

ALA American Library Association

PODCAST LITERACY

EDUCATIONAL, ACCESSIBLE, AND DIVERSE
PODCASTS FOR LIBRARY USERS

Nicole Hennig

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Podcast Literacy: Educational, Accessible, and Diverse Podcasts for Library Users

Nicole Hennig



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Nicole Hennig is an independent user experience professional, helping librarians and educators effectively use mobile technologies. See her educational offerings at <http://nicolehennig.com>. She is the author of several books, including *Apps for Librarians: Using the Best Mobile Technology to Educate, Create, and Engage*. Her online courses, such as *Apps for Librarians & Educators*, have enabled librarians from all types of institutions to effectively implement mobile technologies in their programs and services. Her newsletter, *Mobile Apps News*, helps librarians stay current with mobile technologies. Hennig worked for the MIT Libraries for fourteen years as head of user experience and web manager. She is the winner of several awards, including the MIT Excellence Award for Innovative Solutions.

Abstract

Podcasts are experiencing a renaissance today. More high-quality programming is available for more diverse audiences than ever before.

When librarians are knowledgeable about podcasts, how to find the best ones, and what purposes they serve, we can point our users to the very best content and help increase digital literacy.

Library Technology Reports (vol. 53, no. 2), "Podcast Literacy: Educational, Accessible, and Diverse Podcasts for Library Users," will cover

- Why podcasts are an important part of digital literacy
- Statistics on podcast listening
- The advantages of audio-based learning
- How to find the best podcasts
- The best apps for podcast listening
- Lists of recommended podcasts for general audiences, higher education, teens, children, people with disabilities, and diverse and underserved audiences
- How podcasts are being used, in context, in K-12 education and higher education
- Podcast accessibility for people with disabilities
- Ideas for how libraries can become curators and recommenders of podcasts
- Resources for learning more

Subscriptions

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Why Podcasts?

This report is about curating and recommending podcasts for your library users. Helping our users find the best podcasts is a great opportunity for libraries because understanding podcasts is an important part of today’s digital literacies. Librarians can curate the best podcasts for different types of users—people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities—in all types of libraries by providing handouts, web guides, and workshops.

Podcasts are flourishing these days, and we’ll look at how and why they are becoming more popular. I’ll discuss where and why people listen, how podcasts are being used in educational settings, and the advantages of audio podcasts for people with visual disabilities. I’ll offer lists of recommended podcasts for different age levels and diverse audiences. We’ll also look at some of the best podcast directories and tips for finding new podcasts.

Podcasts can be in either audio or video format, and in this report, we’ll focus on audio podcasts. That’s because there are many more audio podcasts available, and people can use them in many situations where video is not convenient. In addition, there are other resources for finding and using educational videos,¹ but not as much has been written on audio.

I’ll also recommend some of the best podcast listening apps and discuss which kinds of features are most useful in these apps.

Podcasts Defined

Most people know that podcasts are audio programs that you can listen to on your smartphone or tablet. But many don’t know some of the interesting details that make podcasts a unique format.

Here’s how Merriam-Webster defines a podcast: “A program (as of music or talk) made available in digital format for automatic download over the Internet.”² Those with technical knowledge understand podcasts as audio or video files attached to an RSS feed.

What’s more helpful to understand is the following. The word *podcast* came about by combining the word *broadcast* with *iPod*. The term began to be used in 2004, when iPods were popular.³ At that time, technology was developed to make it possible to subscribe to a feed with links to audio files you could download. That way you wouldn’t have to remember to visit particular websites and blogs that offered your favorite audio shows. Instead you could use software to “subscribe” and automatically be notified when new episodes were available. Since bandwidth for most people was limited, downloading the files to listen to offline was (and still is) especially useful.

Because podcasts aren’t restricted by traditional broadcast regulations, there is a huge variety of programming. It’s fairly easy to acquire and learn the tools for creating a podcast. So a wide variety of programming is available, both by established media outlets and by individuals and organizations of all sizes.

Here are a few other things to know about podcasts:

- Most podcasts are free (and many are ad-supported). You can listen on any device that plays MP3 files (and other audio formats)—desktop computers, smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, smart earbuds, and some smart TVs.⁴
- You can choose to stream or to download the files in advance—useful when you are offline or have low bandwidth.
- If you subscribe to a podcast, you will be notified automatically when new episodes are available.

You can either auto-download each episode or download just those episodes that interest you.

- You don't have to subscribe to a podcast to listen to an individual episode. Most episodes are available on the website of their creators, and you can stream the episode from there.
- Instead of waiting for your favorite show to broadcast (as with radio), you can pick and choose shows that interest you and listen to them whenever it's convenient.
- You can use various apps on either desktop computers or mobile devices to subscribe to, organize, and download your podcasts.
- One thing to keep in mind is that many podcasts offer only a few episodes and then stop publishing (for various reasons). Older podcast episodes still have value, depending on the topic, and it's possible to download and listen to older episodes anytime.⁵

All of these characteristics make podcasts an interesting and useful format.

Types of Podcasts

There are many types of podcast programming. Just about anything that can be listened to in audio can be made into a series of podcast episodes. Here are some examples:

- interviews⁶
- conversations⁷
- how to⁸
- recordings of entire seminars or lectures⁹
- historical recordings¹⁰
- found footage¹¹
- music performances¹²
- improv comedy¹³
- audio drama¹⁴
- storytelling¹⁵
- scary stories¹⁶
- scripted or nonscripted material¹⁷
- a series of episodes meant to be listened to in order (serialized)¹⁸

There is something for everyone in the world of podcasts.

The Increasing Popularity of Podcasts

Listening to Podcasts

Podcasts are increasing in popularity, with steady growth in the last few years (2008–2016).¹⁹ Though

it's still a minority of Americans who actively listen to them, the number is growing steadily, from 9 percent in 2008 to 21 percent in 2013.²⁰

When it comes to people who have ever listened to a podcast, the numbers have doubled since 2008—it's now 36 percent of Americans.²¹ The number of people who say they are familiar with the term *podcasting* has increased from 22 percent in 2006 to 49 percent in 2015.²²

The number of podcasts produced has also grown in the past few years, from 69,860 in 2009 to 91,794 in 2013 (the most recent survey year).²³

Recent statistics show that more people listen on mobile devices than desktop computers, 69 percent versus 31 percent²⁴—not surprising, given the growth of mobile computing and the convenience of listening on the go.

Who Creates Podcasts?

Many news organizations are starting to invest in podcasting, partly because business models are evolving to better translate them into sources of revenue (ad-supported). Another reason is that podcasts can be a new avenue for growing audiences, especially younger audiences.

There is an interesting article about the future of National Public Radio that discusses the conflict between the traditional ways of reporting used in radio shows like *Morning Edition* (with its mainly older audiences) and innovative reporting styles used in podcasts like *Invisibilia*, *Code Switch*, *Embedded*, and *Planet Money* (listened to by younger audiences).

According to the article, "Listeners want audio programming that makes them feel as though they're getting to know a person or a topic intimately, whether through the familiar banter of beloved panelists or through lovingly produced works of storytelling. . . . Successful podcasts, such as *Reply All*, *Criminal*, and *You Must Remember This*, have paved the way for something else entirely: meticulously crafted feature journalism that, in Alex Blumberg's words, feels less like a collection of radio segments and more like 'narrative-driven, textured, sound-rich documentaries.'"²⁵

There are many established media organizations that have been investing significant resources in podcasting during the past few years. Some examples are the *New York Times*, public radio station WNYC, the *Wall Street Journal*, and local newspapers, such as the *Des Moines Register*.

Newer media and startups are also getting more involved in podcasting—some examples are Slate, BuzzFeed, Radiotopia, and Gimlet Media (a podcast network).²⁶

And with the rise of popular podcasts like *Serial* (a spin-off of the popular radio show *This American Life*,

which tells a true story in episodes released over the course of a season), more and more people are finding ways to use podcasts for educational purposes as well as entertainment.

Serial

<https://serialpodcast.org>

For example, some schools have been using episodic podcasts like *Serial* in the classroom, with good results.²⁷ “Meanwhile, high-school teachers in California, Connecticut, Chicago, and a handful of other states have been using *Radiolab*, *This American Life*, *StoryCorps*, and, overwhelmingly, *Serial*. The English teacher and *Atlantic* contributing writer Michael Godsey’s 10th- and 11th-graders were so enthralled by Koenig’s investigative podcast that they began skipping other classes to listen to it.”²⁸

Podcasts Created by Local Communities and Individuals

Media outlets large and small aren’t the only ones creating podcasts. There is also an explosion of podcasts created by individuals and local communities.²⁹

Some interesting examples include

- Students telling their stories to friends and family while studying abroad³⁰
- Neighborhood activists and organizers creating podcasts to spread the word about local activities and cultural projects³¹
- Local business owners talking to their communities³²
- Local sports teams communicating with their fans³³
- Churches and religious leaders communicating with their congregations³⁴
- Schools and teachers communicating with parents³⁵

Because of all this, now is a good time for librarians to develop knowledge of how to find and listen to the best podcasts so that we can point users to relevant content in this convenient format.

Where and When People Listen

One of the best things about audio podcasts is the wide variety of situations where people listen to them.

In a 2015 discussion on Reddit about podcasts, someone asked, “when/where do you usually listen to podcasts?”³⁶ People mentioned

- During boring jobs
- During a subway, train, or bus commute
- During jobs that involve driving
- During a road trip
- While running, exercising, or going for a walk
- During their morning routine: showering, getting dressed
- While cleaning the house
- While doing yard work
- During a bath
- While waking the dog
- While preparing dinner
- At the gym during strength training
- In bed, before sleep
- While working as a security guard

One thing people most appreciate is the ability to learn something or be entertained during bits of time where it’s not as convenient to watch videos or read.

Later in this report, we’ll look at examples of how podcasts are being used in school classrooms and higher education and for people who are blind or have low vision. I’ll also discuss how libraries are making podcast recommendations to their communities, with ideas and examples.

Notes

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Recommended Tools for Podcast Listening

How to Find and Subscribe to a Podcast

Podcasts can be found in many ways. If someone tells you about an interesting podcast, you might start by searching Google for the title, with the word *podcast* after it. You can usually find the website of the podcast and from there find a link to subscribe. If you're looking for a particular episode, you don't actually need to subscribe. Most podcasts offer ways to listen to individual episodes in your web browser without subscribing.¹

Once you start subscribing to several podcasts, you'll probably want to use a desktop or mobile app to organize your subscriptions. Apple's iTunes is the most popular desktop app (for Mac or Windows).² It also has one of the largest directories of podcasts available, so it's a good place to search for and browse podcasts by topic.

To do a quick search, enter a podcast name in the iTunes search box, and then filter your results by podcasts. If you visit the Podcasts section of the iTunes store, you can browse by topic and other categories, such as Editor's Choice, New & Noteworthy, Modern Audio Drama, and so on.

One thing to keep in mind is that iTunes does not contain all of the world's podcasts. Some podcasters don't configure their shows for it. Also, Apple has different iTunes stores for each country, so many international podcasts are not found in the US store.³ Because of that, it's a good idea to use more than one directory. I'll discuss these in the section of this report on podcast discovery later in this chapter.

There are quite a few useful mobile apps for podcast listening, and they are available for multiple platforms. Most have a directory and search function

within the app for finding podcasts to subscribe to. Once you subscribe to a podcast, you can choose whether to automatically download the latest episode and whether to delete episodes you've finished. You can also choose from several other choices to customize your listening. We'll look at both desktop and mobile apps in the upcoming sections of this report.

Mobile Apps for iOS and Android

There are many options for listening to podcasts on mobile devices. In this section, I'll list some of the highest-rated apps for iOS and Android.

One of the reasons to use a dedicated mobile app for podcasts is that these apps have very useful features, such as skipping ahead or back by a few seconds (to skip introductions), a sleep timer, volume boost for noisy situations, and so on.

My current favorite app is Pocket Casts (\$3.99) because it's available for both iOS and Android, has many useful features, and has a very user-friendly design.⁴ Features such as free syncing across all your devices, web playback (for a one-time fee of \$9), variable speed playback, skip ahead by 45 seconds or back by 10 seconds (the number of seconds is adjustable in Settings), volume boost (for noisy situations, like in the car), and a sleep timer. If you use both Android and iOS, you will like this app since you can sync your podcasts between Android and iOS devices.

Several reviewers promote Overcast (free, for iOS only) as the best player available.⁵ It has features that are similar to Pocket Casts and in addition offers "Smart Speed." Smart Speed dynamically skips and shortens silences in talk shows. If you use only iOS devices, you might prefer this app.

Another excellent iOS app is Castro, which focuses on making it easy to set up a queue of individual episodes from different podcasts.⁶ It provides an inbox where you can see the latest episode of each podcast you are subscribed to. From there you can either add an episode to your queue for future listening or archive it. You can drag episodes into any order you like in your listening queue. Episodes can be streamed or downloaded.

iOS Apps

- **Overcast**, free, <https://overcast.fm>. Also offers app for Apple Watch and web player, <https://overcast.fm/podcasts>.
- **Pocket Casts**, \$3.99, www.shiftyjelly.com/pocketcasts. Also offers web player, <https://play.pocketcasts.com>.
- **Castro**, free, <http://supertop.co/castro>.
- **Downcast**, \$2.99, <http://downcastapp.com>. Also offers apps for Apple Watch, Mac, and soon CarPlay.
- **Podcasts** (Apple's built-in app), free, <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/podcasts/d525463029?mt=8>.
- **Otto Radio**, free, <https://www.ottoradio.com>. This app is designed to find podcasts and news stories that match your interests. It tailors playlists to your desired listening time, useful for quickly setting up a playlist for a long commute.

