



ABLE Library

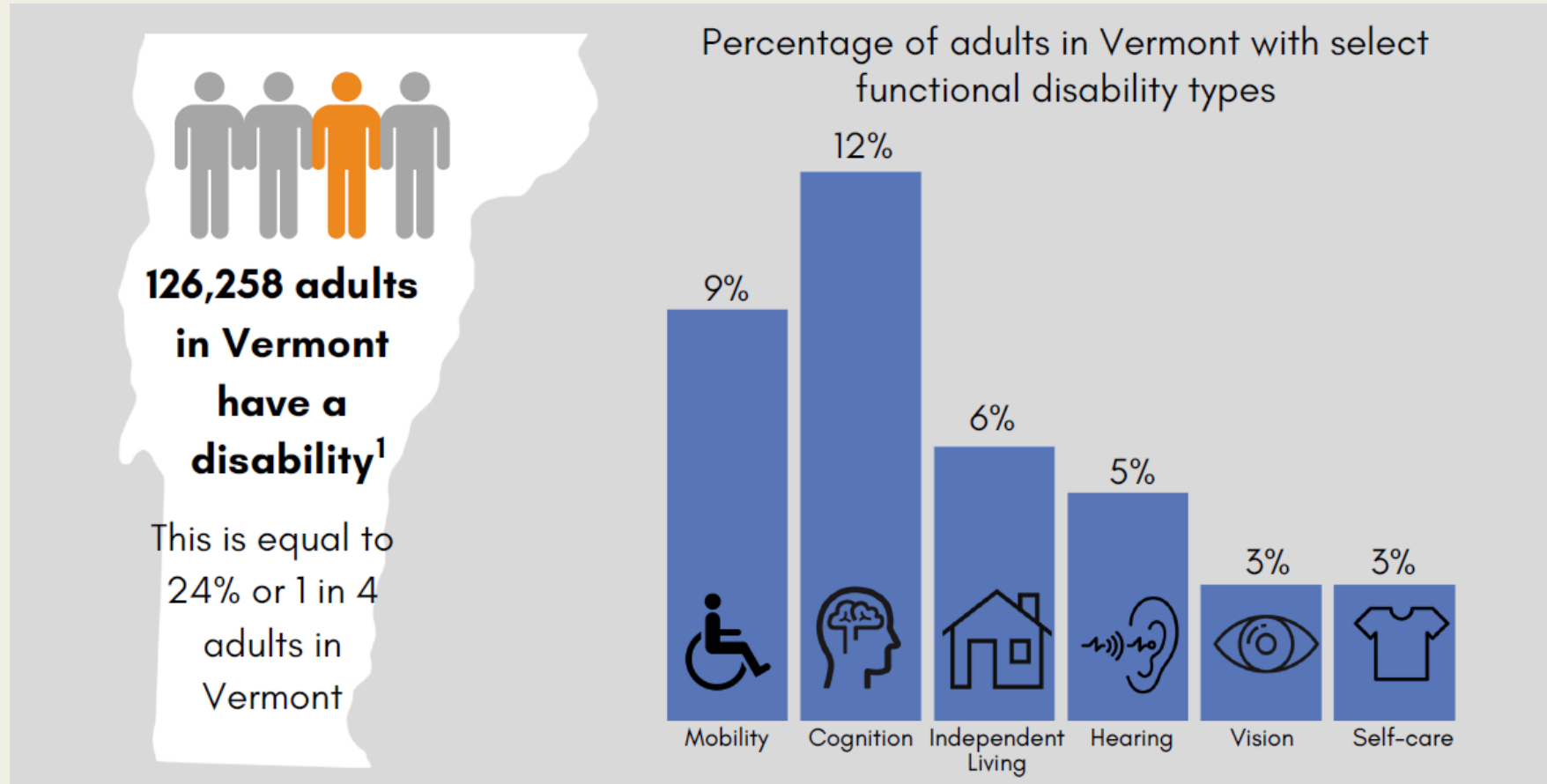
Audio, Braille, Large print, and Electronic books

Agenda

- Disability in VT
- What is the ABLE Library?
- Collections
- History
- Eligibility
- Programs
- Services to public libraries
- Other projects



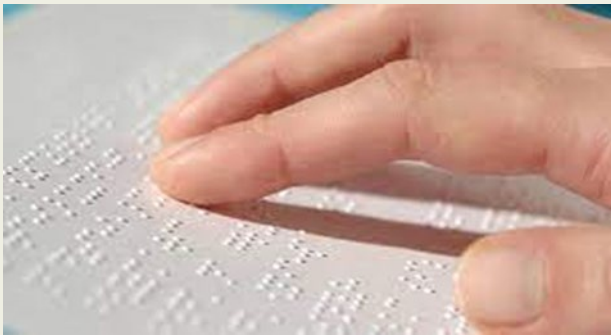
VT Disability and Health State Profile (Adults)



Children and young adults with disabilities

- 13,793 Vermont youth ages 5 through 21 have Individual Education Plans (17% of all students enrolled in public schools)
- Vermont's total public school enrollment was 80,692 students in school year 2021-2022.

What is the ABLE Library?



