# Bookshare: Basics to Updates

## KAREN BEARD

We want to welcome you all to our webinar. Um, we, we had planned this to be a back to school webinar, and Harvey decided to upset that and, and kind of decimate several of our regions. So we decided to, uh, delay it a little bit, and, and get it with a different title. For those of you who are new to Bookshare we think that this will give you a good overview of what Bookshare is about. And for those of you who have used Bookshare or are using Bookshare, it will let you know some of the new features that we're very, very proud of, uh, 'cause those have an emphasis on making, uh, Bookshare less time consuming and easier, both for staff and for students and for parents.

Uh, I will remind that we are being recorded right now. Uh, so we're going to go to our next slide and talking about our ABT Outreach Coordinators. Um, we are very fortunate that we operate under a grant from TEA, so that we have three training that are boots on the ground. Collectively, uh, the three of us have over 75 years of experience with working with students who have barriers to reading, and helping them decide solutions. That includes we've been Special Ed teachers, dyslexia, teachers educational diagnosticians. Been involved with instructional technology, assisted technology. Just kind of all the way down the line.

So we bring, we do believe that we bring quite a bit of experience to be able to, to talk with people and understand their needs. We're going to start with Miss Jeanie Bell. Jeanie, I'll hand it over to you.

## JEANIE BELL

Hi. I am Jeanie Bell. And I cover ESP Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 19. That means I have the Gulf Coast in Texas and El Paso. So any of you there that need my help I am your Outreach Coordinator.

## KAREN BEARD

And to Matt.

## Matt Hattoon

Yeah, hi. My name is Matt Hattoon. I'm the Outreach Coordinator, uh, covering Regions 6, 12, 13, 15, 18 and 20. Uh, which is more or less the middle of the great state of Texas from, uh, roughly just North of Houston, all the West in New Mexico. So if I can be of any assistance, please let me know.

## KAREN BEARD

Thank you Matt. And I am Karen Beard. Um, my Regions are 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, and 17. So it's basically kind of, oh North Texas from East to West as far as Lubbock and back up into the Panhandle. Please do note our, our e-mail address is there so that you can, um, um, communicate with us. Our phone numbers are there also, but quite frankly we are often doing this kind of thing or onsite training, and, um, e-mail is certainly the better way to reach us. And I will apologize for my froggy voice. Um, I seem to have come home from Austin last week with some kind of thing that is, it's going around, so I've got it.

And I'm getting better. But, uh, this is what we have for, for right now. We're going to start off by just telling you some things about Bookshare. And this may be a review for some of you. Bookshare is the world's largest online library of eBooks for people who need to read differently. Members read in ways that work for them in Bookshare. Because we're able to offer a variety of different formats, uh, for that reading experience. People can listen to books that are read aloud to them, if they only need audio. They can also follow along with that audio, the speech, the text to speech with highlighted text and actually see the words.

And you can see an example of that, um, on the left hand, oh, uh, side of the slide. Or they can also only read in large type, if that's what they need, if they don't need the audio. Perhaps they're low vision, or they need a different contrast of background and, and text color to make it more readable for them. We can also download and/or change the format of all of our looks to Braille so that they can be read through assisted technology devices, such as refreshable Braille devices. So pretty well any specialized format that someone who reads differently with that kind of print disability needs, uh, their Bookshare, all Bookshare books are available in that format.

Uh, by learning how to change the format that's appropriate for them. We are very pleased to say that we have over a half of million titles in our library, currently 575,000 plus. We try to add around 5,000 titles a month. And with the help of some publishers who have really come onboard, and a fabulous team in Palo Alto who works with copying some of those books that are needed, uh, we, we keep to that 5,000 quite easily. Our library does include textbooks. Um, and that includes the textbooks that your students, that the students in Texas need, as well of course, as textbooks for many other states also.

Um, we get those directly through NIMAC, which is something we're not going to talk about now. But they are duplicate copies of textbooks. And for some, some people we also have those in a text only format. The literature books that your students have for assigned reading, starting usually I think probably in about 3rd grade on up to 12th grade, with usually some Shakespeare and some other things, they are certainly in our library. Uh, so the students have access to them to be able to get the comprehension, get the content, even if they can't decode those words as they should be able to, because they do have, they do read differently.

