Back to School with Bookshare

Well welcome everyone to our webinar today called Back To School With Bookshare. We're very excited that you all joining us. And we're looking forward to sharing some wonderful new enhancements to Bookshare. Uh, for those of us, uh, those of you who are familiar with Bookshare and, uh, and for those of you who are brand new to it, I'm sure that you'll find this, uh, to be really worthwhile. We're excited. I wanted to introduce, uh, our team to you today. And, uh, give everyone a chance to say hello. Um, so I'm Christine Jones, Senior Education Program Manager with Bookshare, uh, with Benetech and primarily working on Bookshare.

And I'll let our team go around the table.

Right, I'll do that. I'm Ginny Grant. I'm the Senior Product Manager for Bookshare. And I also assist with many other reading tools that you're, the students are using.

And my name is Nick Bowen. I'm the Customer Service Manager. So, if you guys have questions, especially at the webinar, please feel free to call me and my team. And you can find us under the Help Center.

And I'm Lara Rondberg Associate Relationship Manager with the Global Literacy Team.

So Bookshare is the world's largest library of eBooks for people who need to read differently. And members read in ways that work for them. And we'll demonstrate some of those ways today that members can read Bookshare books. But basically members can listen to books read aloud. Follow along with audio and highlighted text. They can read enlarged type, and they can read in Braille. And, uh, they can basically customize their reading experience. So on this slide I have several pictures of students reading books. And, uh, many of these are, um, Bookshare users who have just wonderful stories to tell about how Bookshare has, uh, made, turned, turned them into readers.

And, uh, they're reading on iPads, on various kinds of tablets, Chromebooks, uh, laptops, uh, other devices. Lots of great ways to read the books. And Bookshare's collection currently has, uh, more than 568,000 titles in it, and about 5,000 titles are added each month. That includes textbooks, books for assigned reading, books for leisure reading, periodicals. And memberships in Bookshare are free for all qualified U.S. students. Uh, thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. And there are many free ways to read Bookshare books. And as well as low cost, and commonly available tools for reading Bookshare books.

And we'll demonstrate some of those today. To qualify for Bookshare someone, uh, has to have been certified by, with the law called a Competent Authority, as having a barrier to reading or processing printed text. Those barriers can include a learning disability that affects reading, such as dyslexia, low vision or blindness, or a physical disability that affects reading. And our website has a complete list of our, a lot more information I should say about, uh, qualifications. So I encourage you to go to Bookshare.org and then look for its Bookshare For Me. And under there you'll see who qualifies.

You'll get to see more information, uh, the Competent Authority can be any number of different individuals who work with that students, and there are examples of those, uh, titles, job, job titles if you will on, uh, the Bookshare website. So, uh, Bookshare, books can be read in more ways than ever before. And, uh, we're going to demonstrate a few of those now. So I'm going to turn it over to Ginny, who is first going to simulate the experience of an educator who's adding a new student to Bookshare.

Alright. Um, I'll be right, you can see the Managed Members screen. I have logged in as if I were a teacher into the, into Bookshare with sponsor account. And I've gone to Bookshare, and then gone to the members area. So let's do that. Now I'm going to go, uh, My Bookshare, which is as a teacher it looks a little different than for those who are logged into our webinar. You are students of My Bookshare will look a little different. But as a teacher I can go and manage my student roster, which sets up for the list of the organizational members that represent your students.

We've added a couple of new features to this for students, for teachers who are already using, uh, the, their account. You may find that there are students that are already on your roster, and you just want to be up working with their, those accounts. So let me just show you one of the features that we've added this past year. Which is the filtering, to be able to filter by all grades. So if you're in a large district, whether it's New York or Philadelphia, um, you can choose to have a, uh, to look for, for perhaps just your 5th grade students or just your 10th grade students. And be able to work with just that, those students.

Or the other thing I'm going to show you right now is adding a new student. So we have these new icons at the top to add members. And there's also similar ones at the bottom as well of every list. So I'm going to go add a new student. I'm going to put in a student, uh, 7227. Um, these are just demo accounts, but you of course will be putting the name of your student. (technical)

And that makes 3rd grade, maybe a 5th grader. Um, and I'm going to put a user name. And then I'm going to, for today's demo just demonstrate with the same, uh, password. This allows the student to have access directly to Bookshare and to the books that you are, um, preparing for them. If your district wants to you can choose to put in, um, the actual school name. Every account is different. And we have some, uh, good, uh, trials on whether to use that or not. I'm going to just do that for my demonstration purposes. Um, this is a student who has a qualified of disability, disability of, uh, both visual and learning, a learning difference.

And they a IEP. It's very important that you designate whether the member or student is 504 qualified, um, and/or, uh, whether they have an IEP. Another thing that we don't normally have to change, but, uh, I'm going to make reference to this later, so I just wanted to show you that you can set at this moment, but you don't have to, you can change the download, uh, format for a particular student. For example, if you know that they're going to be working on an iPad you might want to make a change to, uh, let's, to read in ePub on a regular basis. Uh, but we'll come back to that.

