# The Lockdown Scholar

Brought to you by [Travis Association for the Blind](http://austinlighthouse.org) in partnership with [Northwest Hills Eyecare](http://www.nwhillseyecare.com)

Come out of the lockdown with new skills and hobbies to help you advance your wellbeing, career, and personal life. We wil­­­l be demonstrating ways to learn (or relax!) with video courses, audiobooks, and text-to-speech software available for Android and iOS.

## Presenters

* Aaron Hoffman. Lead Adaptive Technology Instructor.
* Dan Hart, Data / Accessibility Specialist
* Thomas Stivers. Service Coordinator

## Learning Objectives

* Stay informed on current events
* Learn new skills with your mobile device
* Read the latest page-turner from your favorite author

## Work

1. Speechify ([iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/speechify-text-to-speech/id1209815023?mt=8), [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.cliffweitzman.speechify))
   1. Learn Speed Listening with incremental adjustment.
      1. You can start a book at an easy 150 words per minute and read the whole way through. You can also let the program subtly auto-increment its speed. Before you know it, you will casually blaze through a novel at 700 words-per-minute.
2. Voice Dream Reader ([IOS](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/voice-dream-reader/id496177674), [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=voicedream.reader))
   1. Access to Bookshare, Magazines
      1. Thomas says that although the Voice Dream Reader seems to have a high price tag at $14.99, it is worth it if you have any long books in text, pdf, html or other electronic formats. “Voice Dream Reader allowed me to read the entire *Dresden Files* series while I was away from a reliable internet connection.”
   2. Many voices and languages are available for an extra charge.
3. Learning Ally ([iOS](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/learning-ally-audiobooks/id1131235021), [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.learningally.LinkMobile))
   1. College Textbooks
      1. Aaron: Many hard-to-find books are available with Learning Ally. Foreign Language study is especially helpful in audiobook form. (Aaron’s Spanish, Russian, and Japanese textbooks had speakers with different dialects, which aided in understanding nonstandard pronunciation.*)*
4. LinkedIn Learning ([iOS](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/linkedin-learning/id1084807225), [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.linkedin.android.learning))
   1. Job-Ready skills, Learning Paths, Certificates
      1. Aaron: If you overhear the boss talking about a new initiative, you can jump in right away to study and improve your career. You will receive a certificate at the end of your studies which fits very happily into your file when review time comes around.

## Play

1. BARD Mobile ([iOS](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/bard-mobile/id705229586), [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.loc.nls.dtb))
   1. NLS Library
      1. Again from Thomas: Though BARD might not get the new releases immediately, it is impossible to beat the price of free. Tens of thousands of books in all genres are available through the BARD mobile app. All Texans who are legally blind or have a disability which prevents them from reading print books are eligible to become patrons of the Texas Talking Book Program which is part of the National Library Service. Here is a link to the [application for talking book services](https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/application/index.html).
2. Audible ([iOS](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/audible-audio-books-stories/id379693831), [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.audible.application))
   1. Amazon Audiobooks
      1. Subscriptions allow for one book token per month, to use on audiobooks of any length.
      2. Dan – You do not have to subscribe to Audible to use the App. You can also purchase Audible books on Amazon. If you are a Kindle Unlimited subscriber ($9.99 mo.), you can check out up to 10 qualifying titles for free at a time. If you wish to utilize the Audible format, many titles are available to purchase from $0.99 to $4.99, sometimes more. I have found this option to be a bit better that an Audible subscription and saves money at times.
      3. Aaron – Audible books can also be read on book readers such as the Victor Reader Stream and the NLS Book Player.
3. LibriVox ([iOS](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/librivox-audio-books/id596159212), [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=app.librivox.android))
   1. Free Audiobooks
      1. Read books in many genres spanning ancient works to mid twentieth century fare.
   2. Old Time Radio
      1. Old Time Radio is a perfect fit for long stretches of listening. (No DVS to configure and no subscriptions.)
4. Podcasts ([Google Podcasts](https://podcasts.google.com/), [Overcast](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/overcast/id888422857), [Pocket Cast](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.com.shiftyjelly.pocketcasts&hl=en_US), Podcast Addict(both magnifier and Talkback/Voice Assistant Friendly on Android))
   1. Books
   2. History
   3. News
   4. Old Time Radio
      1. Relic Radio
         1. Science Fiction
         2. Fantasy
         3. Thrillers
         4. Mystery
5. YouTube
   1. Unbox Therapy
      1. Unboxing experience of new technology and general gadgets

## Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Dr. Laurel Miller and her staff at Northwest Hills Eyecare for allowing us to speak with you today.

If you would like a copy of the information we presented today, please send an email to [Thomas.stivers@austinlighthouse.org](mailto:Thomas.stivers@austinlighthouse.org) or [dan.hart@austinlighthouse.org](mailto:dan.hart@austinlighthouse.org).