Android Apps

- **Pocket Casts**, \$3.99, www.shiftyjelly.com/pocketcasts. Also offers a web player: <https://play.pocketcasts.com>.
- **Castro**, free, <http://supertop.co/castro>.
- **BeyondPod**, free, www.beyondpod.mobi/android/index.htm.
- **Player FM**, free, <https://player.fm>.
- **AntennaPod**, free, <http://antennapod.org>.
- **Podcast Republic**, free, <http://podcastrepublic.net>.
- **Podcast & Radio Addict**, free, <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bambuna.podcastaddict>.

Features to Look For

When deciding on an app to use for podcast listening, the following features will make your listening more convenient, especially if you subscribe to many podcasts.

- Smart speed (dynamically shortens silences)
- Volume boost (normalizes volume in noisy situations, like your car)
- Cellular downloads
- Variable playback speed (accelerated audio and slow audio)

- Per-podcast effects settings
- Sleep timer
- Playlists
- Unlimited number of playlists
- Unlimited episodes shown in playlists
- Streaming option
- Built-in directory
- Background downloading
- Push notifications
- Sharing on social media
- Syncing across all your devices
- Web playback

Shortening silences can end up saving a lot of time and is barely noticeable. Using a sleep timer is handy if you listen before bed, and syncing across all of your devices makes it easy to begin your listening at home and continue later when in your car or out for a walk.

Desktop Apps and Websites

In addition to iTunes (mentioned earlier in this report), there are several other options for listening to podcasts on your desktop or laptop computer.

Mac and Windows Apps

If you want to use a dedicated app, try one of these:

- **iTunes**, free, www.apple.com/itunes/download.
- **Downcast**, Mac app, \$7.99. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/downcast/id668429425?mt=12>.

Desktop Web

If you prefer to use your web browser, these are good options:

- **Pocket Casts**, \$9 one-time fee, <https://play.pocketcasts.com>.
- **Overcast**, free, <https://overcast.fm/podcasts>.
- **Google Play Music**, free, <https://play.google.com/music/listen?u=0#/tps>.
- **ShortOrange**, free, <https://shortorange.com>. (iOS and Android apps coming soon.)

Other Ways to Listen on Mobile or Desktop

Stitcher Radio

<http://www.stitcher.com>. With free apps for iOS and Android.⁷

Stitcher is a very popular free app for listening to podcasts. It's a little different from other services in that it hosts the podcast audio files itself and inserts ads instead of linking to each podcast's server. Some

podcast publishers don't like this practice because it makes it difficult for them to measure their total number of downloads (easy to do when using their own servers). So you may find that a particular podcast you are looking for is not available on Stitcher. Still, it's a well-designed app that makes it easy to share your favorite episodes on social media. In June 2016, Stitcher was purchased by podcast advertising company Midroll Media.⁸

TuneIn Radio
<http://tunein.com>

Free with premium service for \$7.99/month. With premium, you also get content from NFL, Major League Baseball, audiobooks, and ad-free music.

TuneIn is mainly for streaming audio of over 100,000 radio stations from around the world, but it also offers streaming podcasts. You can listen on the website or in apps for smartphones and tablets on multiple platforms.⁹ It also has apps for other devices, including smart TVs like Roku, Chromecast, and Amazon Fire TV. There is an Apple Watch app, and TuneIn is also available with the Amazon Echo (voice-controlled speaker). In addition to all that, it's built in to many different car audio systems. Think of TuneIn as an additional way to listen conveniently to your favorite podcasts from all sorts of different devices. It doesn't have all the extra features of dedicated apps like Overcast or Pocket Casts, but it's a convenient alternative to use in certain situations.

Spotify
<https://www.spotify.com>

The popular streaming music service Spotify has a section for listening to and "following" podcasts.¹⁰ It's designed mostly for streaming, but it is possible to download individual episodes if you have the premium service. There is a free version with ads and a premium version for \$9.99 per month. Not all podcasts are available in Spotify, but many of the most popular ones are.

SoundCloud
<https://soundcloud.com>

If you already use SoundCloud to listen to music, you might also want to listen to podcasts here. However, it's mainly for streaming and doesn't have all the convenient features that dedicated podcast apps have. Many podcasters use it to host their podcasts and then submit them to the iTunes store for discovery.¹¹ SoundCloud has free apps for iOS and Android and makes it easy for podcast creators to embed a player in their blog or website for each individual episode.

Audible
www.audible.com

Audible is a well-known online store for audiobooks (owned by Amazon), and in 2016, it began to

include some podcasts as well.¹² Audible is calling this service Channels, and it offers a library of audio, including original programs, articles read aloud, and more. It's \$4.95 per month for a subscription to Channels or is free if you already have a monthly membership to Audible's audiobooks (\$14.95). If you have an Amazon Prime membership, you can get free access to "Audible Channels for Prime."

To sum up, many streaming services are now including podcasts and can serve as an additional way to listen, especially if you are already using these services for music or streaming radio. But a dedicated app will provide the most convenience if you listen to particular podcasts regularly.

Podcast Discovery

Just about every mobile or desktop podcast app mentioned in previous sections includes a directory, and that's a good place to start when browsing or searching for podcasts.

In addition to those apps, there are also quite a few specialized podcast directories, and some have features that will help you find podcasts in useful ways. Here are a few recommended sites.

General Directories

PodcastLand
<http://podcastland.com>

Browse by topic or search by keyword. Try searching for a city, such as San Francisco, to find local podcasts.

Podcast Chart
<https://www.podcastchart.com>

Browse by topic and subtopic, or search by keyword. This site indexes the most popular podcasts by number of downloads.

iTunes Charts
www.itunescharts.net/us/charts/podcasts

Use this site to find out which podcasts are most popular in the iTunes store, both overall and by genre, such as comedy, arts, or technology.

Timbre—Podcast Playlists
<http://thetimbre.com/category/playlists>

This podcast review site is no longer publishing, but it is still worth looking at for its "podcast playlists"—lists of podcast episodes grouped by interesting topic, such as "Nerd Out on Science Podcasts" (<http://thetimbre.com/nerd-out-on-science-podcasts>), "Podcasting in Color" (<http://thetimbre.com/1449-2>), and "Book Lovers! Curl Up by the Fire with These Podcasts" (<http://thetimbre.com/filling-your-bookshelves-with-podcasts>).

The Telegraph (UK)—Podcasts
www.telegraph.co.uk/radio/podcasts

Browse this site for interesting lists of podcasts, such as the best fiction podcasts, podcasts to help people who live alone with cancer, stranger than fiction: the best factual podcasts, the best TV and film podcasts, and more.

Tech Times—Podmaster
www.techtimes.com/tags/podmasters

A series of blog posts recommending podcasts in different categories, such as philosophy, music, and technology.

Sites That Promote and Discuss Individual Episodes

Product Hunt—Podcasts
<https://www.producthunt.com/podcasts>

Product Hunt is a popular community where enthusiasts share information about the best apps, websites, hardware projects, and more. The podcasts section recommends specific episodes each day, and most are technology related.

AV Club—Podmass
www.avclub.com/features/podmass

Every week the AV Club recommends ten to fifteen of the previous week's best podcast episodes.

Earbud—NPR
<http://earbud.fm>

NPR's recommended podcasts by topic, with interesting topics, such as Advice, Big Ideas, Celebrity Picks, Fiction, Brighten My Day, and more.

Listen to This—*The Guardian*
<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/series/listen-to-this>
The Guardian offers a weekly series recommending current best podcast episodes.

Search Tools with Special Features

Podcat
<https://www.podcat.com>

Search for specific people who are mentioned or interviewed in podcasts. For example, search for "Lynda Barry," and find a list of podcast episodes that mention her.¹³

Audiosear.ch
<https://www.audiosear.ch>

This site uses a speech-to-text tool to index shows, topic, networks, and people. It includes statistics from the iTunes charts and lists of podcasts by various "tastemakers." Try the audio alerts feature

to be notified when specific words, phrases, or people's names appear in a podcast. This site was created by Pop Up Archive, a company that uses software to automatically create transcripts of audio.

PodLikeThat—from Audiosear.ch
<https://www.audiosear.ch/podlikethat>

Enter the title of a specific podcast episode in the search box and get a list of similar episodes from various podcasts. For an example, try this episode, "The Meaning of Emoji." Results vary—it doesn't always work as well as one would like.

E-Mail Newsletters about Podcasts

The Big Listen
<http://www.npr.org/newsletter/big-listen>

NPR's *The Big Listen* is a podcast about podcasts (see entry in my list of podcasts about podcasts). Sign up to get an email newsletter with recommendations of the best podcasts.

Hotpod
www.hotpod.xyz

Hotpod is an e-mail newsletter about the industry of podcasting and on-demand audio. It analyzes the industry and also mentions interesting podcasts. Read past issues at <https://www.hotpodnews.com>.

Hodgepodge
www.wnyc.org/podcasts

Hodgepodge is WNYC's weekly newsletter about favorite episodes from the podcasts it produces, such as *Radiolab*, *The New Yorker Radio Hour*, *Note to Self*, and more.

Between Two Earbuds
<http://betweentwoearbuds.com>

This newsletter recommends great podcasts on a variety of topics each week.

Adolescence Is a Marketing Tool
<http://tinyletter.com/sara-weber>

This is another general interest newsletter by a fan of podcasts.

Audible Feast
<http://tinyletter.com/audiblefeast>

Every two weeks, get podcast reviews and recommendations.

7 on 7 Podcast Reviews
<http://tinyletter.com/goodlistener>

Get podcast reviews from seven podcasts during the last seven days.

The Audit

<http://tinyletter.com/TheAudit>

Podcast reviews from Australia.

Bello Weekly

<http://bellocollective.com>

This newsletter focuses on diverse perspectives in podcasting. It highlights work that deserves more recognition.

Pod-a-Day

<https://www.audiosear.ch/podaday>

Audiosear.ch recommends one podcast episode per day with this e-mail newsletter.

Facebook Messenger Bot

PodRec

www.podrecbot.com

This bot works inside Facebook Messenger. Use this link to open it in Messenger: <http://m.me/podrec>. Type “hit me,” and it will reply with a specific episode from a different podcast each time. Learn more about it at <https://www.producthunt.com/tech/podrec>.

Discussion Groups—Ask Questions about Podcasts

Podcasts Reddit Group

<https://www.reddit.com/r/podcasts>

Discover new podcasts and discuss your favorites. It’s also a place where podcast producers discuss equipment, promotion, and techniques.

Quora Topic—Podcasts

<https://www.quora.com/topic/Podcasts>

This topic consists of questions and answers about podcasts (not about how to podcast)—questions like “What are some great podcasts?” “What are the best BBC podcasts?” and “How did the podcast *Serial* become so popular?”

Podcasts about Podcasts

There are many podcasts about how to produce a podcast,¹⁴ but we’re interested here in podcasts that recommend and review podcasts.

The Big Listen

http://wamu.org/programs/the_big_listen

Interviews, listener recommendations, and show snippets of recommended podcasts. Hosted by WAMU’s Lauren Ober. Also offers an email newsletter (<http://www.npr.org/newsletter/big-listen>).

In Pod We Trust—BBC Radio 4

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06pjdjh

A BBC show that discusses best podcasts from around the world, with a different topic each week.

The Pod Couple

<https://soundcloud.com/thetelegraph/sets/the-pod-couple-a-guide-to-the>

A weekly podcast from *The Telegraph* where hosts Gillian and Pete discuss and recommend their favorite podcasts.¹⁵

The Podcast Digest

www.thepodcastdigest.info

Behind-the-scenes interviews with podcast hosts and recommendations for new podcasts.

Podcast Playlist—CBC

www.cbc.ca/radio/podcastplaylist

From CBC Radio, *Podcast Playlist* curates recommended content and stories from the podcast world. Hosted by Matt Galloway and Lindsay Michael.

Sampler

<https://gimletmedia.com/show/sampler>

Excerpts from podcasts and interviews with podcasters. This show ended in October 2016, but is still worth listening to for previous episodes.

As you can see, with so many options for discovery, you should be able to find a podcast or individual episode on just about any topic you can think of. Podcasts are booming now, and so are sites for recommending them.

Notes

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13. "Podcasts Mentioning Lynda Barry," Podcat, accessed September 23, 2016, <https://www.podcat.com/people/9nf0gw>.
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15. Gillian Reynolds and Pete Naughton, "The Pod Couple: Episode One—Your New Audio Guide to the Best Podcasts and Digital Radio," *Telegraph*, April 29, 2016, www.telegraph.co.uk/radio/podcasts/the-pod-couple-your-new-audio-guide-to-the-best-podcasts-and-dig.

A Guide to Some of the Best Podcasts

Since the number of podcasts is very large and growing (more than 325,000 podcasts are available in iTunes according to 2016 statistics),¹ it's easy to feel overwhelmed. In this section, I'll recommend a selection of well-reviewed podcasts in different categories and discuss how to find podcasts by topic.

