**VA Connect**

**Library App**

**User Guide**

**IOS**

V5.4

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# About VA Connect

The Vision Australia Connect app provides access to publications available through Vision Australia’s online library service.

Using this app you can read material such as Books, Magazines and Newspapers, and receive service notifications from Vision Australia.

To use this app you have to be a registered member of the Vision Australia Library. If you are not a member or if you would like help to use this app, contact the Vision Australia Library on 1 300 654 656, or email: [library@visionaustralia.org](mailto:library@visionaustralia.org)

This app is compatible with ‘Voiceover’.

# Login

When you install the app you will be prompted to ‘Accept notifications’ from this VA Connect app. We recommend that you choose the ‘Allow’ option. This means the app can send you alerts, sounds or other information.

When you first open the app you are presented with a login screen and prompted to enter your Library User ID and Password.

The ‘remember me’ checkbox is selected by default. This means your login details are saved so you don’t need to login next time. If your login fails for any reason, the login page is presented again.

When you log in to the app you will be asked to agree to the Library’s Terms and Conditions before continuing. To agree, select the checkbox button to tick it. You can also select the Terms and Conditions link to read the terms and conditions.

After you log in, the app will load your library bookshelf screen.

# Bookshelf (VA Library)

The app starts by opening the VA Library bookshelf screen, which is the list of titles you have on loan and can play.

Note that the time it takes to display your bookshelf may vary depending on the number of titles and speed of your internet connection.

Across the top of the screen there are three icons. From left to right the icons are:

* The App menu
* The Categories menu
* The Bookshelf View button

Selecting the app menu lists the following items: Search, Notifications, Personal content (DAISY titles on your device from sources external to Vision Australia), User guide, Settings, Sleep timer and Log out. These menu items are described in more detail later in this document.

You can use the categories menu to filter the items that are displayed on your bookshelf. The default choice is All Categories (all books, newspapers and magazines on your bookshelf will be displayed).

At the top right is the Bookshelf View icon. This toggles between List View (titles are displayed one line at a time from the top of screen to the bottom) and Grid View (titles are displayed in a grid that spans across the screen.

The Bookshelf displays the title and author. It will also display if it is audio or text format. It will also indicate if you have downloaded the title to your device. If it is an audio title that you have previously started reading it will display the percentage that you have read. If available, it will also show a picture of the book cover.

# How to Play a Title

You can play any title listed on the Bookshelf by selecting it from the list. ‘Tap’ on it once to select it.

The time it takes to start playing your selection may vary depending on the size of the item and speed of your internet connection.

There is a ‘More Options’ button with each title in the Bookshelf. It contains 5 items:

* Open title (loads the title to read)
* Title details (information about the title)
* Download title (downloads the title to your device to play ‘offline’)
* Return title (this removes the title from your bookshelf and clears all saved bookmarks)
* Cancel (close the menu)

Alternatively, a long press on a title also opens the More Options menu.

If you choose to download a title from the ‘More options’ menu, you will be asked to confirm the download. While downloading, the app will indicate the download progress.

Note that if you are downloading a title, the ‘Download title’ menu item changes to ‘Stop download’.

Note that if you have previously downloaded a title, the ‘Download title’ menu item changes to ‘Remove Downloaded Title’. This removes the downloaded copy from your device and changes its status back to ‘online’. You can then still play it directly from your bookshelf as before.

# Simple Player

Once you open a title to read, the Simple Player opens and five large buttons are displayed as ‘zones’ across the screen in a clock face configuration.

In the centre of the screen is the playback button. It toggles between play and pause. Select this button to start playing the title. During playback, select the button again to pause.

Note that it may take several seconds for playback to commence.

At the 3 o’clock position is the Next button. At the 9 o’clock position is the back (Previous) button. These buttons navigate backwards and forwards according to the currently selected navigation options described below.

At 12 o’clock is the Navigate Options (Level up) button. Select this to choose how the ‘Next’ and the ‘Back’ buttons will behave.

Examples of navigation options:

* Any level (all heading levels within a DAISY title)
* Level 1 sub-headings
* Level 2 sub-headings
* Sentence
* Page
* 30 second time intervals
* 2 minute time intervals

Note that the navigation options will vary according to available options within a title.

At the 6 o’clock position is the Navigate Options (Level down) button. This is the same as the Navigation Options (up) button except it scrolls through the options in the opposite direction.

There are five icons from left to right across the top of the screen:

* Back
* Title (the name of the title currently playing)
* Set Reading Speed
* Table of Contents (contains headings, pages and bookmarks)
* More options

## Back

Select Back to exit the player and go back to the VA Library bookshelf screen.

## Title

This displays the name of the title you currently have open within the player.

## Set Reading Speed

Adjust the playback speed from 50% to 300%. Note that when you choose a different speed, this is applied to all titles.

If you change the reading speed, a Reset button appears at the bottom of the screen. This button resets the speed to the normal playback speed of 100%.

## Table of Contents

If you open the table of contents screen, playback will commence when you select a specific heading.

At the bottom of this screen there are three icons:

* Heading: List of all headings in the title (this is the default selection)
* Page: Opens a list of pages in the title. Select a page to go to it.
* Bookmarks: Displays any bookmarks you have made within the title. Select a bookmark from the list to go to it.

Note: adding a bookmark is described below.