- Vermont's Library for the Blind and Print Disabled
- Network library for the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS)

ABLE Library Team

- Karen Gravlin - director
- Sara Blow – Reader’s Advisor
- Wendy Clark – Assistant Librarian

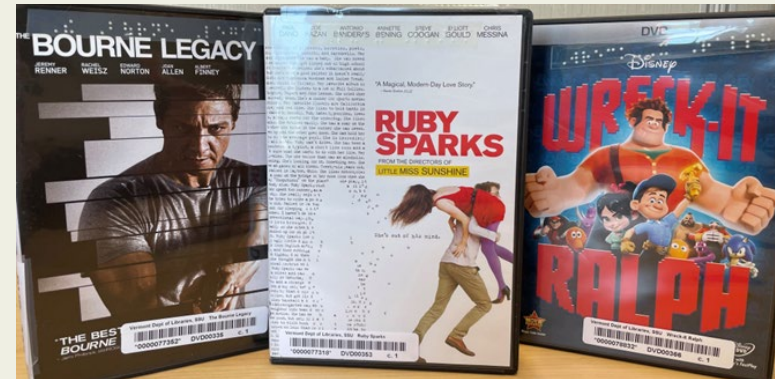
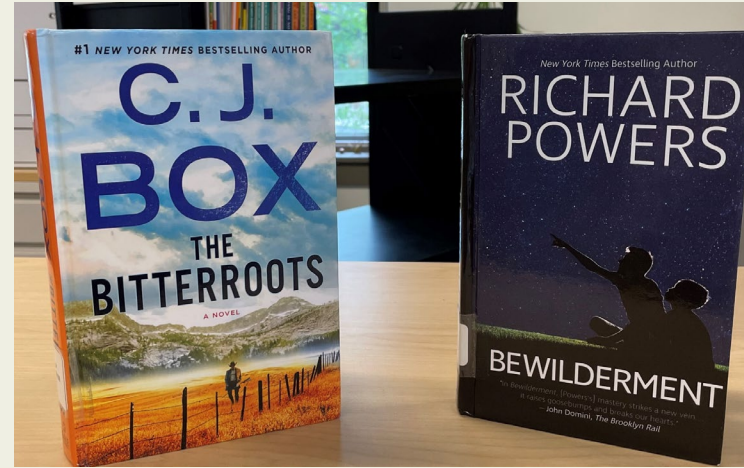
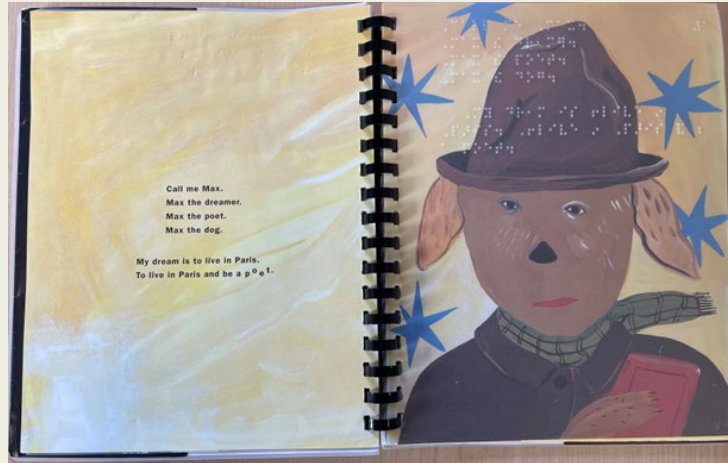
Collections

Digital cartridges – audio books and magazines

- Patron preferences
- Generate list of books
- Upload onto cartridges
- No waiting!



Other collections



- Braille – partner with Perkins Library
- Large print – largest collection in the state
- Ebooks – BARD with personal devices
- Audio-described DVDs

Accessible Youth Collection

- High contrast picture books
- WonderBooks
- Decodable books



Why the special formats?

- Copyright law
- Foreign languages
- Security



How does NLS make the books?



- Selection of books
- Narrators
- Edit and distribution
- Braille

History of Libraries for the Blind and Print Disabled

- Began in 1931
- 1933: “Talking books” were developed
- 1952: Service is extended to children
- 1966: Service is extended to physically disabled readers
- 1969: Books are recorded on cassette tape
- 1976: Vermont joins the network
- 2006: NLS begins transition to digital cartridges
- 2013: BARD app is released

Who is eligible?

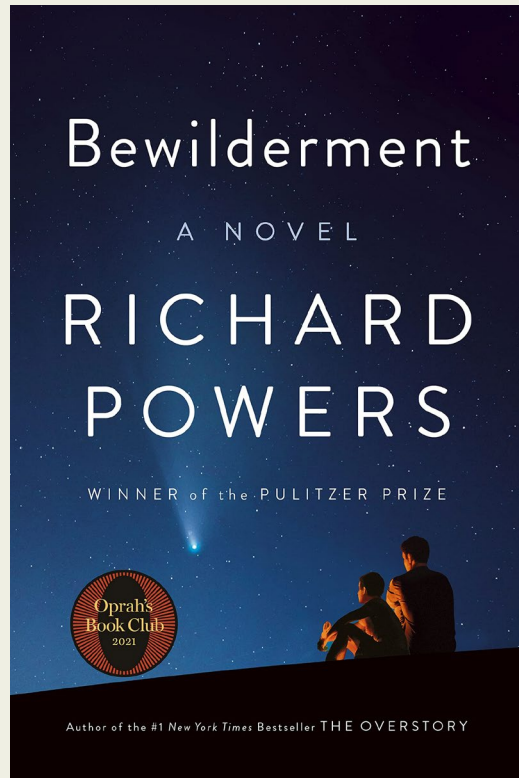
Four different categories of disability:

1. Blindness
2. Other visual disabilities
3. Physical disabilities
4. Reading disabilities

Certifying authorities



Programs



- Book club
- Memorable Times Café (CVCOA)
- Summer reading



Services to public libraries

- Deposit collections
- Support serving patrons with disabilities
- Supplement your services to patrons



Other projects

- Braille e-Reader program
- Braille on demand
- Experiment with voice user interface
- Locally produced audio books



Partnerships

- Public and school libraries
- Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Central Vermont Council on Aging
- Vermont Center for Independent Living
- Vermont Assistive Technology Program
- Vermont State Rehabilitation Council
- Veteran's Administration
- United States Postal Service

Thank you!

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