



To: Kaukauna Public Library Board of Trustees  
From: Library Director Ashley Thiem-Menning  
Date: 1/22/2025  
Re: Materials Update

At the end of 2024 we purchased roughly 15 Vox books for children, which are regular books with a small audio player built into their inside cover that reads the story out loud. The intent of the book is so that people can listen and read at the same time independently, and as a helpful tool for individuals with dyslexia or other disabilities.

The books were purchased from Baker & Taylor during an end of year sale last year and went on the shelves on January 20th. The product is pricey, most coming in at about \$60; however, that is very close in cost to our Playaways and will be our response to the slow demise of the book on CD.

Vox is newer in the read-along book line. We purchased them as a test because of the discount being offered at the time. Wonderbooks, a product of Playaway have been on the market for some time. A majority of the books of this type are Wonderbooks and they are extremely popular in InfoSoup, rarely making it back to their home library because they are so widely requested. We will be purchasing Wonderbooks as well for the audiobook collections this year. After a lot of discussion, we opted to catalog these books as audiobooks, so they will be found in the child, teen, and adult audiobook collections, shelved by author last name or Dewey number.

While Vox does not currently offer any adult titles, Playaway is currently offering 33 adult titles on top of all their teen and child titles. We will be purchasing the entire adult collection this year, as well as spending a decent amount on teen and child titles to increase our holdings.

In a recent webinar about serving individuals with dyslexia, the presenters noted that when they told parents about this type of audiobook the families replied that the books were never on the shelf at their local library. This is likely a factual statement as they are extremely popular, which is why we plan to move forward in purchasing this product in place of audiobooks entirely in child and teen collections, so we can ensure they are on shelf. We will continue to purchase some books on CD for the adult collection; however, we will be reducing the number of titles ordered monthly in place of Wonderbook as most cars are no longer manufactured with CD players and they are becoming more difficult to find.