

Downloadable Audiobooks Guide



What's New with our Downloadable Audiobooks?

We are pleased to announce the addition of a new format of MP3 title to our downloadable audiobook service. The new selection of OverDrive MP3 audiobooks complements the Library's growing WMA audiobook collection.

How do I get started?

It's easy! Step-by-step directions are available at <http://downloads.sonomalibrary.org>. A good starting point is the "Help" link in the upper right-hand corner the Overdrive homepage. There, you'll find search tips, instructions for downloading and listening to audiobooks, links to online demos, and information about working with your account.

On what operating systems does our Downloadable audiobook service run?

OverDrive Media Console supports the following operating systems:

Mac OS® 10.4.9 (or newer)

Note that OverDrive Media Console for Mac supports OverDrive MP3 Audiobooks only.

Microsoft® Windows Vista®

Microsoft Windows XP

Microsoft Windows 2000

Microsoft Windows Millennium Edition (ME)

Microsoft Windows 98 Second Edition (SE)

What kind of materials can I check out from this service?

We offer:

Digital WMA Audiobooks in the OverDrive Media Console Format
and

Digital MP3 Audiobooks in the OverDrive Media Console Format

What is the difference between the two formats?

OverDrive WMA Audiobooks are digitally-protected audiobook titles available for download in the Windows Media Audio (WMA) format. OverDrive WMA Audiobooks are about half the file size of OverDrive MP3 Audiobooks but maintain the same level of audio quality. OverDrive WMA Audiobooks are generally compatible with portable devices that support DRM-protected WMA files encoded at a bit rate of 32kbps.

OverDrive MP3 Audiobooks are encoded at a bit rate of 64kbps and are available for download as MP3 files. OverDrive MP3 Audiobooks are compatible with many devices including most cell phones, PDAs, and MP3 players. If you wish to transfer audiobooks to an iPod®, or other device that plays MP3 audio files but does not support DRM-protected WMA files, you must check out OverDrive MP3 Audiobooks.

To which devices can I transfer OverDrive WMA Audiobooks?

Overdrive digital audiobooks can be listened to on a wide range of devices, including portable music players.

To which devices can I transfer OverDrive MP3 Audiobooks?

The devices to which you can transfer OverDrive MP3 Audio Books depend on which operating system you have.

On Mac, you can transfer to Apple devices only.

On Windows, you can transfer to most MP3 compatible devices, including Apple and Zune devices.

I have a PC and I want to download an MP3 title, how do I do it?

MP3 titles can be downloaded to your PC just like WMA files. The Overdrive Media Console will play both types of files. If you wish to transfer audiobooks to an iPod®, or other device that plays MP3 audio files but does not support DRM-protected WMA files, you need to make sure you have iTunes installed on your PC.

Do you have a list of all the devices that are compatible with Overdrive audiobooks?

More information about compatible devices is available on the library's Overdrive site under the section Getting Started Supported Portable Devices

How many digital books can be checked out at one time and how long can I keep each title?

Up to 5 titles. Once you've reached this limit, you will not be able to check out any additional titles until the license for a downloaded book has expired. The loan period is 7 days.

Can I burn the audiobooks to CD?

Some audiobook titles may be burned to CD. On the title record page, the title may be burned to CD if you see this line:

(burn to CD allowed)



What happens if I have a question/problem working with the Overdrive audiobooks?

Extensive help pages are available on the website. Or you can email us at overdrive@sonoma.lib.ca.us