

# Unified English Braille Resources and Training Documents

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA), at its November 8–10, 2013 meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, affirmed January 4, 2016, as the date by which the United States will implement the general use of Unified English Braille (UEB). This action was based on a year of dialogue and planning that included the UEB Transition Forum, held on October 16. The forum, which involved 48 delegates representing 31 organizations from the braille community, was structured to help organizations craft the steps and timetable through which the United States will make an effective transition to Unified English Braille.

## Unified English Braille

Unified English Braille (UEB) is a braille code designed by the [International Council on English Braille](#) (ICEB) to provide a single code that can be used for literary and technical materials throughout the English-speaking world. UEB is used in these countries:

- [Australia – adopted May 2005 \(doc 20kb\)](#)
- [New Zealand – adopted November 2005](#)
- [Nigeria – adopted February 2005 \(doc 24kb\)](#)
- [South Africa – adopted May 2004 \(doc 19kb\)](#)
- Zimbabwe

UEB has also been adopted, but not yet implemented, in these countries:

- [Canada – adopted April 2010](#); planned implementation date of 4 January 2016
- [Ireland – adopted December 2013](#)
- [United Kingdom – adopted October 2011](#); implementation in schools to begin September 2014
- [United States of America – adopted November 2012](#); planned [implementation date](#) of 4 January 2016

## Resources and Training Documents

### The ABCs of the Unified English Braille

<http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/abcs/abcs-ueb.pdf>

BANA is pleased to share this new publication—*The ABCs of UEB*—authored by Constance Risjord. This document outlines the major differences between English Braille, American Edition (EBAE) and UEB. Although this is not a complete instruction manual, it provides examples and practice exercises, which allow people who already know EBAE to quickly build on their knowledge of braille to understand UEB. This is a valuable resource that will help us make the transition to UEB, and BANA sincerely appreciates the work of Constance Risjord who volunteered to design and create this project.

### Ashcroft's Program Instruction: Unified English Braille

<http://www.scalarspublishing.com/>

Scalars Publishing is the place to order Ashcroft's Programmed Instruction: Unified English Braille (API-UEB), Ashcroft's Programmed Instruction Companion Reader: Unified English Braille; Ashcroft's Program Instruction in Braille, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, etc.

## **BANA Affirms Date for Implementation of Unified English Braille**

<http://www.brailleauthority.org/pressreleases/pr-2013-11-26.html>

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## **Braille Authority of North America (BANA)**

<http://www.brailleauthority.org/>

The purpose of BANA is to promote and to facilitate the uses, teaching and production of braille. Pursuant to this purpose, BANA will promulgate rules, make interpretations and render opinions pertaining to braille codes and guidelines for the provisions of literary and technical materials and related forms and formats of embossed materials now in existence or to be developed in the future for the use of blind persons in North America. When appropriate, BANA shall accomplish these activities in international collaboration with countries using English braille. In exercising its function and authority, BANA shall consider the effects of its decisions on other existing braille codes and guidelines, forms and formats; ease of production by various methods; and acceptability to readers.

## **Braille Symbols and Indicators**

[http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/symbols\\_list.pdf](http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/symbols_list.pdf)

Braille characters, letters, numbers, contractions, indicators, punctuation and symbols are presented in this document. Within each group, the braille signs are listed in alphabetic order by name, each braille sign is listed under all possible names. In the last three groups, references to *The Rules of Unified English Braille* appear in the right-hand column.

## **CNIB Transcriber's Unified English Braille Course**

<http://www.inca.ca/en/living/braille/Transcriber%20Update/Transcriber%20update.pdf>

A CNIB, free of charge, self-directed course to update from English Braille American Edition (EBAE) to Unified English Braille (UEB). This course was developed by Darleen Bogard, Chair, UEB Project Committee, 1991-2010 and Phyllis Landon, Chair, ICEB Code Maintenance Committee with assistance of CNIB Volunteer Braille Transcribers. CNIB Toronto 2012.

This course requires the use of *The Rules of Unified English Braille* which can be downloaded in print or braille from [www.iceb.org/ueb.html](http://www.iceb.org/ueb.html).

## **Hadley Transitioning to Unified English Braille Course**

[http://www.hadley.edu/downloads/pdf/NewUEBCourse\\_Flyer\\_Oct2014.pdf](http://www.hadley.edu/downloads/pdf/NewUEBCourse_Flyer_Oct2014.pdf)

This course is expected to activate in January 2015. This 6 lesson course provides a structured approach to learning the differences between English Braille American Edition (EBAE) and Unified English Braille (UEB). The abundant examples and exercises help students progress easily and transition to the new code.

## **International Council on English Braille (ICEB) Unified English Braille (UEB)**

<http://iceb.org/ueb.html>

The UEB rulebook for transcribers is available as a PDF file; it is also available as a PDF file with links. The links make it especially convenient for navigation when accessing the document directly online. The braille edition of the UEB Rulebook, in six volumes, is available as formatted braille (BRF) files with page size 25 lines by 30 cells. An additional document located on this site is the Guidelines for Technical Material to give transcribers information and examples to produce Mathematics, Science and Computer notation in Unified English Braille.