So I've just added my student member. I could add them to existing reading lists, or even create a custom one for that student right at that moment. I'm just going to go the, the simple route of adding them to some reading lists that I've already got to find. Um, so I know that they're, the person is excited about books that have gone to film. Um, and they love reading the New York Times Best Sellers list for children. So I'm just assigning that student immediately to those reading lists, which opens up the possibility of them reading dozens and dozens of books immediately.

Uh, so just regularly log in as that student, or is that the next step?

Um, yeah, no, I think that's great, Ginny. Thanks for sharing that experience. That's, that's sort of what the teacher will do to setup the student. So Ginny, uh, logged into her teacher, her, her organizational Bookshare account, and added a student. And then assigned some books to that student. And as she mentioned she was, uh, she added the student to, to a couple of, um, publically available reading lists. This is a new feature, uh, we've setup a lot, uh, pre-curated lists of books that are available, that can be shared with, uh, any student on your account.

And it's a great way to provide access to students, uh, to give students access to multiple books, uh, really right off the bat. And that's, that's what Ginny did. So now she's going to log in as that student she just created. And show you how, uh, she'll open one of those books in Bookshare Web Reader, which is our web based reading, uh, browser, a browser based, uh, reading tool.

Alright. So I'm just changing out my sharing applications. What I'm doing is, um, I'm now logging in, in Google Chrome as an example as that student. And I'm going to go to My Bookshare. And what you see is that I've been assigned certain reading lists, uh, by my teachers. I'm going to just expand that a little bit. Um, I've been assigned to reading lists and I'm able to read books right on that, uh, on that reading lists. So for example, that Books To Film we were talking about. I'm going to be able to see all the books that, that I have access to, just by having been assigned that reading list.

Um, and it was, and what I'm going to do now is I could choose to download that, that book directly, maybe onto my iPad. Or I am going to just choose Read Now, which opens up the Web Reader. Uh, there we go. So that book is now being prepared for that student. I can open up a list of, um, contents, if there are a table of contents, go to a particular page number. So that often happens in the class. The teacher says, go to Page 15, the student goes to Page 15, and will now be able to read, uh, where everybody else is. What I'm going to do is try turn on the audio. And I'm going to come as close to the mike as I can, so that you're able to, to hear what's going on there.

[audio playing]

So I hope that gave you just a little glimpse or two, just the ease at which the student is able to open up the books, and start reading with that highlighting and synchronized voice. I was just using a standard Microsoft, um, offering of a, of a TTS voice that's available on Chrome. And for those reading the Chrome books or, um, Mac there's, uh, more options for, for TTS as well. But the, but that's just one of those options. Let me, uh, also show you some of the other settings that might be valuable for people using, uh, this Bookshare Web Reader. It may be that the font size needs to be enlarged, if someone has low vision.

Or, and/or if somebody has a, um, if, if the white background makes their eyes tired, they can, we can switch it over to a different font size, a different coloration. I'll also just show you one of the other options that we have. Is using B-line, which is, um, an external reading tool that we've integrated with, uh, Bookshare. But as you can see, it has a different colorization between the end of one line to the beginning of the next line. Some people find that that's really helpful to keep focus between lines as their eye moves from line, the line that has that same Manfred over to woke up.

Everybody's, uh, reading experience differs. But it's, uh, one, one more tool in the toolbox at the time.

So Ginny, um, there was a question about whether you can move to another page in the book. So.

Yeah. Let's, let's do that. So we're going to go to another page. Let's say that the, uh, student now remembers that they want to go to Page 32 or it also depends on the markup. If this book has been setup with real chapters, and especially for textbooks this is very helpful. But you might have chapters and, and sections that the, um, that you can go to using this table of contents. Or if I want to go to Page 30 for example, I'm able to jump right over to, to a specific page.

And you could do that by selecting it in that table of contents?

Yeah, yeah, always. Was that not able to be seen? Okay. So the table of...

I could see the table of contents come up, but... (all talking at once)

So what I did is I pulled up the table of contents using the little icon at the left looking icon. And then I went to a specific page number. I can also use a drop down for that. Um, but, um, just, just selecting a particular page, um, it helps me to move around to, if I've been told to, open up Page 32, there it is.

Great.

Um, and then when I go back to Bookshare using the Bookshare icon, this takes me back to my, uh, My Bookshare page with that book as my most recently read, and then where I could go onto a different book.

Great. Excellent. So Ginny demonstrated logging in as the student that she had just added in opening, and reading a book in the Bookshare Web Reader, which is the Chrome, uh, using some of the Chrome functionality, um, that allows for Text To Speech and word highlighting. And, uh, now Laura is going to demonstrate, um, how a student would log into their account in Safari on an iPad, and download the book to the iPad to read it in iBooks, which is a free tool that's available on all iPads and iPhones and on all Mac computers as well. So Laura, take it away.

