

## MD\_EVREADER AUDIO GUIDE

### Welcome to the MDevReader!

The MD evReader is an app designed to support the reading of eBooks, when using eccentric viewing and/or steady eye strategy. The app was developed at Royal Holloway University in collaboration with the Macular Society, and is available free for Apple iPad and Android tablet devices. The app enables eBook text to be scrolled in a single line, much like ticker tape - or the information panel on board a train or on some buses. Presenting the book as single lines of scrolling text can enhance the reading experience of people with macular degeneration who use the eccentric viewing technique

Eccentric viewing simply refers to looking away from what you want to see in order to see it more clearly using your best area of remaining vision.

For example, to see someone's face you may need to look slightly above, or below to the left, or perhaps to the right of their face in order to see it more clearly. This is called eccentric viewing. The technique can be helpful for a variety of different visual tasks such as reading, watching tv, shaving, applying makeup, and so on.

Steady eye strategy is a technique that is useful for reading. Once you have found your best point of vision, you then keep your eye very still and move the text, a bit like ticker tape. This enables the words to be read using your best point of vision.

This "scrolling text" technique imitates steady eye strategy. Get the first word as clear as you can, then hold your vision still and let the text move.

Both eccentric viewing and steady eye technique take practice, but can be well worth the effort. You can try to read using the eccentric viewing technique with our without adopting the steady eye strategy.

For more information about eccentric viewing and steady eye technique, contact the Macular Society or visit their website. The MD\_evReader has its own website, with up-to-date information and suggestions of places to obtain suitable eBooks.

## **What does the app do?**

The app allows users to change the text style, size, and colour, the background colour and the speed of scrolling. The line of text scrolls across the screen at your own preferred speed.

The app also includes a feature which can place a fixation point on the screen to help people to use their best point of vision (eccentric viewing). This feature can also be switched off, if you prefer.

Text can be scrolled backwards as well as forwards, so should you miss a word you can go back to it.

The app can read an eBook which is:

- In an ePub format and out of copyright such as the free books available from Project Gutenberg.

At the present time the app will not work with:

- An ePub document which has lots of pictures.
- eBooks that are protected by the publishers copyright protection system (called DRM). We are working together with the RNIB to try to provide access to a wider range of eBooks for people with visual impairments.

For more information search for MDevReader website using Google; or check with the Macular Society.

## **Getting started**

Having tapped on the MD evReader icon this takes you to Screen One.

Screen One has 4 items:

- Credits - If you tap credits this will tell you who designed the app.
- Instructions - Tap instructions and a new document will open, which explains how to use the app.
- Settings - tap settings to personalise the app (or tap on the cogwheel showing on the main screen for settings)

and

- Books - tap books to see your downloaded books

## **Settings**

Tap on 'Settings'. This will take you to another screen with the following options:

- Main Menu - tap to return to the previous screen
- Text size - tap font size to go to another screen where you can increase or decrease the size of text, using the track pad at the bottom of the screen. Once you have selected the text size, tap 'Back to settings' to return to the main menu.
- Colour - tap colour to go to a new screen that allows you to change the background and text colours. Choose from
  - Black on white
  - white on black
  - black on grey
  - grey on black
  - black on yellow
  - yellow on black

Select your preference with a tap to apply the colour scheme instantly. Then select 'Back to settings'

- Text style – Tap Font to go to another screen where you can change the style of the text. Select one of the text font options and tap 'Back to settings' to return to the main menu.

- Focus Point – This turns on or off a focus point that can be moved to suit your preferred eccentric viewing location. If you need to eccentrically fixate to read, you should look at the focus point while reading the line of text as it scrolls past.

If the focus tab is not highlighted, the focus point is off. If it's highlighted, the focus point is on. Then tap 'Back to settings'

## **Books**

Tap 'Books' and you will go to another screen to find your list of books.

To start reading a book, tap the title you wish to read, for example: Pride and Prejudice.

When you have selected a title, you will then go to another menu with the following items:

- Back to Book - tap and you will return to the list of titles on the book screen.
- List Bookmarks - tap to go to another screen which will list all of the bookmarks previously recorded for the book.
- Bookmarks can be deleted by swiping across the entry and pressing the delete button that appears.
- Read from start - tap to go to the reading screen where you can read the book from the start.
- Continue Reading - tap to go to the reading screen where you can read the book from where you left off last time.
- Chapters - tap to go to the reading screen which lists the chapters. Select the chapter you wish to read from, and tap to read from the start of that chapter.

Books can be deleted on the Book Screen by using the normal slide gesture – sliding a finger left to right over the book title will produce a delete button, and pressing the button will delete the book from the tablet.

## **Reading a book**

Your book will open in a new screen either by a tap to: 'Read from the Start' or 'Continue Reading';

or by selecting a 'Chapter' from which you want to start,

or by tapping a 'Bookmark'. You may also go straight to the reading screen if you have left a book running in the app or if you have opened the eBook via iTunes.

When the book opens up you will see the focus point which can be moved to any point on the screen. This helps fixation.

Slide your finger onto the focus point and slide it anywhere on the screen. Hold your gaze on the focus point, so that your best point of vision is the area where the text will scroll.

If the fixation icon is not visible, check that you have turned it on. You can do this by going back to the 'main menu' and then tapping on settings.

The trackpad (that's the bar at the bottom of the screen) enables you to control the scrolling speed of the text. It also allows you to scroll text backwards and forwards.

The cogwheel (at lower right of the screen) takes you back to the menu. This menu has:

- Continue Reading
- Credits
- Instructions
- Create Bookmark
- Settings and
- Books

All of the options on this menu have already been described, apart from:

### **Create a Bookmark**

Tap 'Create a Bookmark' and it will bookmark the place you exited the text when you pressed the cogwheel. The bookmarks will be visible next time you open the book.

## **8. How to download an eBook**

You will need to download an ePub format eBook (without DRM copyright protection) to enable the app to work.

Using your iPad or Android tablet:

- Open a web browser (for example, Safari or Firefox)
- Enter the address of the website from which you want to download an eBook
- Select the ePub format for the title you wish to read

Download the eBook (remember the book should be free of DRM)

- When the document loads, select the “Open in...” option, and choose MD evReader from the list of applications

## **9. How to add ePub documents via iTunes**

ePub files can also be added and removed via the desktop iTunes application, in the following way:

- Sync the iPad with iTunes,
- The evReader will appear in the bottom of the Apps tab
- ePub documents can then be added using the Add button

## **10. Presenting text on a TV screen**

Text may also be presented in large sizes on a digital display. This requires a special Apple Digital AV HDMI adapter that is compatible with your iPad (2 or 3). You also need an HDMI cable to plug into the adapter and the HDMI port of your TV or computer monitor.

*We hope you enjoy the MD\_EV Reader app and find it useful. You can provide us with feedback by going to the MD evReader website.*