people with learning disabilities and people with multiple disabilities. APH uses NIMAS source files as one tool to produce instructional materials in Braille or large print. Almost all students who are blind or visually impaired are eligible to use materials produced from NIMAS files. The primary distinction APH uses for student eligibility is whether a student is legally blind or visually impaired. Legally blind students are counted through an annual census and generate funding through the Federal Quota Program. For more information about this program, visit the APH web site at <http://www.aph.org/fedquotpgm/quickfed.htm>.

Bookshare: Bookshare provides an online library of accessible reading materials for people with print disabilities. Individuals can sign up for membership and access the library on their own, or organizations that serve individuals with print disabilities (schools, libraries, community centers, etc.) can sign up to provide access to their students or clients. Bookshare provides alternate-format textbooks derived from NIMAS source files to schools for use by eligible students and also adds books to its digital library in a variety of other ways. Visit the Bookshare web site at <http://www.bookshare.org/about/howBookshareWorks> for further information.

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D): RFB&D is a national nonprofit, volunteer organization that provides an extensive accessible audio book library for students with print disabilities. RFB&D uses NIMAS source files as one tool to produce instructional materials in digital audio formats for eligible students. It also adds books to its digital library in a variety of other ways. See http://www.rfbd.org/training_support.htm for further information.