



## Overview

The Ogden Resource Center (ORC) combines Washington’s Instructional Resource Center for blind and low vision students with the Braille Access Center which produces braille for schools, state agencies and other clients through a partnership with Correctional Industries (CI) at the Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) in Gig Harbor.

This collaborative partnership between the Washington State School for the Blind/ORC and CI/WCCW has led to thousands of dollars in savings to the state and local districts.

As of January 2024, incarcerated braille transcribers have transcribed over 2,278,533 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

Jennifer Merry, ORC Director  
jennifer.merry@wssb.wa.gov  
Ogden Resource Center  
2310 E 13th Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
Office: 360.947.3340  
FAX: 360.737.2120

Amelia Cazarez, CI Braille Supervisor/Liaison  
amelia.cazarez@doc.wa.gov  
Washington Corrections Center for Women  
9601 Bujachich Road NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8300  
Office: 253.858.4638

*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

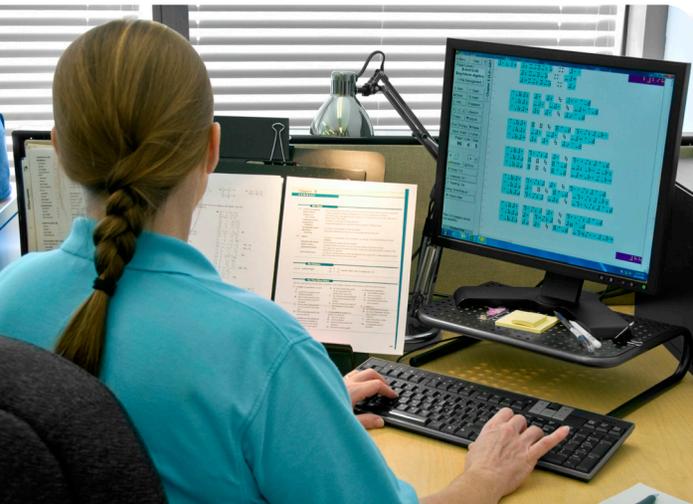


WASHINGTON STATE  
CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES



## Braille Services Team

Each 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

*“Each day I am given the opportunity to help enrich another persons’ educational experience. This also provides me a chance to be a positive contribution to the community while continuing to learn new and exciting things.”*

— Shonda F.

## 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.

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

*“When I got into the WCCW braille program I was struggling with a lot of things and had lost all goals in life and never knew if I would get them back. I really struggled at first. It’s very challenging but what I didn’t realize was that this program not only helps you grow and heal but you also get to help people that struggle through life and be there along there whole learning process. The braille program gives people at WCCW hope for the future.”*

— Collette Pierce, ORC Communication Consultant 2 / Braille Transcriber

## User Testimonial

*“As a braille reader, Ogden Resource Center/Braille Access has provided exemplary braille access services for about two decades and it remains to this day. I am always super satisfied with their braille materials. This is a great service to use, and I encourage you to access this wonderful and caring service which is purely committed to providing braille access to Washingtonians.”*

— Ryan Bondroff, Program Specialist III Governor’s Committee on Disability Issues and Employment