



Vision, Technology, and You: Helping Aging Eyes

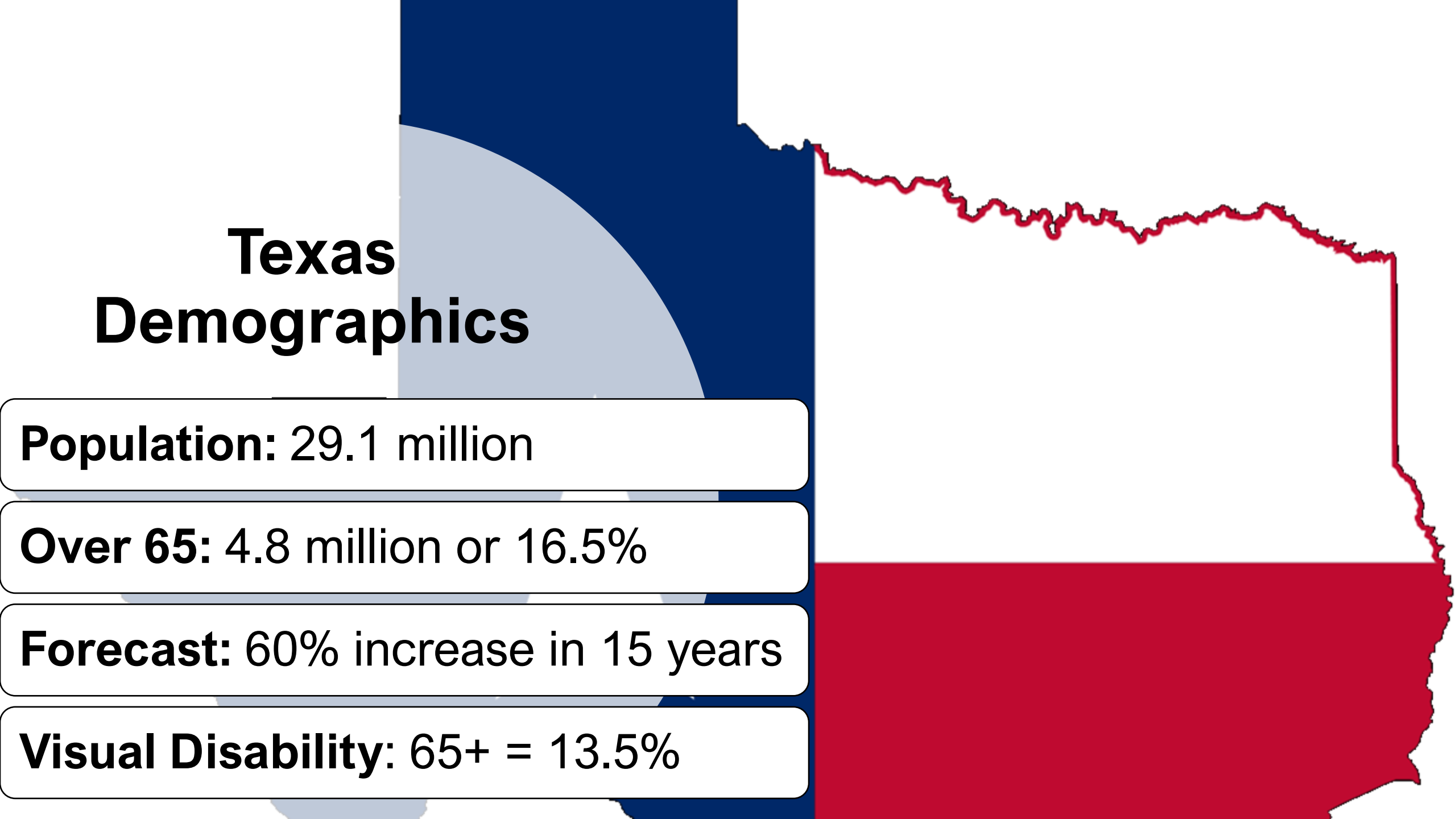
Jaclyn Owusu
Public Awareness Coordinator



Overview

- Texas Demographics and Vision
- Library Service for Print Disabilities
- Hints and Tips for Connecting
- Resources



A stylized map of Texas is shown in the background. The top-left portion is dark blue, the bottom-right is red, and the rest is white. A light blue circular graphic is partially visible behind the text boxes. The title 'Texas Demographics' is centered in the upper left. Four white callout boxes with black borders are stacked vertically on the left side, containing demographic statistics.