Tens of thousands of tens of thousands of books for leisure reading for all ages. Um, and one of our big goals is, you know, we, we, as well as y'all work with a population who hates to read generally because they're not very good at it. And that makes them feels pretty bad about having to read. But, uh, one of our goals through offering, uh, the, the audio visual aspects of Bookshare books is that we've seen so many kids learn to become readers, and to be able to get more information from books, travel other places through books. And be able to talk about those same books that their friends are all reading at the lunch table or at soccer or at church, or wherever they are.

We also have an extensive collection of periodicals which includes newspapers and magazines that are updated, um, I want to say daily, but I'm not real sure that that's true. But there is an archive of those also that students can use when they need to start doing some research and can't read those things either. Through a grant from, uh, U.S. Department of Education all memberships in Bookshare are free for qualifying students in the United States. That free membership continues through college, and in fact continues through their lifetime if someone goes back to school and becomes a student. Once they become a student there's a small fee for that.

But our, our association with the Department of Education allows for our free membership. As I mentioned earlier we are truly blessed that Texas and it is the only state in the nation so far that education agency does a grant to us from TEA, and that allows us to do, the three of us, Matt, Jeanie and, uh, and Matt, Jeanie and myself and an administrative assistant also in Texas to do outreach at conferences, conventions, workshops, and do boots on the ground, come to you, train you, and also do remote trainings also. So that tells us that TEA wants the word to get out.

We also now have many free or low cost and quite commonly available reading options through computers, through tablets, through phones, and any kind of mobile device. Uh, that used to be fairly limited and they used to have to be purchased primarily. But now there are many free apps and software and, and browse with your options that are available for anyone to use, without absolutely no cost. Bookshare is free to U.S. students. Our training is free, uh, for U.S. students who qualify. Our training is free, and now there are free, uh, reading tools for students also. Pretty much a win-win.

So who qualifies for Bookshare? Um, our qualifications are based on an exception to copyright law called the Chafee Amendment. And all that really means is that a person who has a barrier to reading and/or processing printed text qualifies for Bookshare and can be certified as such by what we call, what is called a Competent Authority. And you can see examples of those comps and authorities down at the bottom. Although that's certainly not an exhaustive list of people. Basically it's someone who knows the student and knows about print disabilities and reading disabilities can certify that the student, um, is one who qualifies for Bookshare.

Generally that includes the populations with a learning disability that affects reading, such as dyslexia. Uh, that learning disabilities and special Ed would also be that, that basic reading skills kind of area. Students with, uh, visual impairments, low vision or blindness. And students who have a physical disability that affects reading, such as they can't navigate or manipulate a book, turn pages, hold the book, etc. If they can't do that, that that is certainly a barrier to being able to access standard text. Um, there are exceptions to this as well. And for those, those are the things that we talk about as we train people further in how to setup and implement Bookshare.

We're going to go next into, oh, and one more thing. Uh, there is some misconceptions sometimes, but a medical diagnosis is not needed for this. If there is documentation that this person by a Competent Authority, this person has a, um, a reading printed text barrier, then they qualify for Bookshare. I want to just very quickly show you how it's kind of all setup. Because I, I think this will be familiar to some of you. Uh, because we are talking primarily to a school population. School districts or schools have the option of creating an organizational account.

And I can almost assure you that everyone out there right now has an organizational account for your school or your school district, even if it hasn't been used in several years. On those accounts a teacher is a sponsor, and students are members, and teachers put in the student names as members providing their proof disability as they do so. And they are the Competent Authority that does that. Sponsors are then able to add students, and maintain that roster. One of our new features, it's about a year and a-half old, but it's, some people still don't know about it quite yet. Is that now that teacher can assign a student log in, a user name, and a password for the student.

And then any books that the teacher makes available for her students, his or her students on a reading list by prescribing to a reading list, copying a current reading list, or creating their own, all of the students have access to every book on those reading lists that they associate them to. And Jeanie is going to be telling us more about that in just a few minutes. The student can then log in with that teacher created user name and password, and access any of the books on those reading lists. They can open them in Bookshare Web Reader on a computer by selecting Read Now. And again these are things that Jeanie is going to be demonstrating for us.

And they can also read those books on mobile devices by searching for those same books through an app that they may choose to use. And we do have examples of apps that work better for our students. And, um, Matt will be going over some of those in a few minutes. So at some point in that process we hope that students will get an individual membership through their organizational membership. Because that allows the student, whoops, that allows the student to then log in with their own user name and password, it's an e-mail address.

