

GUIDE TO

TEXTBOOKS

IN DIGITAL FORMATS



James here. Firstly, thanks for downloading our booklet on how to use digital books with text-to-speech software and apps. I truly believe that digital books provide the support that kids with reading challenges need to make learning possible and engaging. As parents, teachers or SNAs, you are the ones who make text-books available and/or usable for them.

With this in mind, I have included some information here on the main publishers in Ireland and how you can contact them for digital books. There is also information on the technology required for accessing the books offered by different publishers and how to use them.



JAMES NORTHRIDGE

MSc (Rehabilitation & Disability Studies),
Marie Curie Research Fellow

I'm James Northridge, the Founder of UrAbility.

Having Dyslexia and ADHD, I very much understand the learning challenges that students face. I love to empower students to reach their full potential and believe that technology has the power to level the playing field for all!

After struggling throughout school and dropping out of University, a second chance at college came my way and I was able to turn it around, earning a 1st class degree from University College Cork and a Masters in Disabilities Studies from University College Dublin.

Since then, I've gone on to complete a Marie Curie Fellowship at UMass Medical School in Boston. I've had the opportunity to train and work with hundreds of families across Europe and the United States to help them use technology more effectively for learning.



What do UrAbility do?

At UrAbility, we use our expertise to leverage technology to help students learn, master and thrive, whatever their abilities and goals. We are creating a space where those requiring training and advice on assistive technology can get it through our content, training events, and online courses.

You can find out more information on www.UrAbility.com or why not follow us on [Facebook](#).



This handy guide to textbooks in digital formats offers an overview of:

1

Digital formats in which books are available (e.g. PDFs, e-books) from different Irish publishers and organisations

2

Technology required to use them

3

How you can get the digital copies

4

We have broken it down into Primary and Post-Primary

PRIMARY



CJ Fallon

FORMAT:
E-BOOK

TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:

CJ Fallon app

- ⌚ On iPad, app works with in-built voice recognition feature and text-to-speech apps.
- ⌚ On tablets and laptop, app works with text-to-speech software.

PROCESS:

Digital copies can be requested by submitting the following details to ebooks@cjfallon.ie

- ⌚ Student's name
- ⌚ Email address
- ⌚ School name and address
- ⌚ List of titles required
- ⌚ Scan of report (preferred, not mandatory)



Prim-Ed*

FORMAT:
PDF

TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:
Text-to-speech software

PROCESS:

School or teacher can request for PDFs by submitting [this](#) form to sara@prim-ed.com

REQUIRED FORM:

[Download and complete this form](#)

*Provides only workbooks, not textbooks



Folens

FORMAT:
PDF

TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:
Text-to-speech software

PROCESS:

Parents and teachers can email [this](#) completed form to support@folens.ie to request for PDFs.

REQUIRED FORM:

[Download and complete this form](#)



Gill Education

FORMAT:
PDF

TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:
Text-to-speech software

REQUIRED FORM:
[Download and complete this form](#)

PROCESS:

PDFs can be requested by submitting the following documents to productionassistant@gill.ie or sending them to Sarah McCoy, Production Department, Gill Education, Hume Avenue, Park West, D12 YV96.

- Copy of medical certificate or psychologist's report confirming your child's condition.
- Signed copy of '[Gill Education Agreement Template for Parents](#)'. Remember to mention titles required on the back of the form.



Educate.ie

FORMAT:
PDF

TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:
Text-to-speech software

PROCESS:

Parents need to purchase printed titles. Their PDF version can be requested by emailing [this completed form](#) to sean@educate.ie. Teachers can ask for flipbook version of textbooks for use in classroom by emailing Sean Twomey at sean@educate.ie.

REQUIRED FORM:
[Download and complete this form](#)



Edco

FORMAT:
E-BOOK

REQUIRED FORM:
[Download and complete this form](#)

TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:

[Edco Learning platform](#). The platform offers the following features - text-to-speech, highlighting, ability to type on the book, Spotlight (this darkens out all but the paragraph being read).

PROCESS:

E-books can be requested by submitting [this](#) form to the address therein. Edco Learning will then create an account for the student with access to the requested Edco e-books.



