

## Getting Started with Downloadable Audiobooks

Berkeley Public Library subscribes to a downloadable audiobook service through NetLibrary. This service allows audiobook listeners to select an audiobook provided by this service on the internet, download a copy of the audiobook and license to your computer, and listen to it on the computer or on a portable audio device (mp3 player) after transferring the files to that portable device. The service requires the listener to use Windows Media Player (.WMA) software and files that support Digital Rights Management. Therefore, devices made by Apple (including the iPod), unfortunately, are not compatible with this service at this time.

To use this service, you must

- Have a Berkeley Public Library card, the barcode number on which must be entered online in order to access the downloadable audiobook service;
- Access the service remotely; on the internet (you cannot download audiobooks from a library catalog computer in any of the library buildings). To search the downloadable audiobook catalog go to the Library's [Electronic Resources page](#), and select the [NetLibrary](#) link under the Audiobooks category.
- Create and maintain your own NetLibrary account. Once you have connected to NetLibrary, to create your NetLibrary account, simply click on the "Create a free account" link in the upper right hand corner of the page. You must keep track of the account's password because library staff has no access to the account you create at NetLibrary.
- Have software on your personal computer that will allow you to listen to the audiobooks from NetLibrary. In general, you must be able to play Windows Media Audio (.WMA) files with support for Digital Rights Management;
- (optional) own a portable player that is compatible with NetLibrary's downloadable audiobook collection. See <http://www.playsforsure.com/findportabledevices.aspx> for a list of compatible portable players.

Follow these general steps to download and play an audiobook on a portable player. Because computers are configured in a variety of different ways and use different software, it is impossible to give more specific step-by-step instructions.

1. Log on to your NetLibrary account.
2. Select a title to download to your computer.
3. Download the title to a folder where you can find it later on your hard drive. Choose CD quality if you are planning to transfer the audiobook to a portable device. Warning: these files are large and can take a half an hour or more to download depending on your connection speed. Do not expect to complete the process in the estimated time given in NetLibrary's instructions.
4. When the download is finished, attempt to play the file on your computer. You will be prompted to log in again to NetLibrary to obtain the license for the title. Once the license has been downloaded properly, the audiobook file will begin playing. You now have the audiobook file on your computer as well as the license, which is good for 21 days.
5. To transfer the audiobook to a portable device, you need to transfer both the audiobook and the associated license. You can use Windows Media Player to transfer both, or the software that came with the mp3 player. The software must support both the .WMA files (which contain the audiobook) and Digital Rights Management (DRM), which will transfer the license. Note: the license is generally invisible and you are aware of its proper transfer only because that transfer allows the audiobook to be played. The loan period for downloadable audiobooks is three weeks. You may download up to ten titles during any three week loan period. Files cease to be playable after the three week loan period. It is not possible to "return" a title before the loan period ends. The field of downloadable audiobooks available to libraries is expanding and changing. Berkeley Public Library will update the options available to library card holders as new options become available in a stable manner.