



History

The Ogden Resource Center's (ORC) braille services, *formerly known as the Braille Access Center*, has produced over six million braille pages since 1992. The Braille Services Team, *formerly known as the Braille Transcription Project*, began providing professional braille transcription services in 1996. In 2002, the Team was presented the Governor's Award for Quality and Performance. This collaborative partnership between the Washington State School for the Blind/ORC, Washington Corrections Center for Women and Correctional Industries (CI), has led to thousands of dollars in savings to the state and local districts.

As of 2011, offender braille transcribers have transcribed over 800,152 braille pages since the program's start. It is the Team's priority to provide top quality services and timely delivery of all instructional materials.

Blind Citizen Testimonial

"Until I got the Intercity Transit bus timetable in braille, transcribed by the Braille Access Center, I didn't even know all the places I could go. Thank you!"

— Denise Colley

Types of Transcription Work

K-12 and Higher Education: Textbooks, study guides, workbooks, tests, music and state assessment exams.

Government Agencies: Documents, forms, voter pamphlets, business cards, court hearings and transit schedules.

Non-Profit Organizations: Brochures, forms and newsletters.

Businesses: Directories, ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant signs, business cards, technical manuals, restaurant menus and insurance forms.

Health Care Industry: Documents and forms.

Specialized Services

Braille Transcription Services

Literary, science, mathematics, foreign languages, music and technical manuals.

Tactile Graphics

Pictures, graphs and maps.

Contact Information

Colleen Lines, Program Manager
colleen.lines@wssb.wa.gov
Ogden Resource Center
2310 E 13th Street
Vancouver, WA 98661
Office: 360.696.6321 x183
FAX: 360.737.2120

Roy Pidcock, CI Manager/Liaison
roy.pidcock@doc.wa.gov
Washington Corrections Center for Women
9601 Bujachich Road NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8300
Office: 253.858.4650

Mission Statement: The Ogden Resource Center braille services is a fee for service agency providing quality, accurate braille to customers in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Mission Statement: As a business, Correctional Industries is committed to maintain and expand offender work training programs which develop marketable job skills, instill and promote positive work ethics, and reduce the tax burden of corrections.

Washington State Braille Services Team



Washington State School for the Blind
Ogden Resource Center



WASHINGTON STATE
CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES



Braille Services Team

Each and every member of the team truly cares about the quality of their work. Offender transcribers demonstrate the highest level of professionalism and genuine respect for each other and the population they serve. They seek educational and certification opportunities in braille such as Nemeth, Literary and Music through the Library of Congress by working long days and spending evenings studying to gain knowledge for the program. Women offenders in the program find this to be a meaningful way to give back to the community. Some who have been released are now gainfully employed in their own transcription businesses.

Offender Transcribers

Since learning braille can be difficult and time consuming, offenders selected for the Braille Services Team must meet certain criteria. Offenders are hired through a process of screening and evaluation based upon computer knowledge, academics and behavior. They must have at least a high school education or GED equivalency. It is important that they have at least five years left to serve before they are eligible for release since it can take up to a year for offenders to learn Literary braille and begin transcribing.

Offenders on the Braille Services Team learn much more than braille transcription. As they are beginning to learn braille, they are also developing characteristics and work habits they will need once they leave prison such as responsibility, self-confidence, accountability, ability to follow instructions, respect for authority, and willingness to work as a member of a team.

Transcriber Testimonial

"I turned down a higher paying job for this. I wanted to do a service that would help someone. I want to pursue a career in transcribing when I'm released."

— Laurinda, WCCW offender transcriber

Braille Material Requests

All requests are submitted to the ORC and a quote for transcribing the material is presented to the customer.

The Braille Services Team members at the ORC develop a timeline for completion of the project and assign the project to the transcriptionists.

The transcriptionists are also provided specific instructions regarding the formatting of each document.

Offenders certified by Washington State and the National Library Service (NLS) produce the braille text using computers and create hand-crafted tactile graphics as needed. Their completed work is shipped to the ORC where it is proofread by visually impaired NLS Certified proofreaders and the final document is produced and shipped to the customer.

The ORC retains file copies for future production as requested.



User Testimonial

"If I would have had braille like the braille you [offender transcribers] produce while growing up, my childhood would have been filled with a lot less tears and frustration. If every blind person in the U.S. and the world could have transcribers like you, there would be much more empowerment in the blind community."

— Zach, ORC Blind Proofreader and University of Washington graduate

Customer Testimonial

"Thank you for all your work on this [math book]! We appreciate your timeliness in getting the materials to us. We will definitely be in touch if we need more braille done in the future!"

— Kim, Deaf/Blind Services Coordinator, Western Washington University