Podcasts for a General Audience

There are so many excellent podcasts that it's not easy to create a list of the best general ones. I won't aim to do that; instead, here's a list of a few well-known podcasts that get good reviews and are popular.

If you want to recommend a few podcasts for people who are new to podcast listening, you can use this list. The upcoming section (podcasts for teens) may also be of interest to adults.

Freakonomics Radio—WNYP

www.npr.org/podcasts/452538045/freakonomics-radio

A show based on the bestselling book *Freakonomics* by journalist Stephen J. Dubner and economist Steven D. Levitt. Dubner has conversations that explore the riddles of everyday life and the wrinkles of human nature. He talks with his coauthor Levitt and also with Nobel laureates, social scientists, and entrepreneurs.

Invisibilia—NPR

www.npr.org/podcasts/510307/invisibilia

Invisibilia, which is Latin for “invisible things,” covers the thoughts, beliefs, assumptions, and feelings that shape human behavior. Cohosted by Lulu Miller, Hanna Rosin, and Alix Spiegel, this podcast uses narrative storytelling and scientific research to tell fascinating stories.

Note to Self—WNYP

www.wnyc.org/shows/notetoself

This podcast is about new technologies and their implications for everyday life. It's aimed at those who want to “preserve their humanity in the digital age.”² It's hosted by Manoush Zomorodi, who encourages listeners to question everything.

On the Media—WNYP

www.wnyc.org/otm-podcast

This is a weekly show that explores and analyzes the process of making news media. It aims to uncover the media-making process and looks at challenges relating to freedom of information and expression in the United States and abroad.

RadioLab—WNYP

www.radiolab.org/series/podcasts

Radiolab calls itself a show about curiosity. It blurs the lines between science, philosophy, and the human experience. It's a popular radio program produced by WNYP and broadcasted by public radio stations in the United States.

Revisionist History—Panoply

<http://revisionisthistory.com>

This popular podcast features the author Malcolm Gladwell, author of *Tipping Point*, *Blink*, and several other books. Each week it reexamines events, people, or ideas from the past, selecting topics that often have been ignored, disregarded, or misunderstood.

Science Friday—PRI

www.pri.org/programs/science-friday

This podcast covers news about science and technology in fun, interesting ways. Hosted by Ira Flatow,

it features experts and people who want to be experts. In addition, the program often includes a segment where listeners call in with interesting questions for those experts.

Sooo Many White Guys—WNYC
<http://www.wnyc.org/shows/whiteguys>

This is a podcast by comedian Phoebe Robinson, where she interviews performers, musicians, authors, and artists who are doing outstanding work in various fields. None of them are white men. She turns the tables by including only one episode per season where she interviews a “token white guy.” This is a relatively new podcast, launched in July of 2016, and is already very popular.

StoryCorps—NPR
www.npr.org/podcasts/510200/storycorps

StoryCorps journeys across the United States gathering narratives of everyday folk who get the chance to interview each other about their experiences and lives. These interesting interviews aren’t scripted and are shared weekly on StoryCorps.

StarTalk Radio Show with Neil DeGrasse Tyson—Curved Light Productions
<http://startalkradio.co/category/podcasts>

This podcast about space is hosted by renowned astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson. Topics include space travel, extraterrestrial life, the future of planet Earth, and more. It’s a lively show, where he is joined weekly by comedians, celebrities, and other special guests.

Studio 360—PRI and WNYC
www.wnyc.org/shows/studio

Studio 360 is a weekly public radio program about arts and culture, hosted by novelist and journalist Kurt Andersen. It covers topics such as creativity, pop culture, and the arts.

TED Radio Hour—NPR
www.npr.org/podcasts/510298/ted-radio-hour

TED Radio Hour is a one-hour show that brings together excerpts and interviews from TED Talks on particular topics. It’s hosted by Guy Raz and coproduced by NPR and TED. *TED Talks* covers new solutions and new processes to old problems, new inventions, and new means to conceive ideas and create.

This American Life—Chicago Public Media and PRI
www.thisamericanlife.org/podcast

This American Life is one of the most popular podcasts in the United States. It’s a recording of the radio show of the same name, sometimes with extra material that the radio didn’t have time to include. There’s a theme to each episode, and most of the stories are

journalism with an occasional comedy routine. Topics are wide ranging. To get an idea of the content, take a look at the archive of old episodes: www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives.

As you can see, most of these podcasts are produced by well-known media outlets, and often they are recordings of existing radio shows. In future sections, we’ll look at podcasts by small, independent creators—many of which exist only in podcast form.

Podcasts for Higher Education

In this section, I’ll recommend a few podcasts for higher education students, faculty, and administrators. There are many podcasts created by specific universities, professors, students, and higher education professionals, so this is just a small sampling.

For Students

College Info Geek
<http://collegeinfo geek.com/cast>

Study tips and interviews with professionals who have interesting jobs.

The Torch: The Great Courses Podcast
www.thegreatcourses.com/podcast?ICMP=102636

Host Ed Leon interviews expert professors about interesting research from their specialties.

For Faculty

The Student Caring Podcast for Professors
<http://studentcaring.com/podcast-for-professors>

Podcast hosts de Roulet and Pecoraro, authors of the book *The Caring Professor: A Guide to Effective, Rewarding, and Rigorous Teaching*, discuss how to be an effective professor.

Trends & Issues in Instructional Design, Educational Technology, & Learning Sciences
<http://trendsandissues.com/category/trends-issues-podcast>

Professors Abbie Brown and Tim Green are experts in educational technologies. Each week they discuss several trends in instructional design.

General Higher Education News

Higher Ed Live
<http://higheredlive.com/podcasts>

This podcast is for higher education professionals and covers admissions, advancement, marketing, student affairs, and communications.

Higher Ed

www.npr.org/podcasts/417236598/higher-ed

From KUT, the public radio station at University of Texas, Austin, Jennifer Stanton and Southwestern University President Dr. Ed Burger explore topics of higher education and lifelong learning.

Re:Learning Podcast by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*

<http://chronicle.com/specialreport/Re-Learning-Podcast/34>

A podcast from the *Chronicle of Higher Education* about teachers, ed-tech entrepreneurs, long-time educators, and other people who are framing the future of higher education.

Specific Professions

Law School Toolbox Podcast

<http://lawschooltoolbox.com/podcast>

This is a show for law students that offers useful recommendations and covers topics about law school, the bar exam, careers in law, and more.

Economic Rockstar

www.economicrockstar.com/podcasts

Frank Conway, lecturer in economics, finance, and statistics, produces this weekly podcast where he interviews experts in the field about various aspects of economics and finance.

The Short Coat Podcast: Broadcasts from the Amazing and Intense World of Medical School

<http://theshortcoat.com>

From students at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, this podcast is about the demanding environment of medical school.

Finding More Podcasts for Higher Education

To find more podcasts on this topic, try browsing the higher education category of Podcast Chart: www.podcastchart.com/categories/higher-education-podcasts, a useful aggregator of podcasts.

Podcasts for Teens

Many podcasts aimed at adults are also enjoyed by teens (and vice versa). So if you are recommending podcasts to teenagers, start with the list of podcasts for a general audience in a previous section of this chapter.

Here's a sampling of podcasts that are enjoyed by teen audiences. Of course, every teen is different, so this list includes a variety of topics to choose from, such as music, foreign language learning, science fiction, math, history, science, philosophy, and life stories by both famous and ordinary people.

Coffee Break Spanish Step by Step

<http://radiolingua.com/2009/08/introducing-coffee-break-spanish-step-by-step>

A series of fun Spanish lessons for beginners, offered in short chunks for learning during short breaks. Listen to teacher Marc teach student Kara in a fun and charming way, with silent moments for you to speak the answers as well. Radio Lingua also offers podcasts for beginners in French and German.

The Documentary—BBC World Service

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nq0lx/episodes/downloads

Listen to some of the best BBC World Service audio documentaries, with titles such as “Graffiti: Paint and Protest in Brazil,” “Women with the Right Stuff” (women astronauts), and “Batman and Ethan,” (a 10-year-old blind boy and gifted musician who is learning echolocation).

EOS 10

www.eos10.com

A science fiction audio drama about two doctors and their medical team aboard a space aircraft within an intergalactic world. Includes comic elements and excellent voice acting. Listen to the episodes in order with each season, as you would a show on Netflix.

Getting In: A Podcast about the College Admissions Process

www.slate.com/articles/podcasts/getting_in/2015/09/getting_in_a_podcast_about_applying_to_college.html

This podcast follows a diverse group of high-school seniors from a New York City school as they apply to college. Hosted by a former dean of freshmen at Stanford University.

Good Job, Brain!

www.goodjobbrain.com

This fun weekly podcast is comprised of trivia quizzes and unique facts and news.

The History Chicks

<http://thehistorychicks.com/about>

This is a show about female characters in history, both fictional and real. Hosts Beckett Graham and Susan Vollenweider chat about the challenges, failures and successes, and interesting facts about each person. Includes shows about Helen Keller, Queen Victoria, Frida Kahlo, Amelia Earhart, Joan of Arc, Beatrix Potter, and many more.

Lore

www.lorepodcast.com/episodes

An award-winning podcast of true, mysterious stories from history in the style of scary stories told around the campfire. Explores the true origins of

myths, such as zombies, werewolves, vampires, and ghosts. It is soon to be made into a TV show.

Math Mutation

<http://mathmutation.blogspot.com>

Math Mutation explores intriguing, entertaining, or curious aspects of mathematics. Each episode explores an interesting concept of math that doesn't require looking at equations, such as geometry, infinity, paradoxes, and more.

The Naked Scientists

www.thenakedscientists.com

This podcast describes itself as a show “by a media-savvy group of physicians and researchers from Cambridge University [who] strip science down to its bare essentials and promote it to the general public.”³ The hosts interview top scientists, answer science questions, and keep you up to date on the latest science news.

On Being

www.onbeing.org

This award-winning podcast, hosted by Krista Tippett, explores question such as “What does it mean to be human?” and “How do we want to live?” Tippett interviews guests such as the fourteenth Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, Thich Nhat Hanh, Yo-Yo Ma, Brian Greene, and Elie Wiesel.

The Podcast History of Our World

www.podcasthistoryofourworld.com

An award-winning podcast on world history, covering periods “from the Big Bang to the Modern Age.”⁴ (Currently, it's only up to ancient Rome). Done with enthusiasm and humor, it's never boring. Created by enthusiastic history teacher Rob Monaco.

Radio Diaries Podcast

<http://feed.radiodiaries.org/radio-diaries>

Radio Diaries is made up of first-person diaries of individual people, from teenagers to people in their eighties, from all walks of life. It weaves together home recordings, archival news audio, and first-person accounts. Several episodes are interviews with teens from around the world, and of course teens may be interested in interviews with people of all ages.

Radio Rookies—WNYC

www.wnyc.org/articles/radio-rookies-podcasts

This podcast about the challenges of teen life is a Peabody Award-winning WNYC journalism initiative, with episodes produced by teens, about teens. This initiative works using a mentorship model, helping teens master interviewing, writing, editing, and voice skills. This podcast ended in February of 2016, and all the past episodes are available and worth listening

to. There are rumors it will start up again in the near future. Its how-to toolkit is available online: www.wnyc.org/story/diy-radio-rookies-toolkit.

Serial

<https://serialpodcast.org>

This award-winning podcast from the creators of *This American Life* and hosted by Sarah Koenig is a true story, told in episodes over the course of a season. Season One is about a high-school senior who was murdered in 1999. Her classmate and ex-boyfriend, Annan Syed, was arrested and sentenced to life in prison. To this day, he maintains his innocence. The story is about various discrepancies in the trial and aims to ask, “How can you know a person's character? How can you tell what they're capable of?” Season Two is the story of US Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, an American soldier who was held for five years by the Taliban and then charged with desertion.

Still Buffering

www.maximumfun.org/shows/still-buffering

Three real-life young sisters discuss topics of interest to teens yesterday and today. They discuss topics that separate and unite their generations and have a lot of fun doing it. Topics include body image, likes and dislikes about going back to school each year, slumber parties, favorite foods, and the world of high-school theater. It's lighthearted and funny.

Stuff to Blow Your Mind—How Stuff Works

www.stufftoblowyourmind.com/podcasts

This podcast explores science, philosophy, and history by looking at neurological quandaries, evolutionary marvels, and cosmic mysteries. Episodes include topics like mosquito-breeding programs, Saturn's rings and moons, empathy in elephants, and the future of tattoos. It won the 2015 Academy of Podcasts Award for Best Science and Medicine podcast.

Stuff You Should Know—How Stuff Works

www.stuffyoushouldknow.com/podcasts

This podcast is an award-winning series of shows published by How Stuff Works and hosted by writers Josh Clark and Charles W. “Chuck” Bryant. They aim to educate the public about “common things and how they work.”⁵ Some topics include “How Night Terrors Work,” “How Triage Works,” “How Witness Protection Works,” “How Radiation Sickness Works,” and “What's with This Internet of Things?” Browse its archive of hundreds of episodes for topics you might be interested in: www.stuffyoushouldknow.com/podcasts/archive.

This I Believe

<http://thisibelieve.org/podcasts>

This podcast is based on the popular 1950s radio series of the same name hosted by Edward R. Murrow.