And they cannot only still read all of the books that they could with their student log in user name, but they can also search for their own books of their choice, and then get into books that are not on the reading, reading lists from the teacher, things that they want to read that are not on those reading lists, their hobbies, things of other interests. And we think that that's a really cool thing to get kids to be able to do. That does require parent permission, and that's part of our training that we work with people on also. We do want to just kind of give a plug for our website.

It's accessiblebooks4tx.org. That's Accessible Books for Texas program that we receive through our, our TEA grant, we're able to do that. This is an excellent place for if you do lose our, our, our, um, e-mail address you can go onto that, um, website. Be sure to bookmark it please. And contact through Outreach Coordinator for your region. You can also subscribe to and copy additional reading lists that again, Jeanie will be showing us in a just, just a few minutes. Um, there's a link to success stories that you can look at yourself, you can share also with your, um, school staff.

You can share it with parents and students that give a lot of information about the impact that Bookshare can have. And also under Resources we're, we're finding all across the state, and in every area in every socioeconomic school district area that students not having Wi-Fi and Internet services at home is a problem, um, for, for many people. And we do have a, a list there of where people can go to work on their tablets to get books downloaded, so they'll have it at home. And where they might be able to get some, uh, other low cost Internet services within their community.

Under in espanol also the information and under there, uh, videos, forums, and information about Bookshare is in Spanish for those in your population that need that. So I guess everybody can, Jeanie to you.

## JEANIE BELL

We are there on the website, Bookshare.org. I am using Google Chrome, so that when I log in as a student I will be able to hear the book being read. I am, I'm going to begin with telling you just a little bit about Bookshare.org. The sign up today is, of course, where you would sign up your organization, if you don't already have that account. Or you can also sign up any important individual account. My Bookshare is always your place to go when you have logged in. The Help Center has quite a bit of information on training and resources, what's new with Bookshare, and also requesting a book. I am going to begin with the teacher experience.

So I'm going to log in as a teacher. And we are going to talk about what it looks like when a teacher logs in, and what she is able to do with My Bookshare. Am I now logged in as a teacher. And it say, Welcome Jeanie Bell, which is always a good sign. That means your log in worked. View Special Collections is the first thing you see underneath the log in. And we are especially proud of our new Special Collections that can be subscribed to or copied. And I went immediately to that, and I'm showing you this. I love the fiction for reluctant readers.

We've already gone down and I'm sure found our favorite ones. Collections For Kids, the Top 100 Picture Books, Picture Books and Easy Readers. Some of my dyslexia teachers have told me they use the leveled readers. To subscribe to one of these you simply hold over the, the Internet look and you see the word Subscribe, you push Subscribe. And you have subscribed to whichever one you chose. Beyond that My Bookshare is always your home site. And we are going to talk about managing your student roster, assigning books to students. And the other thing that we won't spend much time on today is this is also where you can add other teachers or resource specialists, they're called sponsors.

And they can also once they're added assign books to students, let students in. And help with the entire process. So let's look at managed student roster. And my Internet is working a bit slow today. When you go into your student rosters you can look at, some of you have different districts, that's not always a filter you would want to use. Some have different schools. But you can filter by grade level. There are many ways to filter. I actually have two different schools, and so I will filter just so you can see when you filter by that you get just the students at the school. And that's helpful for those districts who choose to use different schools within one organization.

To add a member you just push the Add A Member button, and there's one at the top of the screen and at the bottom. You put in a name. And I will just today's date. Well, actually I'm using tomorrow's it looks like. And that would be maybe 4th grade. You add a user name and password. Often this happens to be the student number that the student memorizes anyway. I'm going to use the same here, just because I am working quickly. Your quick list means that you will be able to filter by that also. And my school is Imagine, and I believe we will be putting the student in Imagine.

To the left you see Disability. We are going to say that this student has a learning disability. Your student must have a disability in order to access Bookshare, a print disability. It could be visual learning or physical. Karen went over the qualifications for those. And we are going to say that this user has an IP. It's important to check the box if they have an IP, or they are 504 qualified. IEP actually means access to NIMAC files. Reading preferences, you do not usually need to change. This can be changed at any time. But usually we can use the default.

