



AccessABILITY

Issue 6: August 2025 - September 2025

Unlock a world of inclusivity with NLB's bi-monthly AccessAbility Newsletter - your guide to upcoming Accessible Programmes, must-read Accessible Collection recommendations, and exclusive insights into NLB's commitment to develop inclusive libraries.

Discover NLB's Accessible Programmes: Save the Date!

MUSIC IN LIFE



ASSOCIATION FOR MUSIC THERAPY
(SINGAPORE)



Music for Comfort and Connecting to the Inner World

Date: 13 September, 2025

Time: 11:00am to 1:00pm

Venue: Clementi Public Library, Programme Zone

Music can unlock the mind, soothe the body and open the heart. While we often hear of the power of music, it really is true. This workshop will show how music impacts our inner world and being. Participants will be guided through music experiences to understand why and how music works. Special highlights from the music therapy lens in the palliative care context will be shared. It is also in hope that participants will discover the powerful impact of a simple but significant song.

In this interactive workshop, music therapists from the Association for Music Therapy (Singapore) will be sharing on how music impacts our inner beings through music experientials. Tips will also be shared on ways to be

intentional in the use of music. Special highlights include stories in the palliative care context and also on the power of a simple song of the heart.

[Click for more details](#)



Brushes Without Borders

Join us for a mindful portrait sketch session with our wonderful volunteer Yvonne!

Date 📅: 24 September 2025

Day: Wednesday

Time 🕒: 11.00 AM to 12.30PM

For enquiries 📞 please call us at: 6040 7112 📧 or email us at: ESH_Punggol@spd.org.sg

ENABLING SERVICES HUB
in Punggol
by SP Singapore

Scan this QR Code to learn more about ESH!

Brushes without Borders

Date: 24 September, 2025

Time: 11:00am to 12:30pm

Venue: Sengkang Public Library, Programme Zone

Come join us for a calming and creative experience through watercolour painting, with gentle guidance and prompts in a supportive space. These sessions are designed to help you slow down, be present in the moment, and enjoy the process of creating — no pressure, no judgment, just a safe and welcoming environment to explore your creativity.

Hosted by the Enabling Services Hub @Punggol (ESH@Punggol), which supports individuals with disabilities, ages 18 to 60 years old, this event is designed to create platforms for connections and leisure.

[Click for more details](#)



More Accessible Programmes here
(Under "Areas of Interest" select "Accessible")

Accessibility Highlights: Making NLB Programmes Accessible Through Sign Language Interpretation

You may have heard of sign language — a visual language that uses hand gestures, body language and facial expressions to help people who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing communicate and be understood. If you were at the National Day Parade this year, you may have also seen the live sign language interpretation on the Padang's big screens for the audience.

But did you know that NLB has also introduced sign language interpretation for our library programmes to provide better access for individuals with hearing loss?

Most recently, at the NLB30 Keynotes, a series of moderated conversations, including “Reading the World” on 21 July and “The SWF Directors' Cut: Sing Lit, How Are You?” on 26 July held at the Central Library, sign language interpreters were onsite to bring the panel discussions to life for Deaf and hard-of-hearing audience, and to ensure that everyone could be part of the event. Additionally, live captioning were offered for the online sessions. Below picture was taken from "Open Book: The NLB30 Keynotes | Reading the World" with sign language interpreter.

This initiative reflects NLB's commitment to creating an inclusive library environment. We welcome Deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons to request sign language interpretation services for programmes where available, ensuring everyone can fully participate in our library programmes!

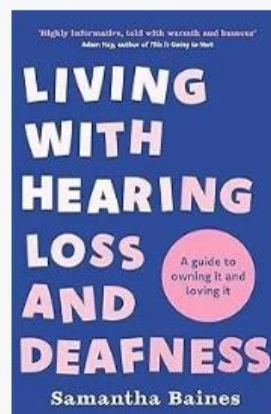


Accessible Collection: Featuring Titles on Hearing Impairment

The Accessible Collection at Punggol Regional Library Level 1 features 3,000 English books for children and adults with disabilities, their caregivers, and their communities. These include Braille books with text for those with visual impairment, social stories that help persons with disabilities learn what to expect and how to react in specific situations or settings, phonics readers to help patrons with language difficulties, and touch and feel books for people to learn through the sense of touch. There are also books for caregivers who want to learn about specific disabilities.

Celebrate Deaf Voices

For the month of August and September, discover our recommended reads in honour of the International Week of the Deaf (20–26 September).



Deaf not deaf

By: Fusco, Christian

Collection: Teens/Fiction Accessible

Call No.: FUS

Rian, a sixth grader new to both her home and school in Northeast Philadelphia, struggles to fit in at John Hancock Elementary.

