



BARD Express for Low Vision

Applying for a BARD Account

You can easily apply for a BARD account.

BARD stands for **Braille and Audio Reading Download**. You can access all the digital books and magazines available through the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, or NLS.

Eligible NLS patrons can use their BARD account to access more than 110,000 audio and braille books. BARD also has over 80 current magazines available for downloading. **Try it out!**

1. Navigate to the NLS BARD website to start your application. The web address is **nlsbard.loc.gov**.
2. Click and drag the scrollbar on the side to move to the top of your web page, and select the link **“Bard Application Instructions.”**

Tip: To apply for a BARD account, you must meet three requirements: You must currently be an NLS patron, have an active email account, and have access to the Internet. If you don't have an NLS account, you can call their toll-free number for help with signing up: 1-800-424-8567.

If you prefer to apply online, visit the NLS website for more information: loc.gov/nls.

3. Scroll down the page and select **“Link to BARD application for individuals.”**
4. The first item is a drop-down box. Open the box by selecting the down arrow to the far right of the drop-down box.
5. Select the library you are connected to. This is important because your local NLS library processes your BARD application. Select the **Submit** button.
6. This opens the BARD individual application page. Enter your personal information.
7. As you scroll down, you are asked to provide your email address. It’s really important you use the same address here that you used to sign up for the NLS service, because BARD uses your email address as your username on the account.
8. After the email address and confirmation edit fields, you see a drop-down box where you select the type of player you’ll be using. By selecting the down arrow at the far right of the drop-down box, you see a list of various devices that play digital books. Select the **“NLS Digital Talking Book Player”** at the top of the list.

9. Select the **Submit** button after you're done entering all of the information.
10. Within a few days of completing the application process, you'll receive an email from BARD with your new username and password.

Now you can easily apply for a BARD account. Try another workshop to learn how to log in and start using your BARD account.

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