

## **VOX Books replies:**

### **Leighton Township Library:**

1. Do you use any sort of zippered bag/pouch for circulation or do they go out like any other book? *We shelve them in a separate area near our picture books, but we do not place them in a bag.*
2. Do you have any sort of agreement/waiver for checkout (similar to Library of Things or tech equipment)? *We do not have an agreement/waiver for check out.*  
*We do limit the number they can take out to 2 or 3.*
3. Do you send the charger home with the patron, too, or do staff recharge them upon check in? *We charge them when returned to the library.*

### **St. Charles District Library:**

1. No. Just put them on the shelf like any other book.
  2. No. Same agreement as regular material, you loss or damage you are charged for the book.
  3. Staff charges. No we do NOT send chargers home. If need be, patron could use their own universal charger at home.
- Just a note, our young patrons are ABSOLUTELY LOVING the Vox books. They are very popular.

### **Orion Township Public Library:**

1. Do you use any sort of zippered bag/pouch for circulation or do they go out like any other book? We circ just like a book, no bag or pouch. Have not had any problems.
2. Do you have any sort of agreement/waiver for checkout (similar to Library of Things or tech equipment)? No agreement.
3. Do you send the charger home with the patron, too, or do staff recharge them upon check in? Staff recharges at check in. We were told by rep they only need a 2-hour charge when returned. We set up a station with multiple chargers for this.

### **Unknown Library:**

No special case - they just check out like a regular book since there are no loose parts.  
We look at them like audiobooks, so no need for waivers for us.  
The chargers stay with the circ staff, and the books get charged when they're returned.

### **Saline District Library:**

Our collection is moving like hotcakes. We lend them out like any book and do the charging upon check in. The battery is supposed to last for 100 plays. Also the charger is pretty standard so I'm guessing most people have a version of it in their house already if they're desperate. I have not had any complaints.

### **Bridgeport Public Library:**

1. We don't have them in any bag or pouch. They go out like any other book.
2. No, no agreement. We view them as just another form of a book, like an audiobook etc.
3. No. We recharge them in the library as needed.

### **Salem-South Lyon District Library:**

Our Vox books are in a zippered bag. We use the same kind that we use for picture books with read-along CDs. We don't send a charger home. When they come back to the library, the circ member

checking them in will put them on a charger. We have a power strip in a closet that has I think 4 chargers on it.

#### **Buchanan District Library:**

We circulate Vox and Wonderbooks. We circulate them like a book, no bag or anything, though we have a sticker on them that says "Do not return in drop box. Return inside the library," and if anyone returns one in the drop box we make a note on their account to remind them to return them inside. We limit them to 3 checked out at a time. We do not circulate them with the charger. We don't check the battery level each time- pretty much only if a patron says it's dead. It's a standard charger size, so most patrons probably have a charger or cable that fits it at home, and the battery lasts a very long time. As they're around the price of an audiobook or an expensive DVD set, we don't have them sign any agreement/waiver.

#### **T.A. Cutler Memorial Library:**

We've circulated VOX books for about three years now.

1. They go out like any other book, no bag/pouch. Shelving them is interesting, because one side of the book is obviously wider than the other, so the spines don't line up nice and flush and they tend to get cockeyed on the shelf...but they circulate well enough only typically half or so of the collection is on the shelf at one time anyway, so not a huge deal.
2. No agreement/waiver. The replacement cost is obviously going to be higher than a standard big five published trade book if the patron fails to return it or abuses it, but less than a lot of other products we've circulated over time without waivers; there shouldn't be any liability on our part because there's no more risk of injury to a patron than from a standard book; and the book portion of the product is more prone to abuse and damage than the digital reader (water damage, ripped pages, bent boards, etc).
3. We will send a charger at the request of the patron, but since it is the same charger as the formerly generic standard android device (apparently not the current standard, but the former standard), most people already have a working charge cable (unless they've bought exclusively Apple products) and then we're not running the risk of having to bill them for an unreturned cable. Each book's charge is supposed to last for 100+ readings, so when a book is returned, we flip it on, make sure the battery still indicates it is charged and test the play button. If it fails one of these tests, we charge it. Otherwise, we just reshelve it. We've probably only recharged a half dozen or so books in the entire three years, most of those in the past six months.

#### **Crooked Tree District Library:**

They check out like any other book.

No waiver.

We charge them when they're returned

#### **Henika District Library:**

We do not put them in any bags, they go out as they are. No waivers, but they can only be checked out on an 18+ card. We do not send chargers home, we charge when they are returned.