Okay, thanks Christine. Um, you should be seeing the image of an iPad on the My Bookshare page. Is that going through? Great. So, um, Bookshare books are now available, um, to be read in iBooks, which comes standard on iPads, iPhones, and Mac computers. It's a great free tool, no special app is needed. Uh, 'cause it's already built in. And the Apple products have pretty good accessibility features, um, already built into the devices as well. So with that you can have the Text To Speech and word highlighting. So I'm going to demonstrate how you, um, get a book in the format for iBooks. And then what that looks like on the screen.

So I'm logged in here as a Bookshare student. And you would have assigned the student books, um, on a reading list. So I'm going to go to my reading list here. And I'm going to select the reading list I want to find my book on. And so as an example the student is going to read The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. They would, um, select the download, and you have a variety of formats to choose from, but you want to select the ePub format for iBooks. So you would just select ePub, and download. And then the book is ready to be read through their history, they would click on that.

And then you get the option to open in iBooks. Very simple. It opens in iBooks where you have, um, a bookshelf of all the books. So now we can look at what the book looks like in iBooks.

[audio playing]

So that's an example of how it reads. Um, the devices have a variety of voices built in. So you can pick, a male, female, male voice, female voice, different accents. Uh, and then there's this little toolbar you can select the, the turquoise to make it slower, or the hare icon to make it faster. So you have some flexibility there for whatever works best for the reader. And, uh, on our Help Center we have an article about opening books in iBooks. And it has the instructions, in case you want to go back and read through. And for, on the iPad you can see here they have, we have the instructions for the different accessibility features you need to setup through the settings tab on the iPad.

Great. Yeah, so, um just a quick note. So iBooks, as I mentioned is a free app that comes on every iPad and iPhone and is on every Mac computer. Um, however, there are many other great, um, apps that work on, on the iPad. We'll show, um, or talk about at least one or two of those. And someone asked about Ready2Go which is an asset, uh, Benetech distributes for reading Bookshare books. And certainly if you're using Read2Go you're more than welcome to continue using it. Uh, we just wanted to present iBooks as another option. But it is a free option, uh, and we think it offers a lot of the same functionality, uh, as Read2God.

And so we, we definitely like to recommend it. And in fact, the, uh, in the iPad settings you can select different voices. You can select, um, differences in colors and the way that the text is represented. So lots of options there. Okay. So now Nick is going to talk about, um, some other great apps, and ways to read Bookshare books. Uh, he was busy answering one of the questions, so here he comes now.

Alright. So my name is Nicholas Bowen. I apologize, I have this need to answer every question that I see pop up. While it was... (unintelligible) as quickly as I could.

Um, so thank you all for being here today. It's great to see a bunch of new names. There's a, uh, familiar names in here as well. Uh, if you have it, there's also one more little, uh, note from my team. You know, my customer service team is always happy to help you, um, you know, one of the greatest things about Bookshare is how flexible it is. And that you can read books on a wide range of devices with a wide range of formats. But, of course, that flexibility can often lead to confusion as well. So please, don't hesitate to reach out to us. We really, really want to make sure that everybody gets up in reading.

So, uh, what's on the screen here is, uh, is that flexibility that I mentioned. We, uh, have a, a back door that our, our partners can create applications that are compatible with Bookshare. And they can do so focusing on different, uh, reading styles, different student ages, everything that that matters, um. A lot of you are familiar with our old tools, Read2Go. But, uh, one of the great things is, uh, these app developers, uh, are so focused on their tools, that they can make some incredible tools. Tools that, uh, do so much more for our members than, than what Read2Go even currently offers.

As, as much as I hate to say it. So on the screen now is the Member Preferred Tools, or member preferred Tool Tapes. This can be found under our Help Center. If you go to our Help Center there's a big blue button for Reading Tools, or of course, also the popular way, uh, ways to read, uh, a link that's just underneath it. On this page we start off with, of course, with the Bookshare Web Reader. This is that Read Now link that many books will find. Underneath that is Capti Narrator which is also a brand new tool. It's a great tool for people getting started with Bookshare.

It is free, um, but I will note that it has a subscription service on it to where, uh, for larger books or books with images, you do need to, to purchase a subscription in order for those features to appear. Another great tool that's brand new on our radar is Dolphin Easy Reader. This is free on IOS, and I'm going to, knock on wood, that Android is going to show up soon. Uh, this is a great tool for Bookshare members, uh, folks with especially for low vision members. Um, but, uh, it supports all of our members as well. Being free is, is of course the great tool there. Voice Dream Reader is the new sort of gold standard.

It does have a onetime upfront cost. Um, but it's a tool that we highly recommend, of course, as well. It includes on numerous devices the ability to show images right from these, uh, great voicing options as well. Uh, and then, of course, uh, Web Reader and there's a couple of our other partners can be found on this page. They're great tools to, to find in order to access Bookshare books. And just as I note as well, if you have questions regarding, uh, Bookshare in general or just would like to connect with others in the community.