Texas Demographics

Population: 29.1 million

Over 65: 4.8 million or 16.5%

Forecast: 60% increase in 15 years

Visual Disability: 65+ = 13.5%

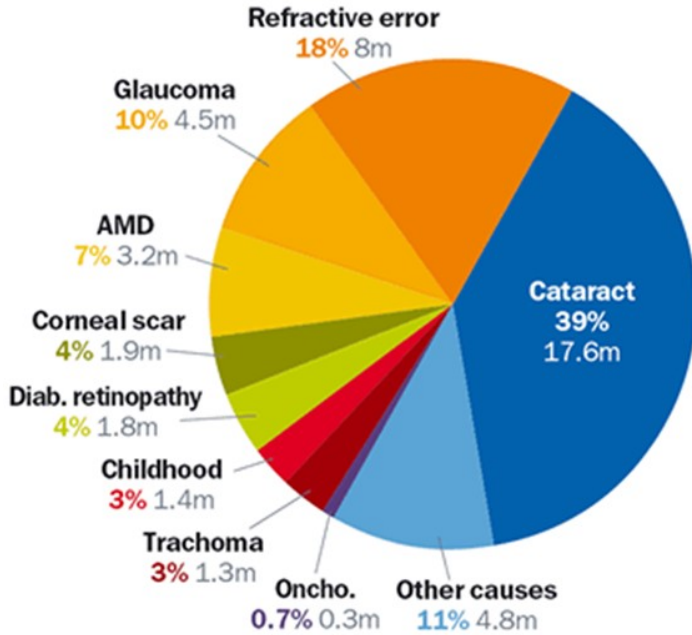
Vision Loss Eye Diseases Examples



Normal Vision



The same scene affected by age-related macular degeneration



NORMAL VISION
Vision remains intact



DIABETIC RETINOPATHY
Vision is obstructed by macular edema



Photos: National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health



Glaucoma Simulation

Glaucoma

The Talking Book Program (TBP)



TBP Eligibility

- Blindness
- Visual disability
- Physical disability
- Reading disability
(i.e., dyslexia)



My Other Library is TBP!

FREE

BRAILLE Alphabet

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
.	,	?	!	'	-	CAPITAL	#	0
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



Digital Talking Book Machine (DTBM)

- Books play on cartridges with no moving parts
- Touch buttons control the functions of the machine



BARD:

Braille and Audio Reading Download



No Wait
No Limit
No Due Date
No Overdue Notices

Just browse,
download & go.

BARD – Mobile App

Free portable library!

- Available on iOS and Android platforms
- Free
- Must be a TBP patron and registered for BARD





How to Sign Up

- Fill out an application
- Get it signed by a certifying authority
- Available in English and Spanish

Reader Services

tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov

1-800-252-9605



- Set-up accounts
- BARD and machine assistance
- Help selecting books

Disability Information & Referral Center (DIRC)

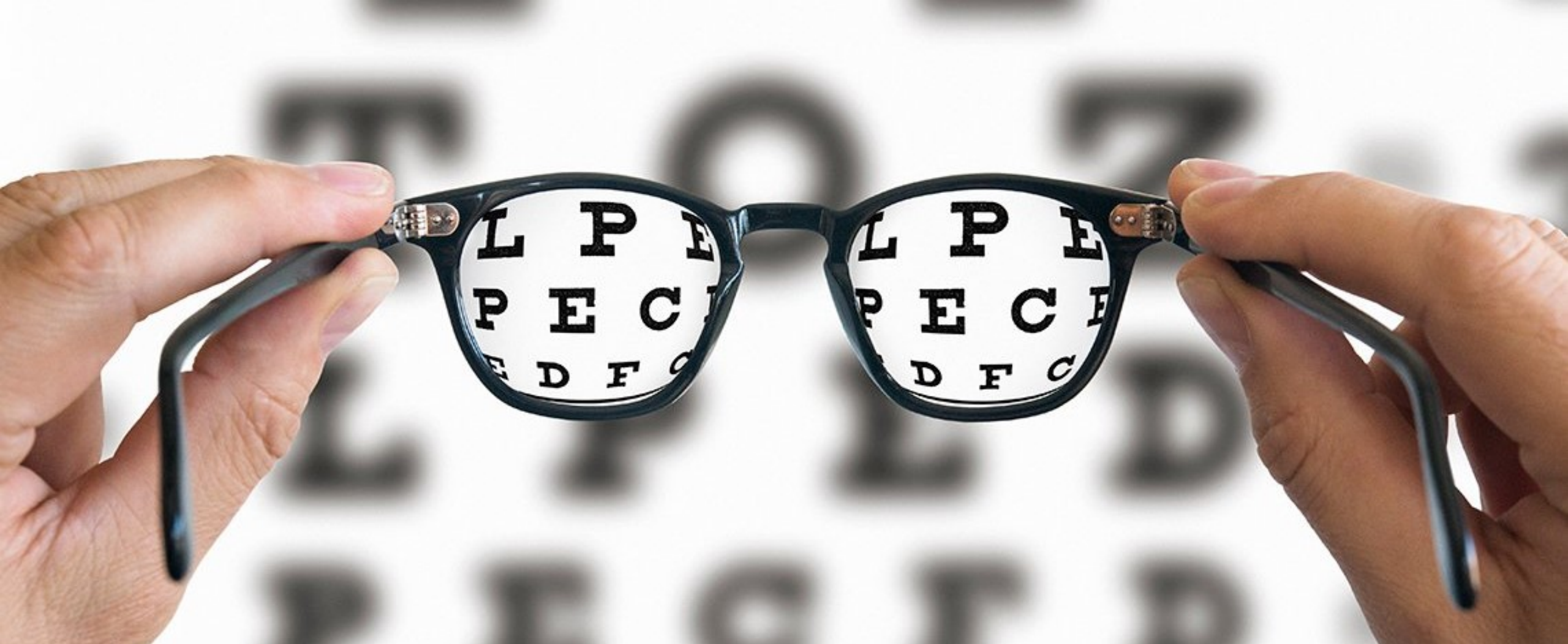
- Free reference service to those who need info about disability services
- **Available to the general public:**
You don't have to be registered with TBP to contact the DIRC



