

Trial and Information Session on Audio Material “UD-Book Textbooks”

1. Summary

Students with developmental disabilities or other disabilities that make the use of regular paper textbooks difficult can now use digital textbooks for all educational programs, as digital devices have been distributed nationwide to all elementary and junior high school students under the GIGA (Global and Innovation Gateway for All) school program, and as School Education Act (effective April, 2019) got revised. At the same time, MEXT issued a notice (No. 496, June 25, 2008) noting that "It is difficult to meet all the needs of students with various disabilities only with digital textbooks, so audio materials will continue to play an important role in the future.

Audio materials are "educational materials for students with developmental disabilities who have difficulty recognizing letters, figures, etc. that are commonly used in regular authorized textbooks, and are studied using terminals such as PCs and tablets. These audio materials are produced and provided at six facilities nationwide as a supplement to digital textbooks. Since July 19, 2024, students who need Japanese language instruction can also receive these audio materials.

Hiroshima University has been producing and providing audio materials since 2019, and began full-scale production and provision of "UD-Book Textbooks" in 2023. The "UD-Book Textbooks" are audio materials produced based on the UD-Book standard developed by the Ujima Laboratory at Hiroshima University, and have attracted attention for its ability to reproduce the layout of textbooks and other materials as similarly as possible to the original, while providing speech synthesized by a synthetic voice and highlighting. We are going to hold a session to explain and have you experience our UD-Book textbooks. We hope this will be an opportunity to inform you of its features, how to set it up, and how to apply for it, and to give you a chance to actually operate it. We look forward to welcoming parents, educators, boards of education, and other interested parties, as well as elementary, junior high, and high school students who have difficulty reading paper textbooks due to developmental disabilities or other reasons.

Hiroshima University Library also produces and checks out books based on the UD-Book standard. You will also be able to experience UD-Book books, which are based on the UD-Book standard.

2. Organizers: Graduate School of Human and Social Sciences, Hiroshima University, Colorful Bird

3. Co-sponsors: Hiroshima University Library, Center for Special Needs Education Practice, D&I Promotion Organization, Hiroshima University

4. Date: Saturday, August 30, 2025

5. Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm (morning session) and 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm (afternoon session)
(Registration starts at 10:00am for the morning session and 1:30pm for the afternoon session.)

6. Venue: Seminar Rooms A and B, Setagaya Culture and Life Information Center, Seikatsu Kobo
5F Carrot Tower, 4-1-1 Taishido, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 154-0004, Japan
(Directly connected to Sangenjaya Station on Tokyu Denentoshi Line and Setagaya Line)
7. Audience: Elementary, junior high and high school students who have difficulty reading regular paper textbooks, parents, educators, and other interested parties
8. Capacity: 50 people (prior registration required)
9. Contents: Information of UD-book, actual trial (how to set up, utilize, and apply for the program)
10. Application: If you wish to participate, you must apply in advance. Please apply using the form below.
Each applicant may apply for up to 3 accompanying persons.
Participation is free of charge.
The deadline for applications is Friday, August 22.
<https://ws.formzu.net/fgen/S886796523/>



[Persons in Charge]

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(Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10:00-12:00,
13:00-16:30)