Just showing you what it has there. And, of course, those can be changed for various books too. As soon as you add the member, you can add that member to reading lists that you've already created. You can create a new reading list. Or you can just say, not now, I'm just adding members. We're going to try to add this student to reading lists that have been created. And immediately the reading list that I have subscribed to come up. Many of these are from the Special Collections. And as a 3rd grader, let's see. Let's try Flat Stanley, which is K through 5. And we want to add this student, assign this student to the Flat Stanley.

We have assigned at last to one reading list. And when I go to my reading lists, and I have the list of reading lists that I have, I can go into that reading list and I am looking for Flat Stanley. There we go. And see that I have assigned one member. So at last it's assigned, and there are 19 chattels in the Flat Stanley series. I can also just create a new reading list. And you can do that from the top or the bottom. When you create a new reading list you give it a name. You can put a description in. You want to share this usually with your organization, so that other teachers can also use those assigned books for other students in the same grade level.

You may choose member or owner and assign members only. If you want to just assign certain students to it, and you do not want to share it with the rest of your organization. Private would mean that you would be the only one that could see it. And maybe you might want to do that with the summer reading lists. So I'm going to save that reading list. I want to look for a book that I want to assign to that reading list. I think I've been working with 5th grade teachers who are reading Wonder. I've seemed to be asked for that book quite a bit lately. And there's the book. And I want to add this to a reading list.

And you have the Add New there, or you can do this in a different way. And go through your reading list. Let me go back to My Bookshare. And go to your reading list. And I just created... They assigned 5th grade I believe, the book. And I want to add a book. So from there again I can do the search that way. Go in, same books come up, but it is this Wonder that I'm looking for. And I want to save that close it. So now I have one title there that I have not assigned members to this list. I want to assign some of the members. I will simply look for those students that are in that grade level. And I'm adding them to that list.

So we went through and looked at reading lists. We browsed and looked for books. We've talked about members and adding a member. And we've also talked about sponsors, which would be the way that you add other teachers, a quite easy process. So that they are also able to add students, or make reading lists. Often we have librarians that want to be added, and we simple make reading lists, because as we all know, the librarians are the ones who know what kids enjoy. And Karen mentioned reading for pleasure. And that's something we are really focusing on this year.

The textbooks are there, or we get the textbooks. But we want our students to be able to learn to read for pleasure too. In the Help Center there are many resources. And one of those is Request A Book. So you need a textbook, and you can't find it. You can fill out a request form for this by using the title ISBN is good if you have that. If you have the title, try to get the exact title. The author is a publisher and any additional comments that might help us, including that it's for Texas students and is required. So I believe I showed you the Browse Section, which is where the popular books were.

Don't forget that when you're signed in as a teacher you can subscribe or copy. Subscribe means that you subscribed to the list as is. If you copy the list, of course, you could make changes. The interesting thing about that is you can go to the bottom for a site search. Or you can open another tab and go to Accessible Books for Texas. And we've also created reading lists that we know are used in Texas. And we did this using the Texas Education Agency funding. And that is why it is in the website for Accessible Books for Texas. The Lone Star Books is a list. The Lone Star list is for those kids in middle school.

So Blue Bonnet Award Nominations are there. And I understand we have some new ones now. Starting are clues, Captain Awesome, Diary of a Wimpy Kid. Any of these it's the same process. Diary of a Wimpy Kid, you can subscribe to it, and then assign students to it. So you are now subscribed, and there are 11 titles. And you immediately have access to assign students to 11 titles. One of the things that teachers have told us, is they are extremely busy and don't always have time to create those reading lists. And this allows them to do that. I'm going to log out as a teacher now. And I want to spend some time logging in as a student.

And letting you experience our free Web Reader. I am going to actually log in as a student with an organizational membership. Which means that Baley can only read the books that have been assigned to him for, by another teacher. The reason I wanted to do that is because I wanted to show you that on the right, it does say Welcome Baley Dog, you see that. But the upgrade to an individual membership is extremely important. The sign up page is here. And with a parent or guardian or if the student is 18, they can fill this information out digitally, accept the complete terms and conditions. And those are listed above.

It's only for use by the person with the print disability. Not to be shared with other people, and there are consequences for copyright violations. So acknowledge that you are the parent or a legal guardian, put your name in. And this account is created immediately digitally. And from then on the parent or student will be able to look for books themselves. And also read the assigned books, the books that have been assigned that that gives them the freedom to look for books themselves. My Bookshare again is your home page. And Baley can look at assigned books, the recent books, or learn how to read books on a computer, if he's not sure how to do that.

