

Digital Books for learners with print disabilities

There is a legal obligation on schools and local authorities, under the Equality Act, to provide pupils with accessible versions of learning materials. This is not an optional extra – it is a reasonable adjustment under the legislation. If a learner cannot access textbooks or learning materials in the usual printed format, the school / local authority is required to source, or create, an accessible version. For example, this could be a Large Print paper version, or a Braille version, or a digital version.

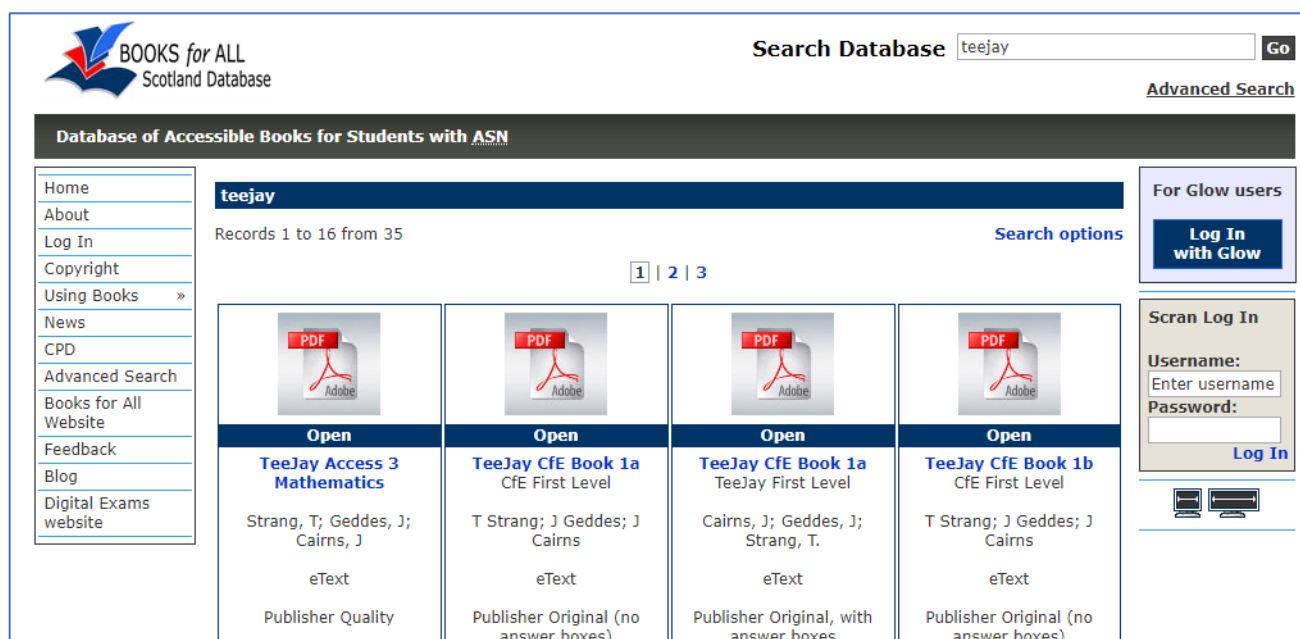
Learners who have difficulty accessing printed textbooks because of a disability are legally entitled to be provided with versions in formats that they can read and access. A ‘print disability’ can arise because of visual impairment, dyslexia or other reading difficulty, hearing impairment or specific language disorder, a learning disability, or physical impairment. Note the English as an Additional Language is not classed as a print disability.

So, how can schools and local authorities fulfil this legal obligation?

Books for All Scotland Database

School staff in Scotland can download digital books free of charge from CALL Scotland’s [Books for All Scotland Database](#). The database can be accessed using your Glow login, or with your school’s Scran account. The database has a range of files covering all ages and stages, mostly in PDF format. There are some Large Print books that you can download and print out.

The Books for All Scotland Database has digital versions of Scottish Heinemann Maths, TeeJay and Hodder Gibson. The SHM and some of the TeeJay books have ‘answer’ boxes where learners can type answers on screen.



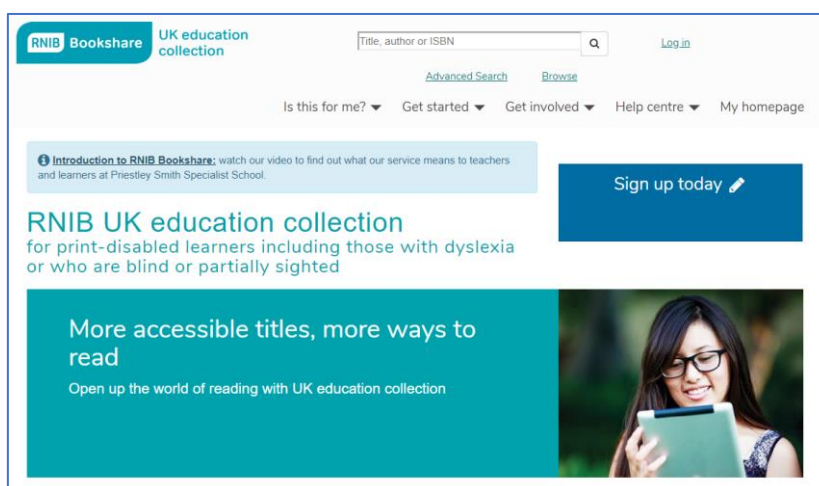
The screenshot shows the 'Books for All Scotland Database' search results for the query 'teejay'. The page includes a search bar with 'teejay' entered and a 'Go' button. Below the search bar, there is a navigation menu on the left with links like Home, About, Log In, Copyright, Using Books, News, CPD, Advanced Search, Books for All Website, Feedback, Blog, and Digital Exams website. The main content area displays 'Records 1 to 16 from 35' and a grid of four search results, each with a PDF icon and an 'Open' button. The results are:

Open	Open	Open	Open
TeeJay Access 3 Mathematics	TeeJay CfE Book 1a CfE First Level	TeeJay CfE Book 1a TeeJay First Level	TeeJay CfE Book 1b CfE First Level
Strang, T; Geddes, J; Cairns, J	T Strang; J Geddes; J Cairns	Cairns, J; Geddes, J; Strang, T.	T Strang; J Geddes; J Cairns
eText	eText	eText	eText
Publisher Quality	Publisher Original (no answer boxes)	Publisher Original, with answer boxes	Publisher Original (no answer boxes)

On the right side of the page, there are login options: 'For Glow users' with a 'Log In with Glow' button, and 'Scran Log In' with fields for Username and Password, and a 'Log In' button.

RNIB Education Collection

The [RNIB UK Education Collection](#) provides textbooks and materials for learners with print disabilities across the UK. It is free to join. The collection has many more files (82,000 at time of writing) than the Books for All Scotland Database and RNIB have arrangements with most of the UK school textbook publishers whereby they can source PDFs of most current textbooks, so if the book you want is not there, it can often be sourced from the publisher.



The Seeing Ear / National Accessible Library

The [Seeing Ear National Accessible Library](#) is a charity providing a database of books for anyone in the UK who is visually impaired or has a print disability. It is free to join. Most of the titles are fiction and reading books, although it does have some textbooks.