Every week, different people read essays that they have written about their personal philosophies. This is followed by an interview by the host. People interviewed include both everyday citizens and well-known people, such as Gloria Steinem, Yo-Yo Ma, and Muhammad Ali. You can listen to some of the recordings from the early 1950s on this page: <http://thisibelieve.org/essays/fifties>, which includes people such as Jackie Robinson, Martha Graham, Ralph J. Bunche, Robert Heinlein, and Oscar Hammerstein II.

Welcome to Night Vale

www.welcometonightvale.com

This podcast is a radio drama about a fictional desert town. It's done in the style of a local news program. It's hypnotic and darkly funny, telling the story of a place where every conspiracy theory is real, but it's not really a big deal. It has received positive reviews from many sources.⁶

What It Takes

www.podcastchart.com/podcasts/what-it-takes

This podcast is about passion, vision, and perseverance from the Academy of Achievement. It includes conversations with famous people in many fields: science, music, politics, sports, literature, and technology. The interviews have been recorded over the past twenty-five years and include interesting life lessons. The hosts have interviewed Elie Wiesel, Carole King, Steven Spielberg, Quincy Jones, Steve Jobs, Coretta Scott King, and many more well-known people.

Podcasts for Children

Some commentators have written about the lack of podcasts for kids,⁷ and several groups are beginning to organize and produce more podcasts aimed at them. An example is Kids Listen, a new grassroots organization of advocates for high-quality audio content for children. To learn more, see www.kidslisten.org.

In spite of that lack, there are some high-quality podcasts for kids. The list below gives you a sampling, on topics including classic and modern stories, stories written by kids, book reviews, science, technology, comics, music, and world cultures.

500 Words

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02tkm27/episodes/downloads

These fictional stories are written by kids who are finalists in a 500-word story competition. They range from very funny to serious and are read by the judges and celebrities. It's a BBC podcast, and the kids who enter the competition need to be residents of the United Kingdom and between five and thirteen years old.

Aaron's World

www.mydogrocket.com

Listen to the time-traveling adventures of a boy and his computer in the prehistoric world. Start from the beginning of the first season to experience the larger story arc. The first season is about dinosaurs, and the next few seasons cover mammals, ocean creatures, and more. Aaron and his dad started producing the show when he was six and ended when he was ten. It's well produced with fun sound effects.

Book Club for Kids

www.bookclubforkids.org/new-blog

This is a podcast where middle-school kids meet to talk about books. Each episode also includes a celebrity reader and an interview with the author. The host is award-winning public radio journalist Kitty Felde.

Brains On!

www.brainson.org

This is a very popular science podcast for kids, with a loyal audience of six-to-twelve-year-olds. Each episode seeks to answer a question posed at the start by interviewing adult science experts. (How is glass made? How do airplanes fly? Mosquitos: What are they good for?) A different child cohosts each episode with adult hosts from public radio—Sanden Totten, Marc Sanchez, and Molly Bloom.

Ear Snacks

<http://andrewandpolly.com/earsnacks>

Hosts Andrew and Polly (a married couple with a child) host this fun podcast featuring kids ages two to seven. They have worked with over sixty children and their parents to cover topics like fruit, disguises, rain, and shadows. They talk with each other, play audio clips of kids talking about the topic, talk with adult experts, and they play their original music—indie pop music for kids.⁸

Kid Friday: You're a Kid in a Digital World

www.kidfriday.com

This popular video podcast can be enjoyed as audio without a problem. It's hosted by sixteen-year-old Hannah, thirteen-year-old Zoe, and their dad Dave—and sometimes includes Winston, their poodle. They discuss apps, websites, gadgets, and current events.

Kids on Comics

<http://kidsoncomics.com>

A school-aged boy and his dad get together once a week and talk about comic books. Each episode focuses on one title. The dad asks interesting questions of his son, getting at his reaction to the comic they are discussing.

Podcast Kid

<http://podcastkid.com>

Jenna, age seven, and her dad discuss topics of interest to kids from a kid's perspective. Topics include friends, changing schools, being bossy, dreams, boredom, mean girls, and more. Jenna has been podcasting with her dad since she was three years old. They have great conversational chemistry with lots of laughs and funny voices.

Shabam!

www.shabamshow.com/shows

This unique science podcast for kids ages eight to thirteen is wrapped in a fictional story, so it's best to start with episode one. The story is about three kids separated from their parents during a zombie apocalypse. Each episode focuses on a different topic, like pathogens, epidemics, digital communication, and our reliance on electricity. Each episode is about thirty minutes long and includes entertaining sound effects and music.

Short & Curly

<https://soundcloud.com/short-curly>

This is an entertaining and thoughtful podcast for kids and families about ethics, produced by the Australian Broadcasting Company. The hosts, actress/writer Molly Daniels and reporter Carl Smith, post interesting ethical questions, and they ask kids to say what they think. Then they bring in experts on the same topic and ask their opinions. At some point during the episode they tell listeners to pause the podcast and think or discuss certain questions. Some topics include "Should you move to Mars?" "Is it ever OK to lie?" "Should chimps have the same rights as kids?" and "Can you trust a robot?"

The Show about Science

<https://soundcloud.com/the-show-about-science>

Six-year-old Nate is the host of this science podcast. His questions are answered in interviews with physicists, chemists, and other scientists and researchers. This is an interesting show for all ages—adults, too. It's great to hear scientists explain things at a level that young kids can understand. Some of the topics covered include invisibility cloaks, vultures, radiation, alligators, bat biology, and recycling. This podcast is part of the Kids Listen organization.⁹

Story Pirates

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/story-pirates-podcast/id719585944?mt=2>

This podcast takes stories written by kids and turns them into audio drama performed by first-rate actors and comedians. First the host reads the story exactly as written, then the troupe performs the story,

and then the hosts interview the child authors. The actors tell these stories in a funny, creative way, with great sound effects. They also perform these dramas live in schools around the country. See www.storypirates.org.

Storynory

www.storynory.com

This podcast is made up of stories for kids beautifully read by professional actors from the United Kingdom. It includes classic fairy tales, myths, adventure, and new original stories for kids. See this list of some of its most popular stories, grouped by topic or theme: www.storynory.com/2014/07/28/start. It even hosts a writing competition for kids, where winners get their story read on the podcast.¹⁰

Tumble

www.sciencepodcastforkids.com

This science podcast for kids ages eight to twelve is created for family listening. Hosted by science journalist Lindsay Patterson and teacher Marshall Escamilla, it has an interesting manifesto, consisting of two beliefs: (1) "If kids understand how science works, the future will be a better place," and (2) "Let's make more podcasts for kids."¹¹ Some topics include the hunt for black holes, the voyage of the ocean trash, the quest for the edge of the universe, and the cave of the upside-down bat.

World of Wonder

<https://soundcloud.com/world-of-wonder>

Young hosts Helen and Ethan and their dad Joe interview guests from many different countries. Guests share stories about their own cultures and what we can learn from them. Meet guests from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and more.

Podcasts for Diverse Audiences

According to the *ALA Policy Manual's* section on diversity, "Care must be taken to acquire and provide materials that meet the educational, informational, and recreational needs of diverse communities."¹²

Specifically, the policy mentions the importance of serving "those who may experience language or literacy-related barriers; economic distress; cultural or social isolation; physical or attitudinal barriers; racism; discrimination on the basis of appearance, ethnicity, immigrant status, religious background, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression; or barriers to equal education, employment, and housing."¹³

Keeping this in mind, let's look at some data. Are there podcasts by and for diverse audiences? According to Nielsen data, "Listeners still largely fit the profile

of early adopters. As Jesse Holcomb, associate director of research at the Pew Center, explains, “They’re more likely to be male, young, have higher incomes, be college graduates, live in an urban area.”¹⁴

As of late 2016, there is some good news. According to Edison Research, a group that has been tracking demographics of podcast listeners for over a decade, “In the early days of the medium, Podcasting was disproportionately a medium for white males, ages 25–44. Much of that ‘skew’ was down to the available content options, but today, the content universe for Podcasts has exploded, and the diversity of programming available rivals any other form of audio.”¹⁵

Those statistics are about ethnic diversity only and don’t cover gender, economic class, or other categories of diverse populations. But there is some good news for other categories of diversity. A podcast collective based in Chicago is aiming to create a community of shows by women, people of color, and queer-identified hosts. Its goal is to bring more diversity to podcasting and help underrepresented voices create their own shows.¹⁶

In order to assist librarians with recommending podcasts for diverse audiences, I’ve compiled lists of podcasts in the following categories:

- Produced or hosted by women
- Racial and ethnic diversity (African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans)
- LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning)
- Aging and ageism (elders’ and children’s rights)
- Homelessness, poverty and economic class
- People who are (or were) incarcerated
- Adult literacy
- Neurodiversity and mental health issues
- Physical disabilities

These lists can serve as a starting point for finding podcasts for diverse audiences on diverse topics.

Produced or Hosted by Women

The Bindercast

<http://bindercast.libsyn.com>

This podcast is about women writers and gender non-conforming writers. They tackle questions related to being successful as a writer, such as balancing your art with your day job. It’s a production from a non-profit called Out of the Binders, which is committed to expanding the diversity of voices found in media.

Call Your Girlfriend

www.callyourgirlfriend.com

Its tagline is “for long-distance besties everywhere.” The two hosts discuss pop culture and politics from a feminist perspective.

#Girlboss

<http://www.girlboss.com/podcast/>

In this podcast, you’ll hear interviews with women who have made an impact in business or creative fields. It includes plenty of advice and plenty of humor.

The Guilty Feminist

www.guiltyfeminist.com

This podcast, hosted by comedians Sofie Hagen and Deborah Frances-White, is recorded in front of a live audience. In it, they interview and discuss topics with their guests that feminists usually agree on, while also confessing their insecurities and fears.

International Realness

<http://international-realness.tumblr.com>

International Realness hosts Ejolee Mitchell, May Steinberg, and Radford Lathan explain international events, global politics, and issues that cross borders. All three hosts have degrees in international relations.

Nerdette

<https://www.wbez.org/shows/nerdette/b2c2c10b-1e7f-43ca-b3ad-55d6fd33722c>

This podcast is made up of interviews with popular authors, artists, astronauts, and more. “Because everybody is a little nerdy about something.”¹⁷ From WBEZ Chicago, *Nerdette* is cohosted by Greta Johnsen and Tricia Bobeda.

Sandi Klein’s Conversations with Creative Women

<http://sandikleinshow.com/podcasts>

Interviews with creative women in a wide variety of professions—like performers, writers, directors, musicians, composers, painters, fashion designers, scientists, educators, investors, and more.

She Does—Conversations with Creative Minds

www.shedoespodcast.com

This podcast is about creative women who work in media. Each episode includes an interview with the creator and then goes deeper into their process and philosophy. It’s hosted and created by Elaine Sheldon and Sarah Ginsburg.

Slate’s Double X Gabfest

www.slate.com/articles/podcasts/doublex_gabfest.html

This audio programming is from *Double X*, Slate’s blog founded by women. Each week it discusses sexism in current events and female empowerment.

Stuff Mom Never Told You

www.stuffmomnevertoldyou.com/podcasts

Hosted by Cristen Conger and Caroline Ervin, this audio podcast from How Stuff Works (www.howstuffworks.com) covers a wide range of social topics, such

as food, film, body image, athletics, mental health, and civil rights.

UnLearned

www.unlearnedpodcast.com

A podcast about unlearning harmful stereotypes that are often taught about blackness, femininity, sexuality, and religion. It's hosted by two women from Chicago, Katherine Best and Mesha Arant.

Women of the Hour—Lena Dunham

<https://soundcloud.com/womenofthehour>

This is Lena Dunham's podcast about friendship, love, work, bodies, and more. Episodes are from 2015, when it was released as a miniseries.

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

Code Switch

www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch

NPR's *Code Switch* podcast is by a team of journalists who look into the themes of race, ethnicity, and culture and explore how people experience those themes in their everyday lives.

The Mash-Up Americans

www.mashupamericans.com/listen

Hosts Amy S. Choi and Rebecca Lehrer talk culture, identity, and what makes us who we are. Amy, cofounder and editorial director, is a Korean American married to a Colombian Mexican American. Rebecca, cofounder and chief executive, is a Salvadoran Jewish American married to an American American. Together they discuss issues facing “mash-up Americans.” Their slogan is “Get to know yourself, America.”¹⁸

Our National Conversation About Conversations About Race

<http://www.panoply.fm/shows>

Three authors, Baratunde Thurston (*How to Be Black*), Raquel Cepeda (*Bird of Paradise: How I Became Latina*), and Tanner Colby (*Some of My Best Friends Are Black*), are the hosts of this conversational show about the ways we talk about culture, identity, politics, power, and privilege in America.

PostBourgie

<https://soundcloud.com/geedee215>

PostBourgie is a blog about race, gender, class, politics, and media. This is the podcast version of that blog.

African Americans

Another Round

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/anotherround>

Hosts Heben Nigatu (editor, writer) and Tracy Clayton (writer, humorist) talk about race, feminism, and pop culture. Here's a fun episode to begin

with—Episode 55: “16 Books We Fell in Love with as Young Black Girls”: https://www.buzzfeed.com/anotherround/16-books-we-loved-as-young-black-girls?utm_term=.siAEjVpZ2#.afowQzKJD.