When he looks at his books, and there is a list, by pushing the Read Now button the book will load. And it has loaded with (WORD?) lines, which is a great way to help with tracking. Well, I think that the brain recognizes color before it recognizes the printed word. And start going from line to line, the student is able to follow the color to reach the next line. Which when printed smaller, so none of that is difficult to do.

[AUDIO CLIP]

So just to draw your attention to the fact that it is highlighted the exact words being said. Which means the student can hear it, they see the word, choosing the synchronized voice and that helps with word recognition. And it's something that can only be done using that computer voice. We also have choices to, usually we have choices. There we go. I thought I got it etched out on it. We can change that background. I'm going to do the white on black, the font size. I worked with a tool this morning where the student may need larger print. So open dyslexic spot was there. And, of course, this spot may be useful for some students including those with vision problems, since it's a bit thicker.

We can slow down the voice if we need to, or speed it up. I'm going to go to Scrolling. Sometimes a single or facing pages is good when there are pictures. You hear the voice of Microsoft David. We also have the choice of Zira or the Chrome female. And I'm going to change the voice just so that you can get a look at that.

[AUDIO CLIP]

If you wish to go to a page number, you can do that here. And teachers often go back, or a student may want to go back and read back over something that was done in class, or it could be used for pre-reading. So you can go back through page numbers. If it's a textbook you might be doing chapters. And the teacher can assign certain pages or certain chapters. But basically you have choices as to where you are. That covers Web Reader. And again, the student logs on using the information that the teacher gave him. His user name and password, often a school identification number is what the student needs to learn. The password does have to have 8 characters.

But you will be prompted if you did not do the correct amount of characters when you assigned it. Bookshare is always back to home page. And we are back to where Baley is. We talked about upgrading to an individual membership. We looked at recent books. And, of course, if he goes to Assigned Books, the amount of reading lists that Baley has been assigned will come up. I do have readers in, and so those of you who do not have Windows 10 may not have the same voices that I had. It does vary.

## KAREN BEARD

It's determined by your own voice system on your computer.

## JEANIE BELL

Yes.

## MATT HATTOON

Okay. Can y'all see my iPad screen?

## JEANIE BELL

We can and it's perfect.

## MATT HATTOON

Beautiful, okay.

## KAREN BEARD

Uh, and Donna, Donna raise your hand. Oh good. I just said, Donna raise your hand. So everyone is good.

## MATT HATTOON

Okay. I will get going with it then. Uh, I want to talk to y'all about, uh, Bookshare on mobile devices, particularly IOS devices. Which are, uh, Apple iPads, uh, Apple Smartphones. I know that a number of our districts are using IOS devices. And we have just gained the ability in the last few months to be able to download any of our 575 plus thousand titles of ePubs and open them in iBooks. And the reason why this is really, really cool is by using iBooks on your iPad, you don't need to download a third party, uh, app at all. You can just use iBooks, which, uh, comes built into the iPads and the Smartphones. Now I'm logged in right now as a student.

Um, before I get into this I want to apologize for my connectivity speed. Uh, it seems like I'm having quite a bit of a lag between my iPad and what I want to do with it. And if it acts up, well, what I'm going to do is I will just take you to the website, and I'll walk you through it anyway. But right now I'm logged in as a student. Uh, Jack is a student. And what I'm attempting to do is I'm attempting to, uh, scroll down to Jack's reading lists. Well, guys, I'll tell you what, for some reason this just is not happening today. So I was prepared for this eventuality. And I'm going to go to my desktop. Can y'all see my desktop?

Karen, can you see my desktop?

## KAREN BEARD

Yes.

## MATT HATTOON

Yeah. Okay, thanks Jeanie. Okay. Well, on your iPad, uh, the beauty of using iBooks with the iPad is it gives you the text-to-speech, it gives you the synchronized highlighted text. And the way it works is the student would log into Bookshare on their iPad. They would go down to their reading lists. They would find the book that they want to read. They would go over to the download pane, select ePub, and download it. Once the book has been downloaded in ePub format, you will be given the option to open in iBooks. And by opening in iBooks, again, it gives the student the synchronized, um, highlighted text. It gives them text-to-speech.