#### **Southgate Veterans Memorial Library:**

1. They go out like any other book.

2. No agreement or waiver.
3. We check the charge both on check out, and check in. If it is found to be without power at checkout, we'll send a charger with the patron, and if it's out of power when we get it back, we'll set it aside to charge. We also go through and check them all every few months, to catch the ones that lost power while sitting on the shelf (the old models tend to lose power over time, the newer ones seem to have less problem in that regard).

They've been very popular, a great addition to the collection, you won't regret adding them in! Check out their IR line as well, also a lot of fun, and well liked.

#### **Sandusky District Library:**

We added VOX Books about a year ago. We treat them like any other book without any extra packaging. As for the charger we have found they need to be charged very rarely - we have a staff member in charge of charging them all twice a year.

#### **Richland Community Library:**

We process them like a regular book. We have a sticker on the book and we make sure to tell the patron to return them INSIDE and not in the outside drop box. Just in case it gets damaged. Nobody wants to pay \$50+ to replace it.

No agreement for checkout. Just like a normal checkout.

We don't lend out the chargers. The charge holds for quite a long time. We just double check the battery upon check in.

We also have them in browsing bin type shelves. They fit awkwardly on a regular shelf.

#### **Clinton Township Public Library:**

We made faux books, like Blockbuster did with their VHSs, the books have a cover, spine, that specifies chapterbook, picture book, bilingual book, and the back has a summary about the book.

We keep the books themselves at the desk. Paton picks up a faux book, brings it to the desk to check out, and we give them the actual book.

We do not distribute chargers. 99% of our patrons who would get these books have chargers at home.

#### **Cutler Library:**

We've been circulating VOX books since 2020 and treat them pretty much like a regular children's picture book. We only charge them as needed and show the patrons the charging port on the books at check out in case they need to recharge it while in their possession. We figure most households have at least one charging cord that will work in the book port, so we do not circulate the cords with the books either. A single charge lasts multiple circs for us, and I do occasionally test the books on the shelf to make sure they are functioning. We do not require any additional agreements or waivers for the VOX books, but we also don't require additional agreements for any of our A/V items.

The only issues we've had so far is shelving, and loaning through MeLCat. The books are asymmetrical because of the audio part attached to the front cover and it creates a sort of "fanning effect" with multiple books on the shelf. The result is it makes our VOX collection look messy on the shelf, especially if someone has just browsed that section. The issue with loaning through MeLCat is

no matter how much we write "A/V item Please Pack" on the VOX books, they still come back not packed because they look like regular books and we are a "No Pack" library for normal items.

### **Hackley Public Library:**

We just started checking out VOX books and this is what we have so far...

1. Nope they go out just like any other books
2. Nope
3. We recharge after they've been checked in. It's pretty easy to tell if they need a charge so if they don't they just go back on shelf!

### **Tecumseh District Library:**

We started our Vox Book collection in September 2021.

We do not place them in any kind of bag.

They are shelved in a special section at the end of our Picture Book Collection, just like any other book.

Monthly circulation this past year ranged from 25 to 50 check-outs. The collection is very popular!

The Spine Labels read: VOX EASY REA (First three letters of author's last name)

This makes it very easy for our Shelves to distinguish the books from our regular picture books as they load their carts.

Subject headings include VOX Books, Children's audiobooks, and Audio-enabled book.

Please consult our online card catalog for other information we share on the MARC Records.

No, we do not have any waiver for patrons to sign. We treat the VOX books just like we do our Read-Alongs, music CDs and DVDs, as far as being just a regular check-out item with a three week check-out period.

No, we do not send the chargers home. I keep the chargers in my office. The staff checks that the books can be activated before they are shelved to be sure they are still charged. They also make sure the power button is OFF before the book is shelved.

If the books are dead, the staff gives them to me to recharge. The books are supposed to be good for at least 100 uses and I have only had 5 or so needing recharging since we started the collection.

The books are indeed expensive (\$43-\$45) so we are slowly growing our collection.

To start with, I am buying VOX books of familiar library authors and titles.

I hope this information is useful to you and your colleague.

I remember how my Technical Supervisor and I sat down when we first got our first ten books and ironed out all the details.

We not only write our cataloging info on the verso page, but we also add it on the gray gizmo attached to the back of the front cover with a Sharpie.

The books get barcodes and address labels just like a regular book. We tattle tape the book and wing the big barcode (on the back of the book) and the book corners, as well as bind the spine.

### **Warren Civic Center Library:**

We circulate our VOX books in padded envelopes. They are to be returned to the Circulation Desk in the envelope. They are not supposed to be returned in the drop box and rarely are.

We do not have them sign any sort of agreement/waiver but they must go out on an adult card.