Changing the Face of Power

www.rebeccamthompson.com/podcast

This podcast is devoted to encouraging and supporting black women in running for elected office. Host Rebecca Thompson interviews an appointed official or candidate in each episode of this weekly podcast.

In Black America

<http://kut.org/term/black-america>

In Black America is a long-running radio program that discusses all aspects of the African American experience. John Hanson speaks with a diverse range of both current and historical people. Guests on the program include artists, civil rights leaders, educators, authors, and athletes.

The Read

<http://thisistheread.com/current-shows>

Each week, Kid Fury and Crissle host a podcast discussing icons from hip-hop and pop culture.

Snap Judgment

<http://snapjudgment.org/podcast>

A storytelling show hosted by Glynn Washington. It's well-produced, with excellent sound design. Listen to this if you love a good story or if you're a fan of shows like *This American Life* or *The Moth* and you'd like to hear a more diverse mix of voices.

Asian Americans

Explain Things to Me

<http://explainthingstome.libsyn.com/podcast>

In this podcast, hosts Anna Akana and Brad Gage get qualified experts to explain things to them. They engage in conversations with interesting people, such as an investigative journalist, an online entrepreneur, a film critic, a costume designer, an astrophysicist, and other experts.

#GoodMuslimBadMuslim

<http://www.goodmuslimbadmuslim.com>

The idea for the podcast began with a hashtag conversation between Tanzila “Taz” Ahmed and Zahra Noorbakhsh using #GoodMuslimBadMuslim. According to their webpage, “To the Muslim community, we are ‘bad’ Muslims—we listen to music, we don't pray regularly, we date or get married to white men (Zahra), identify as punks and radicals (Taz), we perform and share our lives with comedy and writing. . . . To non-Muslims, we are ‘good’—we don't drink, we don't do drugs, we are not criminals, we are social justice

activists and community leaders. We are successful, published, accomplished.”¹⁹ They banter and joke with both sides and work to produce their own narrative, full of satire and humor.

Sound and Fury: The Angry Asian Podcast

<http://angryasianman.libsyn.com>

This is the official podcast of the Angry Asian Man blog. Host Phil Yu (Angry Asian Man) interviews members of the Asian Pacific American community. Guests have included Samantha Futerman from the documentary *Twinsters*, actor Randall Park who stars in the TV sitcom *Fresh Off the Boat*, and writer and comedian Jenny Yang.

What Just Happened?

<http://whatjustpodcast.libsyn.com>

Host David Chang discusses relevant, recent, and often controversial topics. He researches everything about each topic, and the result is a very informative podcast that leaves listeners better informed.

Latinos

Alt.Latino

www.npr.org/sections/latino

Alt.Latino is about Latin alternative music and rock in Spanish, with interesting commentary. It's a great way to discover new music. This is one of several music podcasts from NPR in different genres (rock, pop, jazz, classical, and more). Choose the genres you like from the list on this page: www.npr.org/music.

Latino Rebels

www.blogtalkradio.com/latinorebels

Humor, commentary, and an examination of the US Latino experience are the topics found in this podcast. Some episode titles are “What Does Hispanic Look Like?” and “A Taco Truck on Every Corner.” *Latino Rebels* also has an informative news website: <http://latinorebels.com>.

Latino USA

<http://latinousa.org/episodes>

Latino USA is produced by Futuro Media, which was founded in 2010 by award-winning journalist Maria Hinojosa. It focuses on making content about the new American mainstream with the aim of encouraging individuals to navigate the intricacies of a world that is more and more diverse. This podcast features stories that are usually overlooked by primary media outlets.

Nómadas

www.ivoox.com/podcast-nomas_sq_f1925_1.html

This podcast is produced by Radio Nacional de España (RNE). Hosted by Álvaro Soto in Spanish,

Nómadas (which translates to nomads in English) presents conversations with guests about a different location around the globe every week—including street sounds and insights into the culture, food, music, and history.

Radio Ambulante

<http://radioambulante.org>

This podcast focuses on stories in Spanish from all over Latin America and the United States. Some refer to it as a Spanish version of *This American Life*. The host and founder is Daniel Alarcón, a Peruvian-born author who grew up in Alabama.

Native Americans

Native America Calling

<https://soundcloud.com/native-america-calling>

This is a live program that allows guests and listeners to call in during the episode. Hosted by Tara Gatewood (Isleta), this program engages guests and listeners in captivating conversations from a Native American perspective.

Native Opinion

<http://nativeopinion.com>

Hosted by Michael Kickingbear, of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, and David GreyOwl, a member of the Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama, this podcast offers an indigenous perspective on current issues in American history, politics, and culture.

Native Trailblazers

www.blogtalkradio.com/nativetrailblazers

www.nativetrailblazers.com

This show features successful indigenous experts in many fields. Native people interviewed include a comic book artist, indie music award winners, hip-hop artists, a film actor, comedians, and more. It's hosted by St. Regis Mohawk photojournalist and author Vincent Schilling, St. Regis Mohawk photojournalist and author, and Delores Schilling, CEO of Schilling Media.

National Native News

<https://soundcloud.com/nationalnativenews>

This is a five-minute weekday program devoted to Native news and issues. It gathers news reports from around the United States and is hosted by news anchor Antonia Gonzales (Navajo). It's from the Native Voice One network: www.nv1.org. See its other radio shows here: www.nv1.org/programs.

Red Town Radio

www.blogtalkradio.com/redtownradio

This podcast examines current events as they relate to the treatment of and discrimination against indigenous people.

LGBTQ

The BiCast—Podcast for the Bisexual Community
<https://thebicast.org>

This podcast is from a multi-platform bisexual media group offering news, information, and opinion stories for the bisexual community.

Lesbian Lounge
<http://mylesbianradio.podbean.com>

The Lesbian Lounge is hosted by an American lesbian in London named Denise. It covers international LGBT news, events, and pop culture.

One from the Vaults—Transgender History Podcast
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/one-from-the-vaults/id1071270085?mt=2>

This is a trans history podcast by Morgan M Page (<http://odofemi.com>). She is a multiple award-winning performance and video artist, writer, and activist in Canada. She has written for several magazines about trans, sex work, and HIV issues. Her nonfiction also appears in Cleis Press's *Best Sex Writing of the Year*.

Outsports—A Voice for LGBT Athletes
www.outsports.com/podcast

Outsports is an LGBT sports publication talking about gay athletes and homophobia.

Queer State of Mind
<http://radioqueerminded.com/qsom>

Queer State of Mind is a podcast from New York City where LGBTQ people of color come together to discuss local issues, news, and entertainment. It's hosted by Orie Givens with a panel of rotating guest cohosts. It also airs live on Radio Free Brooklyn (<http://radiofreebrooklyn.com>).

Strange Fruit
<http://wfpl.org/category/programs/strange-fruit>

This podcast produced by WFPL in Louisville, Kentucky, is hosted by Jaison Gardner, a community activist, and Dr. Kaila Story, University of Louisville professor. On the show, they discuss politics and pop culture from a black gay perspective.

Throwing Shade
www.throwingshade.com

This podcast gets rave reviews.²⁰ Hosts Erin Gibson and Bryan Safi cover gay rights, women's issues, pop culture, and politics with a comic style.

Transwaves—Trans Youth Equality Foundation
<https://soundcloud.com/transwaves>

This podcast is produced by the Trans Youth Equality Foundation. It features interviews with trans

youth, allies, activists, and families in order to convey the perspectives of the trans child movement and expose a wider audience to the movement. The podcast offers varied perspectives from all people of all ages and backgrounds on what it means to be a transgender youth today. It also answers anonymous questions on the air.

We Want the Airwaves
<http://qtpocart.libsyn.com/podcast>

According to her website, "Nia King is a multi-media journalist whose work focuses on political art by women, queer people, and people of color."²¹ In her podcast, she discusses tips and advice on how to make a living as an artist while staying true to yourself. She interviews like-minded artists who are doing that successfully. Transcripts are available on Scribd: <https://www.scribd.com/user/223838842/Nia-King>.

Aging and Ageism

Don't Act Your Age
www.dontactyourage.org

This is a storytelling show about growing older, designed for "boomers and beyond" and is a good show for all ages.

Elder Justice Podcast Series
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/elder-justice-podcast-series/id590043766?mt=2&ls=1>

This podcast is no longer offering new episodes, but it is worth listening to for past ones. It was produced by the NYC Elder Abuse Center (NYCEAC) and covers topics that help people effectively assist victims.

Bloomer Boomer
<http://bloomerboomer.com/podcast>

Bloomer Boomer calls itself the "Huffington Post for Boomers." Each of its podcasts is thirty minutes or less and focuses on actionable items for listeners. Some topics include entrepreneurship, travel advice, fitness, downsizing, dating, and "un-retirement."

Sandi Klein's Conversations with Creative Women
<http://sandikleinshow.com>

This podcast (mentioned earlier in this chapter) is well-tagged, so you can find all of the episodes on the topic of aging using this link: <http://sandikleinshow.com/category/aging>.

Children's Rights

Ageism usually describes prejudicial attitudes towards older people, but it can also refer to discrimination against adolescents and children—ignoring their ideas because they are too young or assuming they

should behave in certain ways because of their age.²²

For that reason, I also include a couple of podcasts about children's rights.

Oxford Children's Rights Network Podcasts

<https://oxfordchildrensrights.org/category/podcasts>

The Oxford Children's Rights Network is a group of students, researchers, and practitioners based in Oxford, England, working on a broad range of issues related to children's rights. Their podcasts are recordings of seminars on this topic.

UNICEF Podcasts

www.unicef.org/videoaudio/video_allpodcasts.html

UNICEF has an interesting podcast series on topics with titles like "Peace-Building through Early Childhood Education," "Girls Who Code Can Change the World towards Gender Parity in Computing Fields," and "Mariam Khalique, a Teacher of Malala Yousafzai's, Is Building Futures under Extreme Circumstances."

Homelessness, Poverty, and Economic Class

Grapple

<http://crossroads.newsworks.org/keystonecrossroads/grapple>

Grapple is a podcast made up of personal narratives by people who live and work in distressed communities, both small towns and large urban areas. This podcast discusses how economically challenged communities have changed over time and the current issues that they are facing.

The New Middle—NPR series

www.npr.org/series/485129365/the-new-middle

This series explores different aspects of being middle class in America with episode titles like "Modern Television Portrays Complex View of the Middle Class," "Dispelling the Myth of a Classless Society in 'White Trash,'" "Middle Class Earners Struggle to Pay Rent in New York City," and more.

Poverty Research & Policy Podcast

www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/media/podcasts.htm

This podcast is from the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin. It includes interviews with researchers and episodes with titles such as "Do the Labels We Use for Public Benefit Programs Matter?" and "The Suburbanization of US Poverty."

TalkPoverty Radio

<https://talkpoverty.org/podcast>

Through interviews with journalists, advocates, and people struggling to make ends meet, *Talk Poverty Radio* discusses what can be done to make our economy work for all economic classes and not just the rich.

People Who Are Incarcerated

ACLU Podcasts on Mass Incarceration

[https://www.aclu.org/search/%20?f\[0\]=type%3Apodcast&f\[1\]=field_issues%3A62](https://www.aclu.org/search/%20?f[0]=type%3Apodcast&f[1]=field_issues%3A62)

The American Civil Liberties Union has podcasts on several topics. The link above will filter the list to just those about mass incarceration. Hear from former prisoners, experts on prison reform, and more.

Earning Freedom—Michael Santos

<https://michaelsantos.com/podcast>

Former prisoner Michael Santos shares stories of himself and others who have successfully made the transition to life after prison.

Radio Diaries—*Prison Diaries*

www.radiodiaries.org/tag/prison-diaries

These are the episodes tagged "prison diaries" from the more general podcast *Radio Diaries*. It's made up of audio journals by inmates, correctional officers, and a judge who recorded the sounds of typical days behind bars, including roll call, meals, family visits, and shakedown.

States of Incarceration

<http://statesofincarceration.org/podcast>

This podcast features stories of the incarcerated from seventeen states around the United States. Episodes are made by a team of students who interview witnesses (people who live near prisons, who work in prisons, and formerly incarcerated people) about how the prison boom is affecting their communities. A useful teaching resource page is available on the show's website for those teaching about mass incarceration: <http://statesofincarceration.org/teaching-resources>.

Unprisoned: Stories from the System

<http://wwno.org/programs/unprisoned-stories-system>

Independent producer Eve Abrams offers this podcast from New Orleans. In these episodes, you hear from people serving time, both inside and outside the criminal justice system. They share stories in order to spark conversation about how mass incarceration can change families and communities, with an emphasis on how children are affected.

Adult Literacy

Voice of Literacy

www.voiceofliteracy.org

This podcast consists of interviews with literacy researchers discussing the significance of their research. Teachers, parents, and policymakers are encouraged to listen to the podcast and discuss methods to enhance literacy instruction.

Neurodiversity and Mental Health Issues

The Autism Show

<http://autismshow.org>

This podcast is made for autism parents and educators. Leading autism advocates, authors, educators, and organizations are interviewed and share resources and advice for the autism community.

The Bipolar Family

<http://thebipolarfamily.podbean.com>

Listen to the stories of a family who have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Covers topics like suicidal thoughts, manic episodes, and depression.

The Dyslexia Quest

www.elishevaschwartz.com/series/episode-archieve

This podcast is hosted by Elisheva Schwartz—a dyslexia researcher. Her aim is to decode the dyslexic mind and help everyone identify and comprehend both the strengths and the difficulties of this processing style. She interviews cognitive scientists, geneticists, and other experts.

