



AMERICAN  
PRINTING  
HOUSE 



Sara Brown  
(502) 899-2368

[Sbrown@aph.org](mailto:Sbrown@aph.org)

**For Immediate Release**

## **APH Partners with DAISY Consortium on New Digital Braille Standard**

**Louisville, KY (December 13, 2022)** – American Printing House for the Blind is pleased to announce its partnership with the DAISY Consortium to develop a brand-new, electronic braille standard.

This development is an important step for APH, as it continues to imagine, create, and produce, more high-tech braille devices. It is essential that the eBRF be accessible on both braille displays and embossers. eBRF is being created in collaboration with leaders from the field, and will change the way braille users, teachers, and transcribers interact with braille and tactile graphics.

“This is a major milestone in our efforts to create the best digital braille format possible. DAISY’s acceptance shows we are making the proper changes and enhancements with technology to create a braille standard that will be long lasting,” said Craig Meador, APH President.

Changes were needed to the current braille standard because standard braille files are formatted entirely using blank lines and spaces. As a result, readers can’t easily navigate large files. Also, braille content and embossed graphics are unable to be joined in the same electronic experience. eBRF will solve those mentioned issues by providing braille text and tactile graphics in one file with enhanced navigation, including links for footnotes and endnotes.

“The amazing thing about the eBRF is that right now, the transcriber is giving us almost all the information we need to create it. But, it gets thrown out when saved as a BRF,” said William Freeman, Tactile Technology Product Manager.

With eBRF, users will have access to formatting staples, like headings, tables, and page numbers. The enhanced navigation will allow students to effectively jump to sections, chapters, or pages and utilize links to access footnotes or other referenced material. The goal is that eBRF will be easy to create and open and will work on embossers, and single and multi-line braille displays with each type of hardware benefiting from different

aspects of the new file type. The eBRF, used with displays like our upcoming Dynamic Tactile Device (DTD), will display full pages of braille text, and graphics, giving students access to instructional materials at the same time as their sighted peers.

“A new modern electronic braille specification is going to positively impact many people around the world, and is sure to increase access to information,” said George Kerscher, DAISY Chief Innovation Officer.

The DAISY Consortium is the not-for-profit global organization focused on publishing and reading for people with blindness, low vision and other print disabilities. The DAISY Consortium’s expertise and global standing will be crucial in helping to organize and lead the working group, which includes APH together with braille readers, braille producers, software companies, device manufacturers, educators, publishers and libraries.

APH is also working collaboratively with representatives from international braille authorities and organizations, such as the National Library Service (NLS), Braille Authority of North America (BANA), International Council on English Braille (ICEB), Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB), Austrian Association for the Blind, Duxbury Systems, National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS), and many more, on this effort to create a new braille file standard.

Together we will bring braille into the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

### **About the American Printing House for the Blind**

American Printing House for the Blind is a worldwide leader in designing innovative lifelong learning solutions for children and adults who are blind or low vision. In this fast-changing world, we believe in the power and necessity of learning to open the doors to educational success, satisfying employment, social inclusion, active citizenship, and personal well-being. We level the learning playing field by providing specialized technology, materials, products, and services that are essential for education and life. American Printing House for the Blind is headquartered at 1839 Frankfort Avenue in Louisville, Kentucky. For more information, please visit [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org).

### **About the DAISY Consortium**

The DAISY Consortium is the not-for-profit global authority on publishing and reading for people with blindness, low vision and other print disabilities. Our members around the world have decades of experience producing accessible publications. Our team of international experts develops standards, tools and best practices that are endorsed embraced by the leading technology companies, publishers and library services. Using the standards and tools developed by DAISY, our members and friends have produced millions of books, journals, newspapers and documents that can be read by people with disabilities in a way that works for them. Whether someone needs to read through enlarged text, audio or braille, on whatever continent and in whatever language, there are technologies and standards developed by the DAISY Consortium that can make that information accessible to everyone, irrespective of disability.

###