It allows the student the opportunity to manipulate the font size, uh, to manipulate the contrast color. And then by going into the iPad setting itself, this is where, uh, and you want to do this before the student starts reading. And this is with any app on the iPad. What you want to do is you want to go through, and you want to adjust the settings so it will read to you. And the way you do that if you go to the Settings pane, you click on General. And then click on Accessibility. And with the Accessibility settings open, you'll select Speech. And in the Speech settings you would make sure that Speak Selection is turned on.

That Speak Screen is turned on. That Highlight Content is turned on. Here on the Voices is where you can go through and you can select, Apple gives you I believe a choice of 10 different voices, including Siri, you could have Siri read your books to you if you wanted to. Uh, you can adjust the speaking rate down here. You can adjust pronunciations. But within iBooks itself you also will be given the opportunity, um, here on the tool bar, to adjust the rate of speech as well. So this is iBooks, and again like I said, it's completely free. And the thing that's neat about this too, is once the book has been downloaded as an ePub, uh, the student no longer needs to be connected to Internet to read it.

Um, so if you have kids that maybe have IOS devices at home, over the weekend or something like that, but don't have Wi-Fi. So as long as they have downloaded the book, um, they don't need to be connected. Now what I'd like to do right now is, I'm going to go to the Bookshare website itself. And I'd like to talk about, uh, a couple of the other reading options we have. I'm going to go here to the Help Center. There are, as Karen said earlier, a number of different ways to read Bookshare books. And what's really neat is a bunch of 'em are free now. There were still some paid apps out there, and very big ones.

But there also are some very, very good free options. Um, one of them that's a new one, I've just been playing with it over the last month or so. Is Dolphin EasyReader. Uh, their free version is very robust. It gives you a good choice, uh, a good selection of voices. Uh, it gives you a pretty good degree of, um, thought manipulation, being able to go through and set it up the way you want it. And the way they were monetized is they will try to sell you some text-to-speech voices, uh, in the app. Another one with that is Speech Central. Synchronized text-to-speech with word highlighting. Uh, this again, uh, is relatively new on the scene.

Um, a, uh, and it does a great job. Capti Narrator. Capti has, their free version is very robust. They have a premium version available. But they would like to sell you, uh, via subscription. But Capti does a great job and with the premium version it also will display images, which is neat. And then, of course, uh, last but not least by any means is Voice Dream Reader. And Voice Dream is not an expense app. It's $14.99, but Voice Dream, uh, is, our customer service manager likes to refer to it as pretty much the gold standard for screen readers. Voice Dream does a lot of really amazing things.

Now for those of you with Android tablets. Uh, we haven't forgotten about you or Android phones. We had Go Read, which is free, which also displays images. And also works with Bookshare reading lists, which is very cool. Uh, Voice Dream Reader also has a version for Android devices. And then the Darwin Reader which also works on Android devices. Now I accessed this page by going to the Help Center. So while I'm here at the Help Center, oh also, besides that. I'm sorry. But besides mobile devices, uh, we also have a page here for computer reading tools. And for assisted technology devices. Bookshare works with all of them.

But as I said I accessed this page by going through the Help Center. While I'm here I also want to show you what is available in the Help Center. First off if you click the little radio button next to Help Center, and go down to Training and Resources, and then go down here at click on Brochures and How To Guides. Ladies and gentlemen, you will find information on many, many questions you might have about Bookshare. Um, our general fliers, many ways to read our Bookshare books. It talks about different devices that you can use to access Bookshare titles.

Uh, for those of you that are working with a large number of students, we have the printable Bookshare student log is for them. Where you can keep track of the students, user name and password, and the students can keep track of their user name and password. And we also have How To Guides. Uh, Getting Started with Bookshare, which we'll walk you through the basics of the program. How to setup an organizational account. How to add students. How to assign books to the kids. Um, the Quick Start Guide. How to add sponsors and members. And as you may or may not know sponsors are teachers, members are students in a school setting.

Uh, how to create student logins. How to add individual memberships to students with accounts. Uh, we had a question in the chat room a little bit earlier about how to do this again, and how to, uh, steer parents to this. This will give you information on that. Information on organizing your member rosters. How to use reading lists to assign books. Uh, a Quick Start Guide for Students on how to read Bookshare books. And then for students that are all transitioning. Post-secondary preparation checklists. And then for all users, just general information about Bookshare. Now some other things you'll find in the Help Center as well, if you just click on the words Help Center, you'll have the opportunity to search the Help Center.