Another great tool if you come out here to our Help Center, right on the very bottom we have the app, the community link that takes you to the new Bookshare Discussion Forum. So if you have questions about Bookshare, if you have feature ideas that you want to connect to with it, uh, we're on here every day. Please feel free to start a new thread, add to the discussion, and, and you can help make Bookshare better.

Excellent. I, I did see a question about, I'm just wanting to understand the student, how the student would log in. So I thought I would quickly, uh, demonstrate that. Um, Ginny went through it, but I thought I'd just reiterate it really quick here.

Oh, good.

While she's doing that, we're getting some fabulous questions. We're barely able to keep up with them, but we will come back, uh, to this. We've logged time for a solid Q&A.

Yes.

So thank you for continuing to post your questions.

Absolutely. A great point. Um, so quickly I'll show you. So, um, if I want to either add a student and, and give them their own log in to Bookshare, or I want to, uh, add a log in, a student log in to someone who was already on my account. I can do all of that in my Managed Member section in the organizational account. And so I can edit of any of these, um, students. I have a bunch of fake students in my account, obviously. But when you first, uh, assign a student to Bookshare or add a student to your Bookshare account, I'm going to actually show that, um, dialogue box here again.

So Ginny went through this, but she put first name, last name, birth date, birth date, uh, grade and whether they're on an IUP or a 504. But what you'll see over here is the place to add a user name and password for that student. And basically this is, um, what we call a student log in. It's a way that the student is logging into to the school account. So this is a little bit different from a full individual membership in Bookshare. In that, uh, the student uses this log in to access books that have been shared with him or her by their teacher.

Uh, shared on reading lists or downloaded for them, uh, that the student can access those books. Uh, so we definitely encourage you to, to add student, user names and passwords to all of your students on your roster. Because that, and share books with them, uh, using reading lists. Because then they can, uh, go into those, those accounts, they can log into Bookshare with that user name and password, uh, on any device with an Internet connection, uh, you know, has a way to, for them to log into Bookshare. And they can log in and access their books, and, and read them.

Um, and if they find other books that they want to have, uh, provided to them, they just have to ask one of the sponsors on the account to add it to a reading list for them, or to, uh, otherwise share it with them, so that they can access it. When students are ready to, uh, find their own books and, and open them on their own, without wanting to go through a teacher, then the best thing to do is to get them a full individual membership in Bookshare. And I'll show you, um, an easy way to do that. Once a student already has a membership in Bookshare. I'm going to go ahead and, um, let's see, okay.

So I'm, um, uh, I'm at the Bookshare browser, our Bookshare, um, website. I'm going to log in as a student. And that, that, using the student log in that I just, um, setup. That I would have just setup for a student. Hopefully this is going to work. Okay, great. And then when the student logs in, they see this view to your assigned books here. And they can, as, um, as Ginny demonstrated earlier they can open, uh, the reading lists, and access books that way. But, and they sort of say when they're ready to, uh, get a full individual membership in Bookshare, there's, it's right here. On, on their My Bookshare page it says, want to choose your own book?

Upgrade to an individual membership. So if they select that link it takes them to a place on our Help Center, and then to a sign-up page that is pre-populated with their student information. If they're under 18 it will require a parent or guardians, first name, last name, e-mail and phone. And basically the parent is, is, you know, signing this with a, in a digital way, they can sign digitally here. But that's the way to get a student a full individual membership in Bookshare. Which allows them to, uh, find their own books. And, and open them, um, more easily, yeah.

And I've seen a number of questions about, um, from teachers who have students who have an individual membership as well as their school membership, which I think it's, um, Nick is probably to answer. But do you want to just go across, uh, talk about the...

It's a good time to start the Q&A?

Yeah, yeah, oh yeah.

So there are a ton of great questions in here. And, uh, you know, this is, this is Bookshare. (laugh) Um, starting with the member roster side of things. If the student has taken the time to upgrade to a full fledged individual membership, that individual membership is one that the student technically owns themselves. Which means in terms of us, uh, helping recover the accounts and everything, it needs to be us working with the student or if a student is under 18, the student's parents or guardians directly, uh, to help them recover that account. Now any agreement that you as organizations have with the parents in terms of, uh, account access, that's perfectly fine by us.

Uh, we just need to make sure that when we actually help recover the accounts, we can only work with those people at least, uh, for right now. If you have a student who has an individual account, but they cannot regain access to it, uh, and, and parents aren't available to gain access to these, you know, we, we all have this, these situations. Uh, what I recommend doing is delete the student from your account, and then re-add them. When you add them back that'll be that simple organization account that you'll then be able to set passwords to, and tie books to. And maybe sometime down the road the student can recover their individual membership.

