



Accessible Collections Policy

Approved by: Eastern Counties Regional Library Board
Approved Date: September 16, 2021
Effective Date: September 20, 2021

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) offers several services for people with print disabilities. This includes Large Print, Braille, and Audiobook collections available for borrowing at ECRL library branches.

Additionally, ECRL is happy to provide access to two specialized online services available to anyone with a print disability. These services are provided by The Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) and The National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS).

Fair-use copyright limits both services to those with print disabilities (sometimes referred to as “perceptual disabilities”). A print disability is a learning, visual or physical disability that makes it difficult or impossible to read print. These types of disabilities are defined in the Canadian Copyright Act:

- Visual disability: a severe or total impairment of sight or the inability to focus or move one's eyes.
- Physical disability: the inability to hold or manipulate a book.
- Learning disability: an impairment relating to comprehension.

Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA)

The Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) is Canada’s most comprehensive accessible reading service, providing books and other materials to Canadians with print disabilities in the format of their choice. CELA provides access to professionally produced titles to provide people with print disabilities with a quality library experience.

CELA’s collection of free accessible formats is available to ECRL customers living in Inverness, Richmond, and Guysborough counties.

National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS)

The National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS) is a growing collection of downloadable audiobooks and other accessible formats available for people with print disabilities. NNELS titles can be used on a wide variety of devices, including

computers/laptops, iPads, iPhones, Android devices, MP3 players, DAISY readers, and can also be burned on to CDs.

NNELS is fully funded and supported by the provincial governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon. The service provider for NNELS is the BC Libraries Cooperative, a non-profit Community Services Cooperative which is a shared service provider to libraries and library-related organizations in Canada.

Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about this policy or its related procedures please contact the Chief Librarian at 902-747-2597.