## **International Council Motion to Adopt Unified English Braille**

<http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/UEBpassed.html>

In 1991, it was brought to the attention of the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) that there seemed to be a steady erosion in braille usage, by both children and adults. Among the reasons cited was the complexity and disarray of the braille code. The BANA board decided that an overhaul was needed.

BANA began the process of developing a unified code for English Braille. In 1993, code development was internationalized and taken on by the International Council on English Braille (ICEB).

In 2004, ICEB determined that Unified English Braille (UEB) was sufficiently developed to warrant adoption by its member countries. At that time, BANA decided to observe its implementation in countries adopting UEB and would monitor progress.

## **New Zealand Unified English Braille Manual**

<http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/NZ%20UEB%20Manual%202011.pdf>

On 2 April 2004 Unified English Braille was agreed by the International Council on English Braille as sufficiently complete for consideration by member countries for adoption as their national braille code. On 14 May 2005 the New Zealand Braille Authority adopted Unified English Braille as New Zealand's braille code with full implementation envisaged over the following five years.

The manual is an adapted 2011 version of the Unified English Braille Primer: Australian Edition which was based on the Braille Primer Revised Edition 2005 published by the Royal National Institute of the Blind in the United Kingdom. Their significant contribution is acknowledged, and that of the Australian Braille Authority for allowing the adaptation of the Primer for use in New Zealand.

## **Ozzie Dots**

<http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/CUozzie.shtml>

Ozzie Dots is a systematic approach to assist students, their teachers and aides with learning to read and write the contractions of Unified English Braille in the early years of schooling. The program is provided as a CD with print and braille files. The first set, comprising of 15 books, is available as a free download.

## **Planning the Transition to the UEB: Actions and Opportunities**

<http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/Actions%20and%20Opportunities.pdf>

The transition to the Unified English Braille Code (UEB) in the United States will take time, require the cooperation of us all, and necessitate extensive preparation and coordination. The implementation will follow a carefully crafted timeline and coordinated plan that will take into consideration the various aspects of using, learning, teaching, and producing braille.

## **The Rules of the Unified English Braille**

<http://www.iceb.org/Rules%20of%20Unified%20English%20Braille%202013.pdf>

The UEB Rulebook is available in .pdf and .brf on the International Council on English Braille (ICEB) website.

## **Tips and Resources for Learning More About Unified English Braille**

<http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/tips-resources.html>

At this time, material transcribed on paper in Unified English Braille (UEB) is not yet widely available in the United States. The UEB implementation process is likely to take several years. However, braille readers, particularly those with access to refreshable braille displays or embossers, may begin learning about the changes and using UEB whenever they choose to do so. Here are some ideas to help you get started.

## **UEB Online Braille Training for Sighted Learners**

<http://uebonline.org/>

UEB Online is a training program for sighted people to learn Unified English Braille (UEB). Unified English Braille has been adopted by many countries and replaces Standard English braille. This program is the first online UEB training tool. The program is suitable for classroom and specialist teachers, parents, teacher aides and other professionals supporting children and adults with vision impairment.

This program has been created by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children's [Renwick Centre](#). We acknowledge the support and permission from the [Round Table on Information Access for People with Print](#)

[Disabilities](#) and [Australian Braille Authority](#) for the adaptation of content from the *Unified English Braille: Australian Training Manual, 2013* (edited by Howse, J., Riessen, K., & Holloway, L.).

### **Unified English Braille: Australian Training Manual 2013**

<http://brailleaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/ueb-au-training-manual.pdf>

Unified English Braille (UEB) was adopted for use by the Australian Braille Authority (ABA) in May 2005; with an envisaged five year transition period. Since 2010, it has been Australia's only braille code in use.

Following the adoption of UEB, our major braille producers commenced implementing the code almost immediately and an urgent need for teaching materials in the new, but still developing, braille code was created. Thus, the Unified English Braille Primer: Australian Edition followed shortly afterwards, with the Preliminary Edition in 2006 and an update in 2008.

Those familiar with the RNIB Braille Primer and the Unified English Braille Primer: Australian Edition will recognise the lesson structure and exercises from these. However, it became apparent that it was necessary to rewrite the lesson content in accordance with The Rules of Unified English Braille June 2010.

### **Unified English Braille Guidelines for Technical Materials**

[http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/Guidelines for Technical Material 2008-10.pdf](http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/Guidelines%20for%20Technical%20Material%202008-10.pdf) This document has been produced by the Maths Focus Group, a subgroup of the UEB Rules Committee within the International Council on English Braille (ICEB). At the ICEB General Assembly in April 2008 it was agreed that the document should be released for use internationally, and that feedback should be gathered with a view to producing a new edition prior to the 2012 General Assembly.

The purpose of this document is to give transcribers enough information and examples to produce Maths, Science and Computer notation in Unified English Braille.

### **The Unified English Braille Reader**

<http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/reader/UEB%20Reader%20for%20simbraille%20.pdf>

The UEB Reader is a compilation of individual documents and examples that appear separately on this page of the BANA website. We offer this document online as a BRF file as well as a PDF of the document in simbraille.

Please keep in mind that The UEB Reader is aimed at the interest and reading level of adults. It was not designed as a resource for young children. This page of the BANA website has an example document of the first chapter of The Wizard of Oz that has been transcribed using UEB. This example is likely more appropriate for younger students.