



FACT SHEET

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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What we do: Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic® (RFB&D®), a nonprofit volunteer organization, is the nation's educational library serving people who cannot effectively read standard print because of visual impairment, dyslexia or other physical disability. Our recorded textbooks and services allow them to learn through listening.

Who we are:

- 27 staff members: 3 Executive, 4 Production, 14 Outreach, 2 Development, 4 Administrative
- 275 active volunteers
- 7 recording booths, 55% booth capacity

Who we serve:

- More than 29,000 registered borrowers
- More than 1200 schools and districts from kindergarten to graduate levels
- Borrowers range in age from 5 and beyond

Where: The Regional Unit of the South Central States is located on the Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired property at the corner of 45th and Burnet Road in Austin. (1314 West. 45th Street, Austin, TX 78613) There are 12 Regional Outreach Coordinators spread across the states by region: Panhandle Plains, Midwest Texas Plains, North Texas, East Texas & Arkansas, West Texas & New Mexico, Gulf Coast & Louisiana, Central Texas, Rio Grande, Coastal Bend, South Central Plains & Oklahoma.

When: The national organization was founded in 1948, and the unit started in 1972.

Why: Our mission is to provide opportunities for individual success by providing, and promoting the effective use of, accessible educational materials. Our vision is for all people to have equal access to the printed word.

- A John Hopkins University study, published in Learning Disabilities Quarterly reports, was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of RFB&D's recorded textbooks on the acquisition of content — or the process of learning the assigned material — by secondary students with learning disabilities. These students showed a 38% increase in content acquisition reading scores after using RFB&D's AudioPlus® textbooks on CD.
- A Rutgers University Study showed that students using RFB&D's AudioPlus textbooks improved their reading in general. "Taken as a whole, the use of [RFB&D's] Learning Through Listening® program in the classroom has a positive effect on reading growth for students with mild to moderate learning disabilities, classroom instruction, student and teacher motivation, and the affective development of the students. As such, it is an assistive technology that can make a difference in schools." — Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University

How: RFB&D staff and volunteers work to record and produce the audio textbooks, inform people with print disabilities about available services, train them on playback equipment and assist them with ordering the books they need to fulfill their educational and professional objectives.