Because the individual membership will still exist in Bookshare. And if they do recover it, you can merge them back together. Uh, in terms of what e-mail address they use, again, because the student owns the account or if a student is under 18 it's the parents or guardians that technically own the account, it's up to that party on what e-mail address they use. But if they want to us a school e-mail address, that's perfectly fine. I, of course, highly recommend, uh, checking with your IT Department. A lot of school e-mail addresses do not allow external e-mails to be delivered to student's e-mail accounts.

And if that's the case, you do want them to use a Bookshare e-mail address there. But, uh, you can always, uh, work with your IT Department to allow Bookshare e-mails to be delivered to those students. That way they can recover the account and do other things. Um, what were some of the...

Yeah, there's lots of great questions. Um, go give an example for it, yeah.

The, uh, individual memberships, uh, there was a question about renewing those individual memberships. Uh, that, that is a process that has been done by the individual member, the student directly by updating their school information. But you as organizations absolutely have the option to do that as well. All of the individual memberships are funded through our Department of Education funding. It's not being funded by the local schools. So there, there's, um, no worry about accidentally funding somebody that maybe you don't want to directly support at any given moment that, you know, I know every situation can be a little bit different.

And Nick, I have an example of that, that I could share with, if that's alright. Um, I'm going to share my member roster again. So if you can see the first row of the student demo here, uh, that user name because, because the member is both a school membership as well as an individual membership. As Nick was saying, that user name, the, the e-mail address is now private to, to schools. And, um, we have a situation where the, the individual membership has actually, um, expired. But either the student themselves can renew it, or the teacher can. Because as long as they're still associated with the school.

So I'm just going to click the renew button. And now we're going to change someone that's in 6th grade, they're still in the same, uh, the school district, same school and district. So I've submitted and now they're going to be, they're going to switched over to, uh, the, it no longer requires renewal. So that's something that a teacher can help you. The other thing that every year as the, you're doing your roster management, as soon as you, um, update the, actually I won't do that one again, 'cause I just did that one. But let's say, if I'm updating the, some of the grade levels, I can pick one or more of my, of these students, and then execute the increment grade level option.

Are you able to see that on the screen?

Yeah, yeah.

Great. So that would be a way that you can just on mass update a whole lot of people. Um, I'm going to do another, another new feather that we have. As we talked about earlier, I'm going to just filter to, um, everybody who is for example in grades 5. And we filter down to those. I want to now add all of those students to one of my school reading lists. So I'm going to, I select with them and either the book, the little book icon at the top, add to reading lists, activate or the button at the bottom. They, they have the same action. I can now pick some of all three of them to say, let's put them on the Blue Bonnet Award Nominations reading list.

I could also create for them a new reading list as well that it's for all, just like, just my own 5th graders for example. Great. Um, I wanted to also demonstrate, somebody asked about a demonstration account, and how to, you know, have a way to show people about Bookshare. I thought it'd be a good idea to mention, uh, we actually, um...

You have to take back the, uh, the control there.

I will show you what it's like to, um, to search for some books that are, what we call freely available. And, uh, therefore available to anyone, not, not, not only Bookshare members, but anyone. So if you go Advanced Search, and then Books to Search, select freely available books. And if you want to, um, include some kind of a category or something, maybe we just want books about animals. And we want children's books. Uh, then we can use the Advanced Search there.

And so all these books that come up are not under copyright protection, which means they can be, uh, opened by anyone, including people who are not Bookshare members. So what I would do then is select one of those books, and select the Read Now button in Bookshare Web Reader to, to read it in Bookshare Web Reader. Or I could download it, um, in any of the formats available here, uh, to, to read it in iBooks or one of the apps, or, um, you know, a reading, uh, some kind of a software tool that reads Bookshare books. Uh, but first for expediency I'll just, uh, select Read Now. And it'll open up the book.

So this is a great way to demonstrate Bookshare to people who aren't members. Uh, or allow other people to play around with Bookshare who aren't members. Uh, they can go in and access, without having to log in, they can open or download any of three freely available books. And, uh, get a sense of what, what it's like to, to use Bookshare.

Alright.

So also the largest was put into the, uh, chat room, the new browse feature. I know this was a great opportunity...

Yeah.

To write, talk about other ways to look for a book and discover, uh...

And we can answer a question while you bring that up here. Uh, one of the questions is, uh, age of our members and age of the content, primarily this, uh, member was asking about, um, you know, we were displaying a lot of high level books, but for general education or early elementary, um, we have great picture books. So if we got to the browse page, one of the options on there should be the Top 100 Picture Books.

Great. And we do have lot of books for younger kids as well. There's, there's a whole section of books for kids here. But I will bring up, um, one that, uh, Nick was referring to, Top 100 Picture Books. And these all have images, and all have, uh, descriptions in them as well. Cool.