Loud Mute Radio

<http://muleandmuseproductions.com/loud-mute-radio>

This podcast is hosted by writer/advocate Barb Rentenbach and educational psychologist Lois Prilovsky, PhD. Rentenbach is mute. “She communicates by typing one letter at a time and considers herself a contemplative—she spends most of her time thinking about things that are not present and observing that which is.”²³ She and her cohost cover many interesting and funny topics related to neurodiversity and autism spectrum disorder.

Physical Disabilities

AppleVis Podcast: Empowering Blind and Low-Vision Users of Apple Products

www.applevis.com/podcasts

This podcast covers topics of interest to blind and low-vision users of Apple devices. Featured topics include walkthroughs and demonstrations of apps, tips on using iOS and Mac OS, and accessory reviews. It also invites listeners to upload their own audio comments for inclusion in future podcasts: www.applevis.com/upload-audio-inclusion-podcast.

Blind Hour Podcast

<https://soundcloud.com/blindhour>

The Blind Hour is hosted by two visually impaired individuals, Max and John. This show is designed to empower and entertain people, both sighted and with impairment.

Blind Living Radio

www.blindlivingradio.com

Host Harley Thomas, along with special guests, talk about life in the blind community. They discuss everything from experiences with having a guide dog to advances in assistive technology.

The Blind Sport Podcast

<http://blindsportpodcast.com>

Host Mike Lloyd is from Auckland, New Zealand, is blind, and enjoys running, cycling, and keeping active. His podcast is for those who are fully blind, individuals with limited vision, and their friends and family. His goal is to assist others in enhancing their sport. Episodes include interviews, tips, and personal opinions.

Changing the World for Deaf People

<http://terptree.podbean.com>

This podcast is produced by Terptree, a business that works to produce social change in order to teach and inspire deaf and hearing people. Some episodes include “Deaf Jobseeker and Employee Experience Survey,” “Come Fly With Me—Deaf Access at Airports,” and “5 Year Old Learns Sign Language to Communicate with Deaf Mum.” Listen to this podcast to learn more about Deaf culture.

Cool Blind Tech

<http://coolblindtech.com/category/podcasts/>

The slogan of this podcast is “podcasts for the blind, by the blind.” Its mission is to maximize the independence and participation of the blind and low-vision community with technology.

Digital Accessibility Made Simple

<http://www.lyndondunbar.com/allymadesimple/>

This podcast, hosted by Lyndon Dunbar, has a mission “to help bridge the gap between technology and digital accessibility so that persons with disabilities can engage in fulfilling work and lead a life of independence with confidence.”²⁴ Some episodes include “Developing Accessible WordPress Plugins,” “Read Faster with BeeLine Reader,” and “Everything Apple Accessibility.”

Disability Matters

<https://www.voiceamerica.com/show/1315/disability-matters>

This podcast emphasizes career opportunities and empowerment for people with disabilities. It’s broadcasted live and provides captioning in real time for those who are deaf and hard of hearing. The program focuses on how people with disabilities can find employment and how we all can help to empower people with disabilities.

Disability.TV

<http://disabilitythinking.podbean.com>

This podcast is about how people with disabilities are depicted on television. It discusses shows such as *The West Wing*, *Game of Thrones*, *Bones*, and more. Transcripts are available for each episode.

Ouch: Disability Talk

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02r6yqw/episodes/downloads

This BBC show includes interviews and conversations with people who have various kinds of disabilities with a humorous flair. They use guest presenters, along with host Kate Monaghan and the *Ouch* blog team.

Stories from the Brainreels

<http://whoamitostopit.com/category/podcasts/>

Cheryl Green from the documentary film *Who Am I to Stop It* interviews people with brain injuries and other disabilities. This program challenges and tackles stereotypes and highlights the stories and experiences of those with brain injuries and other disabilities. Screen-readable transcripts are available: <http://whoamitostopit.com/stories-from-the-brainreels-show-transcripts>.

Podcasts by Librarians

Many librarians have come up with interesting and creative ideas for podcasts. Here is a sampling of some of their podcasts. They cover a range of topics, such as the future of libraries, technology on a budget, book reviews, historical documents, user experience, coding, and more.²⁵ For a long list of even more podcasts create by libraries, see the Library Success wiki page on podcasting: www.libsuccess.org/Podcasting.

Beyond the Stacks: Innovative Careers in Library and Information Science

<http://beyondthestacks.info>

This podcast explores interesting and different career paths for librarians. Librarians interviewed include a researcher for a newspaper, someone who works at Tumblr researching the history of memes and viral content, someone who works for Creative Commons, and many more people with interesting positions.

Circulating Ideas

<https://circulatingideas.com>

Steve Thomas has interviewed over 100 librarians and library supporters, talking with them about the great work that librarians are doing to keep libraries relevant in the twenty-first century.

Cyberpunk Librarian

<http://cyberpunklibrarian.com>

Daniel Messer, the Cyberpunk Librarian, discusses technology trends in this podcast for librarians who are “high tech and low budget.”

#Dear Book Nerd

<http://bookriot.com/category/dear-book-nerd>

In this podcast, Rita Meade, a public librarian in Brooklyn, along with a guest co-host answer advice questions related to books. Questions range from how to increase your reading to how to deal with depression through books.

Documents That Changed the World

<https://ischool.uw.edu/documents-that-changed-world>

University of Washington Information School Professor Joe Janes discusses stories of an assortment of historical documents throughout time. His objective is to tell stories with a background that people don't usually consider. Some of the documents discussed include the Palm Beach County ‘Butterfly’ Ballot of 2000, a stock market ticker tape from 1929, the FDR Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1939, and a deleted passage from the Declaration of Independence, 1776.

LibUX

<http://libux.co/podcast>

Hosts Michael Schofield and Amanda L. Goodman of the LibUX website interview special guests on this podcast. They discuss design and user experience in libraries and higher education.

Open Paren

<http://openparen.club>

This is a podcast focused on libraries, librarians, and coding. It's designed for both beginning and expert coders. They discuss how the code they write benefits library users.

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Podcasts in Context

Podcasts in K–12 School Classrooms

One place where podcasts are being used increasingly is in school classrooms—from first grade through high school. The producers of *Brains On!* (a science podcast for kids) have heard from elementary school teachers in several states who use the podcast in their classrooms. And high school teachers around the United States have been using podcasts like *Radiolab*, *This American Life*, *StoryCorps*, and *Serial* in their classrooms.¹

An unexpected finding is that young people benefit from and enjoy reading the transcript while listening to a podcast. Here is what one teacher says:

What I know now is that high-schoolers—at least my students—like *reading* and simultaneously listening to podcasts even more. . . . Unlike the first season, *Serial*'s second season features almost perfectly accurate transcripts of each episode. I knew it would be a bonus to my lessons this year; I didn't know it would be a game-changer. I turned off the lights, projected the words, and told them, "Here's the script in case that helps anyone." It apparently helped everyone. They all turned their heads, and some of them shifted their desks.²

She went on to say,

The reasons were as varied as they were compelling. Many of them said that reading along with the audio helped with their focus and kept them from "spacing out" while listening. Others, paradoxically, wrote that they were able to multitask—they could take notes or write on their worksheets and could keep up with the story even with their eyes off the screen. Some explicitly recognized that they could look back and re-read something they didn't understand when they first heard it;

others said they read slightly ahead and then could write down a quote while they listened to it. A student with eyesight problems said he appreciates the ability to take reading breaks without stopping his enjoyment of the story. A few students learning English as a second language wrote that they like how they can read the words and—as one student put it—promptly "hear how they're supposed to sound."³

Because of the usefulness of reading a transcript while listening, you may want to look for podcasts with transcripts to recommend to your users. Later in this chapter, I'll discuss the importance of transcripts for accessibility, especially for deaf and hard of hearing people. I'll also give some examples of podcasts that include them and tools for having transcripts created.

There is more research that supports the benefits of audio learning for young people.⁴ It turns out that when words are spoken aloud, children can understand ideas that are two to three grade levels higher than their normal reading level.⁵ Also, kids have improved reading skills when combining listening with reading.⁶

Molly Bloom, host of the *Brains On!* podcast says, "There are a lot of kids who love *Radiolab*. Kids are read[ing] stories that don't have pictures and they can follow it, easily. . . . It engages their imagination in the way that watching a television program probably doesn't. . . . I think podcasts are huge, because for kids, that is how they listen to things."⁷

She mentions the fact that many times kids enjoy watching the same movie or reading the same book over and over. The nature of podcasts makes it easy to listen to particular episodes over and over, learning

something new each time. And they fit into existing routines, like drives to school and stories before bed.⁸

Advocacy groups are beginning to form for creating high-quality audio content for kids. One example is Kids Listen. This group of podcast producers has joined together to create a community of podcasts for children and develop standards and ethics.⁹ Learn more by reading their blog.

Kids Listen
www.kidslisten.org

Kids Listen Blog
www.kidslisten.org/blog

Some students and teachers are starting podcast clubs, where people gather to discuss podcast episodes instead of discussing books.¹⁰ A podcast club could be a huge hit for adults as well and could make a great addition to your library's programming events.

Lesson Plans for Podcasts

We are beginning to see both free and paid membership sites that offer lesson plans for using podcasts in the classroom. Here are some examples.

One innovative way to use podcasts with kids is The Walking Classroom. This program combines brisk twenty-minute walks, together as a class, with listening to custom-written podcasts for kids on a preloaded audio device. It's reported that students return to the classroom in better moods, more focused, and more likely to participate in discussions.¹¹ Learn about this program on its website, and find resources for teachers on its teacher resources page. One could imagine designing one's own walking program with a group of young people, similar to this.

The Walking Classroom homepage
www.thewalkingclassroom.org

The Walking Classroom: Teacher Resources
www.thewalkingclassroom.org/teacher-resources

Another site worth visiting is Listenwise. It includes a directory of podcasts and lessons plans for using them with children. They curate the best of public radio in order to make it easy to bring audio learning in to the classroom. Teachers can join the site with basic features for free. Premium accounts include interactive transcripts, student submissions, and more.¹²

Listenwise
<https://listenwise.com>

The popular site Teachers Pay Teachers (where teachers can purchase lesson plans from each other) saw an increase in downloads of plans related to podcasts in 2014 and 2015.¹³ Search the site for *podcasts* to see some sample lesson plans.

Teachers Pay Teachers search for "podcasts"
<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Browse/Search:podcasts>

Podcasts in Higher Education

K–12 schools aren't the only place where the use of podcasts is beneficial. Academics are also finding podcasts to be useful in a variety of ways.

Helping Students Review Lessons

Incorporating podcasts in the classroom or as a supplement to classroom teaching is effective for enhancing learning. This example is from a paper about using podcasts to learn precalculus:

Problem-based video podcasts provide short, web-based, audio-visual explanations of how to solve specific procedural problems in subject areas such as mathematics or science. A series of 59 problem-based video podcasts covering five key areas (operations with functions, solving equations, linear functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, and trigonometric functions) were created as self-study tools and used by 288 higher education students to acquire pre-calculus skills over a three week period. The results indicated that a majority of students used the video podcasts frequently, rated them as useful or very useful, viewed them as easy to use, effective learning tools, and reported significant knowledge gains in pre-calculus concepts.¹⁴

Another study looked at using both lectures and podcasts sequentially to help improve learning and found that to be very successful.¹⁵

And yet another study found that students and especially adult learners believe podcasts to be more effective for reviewing and studying material than their textbooks.

Statistical analysis of the results of the study indicates that students believe that podcasts are more effective revision tools than their textbooks and they are more efficient than their own notes in helping them to learn. They also indicate that they

are more receptive to the learning material in the form of a podcast than a traditional lecture or textbook. . . . Coupled with the advantages of flexibility in when, where and how it is used, podcasting appears to have significant potential as an innovative learning tool for adult learners in Higher Education.¹⁶

As you can see from these examples, using pre-recorded audio or video (such as podcasts) to review learning is helpful in a number of ways. Students can use them at times convenient to them, review and rewind as much as needed, and they can be just plain fun. You might consider recommending podcasts related to subjects that students are studying as one more way to supplement learning and make it more enjoyable for students of all ages.

Encouraging Independent Learning outside of the Classroom

A study from the National University of Ireland, Galway, looked at ways to creatively prompt independent learning outside of the classroom and found podcasts useful for this. Here's what the study found:

The relative ease of using podcasts and minimal technical requirements for both lecturer and student means that it is a learning technology of considerable practical value, and its portability is particularly well-suited to the diverse and non-traditional student body of today. By drawing on the experience of podcast support provided for a final-year module of approximately 100 students in Geography at National University of Ireland, Galway, this paper reflects on the opportunities of technology-enhanced learning in higher education by outlining how podcasting can practically and creatively prompt and steer independent learning outside of the lecture environment.¹⁷

They found that the portability of podcasts was one of the best things about them. Students with work and family commitments could review their learning while listening in spare moments outside the classroom. The podcasts created by the professor included feedback on student assignments, recaps of key concepts, and prompts for additional readings and why they mattered. Students were motivated by this to do additional reading, and they found the podcast format practical and enjoyable.

