



## Highlands Regional Library Cooperative

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[www.hrlc.org](http://www.hrlc.org)

### HRLC Technology Committee Open House • October 17, 2006 • Parsippany-Troy Hills Public Library

#### Downloadable audiobooks—NetLibrary

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#### Top things you need to know:

- Recorded Books has partnered with OCLC to provide over 1400 of their titles in e-audiobook format including the Pimsleur language program and many current COP titles. Other more targeted collections available at an additional cost.
- Multiple users may check out the same title, so no reserves are necessary.
- Titles are checked out for 21 days, with a 21 day renewal option. After that period expires the titles will not play on your computer, but will play on your MP3 player.
- Patrons may check out as many titles as they want.
- MARC records are available for download with the price of the subscription. OCLC will embed any fields necessary for successful import into your library catalog.
- Pricing for public libraries is based on the library size and anticipated circulation requirements. Pricing for academic libraries is based on full-time equivalents and anticipated circulation.
- Statistical reports are available.
- For ideal upload of downloadable audiobooks to an MP3 player, Windows XP and Windows Media Player 10 are recommended. A high speed internet connection is best for downloads to the computer.

#### Advantages:

- Titles are preselected by Recorded Books and represent many of their popular audiobooks. The new titles added correspond with many of their new releases on cassette and CD.
- The Pimsleur language titles are included in the core collection. This can augment a library's collection in this area without purchasing expensive language programs.
- Approximately 30 new titles are added monthly. OCLC sends the link via email for MARC record download, if so desired.
- Patrons can download the audiobooks from home. The audiobooks may be listened to on the computer or uploaded to a compatible MP3 player.
- Download times are usually between 6 and 15 minutes with a high speed internet connection. Times are based on the size of the file being downloaded. Uploads to an MP3 player are usually between 3-5 minutes.
- No shelving or space issues in your library.
- No problem with theft or damaged items.

*Serving the Counties of  
Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic,  
Somerset, Sussex and Warren*



The Highlands Regional Library Cooperative is part of the New Jersey Library Network. The Cooperative and its services are funded in part by the New Jersey State Library, an affiliate of Thomas Edison State College, with State funds appropriated for the New Jersey Library Network.

## **Disadvantages**

- NetLibrary audiobooks are not compatible with iPods and other players that do not support license protected .wma files.
- Patron must own or borrow a computer and/or MP3 player.
- Titles cannot be burned to a CD.
- Titles are preselected by Recorded Books, so there is no latitude in choice.
- Audiobooks are uploaded as one large file, MP3 users need to use bookmarks
- Cost. There is no cooperative purchasing arrangement for multiple libraries at this time.

## **Libraries using NetLibrary where the titles are available from the website and from the catalog:**

- BCCLS (Bergen County Cooperative Library System) -- <http://www2.bccls.org/>
- Bernardsville Public Library -- <http://www.bernardsvillelibrary.org/>
- Franklin Township Library -- <http://www.franklintwp.org/>
- Princeton Public Library -- <http://www.princetonlibrary.org/>

## **Links:**

- Recorded Books: [www.recordedbooks.com](http://www.recordedbooks.com)
- NetLibrary: technical information: <http://www.oclc.org/netlibrary/>
- Devices compatible with NetLibrary and Overdrive audiobooks:  
<http://www.oclc.org/audiobooks/techspecs/devices.htm>  
<http://www.playsforsure.com/FindPortableDevices.aspx>

## **Further reading:**

- Boerema, Ann. "The library's next step: books you can download." Daily Herald (Arlington Heights, IL). July, 19, 2005, p. 4. Retrieved October 16, 2006 from Custom Newspapers/Infotrac database.
- Kaye, Alan. "Digital dawn". Library Journal. May 15, 2005, p. 62-65. Retrieved October 15, 2006 from Research Library Core, Proquest database.
- Kim, Ann. "The future is now." Library Journal. May 15, 2006, Vol. 131, Issue 9, p. 60-63. Retrieved October 15, 2006 from EbscoHost database.
- "Libraries check out virtual world; patrons can now download audiobooks." The Star-Ledger (Newark, NJ). August 26, 2005, p. 34. Retrieved October 16, 2006 from Custom Newspapers/Infotrac database.