

Get Involved

Most major metropolitan areas in the United States have audio information services, as do several countries around the world. To locate a service in your area, contact IAAIS at 1-800-280-5325 or visit our web site:

<http://iaais.org>

IAAIS works to foster the creation and growth of audio information services, and we encourage those interested in founding a new service to contact us. Advice and help is available on start-up, equipment options, funding, and technical or operational techniques. Scholarships may be available for developing services interested in attending our annual conference or participating in other mentoring experiences.

***IAAIS Conference 2009, June 3-7
Hyatt Regency, Cincinnati Ohio***

For information contact:

Lori Kesinger

IAAIS Administrative Assistant

3920 Willshire Drive

Lawrence KS 66049

(785) 864-4625

LRK@ku.edu

IAAIS
PO Box 847
Lawrence KS 66044



International Association of
Audio Information Services

Place
stamp
here

A Growing Need

Ann smiled at an editorial in the Phoenix newspaper. Jim checked an advertising circular before going out to shop. Alan caught up on a best-selling novel. What do these people have in common? They cannot read print and all use an audio information service to access common materials most people take for granted.

Nearly a quarter of all senior citizens lose vision to the point reading is impaired, even with corrective eyeglasses. In the U.S. alone, nearly eight million people of all ages and backgrounds are blind or visually impaired. Other disabilities and health problems can also lead to the inability to use conventional printed matter: stroke, arthritis, diabetes, AIDS, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, and conditions like dyslexia, all can impair the ability to use print.

As baby-boomers age, the need for services will increase dramatically, doubling within 30 years. IAAIS and member services are positioning themselves to meet this challenge through expansion efforts and innovative technological solutions.

“It’s a wonderful program for those of us who wish to stay alive intellectually!”
[listener comment]

Membership Benefits

IAAIS membership provides an opportunity for audio information professionals to interact and network with colleagues around the world. The association offers forums where services of all sizes can learn from each other and support common issues. Whether you are new to the industry or a veteran, IAAIS can provide assistance.

Membership benefits include:

- mentoring
- annual conferences
- membership directory
- quarterly newsletter
- online Program Share service
- Internet listserve
- updates on critical issues
- international representation
- equipment and technology information
- annual program awards
- programming assistance
- library and archives

Other Opportunities

Through our network of services, national sponsorship opportunities are available. IAAIS can help you reach a unique target audience numbering more than one million. For rates, visit iaais.org or call 785-864-4625.

History

The International Association of Audio Information Services (IAAIS), formerly the National Association of Radio Reading Services, was founded in 1977. It is a nonprofit organization of independent service providers that turn text into speech for people with disabilities who cannot see, hold or comprehend printed materials.

Programming is typically broadcast via closed circuit FM radio (subcarrier) or television SAP channels (separate audio program). A combination of technologies may further allow a service to offer on demand information by telephone or via the Internet.

Most services use volunteer readers to provide immediate, verbatim audio access to newspapers, magazines, consumer information and other materials that are not available in Braille or on tape.

Services may also produce issue-based programs, offer audio descriptions of plays, movies & events as well as personal reading, audio transcription, taping services or other audio-based community services. Some programs download files directly from newspapers and allow clients to access audio versions via telephone.