

ARC-BC Alternate Formats Technical Requirements

ARC-BC (Accessible Resource Centre - British) is a collection of alternate formats based on print materials used in the BC K-12 curriculum. These files are available to registered users who are supporting BC students with perceptual disabilities. Each alternate format type has its own technical requirements that must be met in order to use files of that format.

The table below lists the alternate formats available in ARC-BC and describes the technical requirements recommended for each.

File Extension	Explanation	Technical Requirements	
		Windows	Macintosh
.clkx	Clicker 5 file format	.CLKX are files saved using 'Clicker 5'. Clicker 5 is an educational program which offers activities used to develop language skills, art, and other curriculum. Clicker 5 will work on the following Windows systems: Vista, XP, 2000, NT Service pack 6, ME, 98.	If you are using Mac OS 10.5 (Leopard) or above, you will need to upgrade to Clicker version 5.27.
.doc	Microsoft Word document	Can be opened by Microsoft Word 2003 and higher.	Can be opened by Office v. X (Mac OSX 10.1), Office 2004, (Mac OSX 10.2-10.3), and Office 2008 (Mac OSX 10.4-10.5)
.kes	Kurzweil file format	Proper reading of this file requires Kurzweil 3000 for Windows version 10.04 or higher, Kurzweil 1000 version 11.00 or higher	Kurzweil 3000 for Macintosh version 3.0. or higher. Those running version 4 will need to update to version 4.02.
.mp3	Digital audio .mp3 file format with synthesized voice	These files can be played on any .mp3 enabled device (hardware and/or software).	These files can be played on any .mp3 enabled device (hardware and/or software). Those using iPods will require the iTunes software for conversion, storage and synching.

File Extension	Explanation	Technical Requirements	
		Windows	Macintosh
.pdf	Searchable Portable Document Format (Adobe Acrobat format)	OCR processed PDF file. Suitable Devices: Tablet PCs, PCs, Macs, and Laptops. Minimum Software version required: Adobe Reader 7.0 or higher.	OCR processed PDF suitable for all Macs. Minimum Software version: Adobe Reader 7.0 or higher.
	Accessible Portable Document Format	<p>Accessible PDF or Tagged PDF. Tagged PDF is fully accessible with software that supports PDF interpolation (e.g. JAWS, Window Eyes, Hal).</p> <p>Two of the most popular screen readers, JAWS® and Window-Eyes™, currently claim to support the new PDF. Freedom Scientific® has built PDF support into JAWS® 3.7 and higher, and GW Micro has built PDF support into Window-Eyes 4.1 and higher.</p>	Currently (April 2009), there are no Macintosh based technologies that will support the accessibility features of accessible .pdf files.
.pps or .ppt	Microsoft PowerPoint file format	<p>.ppt (presentation) and .pps (PowerPoint Show) can be opened and edited using Microsoft PowerPoint 2003 or higher in Windows.</p> <p>.pps (PowerPoint Show) can be played using the PowerPoint Viewer.</p>	<p>There is no PowerPoint player for OSX. You must have Microsoft Office 2008 for Mac installed on your computer and the operating system requires Mac OS X version 10.4.9 or later.</p> <p>Note: PowerPoint 98 Viewer for Macintosh only works for older version for Apple Macintosh OS 9 or Classic users, both .ppt and .pps files, but not with later versions.</p>
.rtf	Rich Text Format	Rich Text Format (.rtf) is a file format that most word processing software can open (e.g. MS Word, Microsoft Works)	Rich Text Format (.rtf) is a file format that most word processing software can open (e.g. MS Word, AppleWorks)

<p>.txt</p>	<p>Text document</p>	<p>A generic subtype for plain text. Plain text does not allow formatting commands, font attribute specifications, processing instructions, interpretation directives, or content markup.</p> <p>.txt can be accessed using current screen readers and text-to-speech applications.</p>	<p>A generic subtype for simple text. Simple text does not allow formatting commands, font attribute specifications, processing instructions, interpretation directives, or content markup.</p> <p>.txt can be accessed using current screen readers and text-to-speech applications.</p>
<p>.zip</p>	<p>.zip file format is a data compression and archive format.</p> <p>A .zip file contains one or more files (of any file format type) that have been compressed to reduce file size – this makes it easier to deliver large files over the internet.</p>	<p>.zip files can be opened by double clicking on the file – the files inside will be extracted to a separate folder where they can be viewed and opened.</p> <p>Windows XP and higher contain the built in ability to extract and .zip files. Earlier systems require WinZip.</p>	<p>.zip files can be opened by double clicking on the file – the files inside will be extracted to a separate folder where they can be viewed and opened.</p> <p>Mac OS 10.5 users can create .zip files by Ctrl-clicking the file and compressing it.</p>