On her first day, the class bully breaks one of her cochlear implants. She finds herself misunderstood by her teachers and peers and is caught between two worlds -

rejected by hearing kids, who see her as deaf, and by kids with a similar condition, who do not take her seriously, especially Luis Rodriguez, a deaf ASL user.

Rian learns to navigate this challenging environment as she strives to find her place.

[View Book in Catalogue](#)

Living with hearing loss and deafness

By: Baines, Samantha

Collection: Adults Health/Adult Accessible

Call No.: 362.42 BAI [HEA]

Have you ever wondered how life changes after a hearing loss diagnosis?

Living with Hearing Loss and Deafness is a practical, step-by-step guide that walks readers through the early days following a hearing loss

diagnosis, including obtaining hearing aids and discovering the Deaf community.

It addresses common questions such as "What caused my deafness?" and "What is sign language?" while offering realistic advice for managing challenges such as a noisy work environment.

[View Book in Catalogue](#)

Besides Punggol Regional Library, we also have an extensive eBook collection!

[Browse the eBook collection](#)

Accessible Membership

Introduction of Accessible Membership:

Accessible Membership is open to persons with disabilities who are beneficiaries of eligible disability schemes and services funded by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), or who had attended or are currently attending government-funded Special Education (SPED) schools.

As an Accessible Member, you will be able to enjoy:

- A longer borrowing period (from 21 days to 42 days);
- A longer renewal period (from 21 days to 42 days);
- Free reservation of items (which costs \$1.58 per item); and
- Priority access to accessible features in Punggol Regional Library.

[Sign up for our Accessible Membership](#)

Accessible Voices

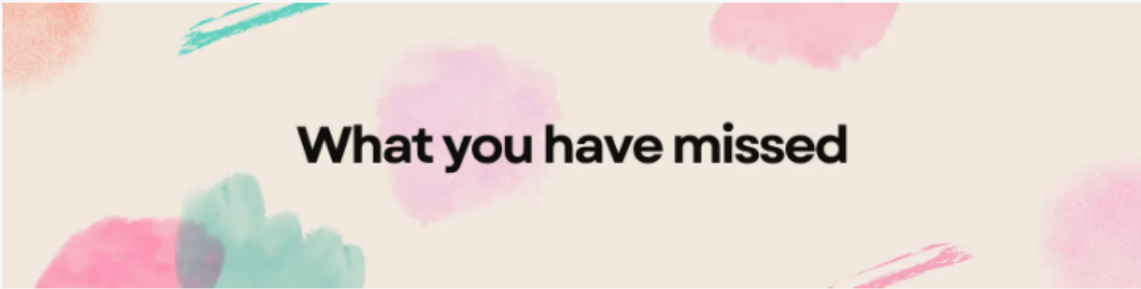
Featuring Amanda Yip, Co-Founder and Lead Artist at Rebirth Ensemble

With her profound interest in the arts, Amanda has been a great inspiration to many who have met her. Despite experiencing vision loss, she has never allowed this condition to become an obstacle in achieving her dreams of being actively involved in the arts and theatre. Through her dedication and passion, she continues to encourage and uplift other persons with disabilities (PwDs), proving that limitations need not define one's potential.

Recently in collaboration with NLB Signature Wellness event, Amanda co-hosted an expressive journaling workshop titled "Why Your Story Matters – Where Art Meets Wellness." The workshop was specially designed for persons with disabilities and their caregivers. Using tactile materials, participants were able to engage deeply with their creative work, using storytelling as a powerful form of mental and emotional therapy.

As Amanda shared: "As a vision-impaired fine artist, NLB's accessible programmes have created an avenue of possibility for me. They have given me a platform to express my voice by empowering others with disabilities to share their stories through tactile art journalling. NLB doesn't just offer access; they offer belonging."





What you have missed

On 20 July, we held NLB's inclusive Wellness Event, Brain | Body | Being at Bishan Public Library.

Designed to support the physical, mental, and social well-being of persons with disabilities and their caregivers, the event featured six thoughtfully curated programmes. Each activity offered unique benefits, and together they created meaningful opportunities for personal growth and connection.

Participants left feeling enriched — not only from the activities themselves but also from the quality time shared with their families. As one caregiver reflected, “The Journaling Workshop is a great way to explore your creativity and tap into your thoughts and emotions. The trainers’ ability to use simple materials effectively is definitely a plus.”

CaringSG Staff-in-Charge, Michelle, said: “From TCM self-care tips to calligraphy, drumming, and journalling, it was a day brimming with wellness, creativity, and joy for our caregivers and PwDs.”

We are heartened by the positive feedback and look forward to bringing you more of our signature events. Stay tuned!



**Stay tuned for the next
issue in October!**

Check out past issues of AccessABILITY: [#1](#) | [#2](#) | [#3](#) | [#4](#) | [#5](#)

[Click to subscribe](#)

Have a query? Contact us at enquiry@nlb.gov.sg