And let's see if we can do a little bit a lightning round. There was a series of questions on Web Reader specifically. Um, the Web Reader will remember where the student left off reading, but only locally to the one device that they're on. So as long as you're a student is reopening the book on the same computer, it'll drop the student back where they left off. Otherwise if they are changing devices, then use the, uh, table of contents option to navigate to a different spot. Um, the Web Reader does require that the student always be online while reading.

So if you have a student that does not plan on having Internet connection when reading, uh, we have a couple of other tools that are, that are available for that. Uh, it kind of depends on platform at that point. So I recommend kind of reviewing our, uh, member preferred tool space to find something that, that fits the, uh, platform that you're on. Um, it's yet not possible unfortunately to bookmark with these spots within the Web Reader. It is an option in many of our other reading tools, so again I'm, I'm going to plug our Member Preferred, uh, reading tools option.

Um, but the Web Reader does like I mentioned before, remember where you've left off as long as you are, uh, on the same device. Uh...

So there was a question actually about (word?) , but wanting to remember or, you know, kind of a quick refresher on what, uh, what that is and so on. Uh, so as Nick mentioned these are all sort of kind of by both, uh, the device on which they work, as well as the type of student who might be attracted to these, uh, different applications and reading tools. And, uh, you can get some information here in terms of their price, uh, what kind of platform they work on. The, go here to, it actually says, Capti Narrator, I think they're, they're officially using the term Capti Voice now, which is, uh, but, but this is the app.

So the icon is this blue box with the word Capti in it. So that's an app that's available for on the IOS platform. So iPads, iPhones and iPad touches. And there's also a software version of it or a demo, a desk type version of it, right. So I've, I've gone to that which will be, you can see that now. Uh, Capti Voice.com. And so to the point that was, the question asked earlier about, uh, where, if it remembers where a student left off, the greatest thing about Capti is it does sync between devices.

So if a student, uh, reads, uh, a book, a Bookshare book and Capti on their desktop, and then gets home and, and opens the same book on their iPad, if they're logged in the same way the book should remember where they left off. But lots of great tools to choose from here. And I also have a slide, um, that indicates some of this. I'll bring that back up.

And while she's doing that, and very similarly, uh, some of the active Bookshare reads in, in multiple languages, and also related to the Bookshare has books in other languages. Uh, the answer is yes, we have books in lots and lots of different languages. And, uh, Capti Narrator, uh, Voice Dream Reader, uh, Dolphin Easy Reader, so many of our applications have Text To Speech voices, uh, available for those additional languages. One piece to note those, we don't do translation. So if the book is an English book will always be read in English. Um, if you want a book in Spanish, it has to be already in Spanish and Bookshare.

But you absolutely can download a Spanish book and, and read it with a Spanish voice.

Well, actually and, and Capti now does translation, Capti Voice. Um, they're, they're app, uh, if you select a section of text in Capti it will translate it into a different language. And then you have to have a setup with Spanish voice, but they have that in, in Capti as well. I did want to show in advance, uh, there are, um, many languages to choose from here of Bookshare books. You can see here and obviously the numbers of those books will vary, depending on, um, how many books we've gotten in, in those languages. But yes, we have, you can download books in a lot of different languages.

But as Nick mentioned, you've got to have something on the other end that reads that voice, unless you're really looking for, uh, some comic relief and want to have a, uh, a Spanish language book read in English Text To Speech voice, or, or some other Text To Speech voice, uh, than you, you know, it's probably entertaining, but not, uh, very practical for, for reading.

Christine, could you please, uh, where you are, if you would get on straight with the, um, that same investor. Should I just do, or even through the quick search up at the top. Maybe just do a Harry Potter for example. Because we also, we've improved the search results so that we have the reassignment options that you can filter it further on the left side of the, of the screen.

Yep.

So you can see the Harry Potter's list that showed up there, and the languages. If, if Christine clicks on the languages filtered there on the left, um, perhaps you have a Bookshare student who's, uh, first language is Spanish. Uh, you could download both an English version and a Spanish version for them, to be able to go back and forth, um, more comfortably. Um, that's just an example of where, um, that's just an example of where, um, the improved, uh, refined, search refinement has gone. Similarly, if you did a, another, uh, search for mathematics or something excited like geometry, um, you might be able, you'll also start to see some different categories and, and we adapt this.

It's fabulous. But we're hoping that these quick search refinements are more like other, uh, search tools that we've all become accustom to. And that you'll be able to discover more books that way.

Great. I'm going to go, I've selected, uh, I did a search for geometry, and I'm just going to try to refine it now by, uh, just textbooks. Uh, and then I can refine my other things if I need to, like, um, author, um, I can pick a different category.

So, uh, hopefully you know, a little bit more about what, what textbooks you're looking for. Such as an ICM, a name and an author, but, um, if we come to, if we scroll down this, this page a little bit, um, you could do a selection such as history, and choose textbook as the category. Uh, you'll be able to see all the textbooks that we already have that are categorized as being history. Like all the history alive, which should be available to NIMAC, from the NIMAC to IEP students.

