Illinois Radio Information Services

an association of radio information services for people who are print disabled

Jesse White • Secretary of State and State Librarian
The first radio information service for the print disabled (blind, visually impaired, learning disabled or physically disabled) was started by Father B. L. Wittenbrink, of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, in 1973. Soon others were established, and by 1980 a statewide organization called the Illinois Radio Information Services, Inc. (IRIS) was formed. Services are located in: Belleville, Carbondale, Champaign, Chicago, Dekalb/Rockford, Godfrey, Macomb, Mt. Carmel, Peoria, Rock Island and Springfield/Pittsfield.

Thousands of Illinois residents use the radio information services each day. If you or someone you know is eligible, contact your area service.

Listeners hear radio information service programs on a special radio called a sideband receiver. The receivers are distributed at no cost to qualified recipients.

Each service has its own broadcast schedule. Thanks to the generosity of dedicated volunteer readers, the Illinois radio information services offer numerous hours of local programming. Volunteers read newspapers, magazines and books. They also produce public affairs programs and listener call-in shows. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact your area radio information service.

All IRIS members receive financial support from the Illinois State Library. Many get additional revenue from local civic organizations, listeners and volunteers.
IRIS Coverage Area by Counties

Belleville
Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, Pike, Perry, Randolph, St. Clair

Carbondale
Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Marion, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Saline, Union, Washington, Wayne, Williamson

Champaign
Champaign, Christian, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Mason, McLean, Menard, Moultrie, Piatt, Sangamon, Shelby, Tazewell, Vermilion, Woodford

Chicago
Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, LaSalle, Lake, McHenry, Will

DeKalb/Rockford
Boone, Bureau, Carroll, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Jo Daviess, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, La Salle, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, Winnebago

Godfrey
Calhoun, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, St. Clair

Macomb
Adams, Brown, Cass, Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, Mason, McDonough, Pike, Schuyler, Warren

Mt. Carmel
Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Hamilton, Jasper, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, White

Peoria
DeWitt, Fulton, Knox, Logan, Marshall, Mason, Menard, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, Woodford

Rock Island
Bureau, Carroll, Henry, Knox, Mercer, Rock Island, Stark, Whiteside

Springfield/Pittsfield
Adams, Brown, Cass, Christian, DeWitt, Logan, Macon, Mason, Menard, Morgan, Moultrie, Piatt, Pike, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby

These Illinois counties are served in full or in part by a radio information service.