Students Creating Podcasts as a Way to Learn Material

In one study, students created their own podcasts as part of their learning experience. The results were positive:

First, using podcasts included four categories: (1) the development of meta-skills, (2) mobile

learning, (3) support for content learning, and (4) facilitating student involvement. Second, the students saw podcasting as a study tool. The study proved authentic, internally and systemically valid and opened up logical generalizability. Some recommendations are given for a better educational use of podcasts in higher education.¹⁸

If you've ever learned more about a topic by creating training for others, you'll recognize the value of asking students to create their own podcasts. It's clear that creating in addition to consuming information is one of the best ways to learn.

For more ideas about how podcasts are being used in higher education, see the *Wikipedia* article "Uses of Podcasting," the section on podcasts in higher education.

Wikipedia: Uses of Podcasting, Podcasts in Higher Education

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uses_of_podcasting#Podcasts_in_higher_education

Spreading the Word about Research

One political scientist, Todd Landman, at the University of Nottingham, writes about how podcasts are a useful way to bridge the gap between academia and the real world.

In his words, "I am part of a wide network of people dedicated to producing sound evidence on human rights, and my work has been communicated through articles, books and reports. But I am limited in my ability to reach the people I would most like to engage and influence—those who do not have an academic understanding of human rights but might benefit from finding out about it."¹⁹

He decided to add a podcast to his blog and worked with a colleague to produce it. He said, "For me, the podcast format is like a fireside chat—it allows listeners to hear experts discuss their work in their own voices, and allows the experts to express themselves more freely than in the usual academic forms of dissemination."²⁰

When academic researchers want to reach a broader audience, podcasts are a practical way to do it. Knowing this, you might do two things: recommend creating a podcast to the researchers you work with, and look for podcasts created by academic researchers in order to point people to sources they can understand without being an expert in a particular field. For examples, see some of the podcast guides created by academic librarians that I mention in chapter 5. Here is one of them, with several science and medicine podcasts recommended by librarian Christine Beardsley of the Memorial Sloan

Kettering Cancer Center Library: <http://libguides.mskcc.org/podcasts/science>.

Podcast Accessibility

Blind and Low-Vision Users

One of the first things that comes to mind when we think about the accessibility of audio podcasts is that they are well suited for individuals who are blind or with low vision. Video podcasts are of course best if they provide transcripts. Those transcripts should not only provide the text of spoken words, but should also give descriptions of information that is only seen in the video (such as a science experiment being demonstrated).

There are many sources of information for podcasters on how to make their shows accessible. A good example is the guidelines page from Indiana University, *Accessibility Information for Podcasters*.

Accessibility Information for Podcasters

<https://kb.iu.edu/d/awuz>

Since audio podcasts are so popular with the blind community, there are many that discuss technology solutions for the blind.²¹ See the section of this report on podcasts for diverse audiences (physical disabilities section) for examples of podcasts specifically for people with vision problems.

An interesting solution for people with low vision or those who are blind is the option of using an Amazon Echo.²² It's a Bluetooth speaker that has a conversational interface. For example, you can say, "Alexa, play the podcast *This American Life*," and it will play the latest episode from TuneIn. To learn more about the Echo, see, "Why I Love My Amazon Echo: Alexa Makes Life Easier for Both the Blind and the Sighted."²³

TuneIn

<http://tunein.com>

If you are providing lists of podcasts for your users on your website, make sure that your site meets accessibility standards and can be easily read by screen readers. Many universities have guidelines for this, such as the site from the University of Washington, *Developing Accessible Websites*. If you use the popular content management system for libraries LibGuides, see "Accessibility Testing LibGuides 2.0" for information on accessibility features and how to make your content accessible.²⁴ If your website uses WordPress, see "Make Your WordPress Site Accessible with These Themes and Plugins."²⁵

University of Washington, Developing Accessible Websites

www.washington.edu/accessibility/web

LibGuides

<https://www.springshare.com/libguides>

Accessibility Testing LibGuides 2.0

<http://acrl.ala.org/techconnect/post/accessibility-testing-libguides-2-0>

Learning More about Options for the Blind

If you would like to learn more about what's happening with technology for users who are blind, I recommend the following podcast episodes.

The O'Reilly Design Podcast: "Chris Maury on Voice-First Design"

<https://www.oreilly.com/ideas/chris-maury-on-voice-first-design>

In this episode designer Chris Maury (who is in the process of losing his sight) talks about what kinds of design principles will help the blind. He discusses "chatbots" and offers principles for designing conversational user interfaces.

Note to Self Podcast: "Blind Kids, Touchscreen Phones, and the End of Braille?"

www.wnyc.org/story/blind-kids-touchscreen-phones-braille

In this episode, hear a conversation about how "reading" on a smartphone is becoming very popular for the visually impaired at schools like Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Hear different opinions on these questions: "Are iPads and iPhones rendering Braille obsolete? If so, should advocates for the visually impaired be worried?"

Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Users

Providing transcripts of podcasts is an excellent idea for several reasons. Not only does this make a podcast accessible for those who can't hear them, but there are several other good reasons:²⁶

- Search engines can index the topics and keywords included in the podcast.
- Many people retain information better when they read it while listening or instead of listening.
- It benefits people whose first language is not English in case it is hard to understand the way a particular person speaks.
- It's easy to grab quotes so that you can write about or review the content of a podcast.
- People can access the content in situations where

it's not convenient to play audio, such as quiet environments and where headphones are not convenient to access.

For an interesting discussion of the use of transcripts by deaf journalist Charlie Swinbourne, see his story “‘Did Adnan Do It?’ How Deaf People Can Follow Serial, the Murder Case Podcast the World Is Talking About.”²⁷ It includes links to transcripts for every episode of *Serial*. He began listening to *Serial* using headphones with the sound turned way up (since he is not completely deaf) and later discovered the transcripts, which helped him realize what he had missed and made all future episodes much easier to understand.

If you are making a guide to podcasts for your users, you can indicate whether transcripts are available for each one. Look at the website for each podcast to find transcripts. Some examples of popular podcasts with transcripts are

- *Freakonomics* Podcast Transcripts, <http://freakonomics.com/category/transcripts/podcast-transcripts>
- TED Talks—Look for Interactive Transcript link for each episode, for example: www.ted.com/talks/elise_roy_when_we_design_for_disability_we_all_benefit/transcript?language=en is the transcript link for this episode www.ted.com/talks/elise_roy_when_we_design_for_disability_we_all_benefit
- *This American Life*—look for Transcript link on each episode, such as this: www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/593/transcript

Sadly, there are many podcasts without transcripts, usually because it costs money and time to create them and is beyond the budget of many small producers. Here are a couple of services that create transcripts for podcasts.

Popup Archive

<https://www.popuparchive.com>

An example of a service used by those who can afford transcriptions is Popup Archive. Here is its pricing page: <https://www.popuparchive.com/account/plan>. You can also browse its archive of audio from public collections (<https://www.popuparchive.com/explore>) or subscribe to Popcast (Podcast by Popup Archive: <https://www.popuparchive.com/collections/4425>), its podcast of found audio.

Transcribe Online

<https://transcribeonline.mybluemix.net>

Another service (in beta as of late 2016) is Transcribe Online. It's an automated service that is much cheaper than the usual rates charged by transcribers. To learn more about this all-woman tech startup, see its website (URL above), FAQ page (<https://transcribeonline.mybluemix.net/faqs>), and the article “Building Accessible Tech and Culture” about the company.²⁸

The Future of Podcasts

Because podcasting is undergoing a surge in popularity, much is being written about the future of this format—both on problems to be solved and on directions where podcasting is headed.

Problems to Be Solved

There are two problems that are being discussed by many commentators: (1) improving discovery and (2) monetizing podcasts.

IMPROVING DISCOVERY

Currently, the iTunes store is the best known place to find out about podcasts, with its featured podcasts in different categories. Many people also hear about podcasts by word of mouth from friends or on social media.²⁹ And most podcast listening apps include a directory with featured podcasts.

But if a podcast doesn't happen to show up in those places, it can be difficult to discover. It's a problem that several journalists have written about:

If you want to share your favorite moment from last night's TV episode, you can upload a video on Instagram. But there's no easy way to share podcasts, other than posting the external link to a full episode and explaining which part of it you like best.³⁰

Still, the podcasting business faces one major roadblock to expanding its own success: There's no Netflix-style service that tells you what you'd like based on what you consume.³¹

In the meantime, as discussed in the “Podcast Discovery” section of this report, there are directories of podcasts and newsletters about podcasts, though most people don't know about these. It's likely that we'll see more experimentation with tools to help with podcast discovery in the future.

MONETIZING PODCASTS

In order for podcasting to thrive, there needs to be a way to monetize it, especially for independent creators who don't have financial backing. Some, of course, do podcasting as a hobby or labor of love, but many podcast producers need to monetize their programs. So far, advertising seems to be the most popular way, and it keeps podcasts free for listeners.

One problem with this is that only certain types of businesses like to advertise on podcasts—business

that can offer online services with a promo code for signing up.³² A unique promo code makes it easy to count how many new customers signed up using the code they heard about on a particular podcast.

In order to sell ads to most businesses, one needs statistics on how many listeners will hear the ad—and podcasts don't have easy or consistent statistics. Since each media file is hosted on the producer's own site, advertisers must rely on the word of the podcasters about how many listeners they have. And podcast producers can count only the number of times each episode was downloaded from their server. They have no way of knowing whether people actually listened to those episodes or how far into an episode people listened. In addition, many podcasts are offered on streaming services, each with its own different way of counting statistics. "This environment, one would argue, is a function of the industry not having relatively strong third-parties able to independently verify metrics for advertisers (like a Nielsen or a ComScore) and enforce competitively productive behavior in the space."³³

For now, one way some are dealing with this is via networks of intermediaries that generate revenue for established podcasters, like podcast advertising service Midroll. And we're beginning to see podcast hosting services that are finding ways to help with funding. One example is PodBean, which integrates the crowdfunding platform Patreon into its platform.³⁴

I expect we'll see more experimentation with different ways to monetize podcasts.

Midroll

www.midroll.com

PodBean

<https://podbean.com>

PodBean crowdfunding page

<https://patron.podbean.com>

Where Is Podcasting Headed?

Here are some trends and directions for the future of podcasting.

1. CONTINUED GROWTH OF ON-DEMAND LISTENING

On-demand listening, customized to people's specific interests, is one of the reasons podcasts are growing in popularity. People are used to this way of consuming TV shows, with Netflix, Hulu, HBO Go, or individual show purchases on iTunes or Amazon. People appreciate this same convenience from podcasts.

2. EXPERIMENTATION WITH CREATIVE PROGRAMMING

These days we are seeing lots of experimentation with new and creative programming, with shows of different lengths, styles, and formats, both fiction and nonfiction. The podcast network Earwolf has been experimenting with creative formats and finding success with this.

Knowing that podcasts are a particularly intimate experience, creators have tried to cement deep relationships with their audiences, primarily by offering truly distinctive programming. "Every time we roll out a show with an inventive format, it surprises us at how well it does," says Adam Sachs, CEO of podcast network Earwolf, which scored a hit with *The Andy Daly Podcast Pilot Project*. Each of that show's nine episodes is presented as a pilot of a new show, with Daly (a comedian known from *Comedy Central's Review*) playing a different character in each. On another Earwolf podcast, called *With Special Guest Lauren Lapkus*, the guest of the week interviews Lapkus (who played a corrections officer on *Orange Is the New Black*) as one of her alter egos. "There is no TV show where the star is playing a guest of a talk show," Sachs says. "There is no TV show where every episode is a pilot. It doesn't exist anywhere else." That creative freedom—from format, frequency, and length—is why talented performers increasingly want to do podcasts.³⁵

Since podcasts aren't bound by the restrictions of radio broadcasting rules and regulations, it's an area where many are experimenting.

3. MORE PODCASTS CREATED BY AND FOR DIVERSE AUDIENCES

When podcasts began, they were mostly by white males on topics related to technology. Now we are seeing more podcasts for all kinds of diverse audiences: young and old, various races and ethnicities, LGBTQ audiences, and more: "The great podcast renaissance is here. The problem, according to James T. Green: It's mostly white, straight, and male. Green is the cofounder and chief digital officer of Postloudness, (www.postloudness.com), a Chicago-based podcast collective trying to create a community of shows by women, people of color, and queer-identified hosts. The goal: to help more underrepresented voices create their own shows, and, in the process, bring more diversity to podcasting."³⁶

4. THE GROWTH OF TRANSMEDIA STORYTELLING (I.E., "SPINOFFS")

The media scholar Henry Jenkins, defines *transmedia storytelling* in this way: "Transmedia storytelling

represents a process where integral elements of a fiction get dispersed systematically across multiple delivery channels for the purpose of creating a unified and coordinated entertainment experience. Ideally, each medium makes its own unique contribution to the unfolding of the story.”³⁷

Some podcasts are spinning off additional multimedia content that add more experiences to the show. “A great example of this would be *Serial*, arguably the most popular podcast of all-time, which was co-created and co-produced by *This American Life*’s Sarah Koenig and Julie Snyder and hosted by Koenig. The show’s website features multimedia elements that accompany each episode such as photos, maps, text and more. It is a simple but effective multimedia environment that enables fans to continue to engage with the stories even after they’ve finished listening to the episodes.”³⁸

In addition, we’re beginning to see podcasts being made into movies and TV shows.³⁹ Here are some examples of shows and movies in development that began as podcasts:

- *Limetown* (TBC)
- *Lore* (TBC)
- *Serial* (Fox 21)
- *StartUp* (ABC)
- *This American Life*’s “The Incredible Case of the PI Moms” (TBC)
- *Throwing Shade* (TV Land)

These are (or were) already in production.

