University of New England
Disability Services

Options for Getting Textbooks in Alternative Format: Learning Ally

What is Learning Ally?

Learning Ally (http://learningally.org) is an organization that provides human-narrated audio versions of books, including some postsecondary textbooks. Anyone can search Learning Ally's book collection. Disability Services, however, will set up memberships as necessary and download books for registered students. Learning Ally books are in a format that requires specialized software or apps, which are available for free for Mac, PC, iOS, and Android devices.

Advantages:

- Some students prefer human narration to synthetic speech (Bookshare and MP3).
- Learning Ally's reading tools have navigational features, such as ability to jump to specific page numbers and add bookmarks.
- Speaking rate is adjustable.
- Some books offer both the text of the book and human speech (known as VOICEtext books).
- Learning Ally software/apps can be installed on multiple devices.
- If a book is available in Learning Ally's collection, Disability Services can easily add it to a student's "bookshelf" for timely access.

Disadvantages:

- Learning Ally's collection of postsecondary textbooks is growing, but not extensive.

What do students need to access Learning Ally books?

To use Learning Ally books, students will need one of the following:

- Mac and PC users: Free Learning Ally Link
- iOS users (iPad, iPhone, iPod): Free Learning Ally Audio app from the iTunes Store
- Android users: Free Learning Ally Audio app from Google Play

For more information about Learning Ally, please schedule an appointment with Disability Services:

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