Let's say, um, oh I wanted to learn more about ePubs. I'd just type in, well I'll try this again. I'd type in ePub. Go down and click Search. You'll find information here on iBooks, book formats of the books available. Over here it'll give you more information on ePubs, on iBooks. And then finally down at the very bottom if you go down and click on Site Search. This will give you the opportunity to search the entire Bookshare website. Uh, I'm going to search for iPads. Let's see what comes up. Yep, down here on Member Preferred Tools, they have the information here about iPads.

And I search for eBooks, more information here. So there you have it. Uh, again, I apologize for the, uh, failed demo of the iPad. That's technology for you sometimes. But I hope it gave you an idea. Again, you can get more information about anything that I talked about on the Bookshare website itself. And make sure that you use that Help Center. The Help Center is your friend. It'll give you a whole lot of information.

## KAREN BEARD

And, um, if you, if someone is using an Android product which is anything that is an Apple, that is not an Apple, we are, uh, within the last 6 months or so we've really done a big upgrade on our, uh, Go Read free app for that. Um, it was a little glitchy earlier. And we, they did quite a bit of work on it, and it's working very, very well. Uh, another aside about Voice Dream Reader and he, Matt did mention the gold standard. We do recommend that if you, um, do Voice Dream Reader, it's $14.99, and that may be, this may be information for a parent. Um, for another $4.99 you can get what's called the Voice Pack. And that is two very high quality voices Sharon and James.

So that's $19.98 for one penny more, you can get the Voice Dream Suite, which includes both of those things, and Voice Dream Writer. And we all know that if our students can't read, and our students can't spell, they can't write either. And it's an excellent editing tool. So let's go further on our next step.

## JEANIE BELL

Let me, let me add to the Android, because I work so much with Androids.

## KAREN BEARD

Sure.

## JEANIE BELL

I worked with one this morning. And that is you can also access reading lists now on the Androids. So if you're using the Go Read app, you can actually see the entire reading list, instead of adding the books one at a time. So that was important to update. And it does work very well.

## KAREN BEARD

And that is so far the only app that that is present in. So we, we look forward for others being able to do that in other apps in the future. But we don't have a lot of control over that. Although we partner with them. Uh, yeah, thank you Jeanie. That's a big plus for that, for that Android Go Read app. That they can see their reading lists, they don't have to research for the, the, the books on their, uh, mobile device. So what is the next step for you guys? I know that on a phone there are a lot of people who already have an organizational account, um, and are using it.

There are quite a few and many who will look at this later, who, um, have an organizational account, but have not used it in a while. And there may be some who do not have one. The best bet is to contact one of us Matt, Jeanie or I, and we can tell you, uh, what exists in your district currently. And perhaps help put you together with someone that can, um, assist you on getting on as a sponsor into an existing organizational membership, um, or, or, or kind of, uh, revisiting one that needs to be brought up to date again. Um, from there you add qualified students, as we discussed before, as a Competent Authority.

Jeanie went over all of the reading lists things that you can do once you're there, so that you can, or your students can have access to those books on reading lists, after you assign those books for your students. And really the next step is just, um, teach your students how to use it and log in and read. And we have found that students are pretty darn excited about that. And they go home and show their parents a book that they are reading that is now on their maturation level, their grade level. And, uh, they can get the content from it. Parents get pretty excited about that also. And then going into that individual membership at another time.

It's pretty much a slam dunk. They're, they're ready to, they're ready to get it done with some like assistants. And speaking of someone's assistance there's...

## JEANIE BELL

And when, when we're talking about parents, I think it's important to realize that we also all do parent meetings. We help add the individual accounts on the spot, and add books. And we look for books of pleasure. And that gives parents an outlet to, hey, so this is what you could be reading and looking at. And whatever way we use it at home. They may be using Smartphones in the home, iPads. The school may be using Chrome Books. So we talk about even though they're using one thing at school, they could be using something different at home. So these parent meetings are very important.

And having the opportunity to talk to parents about what they're using at home, and what their child likes to read.

## KAREN BEARD

Yeah, very, very good point.