Okay. So in the Advanced Search I entered History and the title, and then selected the check, or the category Textbooks. So this should bring up all history textbooks. It's probably going to be a fairly large

Even by grade levels. Like 7th grade history.

Yeah, but if we go back, let me go back and do that. Um, but yeah, I was going to recommend when you're searching for a textbook we suggest you start with the, the ISBN because that will always be the exact book that you're looking for. But many times we'll have a textbook that is, you know, maybe one year later, or one year earlier than the edition that you're looking for. So then, then I would suggest you look, uh, search by, uh, title or publisher or other, uh, means to be able to come up with, uh, some alternatives if we don't have the exact book that you're looking for.

But yeah, let's sit, let's go ahead and select, uh, 5th grade, or 6th grade history textbooks. I don't know, if there's such a thing, but oh yes, okay. So here are some textbooks that are designed for 6th grade. There are a 133 of them. Uh, I probably could further refine here by, uh, certainly by just, just in English and maybe I want to sort by the copyright date. I want a really recent textbook. Uh, so there are lots of different ways to search. And if, uh, if you find that you've searched and searched and can't find a comparable book, uh, in Bookshare then there is a way, when you're logged in to be able to let us know that you, uh, that there's a book that, that you can't find in the collection.

And we'll do our very best to get in a collection for you. Uh, and the way that you would do that is to... I'm going to the Help Center. So if I've searched and searched and can't find a book, there's a link here that says, request a book. You have to be logged in, uh, and then there's a form that you can complete, provide us the information. And, uh, anything that you can tell us about it, and we'll do our best to find it. And we'll communicate with you about what we can and can't do regarding that book. Great. Other questions we should be answering?

Alright. There are a couple, uh, HE specific ones. Uh, somebody mentioned, uh, working with our BRF files and transfer them a Braille reading equipment. Um, transfer the file to a USB drive to transfer to the, the device is perfectly fine. Um, using Bookshare books with the Braille notes. Uh, the notes here indicated something about also using an iPad, um, so I'm assuming this is actually like a Braille display device. Uh, as long as voiceover is enabled, uh, you should have access to the Bookshare text with the Braille device. Um, but do make sure if you're using for instance Read2Go, that the Read2Go audio is disabled, that way, uh, voiceover has access to the raw text.

And if you are using a Braille note itself, an actual, uh, Braille note device you can load our books directly on the device, and it'll do the Braille translation, um, or you can open our BRF files. Or you, you don't have to worry about that.

Uh, and then a question that I did want to bring up. I didn't want to, uh, add any specifics 'cause of the, of privacy of course. Uh, but the question that I get a lot from my team is how do teachers gain access to Bookshare books? Um, due to the copyright restrictions that we have, only the qualified students have access to Bookshare books. And we're only funded for our U.S. students. Now if the teacher is qualified for Bookshare, the teacher as a qualifying print disability, they absolutely can sign up. They have to sign up for a standalone individual membership. Uh, and it is a description chart to that point.

It's a very, uh, in the sense that it's $50 per year for unlimited access. It's a great option. Um, but it is, it does have to be a separate account. Bookshare teachers on the organization account, uh, don't have a, uh, a way of gaining access to our books. 'Cause it's unfortunately it's built that way, uh, intentionally.

But maybe I could give a plug to, at least to 5 states, 5 state bill that has, um, some of the national, uh, library services, uh, in California, Pennsylvania, Georgia, New York. New York. Um... Maybe it's a search for it right now. Uh, Pennsylvania. Um, if you are a patron of those libraries, uh, in those states the, um, subscription may be waived for you. That's, that membership fee may be waived for you. So, um, due take a look, um, on our, on our blogs, because we've been posting about that recently.

Right. So that's for adults. Uh, adults who are not, so people who have a qualifying disability, uh, to access Bookshare but are not students can either pay for a membership or if they live in one of the states that, uh, Ginny just mentioned, they can contact their local library to get a free Bookshare membership.

And I just saw my favorite question of all time. Um, somebody noted that the default voice on (word?) is German. Um...

Yah.

Yah. (laugh)

Of course, you've read them all.

There's a, there's a better joke in here somewhere. But, uh, what's important is this is unfortunately a weird bug with Chrome on that. Uh, what I recommend doing is a couple of things. Uh, first try, uh, going to the Bookshare Help Center and actually searching in there for German. We have a help article there, uh, where you can, uh, find a link that'll install a new voice. And depending on the setup, the new voice will either automatically takeover, so you're not hearing the German voice. Um, or you might have to go to the settings within the Web Reader to pick the new English voice up from the list.

Uh, there's a possibility that you still have the, uh, old Bookshare Web Reader extension installed. Uh, this was an extension that we used to use for many years. But actually is no longer needed. And in fact, is not bugged to the point where it actually half breaks the Web Reader on the vast majority of devices. Uh, so all, if this doesn't fix it, or for instance if you open the settings window and you don't find a voice selector, go into the Chrome settings to your extensions and delete that Web Reader extension. And then try it again. So I guarantee that will work.

