



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 August 2015, incarcerated braille transcribers have transcribed over 1,196,056 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

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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.

CI Mission Statement:
Correctional Industries is committed to maintain and expand 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. Incarcerated 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. Participants 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.

Braille Transcribers

Since learning braille can be difficult and time consuming, incarcerated individuals selected for the Braille Services Team must be screened and evaluation based upon their computer knowledge, academics, and behavior. Candidates must also have a high school education or GED equivalency. Since it can take up to a year to learn Literary braille and begin transcribing, it is important that team members have at least five years left to serve before they are eligible for release.

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.

Braille Transcriber Testimonial

“Every day I know I am helping provide material for someone that might not otherwise have access to it. The added bonus is that every day I also learn something new!”

— Starr L.

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 time line 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.

Transcribers 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 NLS Certified proofreaders and the final document is produced and shipped to the customer.

The ORC retains file copies for future production as requested.



ORC Employee Testimonial

“Being a felon and trying to find work once released is a difficult task. If it wasn’t for the Braille Program at WCCW, with all that it offered to me while incarcerated, I would have never had the opportunity to be employed at the Washington School for the Blind. Not only do I get to do something I love, but I now have a career that I can be proud of!”

— Angela Vargas, ORC Braille Coordinator

User Testimonial

“If I would have had braille like the braille you [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