

Contributing to an online catalogue of audiobooks

e-lang citizen team

Teacher Sheet

Task

Your students will be given the following task.

You are going to contribute to a catalogue of free public domain audiobooks.

In order to do so, you will read and record extracts or chapters (individually or in groups) of a book in the public domain (in one of the languages you speak) and make them available for free on the Internet on the LibriVox site (<https://librivox.org/>).

Website

<https://librivox.org/>

LibriVox is a free digital audiobook library. A group of worldwide volunteers read, record and publish public domain texts.

The website is available in English, with contributions in all languages.

CEFR level - For B1 level and above

Objectives

Digital citizenship and literacy

	Dimensions covered in task	(Potential) specific objectives
Digital Citizenship	Ethical and responsible	Develop awareness of copyright issues and online copyright infringement: understand the various types of Creative Common Licences.
Meaning-making literacy	Media literacy	Develop an understanding of how a literary text will be received differently when it is presented in an

		audio format and the impact this will have on the way the text is read (i.e. accessibility, inclusivity for visually impaired or dyslexic people).
Technological literacy		<p>Know how to choose the best tools to record, save and share audio material.</p> <p>Know which digital tools to use for preparing a reading activity in the target language.</p>
Interaction literacy	Multimodal literacy	Understand the key differences between text-based and audio format, and the main features of each one.

Main language activity

- Oral production: reading a (literary) text aloud and bringing it alive orally.

Possible steps

- The first step is choosing a work to be read that is suitable for the students' levels and available languages. Novels, short stories and poems can be considered. You or your students need to identify a suitable piece of work to add to the LibriVox catalogue and decide in which language(s) this work will be read. You can first explore the catalogue of audio material available on the site in the desired language. Students can then visit the site forum where various threads discuss book choices and where some suggestions can be found (<https://forum.librivox.org/>).
- You also need to decide on the format for the reading (whether to read the entire work individually or in a group).
- Once this is established, it will be important to listen to extracts of audiobooks (posted on the site or available elsewhere) to determine the features of a good audiobook.
- Once students have practised their reading (with the help of digital tools if need be), the recording can be made and posted.

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Student Sheet

Task

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Objectives

Digital citizenship and literacy

While completing this task, you can:

- learn how to consider the online audience you are addressing (while selecting a text and interpreting it);
- think about the impact of different media formats (written or audio);
- discover the various tools which can be used to practise reading in the target language;
- learn how to record, save and share audio files online;
- discover how to make literary work available in different formats;
- reflect on copyright issues, what is appropriate to share online and what is copyright protected.

Hints

Keep in mind who you are addressing

First, you will need to choose a text you would like to read, considering whether it will be of interest to others and ensuring it is in the public domain. You can check the catalogue of audio material available on the site in the language in which you wish to post. You can browse the catalogue by language.

You can then visit the site forum where various threads deal with book choices and where some suggestions can be found (<https://forum.librivox.org/>).

In order to carry out this task, it can be useful to:

- listen to other audiobooks (on the site or elsewhere) for the literary style you have chosen to read (poetry, play, short story, novel, etc.) and determine what makes a good audiobook;
- read the advice given on the forum <https://librivox.org/pages/about-recording>;
- do a search on the site wiki to find additional advice:
 - [https://wiki.librivox.org/index.php?title=Voice Character Performance](https://wiki.librivox.org/index.php?title=Voice_Character_Performance)
 - [https://wiki.librivox.org/index.php?title=Improve Your Recording](https://wiki.librivox.org/index.php?title=Improve_Your_Recording).

All this information will help you to learn how to record and provide some useful tips on how best to make it work while considering the audience.

Work on the language-related aspects

You need to decide how much of the work you will read (whether you will read the entire work on your own or contribute as part of a group).

If you are unsure about the pronunciation of a word, you can use Check Forvo, the multilingual pronunciation dictionary: <https://forvo.com/>.

If you want to hear a couple of sentences, you can use text-to-speech technology. You can copy and paste an excerpt from the text you will be recording and listen to it. Here are a few suggested text-to-speech technology sites: TTS Reader (<https://ttsreader.com/>), Natural readers (<https://www.naturalreaders.com/online/>), From Text to Speech (<http://www.fromtexttospeech.com/>) and Acapela (<http://www.acapela-group.com/voices/demo/>).

If you still have questions about pronunciation, you can reach out to various communities such as the ones on Rhinospike (<https://rhinospike.com/home/>), or language learner communities such as Babbel (<https://fr.babbel.com/>) and Busuu (<https://www.busuu.com/>).

For you to think about

While completing this task, you can reflect on the following:

- Have you ever thought about copyright issues before posting or sharing material online? Do you know anything about copyright and Creative Commons licences?
- Do you usually credit authors when you share/use online resources?
- What makes a good audiobook? What qualities does your recording need to have to be a good audiobook? What are the pros and cons of listening to a literary text being read aloud?
- In which language(s) are you recording your audio reading? Are you satisfied with your production? What are the challenges for you to produce an audio recording in that language?
- What tools can you use to improve your ability to read out loud? Which ones can you adopt for other activities, such as presentations or public speaking?