“The disability community is the only minority group that anyone can join at anytime.”

– The ARC





Indications and Impact of Vision Decline and Loss

Helpful Tips

Magnifying devices

Large Print

Audiobooks

Brightness of lights

Regular health checks

BE AN ADVOCATE



Resources for Vision Loss

- **Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind** program: 512-936-3388 or oib.info@twc.texas.gov
- **Talking Book Program**: 800-252-9605 or tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov
- **Blindness, Education, Screening and Testing (BEST)** program: BESTprogram@hhs.texas.gov
- **Area Agencies on Aging**: 800-252-9240
- **Aging and Disability Resource Centers**: 855-937-2372



National Vision Resources

- **APH (American Printing House for the Blind) Connect Center:** 800-232-5463, <https://aphconnectcenter.org>
- **NFB Center of Excellence in Non-Visual Access:** <http://nfb.org/programs-services/center-excellence-nonvisual-access>
- **Mystic Access:** 716-543-3323, www.mysticaccess.com
- **Directions for Me: Horizons for the Blind:** <https://directionsforme.org/>

Vision Apps



- **Aira:** <https://aira.io/>
- **Be My Eyes:** <https://www.bemyeyes.com/>
- **KNFB Reader:** <https://nfb.org/programs-services/knfb-reader>
- **Seeing AI:** <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/ai/seeing-ai>
- **You Describe:** <https://youdescribe.org/>

Texas Technology Resources



- **iBug:** 832-453-7139,
www.ibugtoday.com
- **Sight into Sound:** 713-622-2767,
www.sightintosound.org
- **STAP (Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program):**
<https://dhhs.hhsc.state.tx.us/providers/contractors.asp?ptype=STAP>
- **Texas Technology Access Program:** 800-828-7839,
<https://ttap.disabilitystudies.utexas.edu>

Book Resources

- **Talking Book Program:** www.TexasTalkingBooks.org
- **Learning Ally:** <https://learningally.org>
- **Bookshare:** www.bookshare.org/cms
- **American Printing House for the Blind (APH):** www.aph.org
- **National Braille Press:** www.nbp.org

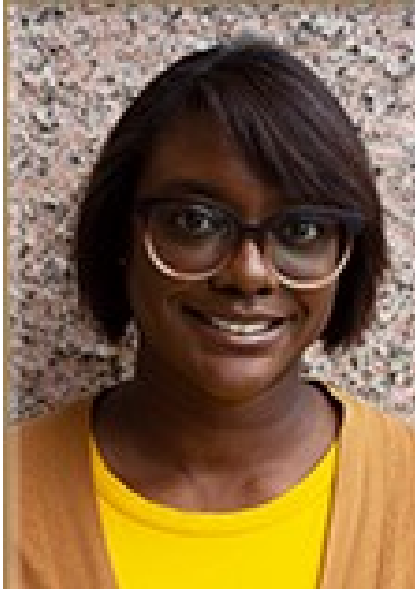


Texas State Library and Archives Commission

- Archives & Information Services
- State & Local Records Management
- Library Development & Networking
- Texas Center for the Book
- The Talking Book Program



Contact Us



Jaclyn Owusu

Public Awareness
Coordinator

jowusu@tsl.texas.gov

512-463-5452

Phone: 1-800-252-9605 (toll-free in Texas) or

512-463-5458 (Austin area)

Email: tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov

Mail: Talking Book Program

PO Box 12927

Austin TX 78711-2927

Fax: 512-936-0685