# Readiance

* 1. *“Read-Aloud” Books for Titles in the Public Domain*
  2. Joseph Polizzotto
  3. Access Technology Specialist Instructor (HTCTU)
  4. CSUN Conference– 2018

1. “Read Aloud” Books
   * 1. What are they?
     2. How are they beneficial?
     3. Where do they exist in Higher Ed?
2. Read Aloud Example
3. What are the Benefits?
   1. "The TTS voice is too robotic"
   2. Prosody is a key element in literary works
      1. Stress
      2. Rhythm
      3. Intonation
      4. Humor
   3. Important for learning other languages
   4. Hearing these elements aids comprehension
4. "Read Aloud" In Higher Ed
   1. Learning Ally
      1. Search for VOICEtext books
      2. VOICEtext = words are highlighted during narration
   2. EPUB3 + Media Overlays
      1. Time-consuming to create
      2. Few reading systems support (check BISG)
      3. Few repositories exist (e.g., www.readbeyond.it)
   3. Kindle + Audible (Whispersync)
      1. A more expensive option
   4. Google Play now provides audio books
5. Identifying a Gap…
   1. *Students with a print disability may benefit more from "Read Aloud" books, yet these may be hard to find and hard to produce…*
6. Readiance:
   1. An Overview
7. Readiance Website
8. What is “Readiance”
   1. www.readiance.org
   2. Synchs audio & text
      1. human recordings too!
   3. Firat Ozdemir (developer)
   4. Support for multiple languages
   5. Playback of books in a web browser
      1. Text is highlighted during playback
9. Readiance & Public Domain
   1. Easy to use for works in the public-domain:
   2. Texts:
      1. http://www.gutenberg.org
      2. http://www.authorama.com/
      3. https://archive.org/details/texts
   3. Audio recordings:
      1. http://loudlit.org
      2. www.librivox.com
      3. https://archive.org/details/opensource\_audio
10. How does Readiance work?
    1. Find an audio recording
    2. Locate the corresponding text
    3. Submit the job for synchronization
    4. Open the book at Readiance.org
    5. Enjoy!
11. Browsing for Books
    1. How do I find a Readiance book?
12. How do I Search for a Book?
    1. Various search methods:
       1. Languages
       2. Categories
       3. Authors
       4. Readers
    2. Quote search:
       1. Listen to the quote
       2. Go to the link
13. Finding a Book
    1. A book has this info:
       1. Author
       2. Language
       3. Collection
       4. Summary
       5. Chapter playback
    2. A chapter has this info:
       1. Playback controls
       2. Tune the synchronization
       3. Files (XHTML, MP3, JSON et al.)
14. Creating Books
    1. How do I make a Readiance book?
15. The Sync Method
    1. Using Librivox
       1. https://librivox.org
    2. Click on Sync
    3. Paste Librivox URL
       1. (Readiance searches for the text)
    4. Find the text and paste it in the window
    5. Click the Submit button to start synching
    6. Wait for the synchronization to complete
16. Find the Text…
17. Tips for Better Synching…
    1. A good synchronization requires:
       1. A close match between the audio + the text
    2. Readiance’s search for a text may yield an inexact match:
       1. Check that the text matches the audio!
    3. Consider doing some manual editing of text
       1. Footnotes, line numbers etc.
    4. Note: Readiance will remove page numbers from Project Gutenberg’s texts
18. The Upload and Sync Method
    1. Find / make a recording
    2. Select Upload & Sync
    3. Log into a Readiance account
    4. Enter the Title and Language of the book
    5. Upload an audio file (100 MB limit)
    6. Paste the text for the audio file
    7. Enter the Book, Author, Narrator, and Description
    8. Click Save
19. Listening to Books
    1. How do I play a Readiance book?
20. How do I Listen to Books?
    1. Search for the title
    2. Find the Chapter
    3. Select the Play button
    4. The playback UI has these buttons:
       1. Play
       2. Text size
       3. Settings
       4. Table of contents
       5. Go to the next chapter
    5. Note: we recommend using Chrome
21. Playback Granularity
    1. Readiance allows text highlighting at these levels:
       1. Paragraph
       2. Sentence
       3. Word
    2. To change the granularity:
       1. Change the ending of the URL to p, s, or w
22. Readiance Shortcuts
    1. m = play/pause
    2. d = increase text size
    3. f = decrease text size
    4. w = increase volume
    5. q = decrease volume
    6. a = mute
    7. y = previous fragment
    8. U = next fragment
    9. s = show shortcuts
    10. l = increase speed
    11. j = decrease speed
    12. k= reset playback
    13. n = toggle night mode
    14. x = hide toolbar
    15. v = show toolbar
    16. left arrow = previous page
    17. right arrow = next page
    18. ESC = hide shortcuts
23. Other Playback Controls
    1. Night Mode
       1. Dark background
    2. Block View
       1. Each sentence on its own line
    3. Continuous
       1. Playback continues after each fragment
    4. Auto-scroll
       1. Web browser moves with text
24. Playback Recommendations
    1. Train students how to do the following:
    2. Use shortcuts
    3. Adjust browser window size
       1. A student can take notes in a separate window
    4. Determine the optimal granularity for highlighting
    5. Determine the optimal playback speed
    6. Select the text and copy /paste into notes document
25. Finetuning Books
    1. How do I correct a Readiance book?
26. What if the Synch is Inaccurate?
    1. Remember: text and audio must be identical
    2. Some tips for optimal synchronization:
       1. Listen to the audio stream
       2. Check the text for differences
       3. Eliminate footnotes and line numbers
       4. Replace commonly used abbreviations (S. = Saint)
    3. Try listening back in a different browser
       1. Google Chrome was better than Safari
27. FineTuneAs
    1. Click the Tune button
    2. fragment = line of text
    3. Adjust a timestamp
    4. Use the + key
       1. If text is LATER
    5. Use the – key
       1. if text is EARLIER
    6. (in relation to the audio)
28. More Resources
29. Aeneas
    * 1. Synchs audio + text
      2. www.readbeyond.it
      3. Alberto Pettarin (developer)
    1. An EPUB 3 + workflow:
       1. Add IDs to XHTML elements (Icarus Sigil plug-in)
       2. Synchronize XHTML fragments + MP3s = SMIL file
       3. Export to EPUB3 (EPUB3-itizer Sigil plug-in)
    2. For more info:
       1. https://github.com/readbeyond/aeneas/blob/master/wiki/HOWITWORKS.md