Well, of course, if it doesn't work, call my team. (laugh)

Hey, right. Um, quickly I, I think many of you coming from, uh, or part of a school or organization that there's some next steps, uh, can circle back here with. So if you don't already have a Bookshare account, please, uh, sign up for one. Uh, or you can get yourself added to an existing one. If you want to ask around at your school to see if anyone has already started a Bookshare account that you can added onto. Add your qualified students and add other teachers as well. If you'd like to have other teachers involved in, in, uh, using Bookshare you can add them as what we call sponsors.

Uh, assigned books by creating and sharing reading lists. And then show students how to log in and read. And I want to also bring to your attention, we have lots of sort of do it yourself help available on our, uh, website. And I actually want to take you really quickly to, uh, the Bookshare website to the Help Center that has a lot of great information. Can you guys already see the Help Center? Okay. So under Training and Resources two particular pages I want to bring your attention. This first one, Brochures and How-To Guides. This has many step-by-step guides with detailed instructions and screenshot, for many of the functions that you'll need to, to do in Bookshare.

Or, um, ways to read on different types of applications or devices. So checkout that list. And we're always updating it. So if you, uh, don't see it today, it might be there next week, something that you need. And also if there's something specific that you think would really be helpful let us know and we'll, we'll create a guide like this for that. The other page that I want to bring to your attention is the Video Tutorials page, because, uh, there are some videos here that show the step-by-step, uh, process for many of the, uh, functions in Bookshare. Like adding members, and opening books in Bookshare Web Reader.

Uh, how to setup a student log in, etc., etc. So I want to encourage you to take advantage of the many videos here. Uh, and you'll find those all in the, in the Help Center under Training and Resources. The answers with everyone.

Um, there was a question about, um, how, how and when do you choose the ePub option for downloading to, um, iBooks? So, uh, there's two ways that I would get that started. Is one, if you know that the student is going to be using an iPad, set them up with their member, the preferences for that download format immediately. Because then every time that they go to download it's one less prep for them to have to do.

You know, I can share that, or you can show that. Go ahead and...

And so if it, so then when either, when that student goes to download or the teacher helps them download, um, the ePub would be the option for downloading as the format. And that's what Laura showed earlier in the recording, uh, to have a book like it's made available to open in iBooks. Or potentially another reading tool that supports ePub.

Right. So to Ginny's point, I, I've logged in here as, uh, the teacher on my demonstration account again, my organization account. And if I want, if I know a student is going to almost always read, uh, on the iPad in iBooks, or a Mac computer on iBooks, or some other application or an app that, uh, that requires the ePub format I can set it so that that's the default. So I've selected the student by clicking the little pencil next to their name. Then I go to Reading Preferences, and here I'm just going to select ePub on the dropdown. So there's a dropdown that has Daisy with images, then Daisy text only.

Audio, Braille ready format and ePub. So I'm selecting ePub, and I'm going to save that preference, so that when that student logs in and they, on Safari for example on the iPad and goes to download their books, uh, they won't even have to worry about picking the format. Because ePub will be the default.

And since you're here, we did have one other question about assigned a textbook to a reading list that, uh, maybe for some reason the student wasn't actually finding. Do me a favor and go to your reading lists really quick. There's a couple of pieces of check, if you were trying to go correctly to a reading list but the student doesn't have access to the book still, um, click into one of your reading lists here, and make sure a couple of things. On the assigned members roster on reading list, that the student's name appears on it. And then right at the top it'll say, status here. This is public.

And this, actually this is a, this one of our internal lists. And this is one actually public for the world to see. But you want to make sure that a reading list that you've created is one that is sharing with your organization or sharing with the members on it.

Right.

Uh, if it's set to private your students won't find it. But if you have some weird behavior with reading lists, please don't hesitate, these can be a little bit weird at first. So, uh, call my team and we can look at it from our side and see if there's, uh, some weird setting somewhere.

Yeah, that's a great point Nick. Uh, with reading lists there are several different steps involved. So, um, there's settings, there's choosing the, the reading lists. And you can, um, subscribe to lists are provided publically. You know, that Bookshare is pushing out and making available. Or you can create your own lists. Um, and so then that list has to be itself shared with your whole organization. And so you'll see here the status of this reading list is public. And then you share it with your students, uh, specific students. So under the reading list there's a tab that says, assign members.

And that's how I can tell which of my students have access to that list. Great. Alright, there's probably a lot more we could go through, but we're out of time. And I appreciate everybody, uh, joining us today. We will definitely have more webinars planned in the future. So we'll get the word about those. And thank you very much for joining us today. We're so happy that you could take some time and learn more about Bookshare. And have a wonderful school year. Thanks everyone.