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Contact: Angela Mitchell  
[admitchell@nextup.com](mailto:admitchell@nextup.com) or (904) 982-8043



2668 Lewisville-Clemmons Road  
Clemmons, NC 27012

## **Denver Professional Hears Books, Recipes and More with *TextAloud* and [Bookshare.org](http://Bookshare.org)**

*High-Quality Voices and Superb Text to Speech Enrich Reading and Listening*

CLEMMONS, NC and DENVER, CO – **Julie M.** of Denver, Colorado is an accomplished musician, performer and social worker who loves to read, cook, podcast and surf the Internet – and whose blindness doesn't slow her down for even a moment. Thanks to tools like NextUp's Text to Speech software program ***TextAloud***, and in conjunction with resources like **[Bookshare.org](http://Bookshare.org)**, Julie can quickly and easily listen to everything from the latest bestsellers to online recipes.

*TextAloud* is an easy and affordable software program from **NextUp Technologies** ([www.NextUp.com](http://www.NextUp.com)) that converts text into spoken audio files for listening on a PC or portable device. The program has become increasingly popular with users like Julie M., as well as blind and visually disabled users worldwide, thanks to its natural and human-sounding voices, a welcome alternative to the more traditional or robotic-sounding readers.

For individuals like Julie, [Bookshare.org](http://Bookshare.org) is the perfect complement to *TextAloud*. [Bookshare](http://Bookshare.org) is an online community that dramatically increases access to books for individuals who are visually impaired and otherwise print-disabled, enabling the legitimate and legal sharing of book scans contributed by [Bookshare](http://Bookshare.org) members as well as directly from publishers. *TextAloud* Text to Speech software works seamlessly with this resource, as it enables [Bookshare](http://Bookshare.org) members to then export those books to audio files that can be played on anything from computers to iPods® and other portables. The text read aloud via *TextAloud* offers high-quality, realistic and human-sounding voices which are a far cry from the less naturalistic, more 'robotic-sounding' voices of decades past.

"I love to read, and with Bookshare.org, for only \$50 a year, I can download all the books I want," Julie comments. "And by using *TextAloud* to read them aloud to me, I get voices that are better and much more interesting than those for other screen readers." Julie's favorite voices with *TextAloud* include such premium voice choices as 'Heather' from Acapela®, 'Ray' from AT&T Natural Voices™, and 'Paul' from NeoSpeech®.

"*TextAloud* also captures the Clipboard," says Julie, "which is handy when doing internet research." *TextAloud* also easily saves files to MP3 and WMA formats, which is especially useful for Julie's busy schedule not only as a social worker, but as a musician and performer as well. "It's perfect for commuters and others on the go," she adds. Julie is also an avid podcaster, so when she does research for her show, she listens to web and e-mail content via *TextAloud*, and also uses the program to save the content for later use and review as well.

But *TextAloud* isn't just for books. As an avid cook, Julie also cleverly uses *TextAloud* to read her recipes aloud from the Internet or her other favorite resources. She then easily plays back the files while cooking in the kitchen on her MP3 player or via a dub she has made to cassette tape, to remind herself of the ingredients and directions.

**Lisa Friendly**, Manager of Bookshare.org for Benetech, is delighted to see that Bookshare subscribers like Julie are pioneering the ways in which *TextAloud* can be used to optimize their reading experience by tailoring it to their individual preferences. "What a great idea to have the recipe read to you while you're cooking, or to be able to continue reading your book while you're folding the laundry. With a naturalistic sounding voice, the experience doesn't diminish from one reading method to the next."

### **About Bookshare.org**

Sponsored by Benetech, Bookshare.org is an initiative that dramatically increases access to books for the community of visually impaired and print disabled individuals. Bookshare takes advantage of a special exemption in the U.S. copyright law that permits the reproduction of publications into specialized formats for the disabled. Bookshare.org also serves organizations

such as the state, local and federal educational system, the rehabilitation system, specialized nonprofit agencies and various governmental units that provide accessible materials to people with disabilities. For more information, please visit [www.Bookshare.org](http://www.Bookshare.org).

### **About *TextAloud***

Highly useful for students wanting to maximize study time or listen on the go -- and perfect for Back to School season -- *TextAloud* has been featured in *The New York Times*, *PC Magazine*, *Writer's Digest*, on CNN, and more. Hailed by critics and users alike, *TextAloud* is priced at just \$29.95, and is compatible with systems using Windows® 98, NT, 2000, XP and Vista. The program is available for fast, safe and secure purchase via <http://www.NextUp.com>.

### **About NextUp.com**

**NextUp.com**, a division of NextUp Technologies, LLC, provides award-winning Text to Speech software for consumers, professionals, businesses, educators, and those with visual or vocal impairment, or learning disabilities.

In addition to *TextAloud*, NextUp.com markets other innovative Windows software designed to save time and deliver vital information. *NewsAloud*™ is a talking personal “news agent” that finds the stories users want, and then reads them aloud or to portable audio files.

*WeatherAloud*™ is a weather application that lets users select and listen to personalized weather forecasts, while *StocksAloud*™ reads stock updates and related news headlines aloud for specific companies of interest. NextUp *Talker* is an easy and affordable program that allows people who have lost their voices to use the latest in high-quality computer voices to communicate with others. Most recently, NextUp introduced a new text reader, *AbleReader*, available with the AT&T Natural Voices™ for use on Mac computers. Information on *AbleReader* is available at <http://www.AbleReader.com>.

NextUp.com also offers *TextAloud* with optional premium voices from **AT&T Natural Voices™**, **NeoSpeech®**, **Nuance®**, **Acapela®** and **Cepstral®** for the most natural-sounding computer speech anywhere. Available languages include U.S. English, U.K. English, Indian Accent English, Scottish Accent English, French, Canadian French, Latin American Spanish, Castilian (European) Spanish, Mexican Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, European Portuguese, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese Chinese, Korean, Japanese, German, Italian, Dutch, Belgian Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Polish, and Arabic.

Evaluation copies of *TextAloud* are available upon request. For more information on NextUp.com or *TextAloud*, or for other case studies involving users ranging from firefighters, doctors and lawyers, to truck drivers, musicians, and more, please contact publicist Angela Mitchell at **(904) 982-8043** or via [Admitchell@Nextup.com](mailto:Admitchell@Nextup.com).

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**Media Contacts:**

Angela Mitchell  
Paranoid PR (for NextUp.com)  
(904) 982-8043  
[Admitchell@Nextup.com](mailto:Admitchell@Nextup.com)

Ann Harrison  
Communications Director  
The Benetech Initiative  
[Ann.h@benetech.org](mailto:Ann.h@benetech.org)