## More Options

There are six options in this menu for the title that is currently open:

* Add bookmark
* Search the text
* Settings
* Title details
* Sleep timer
* Cancel

### Add Bookmark

This allows you to place a bookmark at the current reading position. Here you can also give the bookmark a name, type a note and record an audio note to associate it with the bookmark.

To save the bookmark, select the Save button.

To see your list of bookmarks, go to the Table of Contents screen, described above.

### Search for Text

Allows you to search for text items within a title (e.g. Book chapters).

### Settings

Links directly to the App Menu settings, described below.

### Title Details

Displays additional information about the selected title such as author, publisher, format, language, size and ISBN number.

### Sleep Timer

Using this feature means the title won’t play to the end if you fall asleep. You can select one of 4 pre-set buttons to start the sleep timer (15, 30, 45 or 60 minutes). The default setting is 45 minutes.

There is a text field in the centre of the screen that allows you to set your own timer. Select the Start button at the bottom of the screen to start or stop this customised timer.

Note that once a timer has started, you can press the stop button at the bottom of the screen to stop the timer.

Select the Back button at the top left of the screen to exit the sleep timer.

### Cancel

Closes the More options menu.

# App Menu

The App Menu icon at the top left of the VA Library bookshelf screen allows you to set user preferences and personalise the app. It contains the following items:

* Search
* Notifications
* Personal content
* User guide
* Settings
* Sleep timer
* Log out

## **Search**

Search the Vision Australia catalogue for titles to add to your bookshelf. Selecting the filter option at the top centre of this screen allows you to search the Vision Australia catalogue by Keyword, Title or Author.

The app will display up to 100 search results at a time.

The results will display basic information about the title as well as a ‘More options’ button. A long press on the title also opens the More Options menu.

The More Options menu includes a ‘Title details’ button to read a summary of the title, and an ‘Add to bookshelf’ button. Select this button to add the title to your bookshelf.

Note that your selected title may not immediately appear on your bookshelf. If you have more than 20 titles already on your bookshelf, the app will notify you to remove one before you can add the new one.

Below the Search field is a list of most recent searches. You can clear this list using the Clear button.

## **Notifications**

Lists any messages sent to you by Vision Australia.

It is recommended that you check this menu item regularly for any new messages.  When you have read a message, select Ok if you wish to keep it.  Most messages will be automatically removed when they become redundant, but you can manually remove any message from this list at any time by using the Delete button.

## **Personal Content**

Lists any DAISY books that have been downloaded to your device from outside this app or from sources other than the Vision Australia library service.

## **User Guide**

Opens this User Guide.

## **Settings**

The Settings menu allows you to change user preferences. When you change these settings they become the default settings for the app. The 4 settings are:

* Sort Bookshelf
* Player Mode
* Player Settings
* Use Mobile Network

### Sort Bookshelf

Sort bookshelf allows you to sort the order that items are displayed in the bookshelf view. The default setting is ‘last used’. This means the first item displayed when the bookshelf screen is opened is the last title you were reading. You can change the Sort bookshelf setting from Last used to Date added, Title or Author.

### Player Mode

#### Simple

Select this to choose the Simple player when you open a title. The text based content of the title is displayed in the background. It is not possible to navigate the text directly when using this player.

Note that the simple player is selected by default when the app is first installed.

#### Advanced

Select this to choose the Advanced Player as the default player. It is possible to navigate the text directly when using this player.

At the bottom right of the Advanced player screen there are three playback control buttons. The middle button toggles between play and pause. To the left of play is the back (Previous) button and to the right of play is the forward (Next) button. These buttons navigate backwards and forwards according to the currently selected navigation option.

At lower left is the Navigation options button. This button allows you to select the navigation options:

Examples of navigation options include:

* Any level (all heading levels within a DAISY title)
* Level 1 sub-headings
* Level 2 sub-headings
* Sentence
* Page
* 30 second time intervals
* 2 minute time intervals

Note that the navigation options will vary according to available options within a title.

The advanced player also displays the elapsed time and the total time of a title.

This player will display the text content on the screen. You can select any text item (including chapters and pages) and the book will start playing from your selection.

### Player Settings

Here you can adjust how a title is displayed on the screen. You can adjust Text font, Text size, Line spacing, Theme colour, Highlight colour and choose to Skip empty audio.

Some DAISY audio books contain text that has no audio associated with it (e.g. page numbers). Switch On the ‘Skip empty audio’ option to listen to the audio recording only. This means a book narration will not be interrupted by the app making page number announcements.

### Use Mobile Network

The default setting is On. This means that if Wi-Fi is unavailable, the app will connect to the Vision Australia library service using a mobile phone network.

Select Off if you wish to connect using Wi-Fi only.

### Information

At the top right of the settings screen there is an ‘Info’ button. This button displays the app version number.

## **Sleep Timer**

Using this feature means the title won’t play to the end if you fall asleep. You can select one of 4 pre-set buttons to start the sleep timer (15, 30, 45 or 60 minutes). The default setting is 45 minutes.

There is a text field in the centre of the screen that allows you to set your own timer. Select the Start button at the bottom of the screen to start or stop this customised timer.

Note that once a timer has started, you can press the stop button at the bottom of the screen to stop the timer.

## **Log Out**

Select this item to log out from the app. You will be asked to cancel or confirm.

Be aware that if you confirm log out, all titles downloaded from Vision Australia and their bookmarks will be deleted from your device. Your user name and password will also be cleared. However, your titles will remain on your online bookshelf and can be streamed or downloaded again next time you log into the app.

Note that you do not need to log out from the app in order to close the app.

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