

Making School Materials Accessible	For:	Pros:	Cons:	You need to know:
Calibre	Converting file types from one type to another	Wide variety of supported file formats.	Can't convert to MS word documents	Calibre-ebook.com
PDF converter (Nuance)	Scanning documents and converting to word	Can convert pdf to MS Word documents.	Paid. Mac version costs more.	Requires a scanner or copier that can create pdf. Once the document is in Word then students can use text to speech to listen to the document and make changes. http://www.nuance.com/for-business/by-product/pdf/index.htm
Free OCR	Scanning documents and converting it to a MS Word document.	Free simple program for optical character recognition can convert from a scanner or pdf	Very basic, outputs text only, windows only	Requires a scanner or pdf file. http://www.paperfile.net/
Volunteers	Reading and recording audio version of text	Free. Can be played from mp3 player	Time consuming and labor intensive	You need a digital recorder and player
Xtranormal	Converts text to computer voice as an animated character	Free. Engaging for students	Can be distracting, website is sometimes blocked	Must download and have digital text to enter. http://www.xtranormal.com/
Text to speech software (Write:Outloud, read please)	Converting text to speech	Simple text to speech	Must use their word processor not word	Range from free to expensive. Reads text pasted in to software. Free read please: http://www.readplease.com/

Scan and Read software (Kurzweil, Read and Write Gold)	Scanning documents for reading with integrated text to speech	Streamlined scanning to text to speech in one integrated program	Expensive	Requires a scanner. See here to compare different products: http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/article/literacy-support-software-comparison-chart
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