- *Comedy Bang! Bang!* (IFC)
- *The Nerdist* (BBC America)
- *Stuff You Should Know* (Science Channel/Discovery Network; cancelled after its first season in 2013)

As you can see, transmedia storytelling (as defined above) is becoming a very popular way to spread fiction storytelling throughout different delivery channels. I expect we’ll see more spinoffs of popular podcasts in the future.

5. AVAILABILITY IN MORE CHANNELS AND DEVICES

Podcasts are spreading (from the traditional way of subscribing via iTunes or podcast apps) into every major streaming audio channel, such as Pandora, Spotify, TuneIn Radio, Audible, and more. And podcasts are being made available in many kinds of audio devices, such as car audio systems, Amazon Echo (with voice control), smart watches with wireless earbuds (such as Apple Watch), and smart TVs (Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Roku, etc.). “The connected car is here. . . . Dashboards are changing, though. Of the estimated 75 million new vehicles shipped in 2015,

13% were ‘connected,’ or internet-enabled and will help provide easy access to streams.”⁴⁰

If you have any of these streaming devices, such as an Apple TV or an Amazon Echo you’ve seen that podcasts are easily available from their menus. With the conversational interface of an Amazon Echo, you can say, “Alexa, play podcast Studio 360,” and it will play the latest episode. Watch for podcast channels coming to new cars that you purchase as well.

6. EASIER ACCESS AND TERMINOLOGY

Podcasts are becoming easier to access without needing to understand the technology of RSS feeds or subscriptions since they are now available in so many familiar channels, such as Spotify or your car audio system.

We may eventually see the end of the term *podcast* in favor of simply “audio programming on demand,” or “digital audio programming.” “By 2015, 50 percent of new cars worldwide will come equipped with internet connection. By 2025, it’ll be a 100 percent. ‘When that happens and there are podcasts in everybody’s car, it’s not podcasts anymore,’ says Harbinger, ‘it’s just the radio.’ This is bound to grow the podcast industry dramatically, as people without smartphones or who don’t really know how to access podcasts through an app on their phone will have easier and direct access.”⁴¹

To summarize, these are the trends for the future of podcasting. There will be more experimentation with the challenges that need to be solved: making discovery easier and finding ways to monetize and support podcast production. There will be growth of on-demand listening (instead of waiting for broadcasts at particular times). We’ll see more experiments with creative formats and genres. Happily, there will be more podcasts created by and for diverse audiences. We’ll see more spinoffs from podcast shows to movies and television. All sorts of channels and devices will include the audio programming that podcasts offer. And finally we may see the end of the term “podcast,” in favor of simply “digital audio programming,” or maybe people will simply refer to the names of particular programs and shows that span across multiple media.⁴²

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Opportunities for Libraries and How to Learn More

Libraries Recommending Podcasts

There seems to be plenty of information on producing podcasts (for libraries),¹ and many libraries have interesting and creative podcasts that they produce for their audiences or for other librarians.² For a few samples, see the section of this report “Podcasts by Librarians.”

But another role that libraries can play is curator of podcasts, recommending the best ones as information sources to their communities. There are a number of ways this can be done, and these tips could apply to school, public, academic, corporate, or any kind of library.

1. **Create guides to recommended podcasts on our websites.** Just as we make guides to recommend all types of resources, we can also recommend podcasts. We can make guides about podcasts, focusing on the specific subject needs of our audiences. Here’s an example by Christine Beardley of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Library: <http://libguides.mskcc.org/podcasts/welcome>. We could also integrate podcasts into existing guides on specific topics. Here are a few examples:
 - Behavioral Sciences Research Guide, Princeton University Library (<http://libguides.princeton.edu/psychology/multimedia>)
 - Medical/Health Sciences: Podcasts, Georgia TechLibrary (<http://libguides.gatech.edu/c.php?g=54010&p=348935>)
 - Philosophy: Podcasts, Libraries of the University of Adelaide (<http://libguides.adelaide.edu.au/philosophy/podcasts>)

- English: Podcasts, City College of New York Libraries (<http://libguides.cuny.cuny.edu/c.php?g=346751&p=2337600>)
 - Recommended Podcasts, Orem Public Library, Orem, Utah (www.oremlibrary.org/index.php/eresearch/legal-information/12-library/general/35-recommended-podcasts)
2. **Make printable handouts about podcasts on specific topics.** Offer PDF versions for downloading from your website and newsletters.
 3. **Recommend podcast listening apps.** Add information to your guides and handouts about how to subscribe to podcasts and recommended apps for convenient listening. See the section of this report “Recommended Tools for Podcast Listening.”
 4. **Put podcast listening apps on mobile devices that you loan out.**
 5. **Start a podcast discussion club.** Make it like a book club, but for podcasts. Here’s an example that could spark some ideas: Podcast Brunch Club, <http://podcastbrunchclub.com/about>.
 6. **Feature on your website lists of podcasts created by people in your community**—people of all ages and backgrounds.

Summary

I hope this report will inspire you to find ways to include podcasts in your recommendations to your library users! I would love to hear from you about how you’re using this information, or for questions and comments. Contact me at <http://nicolehennig.com/contact-me>.

Additional Resources

A. Podcast Criticism and Reviews

In addition to the sites mentioned through this report, you may also enjoy these sites for reviews of podcasts.

The Timbre
www.thetimbre.com

If you like to read reviews of podcasts, start with The Timbre. It's no longer publishing new stories, sadly, but has plenty of relevant content from previous stories.

Cultured Vultures
<http://culturedvultures.com/?s=podcasts>

Cultured Vultures is another good site for podcast reviews. This link will show you search results for stories about podcasts.

AV Club
www.avclub.com/features/podmass

This site also reviews podcasts on a regular basis.

B. Statistics

These sources are likely to publish new studies in the future. They are a good way to keep up with the latest statistics.

The Podcast Consumer 2016
www.edisonresearch.com/the-podcast-consumer-2016

This report from Edison Research is full of interesting data about podcasts and their listeners.

Podcasting: Fact Sheet, Pew Research, June 15, 2016
www.journalism.org/2016/06/15/podcasting-fact-sheet

Pew Research is a good source for statistics and is always publishing new survey results.

C. The Podcasting Industry

Hot Pod
www.hotpod.xyz

A newsletter about podcasts. To keep up with industry news, sign up for this e-mail newsletter by Nick Quah. Past issues are available here: <https://www.hotpodnews.com>.

D. Reviews of New Podcast Listening Apps

To keep up with new podcast listening apps, try these sources.

The Sweet Setup
<http://thesweetsetup.com>

This site offers in-depth reviews of apps, and it usually chooses one top recommended app. For example,

“Our Favorite Podcast Client for iOS: Overcast,” September 8, 2016, <http://thesweetsetup.com/apps/our-favorite-podcast-client-for-ios>.

App Advice
<http://appadvice.com>

App Advice is my favorite site for iOS app reviews. Here's a sample: “Find Your Favorites and Discover New Podcasts from Anywhere,” <http://appadvice.com/collection/best-podcast-players>.

Android Central
www.androidcentral.com

This is a good site for reviews of Android apps. For example, see “The Best Podcast Apps for Android,” April 6, 2016, www.androidcentral.com/best-podcast-apps-android.

Mobile Apps News
<http://nicolehennig.com/mobile-apps-news>.

To stay current with the best apps for educational use, sign up for my free newsletter, *Mobile Apps News*. It covers the best apps of all kinds for use in educational settings, offers links to real-world examples of creative use, and links to thought-provoking articles about emerging technologies.

Alphabetical List of Podcasts in This Report

Aaron's World
 ACLU Podcasts on Mass Incarceration
Alt.Latino
Another Round
AppleVis Podcast
The Autism Show
Beyond the Stacks
The BiCast—Podcast for the Bisexual Community
The Big Listen
The Bindercast
The Bipolar Family
The Blind Hour Podcast
Blind Living Radio
The Blind Sport Podcast
Bloomer Boomer
Book Club for Kids
Brains On!
Call Your Girlfriend
Changing the Face of Power
Changing the World for Deaf People
 Chirp Radio Podcasts
Circulating Ideas
Code Switch
Coffee Break Spanish Step by Step
College Info Geek
Cool Blind Tech

Cyberpunk Librarian
 Dear Book Nerd
 Digital Accessibility Made Simple
 Disability Matters
 Disability.TV
 The Documentary
 Documents That Changed the World
 Don't Act Your Age
 The Dyslexia Quest
 Ear Snacks
 Earning Freedom—Michael Santos
 Economic Rockstar
 Elder Justice Podcast Series
 EOS 10
 Explain Things to Me
 500 Words
 Freakonomics Radio
 Getting In: A Podcast about the College Admissions
 Process
 #Girlboss
 Good Job, Brain!
 #GoodMuslimBadMuslim
 Grapple
 The Guilty Feminist
 Higher Ed
 Higher Ed Live
 The History Chicks
 In Black America
 In Pod We Trust
 International Realness
 Invisibilia
 Kid Friday: You're a Kid in a Digital World
 Kids on Comics
 Latino Rebels
 Latino USA
 Law School Toolbox Podcast
 Lesbian Lounge
 LibUX
 Lifehacker
 Lore
 Loud Mute Radio
 The Mash-up Americans
 Math Mutation
 The Naked Scientists
 National Native News
 Native America Calling
 Native Opinion
 Native Trailblazers
 Nerdette
 The New Middle
 Nómadas
 Note to Self
 On Being
 On the Media
 One from the Vaults—Transgender History Podcast
 Open Paren
 Ouch: Disability Talk

Our National Conversation About Conversations About
 Race
 Outsports—A Voice for LGBT Athletes
 Oxford Children's Rights Network Podcasts
 The Pod Couple
 The Podcast Digest
 The Podcast History of Our World
 Podcast Kid
 Podcast Playlist—CBC
 PostBourgie
 Poverty Research & Policy Podcast
 Queer State of Mind
 Radio Ambulante
 Radio Diaries Podcast
 Radio Diaries—Prison Diaries
 Radio Rookies
 RadioLab
 The Read
 Red Town Radio
 Re:Learning Podcast
 Revisionist History
 Sampler
 Sandi Klein's Conversations with Creative Women
 Science Friday
 Seminars about Long-Term Thinking
 Serial
 Shabam!
 She Does—Conversations with Creative Minds
 Short & Curly
 The Short Coat Podcast: Broadcasts from the Amazing
 and Intense World of Medical School
 The Show about Science
 Slate's Double X Gabfest
 Snap Judgment
 Soo Many White Guys
 Sound and Fury: The Angry Asian Podcast
 StarTalk Radio
 States of Incarceration
 Still Buffering
 Stories from the Brainreels
 StoryCorps
 Story Pirates
 Storynory
 Strange Fruit
 The Student Caring Podcast for Professors
 Studio 360
 Stuff Mom Never Told You
 Stuff to Blow Your Mind
 Stuff You Should Know
 TalkPoverty Radio
 TED Radio Hour
 This American Life
 This I Believe
 Throwing Shade
 Tiny Desk Concerts
 The Torch: The Great Courses Podcast
 Transwaves

Trends & Issues in Instructional Design, Educational Technology, & Learning Sciences

Tumble

UNICEF Podcasts

UnLearned

Unprisoned: Stories from the System

Voice of Literacy

We Want the Airwaves

Welcome to Night Vale

What It Takes

What Just Happened?

Women of the Hour—Lena Dunham

World of Wonder

Podcat

PodLikeThat (from Audiosear.ch)

PodRec—Facebook bot

Product Hunt

Quora Topic—Podcasts

7 on 7 Podcast Reviews newsletter

Tech Times—Podmaster

The Telegraph (UK)—Podcasts

Timbre—Podcast Playlists

Alphabetical Lists of Tools and Apps

For your convenience, here is an alphabetical list of all the podcast discovery tools and apps mentioned in this report.

Podcast Discovery (Directories, Newsletters, Search Tools)

Adolescence is a Marketing Tool newsletter

Audible Feast newsletter

Audiosear.ch

The Audit newsletter

AV Club

Bello Weekly—Bello Collective newsletter

Between Two Earbuds newsletter

Earbud newsletter

Earbud—NPR

Hodgepodge newsletter

Hotpod newsletter

iTunes Charts

Listen to This, *The Guardian*

Pod-a-Day newsletter

Podcast Chart

PodcastLand

Podcasts Reddit group

Podcast Listening Apps

AntennaPod

Audible

BeyondPod

Castro

Downcast

Google Play Music

iTunes

Otto Radio

Overcast

Player FM

Pocket Casts

Podcast Republic

Podcasts (Apple)

Podcat

ShortOrange

SoundCloud

Spotify

Stitcher Radio

TuneIn Radio

Notes

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2. Ibid. This site includes a long list of podcasts produced by public, academic, and school libraries.

Notes

Library Technology

R E P O R T S

Upcoming Issues	
April 53:3	Information Visualization by Hsuanwei Michelle Chen
May/June 53:4	E-Book Collection Development: A Data-Driven Approach by Melissa Goertzen
July 53:5	3-D Printers by Jason Griffey

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