## MATT HATTOON

Jeanie, I'm... (CLEARS THROAT) Jeanie, I'm glad you made that point. Uh, parent outreach is very important to us. And folks, one of the things we're tasked with, uh, is providing support from the program. We not only will support you, we also as Jeanie said, we'll support the users of the program. Get the students, get the students' parents. Um, we are serious about helping you help your students become readers.

## KAREN BEARD

Good. Thank you both for adding those things to that. But that, that really has a lot to do with the training also. Uh, once we can get teachers trained where you're comfortable with it, so that you can support your parents and your kids on kind of an everyday basis, we are really on hand to attend parent meetings. And part of our training to you also is, um, suggestions for, you know, how to do things like different methods of getting individual memberships for, for different kinds of students and, and different kinds of technology for students also. Um, we love to meet with people on site. Obviously Texas is a big place. And there are three of us.

And we do a lot of traveling. Uh, we can also do remote webinars, such as this. Uh, and a series of those, uh, hour chunks are usually a good way to go. We like to combine that with an onsite visit, and then some remote webinar kind of follow-ups and different pieces of the training too. Because we're people persons, we're all people-people. And, uh, we like having, uh, a face-to-face with the people that we're working with. That training doesn't stop, we have direct support just like Matt and Jeanie, um, uh, talked about to y'all, to the parents, to the students, and as we go along.

So it's not just a wham-bam, this is, this is Bookshare and you're done, don't call me again. Um, we have a passion for what we do. We've all been teachers before, and we want kids reading. We want to help y'all get 'em there. Uh, especially with the illiteracy initiatives and, uh, budgets that are, are in, in trouble. A free resource for the kinds of books we have is a good way to go about it. We just, we just encourage you to contact us. You have our e-mail addresses. You know, to go to the accessiblebooks4tx.organization. If you lose our e-mail addresses, then, uh, let us setup further training for you.

Um, a little more information too. Is, uh, Matt talked about our Help Center. There is just a wealth of information there. Please take advantage of it. Kind of get your feet wet and, and look at the videos, and look at the how to guides. And, and use that as part of, of what we can help you with training also. Uh, there also is a Bookshare user community. Um, I'm not going to open it right now, 'cause it's in the interest of time. But that's a discussion group that you could be a part of, as well as part of our, um, TEA funds. Also allow us to kind of get some special, uh, recognition at, at Bookshare.

And, um, please call our, our support line if you ever need help. Now that is in Palo Alto, so there's, they, they kind of get going about 10:00 o'clock in the morning or so. Um, because of the time difference. Uh, but certainly e-mail txsupport@bookshare.org instead of support@bookshare.org anytime you need our help.

## MATT HATTOON

Okay.

## KAREN BEARD

I could, go head Matt.

## MATT HATTOON

We had the, I'm sorry, before you drop in. We had a question about...

## KAREN BEARD

No, go ahead.

## MATT HATTOON

...record the webinar. Uh, we had a question about, a recording of the webinar. If you could mention that, uh, but before you sign off.

## KAREN BEARD

Yes. We will, um, it will be edited tomorrow. Um, I will do that. And then as soon as it's finished, just because there's a few little things I want, you know, that are kind of glitchy, that we'll take out so that you don't have to suffer through. And, um, uh, we will send that link out to everyone when we are finished. And, uh, probably tomorrow afternoon that will go out to you, and anyone else who did not register, or who did register but was not able to attend. And you are welcome to, to send that onto anyone else that you would like to have, uh, actively look at that webinar also. We, we encourage that.

And, uh, each of us will probably be following up with those of you in our regions in the near future. Uh, to see if we can be of assistance to you. Uh, Matt, Jeanie, anymore chat questions?

## MATT HATTOON

No ma'am, that's it. Uh, y'all we want to thank you for tuning in today. Uh, hopefully you learned something. If nothing else, hopefully, hopefully you found it interesting. Uh, we're here to help you. And we're happy to do so.

## JEANIE BELL

Make sure you contact your Outreach Coordinator with any questions, e-mail us. And we will be glad to come out and do trainings in your schools, in your districts. Anything that we can do to help. Thank you so much.

## KAREN BEARD

We appreciate it. From Matt, Jeanie and Karen in Texas, uh, have a great weekend. We should be having some cooler weather up here. I hope y'all get it too. And, um, let us hear from you. Bye y'all.