POST-PRIMARY



Folens

FORMAT:
PDF

TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:
Text-to-speech software

PROCESS:

Parents and teachers can email support@folens.ie to request for PDFs. include Special Needs PDF in the subject line. They provide scratch codes on the inside cover for their new textbooks for the last 3 years. This allows you to access the book via their app (you must have purchased the hardcopy).



Gill Education

FORMAT:
E-BOOK

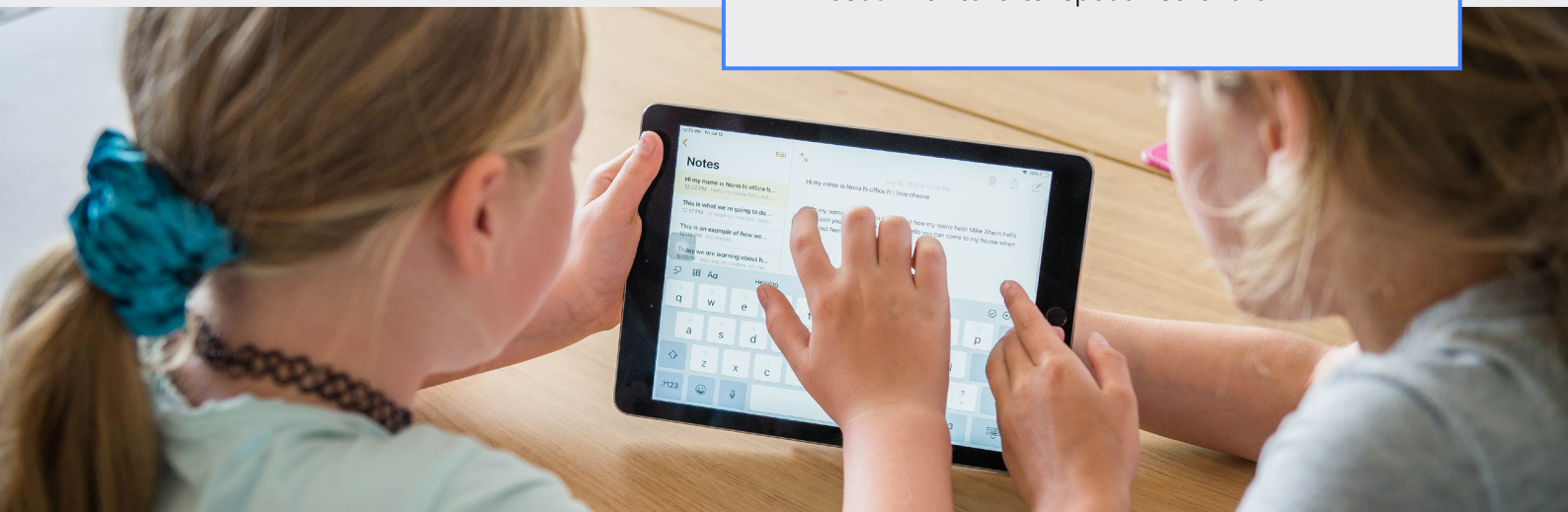
TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:
[GillExplore e-Book app](#) or
[online platform](#).

PROCESS:

Activation code comes free with books purchased from 2015 onwards. For titles published in 2014 or earlier, free e-book code can be obtained by emailing a copy of medical certificate or psychologist's report confirming your child's condition to digitalsupport@gill.ie.

NOTE:

- To use the e-book, you need to first [register](#) or [sign in](#) with your Gill account. You can then activate the e-book [here](#).
- E-books are not read aloud and **cannot** be used with text-to-speech software



Educate.ie

FORMAT:
PDF AND E-BOOK

TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:

Educate.ie's [Educate.ie's](#) app or [online learning platform](#)

REQUIRED FORM:

[Download and complete this form](#)

PROCESS:

Parents need to purchase printed titles. Their PDF version can be requested by emailing [this completed form](mailto:sean@educate.ie) to sean@educate.ie. E-books can be purchased directly from [Educate.ie](#). Also, all printed textbooks come with printed redeem codes for the free included e-books.

NOTE:

The app **does not** have text-to-speech function.

Edco

FORMAT:
E-BOOK

REQUIRED FORM:

[Download and complete this form](#)

PROCESS:

Free e-book code is on the inside front cover of most post-primary printed textbooks. If a code is not present it can be requested by submitting [this](#) form to the address therein. Edco Learning will then create an account for the student with access to the requested Edco e-books.

TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:

[Edco Learning platform](#). The platform offers the following features - text-to-speech, highlighting, ability to type on the book, Spotlight (this darkens out all but the paragraph being read).

Working for People with Sight Loss

National Council for the Blind Ireland (NCBI)

FORMAT:
MP3, PDF, WORD, BRF, DAISY, DAISY WITH IMAGES

TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:

[Bookshare web reader](#) or [explore](#) other options.

PROCESS:

Contact Lina Kouzi in NCBI on lina.kouzi@ncbi.ie to know how you can get access to Bookshare.

NOTE:

- ① NCBI provides access to books that secondary students need in the areas of literature and reading.
- ② This is done via Bookshare, an accessible online library for people with print disabilities. It hosts over 600,000 accessible titles, a vast amount of which are used by Irish students in higher education.
- ③ In Ireland, Bookshare is available to students and individuals with vision impairment, or Dyslexia.

Using PDFs and E-books with Assistive Technology

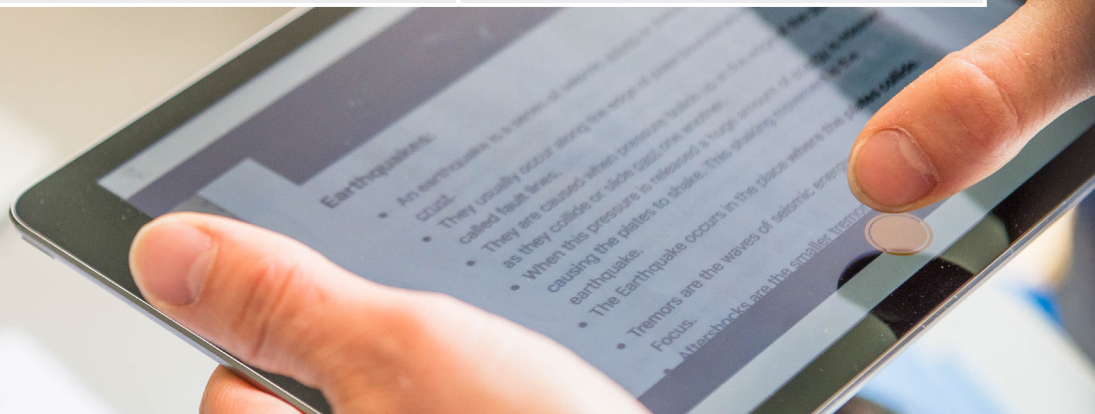
Digital books can be used with Text-To-Speech (TTS) feature. To help children who have difficulties in reading, TTS is very useful. As the name suggests, TTS converts text into spoken voice.

PDFs and E-books can be used in different ways. Below is information on specific technology and devices which could be used to access the books offered by Irish publishers outlined in the previous section.



	E-book	PDF
How it works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mostly used with e-reader app (needs to be downloaded). ➤ Text can be read aloud using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The e-reader app's TTS feature » Device's in-built accessibility feature » A TTS app 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Can be opened with any PDF reader app (pre-installed in most devices). ➤ Text can be read aloud using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Device's in-built accessibility feature » A TTS app
Technology Required	<p>Publisher's own e-reader app and TTS app.</p> <p>Publishers' app:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CJ Fallon* ➤ Gill Education 	<p>TTS app:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Voice Dream Reader ➤ ClaroPDF ➤ Read&Write ➤ Immersive Reader

	E-book	PDF
Technology Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Edco ➤ Educate.ie <p>*Only this app works with iPad's in-built accessibility feature** To use it on any other device, you need one of the these TTS apps.</p>	<p>TTS app:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Voice Dream Reader ➤ ClaroPDF ➤ Read&Write ➤ Immersive Reader
Compatible Devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Desktop/Laptop ➤ Tablet ➤ iPad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Desktop/Laptop ➤ Tablet ➤ iPad



**You can easily activate TTS built into your iPad by following the steps below:

- 1 Launch "Settings" and tap on "General"
- 2 Scroll down to "Accessibility" and tap on "Speak Selection"
- 3 Slide the Speak Selection toggle to "ON"
- 4 Optionally, adjust the "Speaking Rate" slider to an appropriate setting.

You can also [click here](#) for further information.

