# VA Connect

# Library App

# User Guide

# IOS

V5.8

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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.

Among other features, the VA Connect app allows you to stream playback of titles directly from your online bookshelf or you can choose to download them to your device.

This app is compatible with Apple’s Voiceover feature.

To use this app you need to be a registered member of the Vision Australia Library Service. If you are not a member or if you would like help to use this app, contact the Vision Australia Library on 1300 654 656, or email: [library@visionaustralia.org](mailto:library@visionaustralia.org)

## Login

When you install the app you will be prompted to ‘Accept notifications’ from the 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.

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

### Bookshelf

The app starts by opening the VA Library Bookshelf screen. This is the list of titles you currently 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:

* App menu (access all features and manage the app)
* Filter and Sort menu (customise the list of titles on your Bookshelf)
* Bookshelf View button (toggle between list and grid view)

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 and Log out. These menu items are described in more detail later in this document.

You can use the ‘Filter and Sort’ menu to choose the categories and display order of titles on your bookshelf. The default selections are All Categories and Last used (all books, newspapers and magazines will be displayed and the last read item will appear at the top of the list). You can choose to list only Books, Magazines or Newspapers and sort by Last used, Date added, Title or Author.

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

The Bookshelf displays the title, author, format (audio book or E-book) and reading position by percentage. It will also indicate if you have downloaded the title to your device.

The Bookshelf will also display a book cover image.

## 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.

Note that the time it takes to open your selection in the playback screen may vary depending on the size of the item and speed of your internet connection.

The app will remember where playback stopped for each title you are reading and resume playback from that position.

There is a ‘More Options’ button for 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 any saved bookmarks associated with it)
* 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.

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 still then play (stream) the title directly from your bookshelf.

## Tap Zone Player (DAISY Buttons)

Once you open a title to read, the default Tap Zone 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. ‘Tap’ this button to start playing the title. During playback, tap the button again to pause.

Note that it may take several seconds for playback to commence and a ‘Loading title’ message will be displayed while the title is loading.

A long press on the Play/Pause button opens the ‘Sleep Timer’ (see Sleep Timer section below for more details).

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

At the 12 o’clock and 6 o’clock positions is the Navigate Options buttons. Tap either button 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 the selected title.

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

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

Note: these are at the top of screen in all player modes.

### 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%. You can adjust the speed during playback or while the book is paused. Note that when you choose a different speed, this is applied to all titles and reading sessions.

If you change the reading speed, a ‘Default speed’ 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 listed 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

The More Options button is at the top right of the player screen in all player modes.

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

* Add bookmark
* Search the text
* Settings
* Title details
* Sleep timer
* Where am I?
* Cancel

#### Add Bookmark

Add Bookmark 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 associated 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 any text-based items within a title (e.g. chapter names).

#### Settings

Links directly to the App Menu settings, described below.

#### Title Details

Displays additional information about the selected title including synopsis, format, author, narrator, language, publisher 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.

Note that selecting a pre-set timer will start it immediately. Press the Stop button at the bottom of the screen to stop it. You can then choose a different duration.

There is also a text field in the centre of the screen that allows you to set your own sleep timer duration.

Select the Start button at the bottom of the screen to start or stop the timer.

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

Note that you can also access the sleep timer with a long press of the Play button.

#### Where am I?

The ‘Where am I?’ feature provides information about the current title you are reading. This information can include the Title, Heading name, Page number, Navigation level, Percentage, Time elapsed and Total duration of the title.

Select the OK button to exit the ‘Where am I?’ screen.

#### Cancel

Closes the More options menu.

## App Menu

The App Menu, located 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
* 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. Keyword is the default option.

The results will display basic information about the titles found as well as a ‘More options’ button.

You can tap once on the title to display additional information about the title. A long press on the title also opens the More Options menu.

The More Options menu includes a ‘Title details’ button to display details of the title, and an ‘Add to bookshelf’ or “Subscribe’ button. Select this button to add the title to your bookshelf or subscribe to it if it is a periodical.

Note that your chosen title or subscription may not immediately appear on your bookshelf while your request is being processed. 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 main sections are:

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

#### 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

Allows you to choose between three player modes:

* Tap Zone (DAISY buttons)
* Audio only
* Audio and text

##### Tap Zones Player

The Tap Zones Player is the default player when the app is first installed.

This player has large ‘Tap Zone’ buttons to play, stop and navigate titles. The five large buttons are displayed as zones across the screen in a clock face configuration.

The Tap Zone screen does not display any text that may be included within a title. If you wish to search and navigate text items, you can open the separate Table of Contents screen described earlier in this User Guide, select ‘Search the text’ from within the More Options menu or select the Audio and Text player, described below.

The elapsed time and total time are displayed on the bottom of the screen if it is an audio book.

##### Audio Only Player

Select this option to choose the Audio Only Player as the default player. This player is similar to mainstream audio players with the main buttons located in the lower half of the screen and a book cover image on the top half.

There are four buttons from left to right across the top of the player screen: Back, Speed, Table of Contents and More Options. The book title is also displayed.

Below the book cover image are the three main playback control buttons.

The middle Play 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.

Below the main play/stop button is the Navigation Options button. Select this to change how the Forward and Back buttons behave.

At the bottom left of screen is a Sleep Timer button to select between preset times (15, 30, 45 or 60 minutes). You can also cancel the sleep timer from this menu.

At the bottom right of screen is an Add Bookmark button.

Note: Below the book cover image is a timeline that displays the elapsed time and the total time of the title. You can change the play position by ‘dragging’ the curser along the timeline.

##### Audio and Text Player

Select this option to choose the Audio and Text player as the default player. This player displays any text included within a title (for example, headings, chapters and pages).

Using this player, it is possible to navigate the text directly from the main player screen. You can select any text item and the book will start playing from your selection.

There are four buttons from left to right across the top of the player screen: Back, Speed, Table of Contents and More options. The book title is also displayed.

At the bottom right of the Audio and Text player screen there are three playback control buttons.

The middle Play button toggles between play and pause. A long press on the Play button opens a Sleep Timer.

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 the bottom left is a book cover image. You can select the image to view the Title Details.

To the right of the book cover image is the Navigation options button. Select this to change how the Forward and Back buttons behave.

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

#### 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 and Highlight colour. You can also switch off Auto scroll, choose to Skip text without audio and Skip notes.

‘Auto scroll’ is on by default. This means that any text will be highlighted during audio playback.

Some DAISY audio books contain text that has no audio associated with it (e.g. page numbers). The ‘Skip text without audio’ option lets you listen to the audio recording only. This means a book narration will not be interrupted by the app making page number announcements. The ‘Skip text without audio’ is on by default.

If a DAISY title contains side notes or footnotes, you can use ‘Skip notes’ to switch the playback of notes off. This means a book narration will not be interrupted by the app reading side notes. ‘Skip notes’ is off by default.

#### 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.

### Log Out

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

Note; we recommend to simply close the app after each reading session without logging out. This means you do not need to login each time you open the app.

Be aware that if you confirm log out, all downloaded titles, playback resume points and bookmarks will be deleted from your device. Your user name and password will also be cleared and you will need to re-enter these details to login again. However, if you log out, your titles will remain on your online bookshelf and will be re-listed when you login to the app again.

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