

## Press release from 2 April 2014

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#Apps, #Barrier-free, #Library, #Blind, #Visually-impaired, #iOS, #Voiceover, #Stiftung Centralbibliothek für Blinde,  
#Norddeutsche Blindenhörbücherei, #visorApps  
For: visorApps, Dresden

# An App for Libraries for the Blind

## Blind Dresden software programmer develops barrier-free app for online library for the blind

**Dresden/Hamburg. Blind and visually-impaired people are now able to utilise the services of [blindenbuecherei.de](http://blindenbuecherei.de) conveniently with their mobile phone for the first time. The library lends books in braille and audio books. The free app for this was programmed by blind Dresden software expert for barrier-free mobility in digital space, Dr. Jan Blüher.**

Many blind and visually-impaired people enjoy reading. To be able to read, they need so-called 'DAISY' audio books or books in braille. These may be lent, for example, via [www.blindenbuecherei.de](http://www.blindenbuecherei.de). This is Germany's website for the 'Bücherei für sehbehinderte und blinde Menschen', or the Library for the Blind and Visually-Impaired. This is a service offered mutually by the Norddeutsche Blindenhörbücherei (North-German Library for the Blind) and Stiftung Centralbibliothek für Blinde in Hamburg (Central Library Foundation for the Blind in Hamburg). They have developed an app called 'Blibu NBH&CB'.

The app enables blind, visually-impaired, and people with normal vision to search the inventory of [blindenbuecherei.de](http://blindenbuecherei.de), to register as a user, to order books, and to manage their orders. The books are then sent to them by mail. *"This new app makes accessing our inventory significantly more convenient, since 'Blibu' is able to be operated completely via voice-over technology,"* exclaims Elke Dittmer, General Manager of Norddeutsche Blindenhörbücherei. She is also the chairperson of Mediengemeinschaft für blinde und sehbehinderte Menschen e.V. (Medibus - Media Society for Blind and Visually-Impaired People). The 'Blibu-App' will be available to all of the libraries covered by this umbrella association and could possibly be the most important point of access to books for blind and visually-impaired people in German-speaking countries.

Elke Dittmer discovered the Dresden app developer Dr. Jan Blüher when she read about the colour scanner he programmed, 'ColorVisor', who has now also developed the Blibu-App especially for iPhones, iPads and iPod touch. *"'Reading without limits' is the motto of our library for visually-impaired and blind people. Barrier-free, unlimited apps are Dr. Blüher's speciality. We are a perfect match,"* explains Elke Dittmer.

Developer Dr. Blüher: *"My motto is 'design for all': Apps should be able to be used by everyone. Devices running iOS offer the best conditions for barrier-free operation, since the screen reader is an integral component of this operating system. It reads out all of the operating options to the user."* In any case, many apps currently do not use this feature and are therefore hardly or not at all suitable for blind users. For Dr. Blüher, a PhD of computer science, who has himself been completely blind since he was twenty years old, this was reason enough to found the company 'visorApps' and to develop barrier-free apps exclusively. *"Barrier-free apps enable blind and visually-impaired people easy, fast, efficient access to extensive information in a completely new way. The potential for blind people like myself provided by these new and versatile opportunities for accessing information is enormous. Apps are able to change the way that interact with the world even more strongly for us than for those*

*with unhindered vision,"* continues Dr. Blüher. Apps like 'Blibu NBH&CB' enable many blind and visually-impaired people to select and order their favourite audio and braille books using a mobile device for the first time.

**Blibu NBH&CB 1.0 in the App Store:**

<http://AppStore.com/blibunbhandcb>

or [Blibu NBH& CB](#)

... or <https://itunes.apple.com/de/app/blibu-nbh-cb/id839466294?mt=8>

or <http://www.blindenbuecherei.de/dateien/ausleihe/blibuapp.html>

or search for 'Blibu' in the App Store.

**Description:**

The BliBu app for Norddeutsche Blindenhörbücherei (North-German Library for the Blind) and Stiftung Centralbibliothek für Blinde (Central Library Foundation for the Blind) enables you to browse our braille and audio book catalogues, research and order books, and manage your order via the media library, not only from home, but from wherever you like and whenever you like with the help of your iPhone or iPad and your account with us.

**Functions:**

- \* Simple and advanced search in the braille and DAISY audio book catalogue.
- \* Detailed information about all books.
- \* Book ordering. We send you the books you want to borrow to your home.
- \* Manage your orders in the media library: cancel orders or change their priority.
- \* New registration with NBH/CB.
- \* Blibu is able to be operated completely using voice-over technology.

Note: Only people with certified visual impairment are permitted to borrow audio books from Norddeutsche Blindenhörbücherei.

The following devices using operating system iOS 7 are currently supported:

iPhone 4, 4S, 5, 5C, and 5S

iPad 2, iPad generation 3 and 4, iPad Air, iPad mini, and iPad mini with retina

iPod touch generation 5

**Other products from visorApps:**

barrier-free colour scanner ColorVisor: <http://AppStore.com/ColorVisor>

barrier-free game MouseKick: <http://AppStore.com/MouseKick>

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