Staff charges them when they are returned as we do not have enough chargers to circulate one with each book.

**Otsego District Public Library:**

1. No, we circulate them like other books. They do have a Vox Books sticker we created and a special call tag with a V on the spine.
2. No, but we do have a sign by the Vox Books area that says average replacement cost is \$50
3. No and no. We charge them all once a year, each staff puts a portion of the collection on hold (even I do it) and is responsible for charging those 10 or so books. Once a year charging has worked fine so far and if a book is dead a patron will let us know, but honestly that is few and far between with our once a year charge method.

**Berrien Springs Community Library:**

Here at Berrien Springs, we send ours out as is. No agreement. As for the plug, we have them barcoded and ask patrons if they want one. Many pass on them since they have chargers at home.

**Grand Ledge Area District Library:**

Our VOX are shelved and circ'd like any other book. We do charge on return. We plan to develop a bag packaging for the VOX with the VR glasses though.

**Shelby Township Library:**

Our patrons LOVE our new collection of VOX books! We circulate them by themselves with no waivers, just like a picture book - though we shelve them near the audiobooks. I ask that circulation give them to me to recharge when returned rather than send a charger home with patrons. The battery seems to last well enough for a few good read throughs (also, many patrons may have a charger at home that works with these - it's the micro USB).

**Coopersville Area District Library:**

We also process them like any other book and do not require a waiver. We don't send the chargers home but we do recharge them upon return. We, like others, are looking into a bag or some sort for the ones with the VR glasses.

**Adrian District Library:**

1. We shelve them in acrylic shelf units (picture attached).
2. No agreement, no waiver. However, we do have a limit of 3. There's a block in Atrium that permits no more than 3 at check out without a staff override.
3. Staff must recharge, since we do not send the charger home with the patrons. Staff must also check at each checkout whether or not the item is fully charged by turning it on.

**Bayliss Public Library:**

We're putting our VR goggles + books into hanging kit bags (cheap ones we bought from Amazon), but the VOX books we're circ'ing just like regular books. (Someone asked last week on a different listserv

about book drop, and we're allowing them into that, too.) No agreement/waiver. We're keeping the chargers here on the assumption that most households will have a mini-usb charger kicking around, and be able to juice it up if necessary. (But then keeping an eye on them at return, in case they need a charge here.) We did decide that their wedge-y shape makes them awkward to shelve among the regular books, and gave them their own section. We have them in magazine boxes, which holds them nicely. It's early days yet, but they're very popular already!

#### **Monroe County Library System:**

Our VOX books go out like any other book, no special packaging.

No we don't have any special agreement. Patrons would just get billed for damaged or lost books at their value. We do not send home chargers, but do charge upon return. The charge lasts a LONG time. Your patrons will love them! We did manage to find a special spotlight shelving section and for the longest time, we only had a few on the shelf. We've been able to order more and now we have a good selection to choose from.

#### **Jackson District Library:**

No pouches or packaging - we just send them out like any other book. They are surprisingly durable. No waivers or agreements to sign (we also don't have waivers for our Hotspots that we lend). We do not send the charger home with the patron, but we do recharge each one upon checkin. They hold power for a lot of readings, so we haven't found the need. On the off chance it does need to be recharged at a patron's home, it uses a very common micro USB that most folks already have somewhere.

The most challenging aspect of these books is shelving them if I'm being honest. The device makes that side of the book wider than the spine, so they don't sit super great on a shelf all together. We shelve most of ours face-out on a little display easel to eliminate this problem. They are SO popular though - about 90% of the collection is checked out at any given time.

2nd reply from JDL: We do not have them in any special packaging, nor do we have any agreements for checking them out. We treat them like regular books where if it is damaged the patron pays for the replacement cost. This is not standard practice per se, but I have been known to tell parents to be extra careful as these can be pricey to replace in case of damage and I don't want them to have any nasty surprises. Staff are expected to charge them when they are returned rather than sending the charger with patrons. When we first got them, they were piloted at only a few branches. The pilot was deemed successful and now all of the branches have at least a small collection.

#### **Fennville District Library:**

We have several VOX books. Ours circulate like any other book, not in any sort of special bag, nor do we have any kind of agreement or waiver for them. We also do not send the charger home with patrons, as you don't get one charger per book when you order, but for every 3 or 5 (I can't remember which it is.) We have a message in the record for each book that pops up when its checked in to remind us to charge them when they're returned.

#### **Gary Byker Memorial Library of Hudsonville:**

We put them in the hanging plastic bags only because when they were returned, they splayed open oddly because of the reader inside and we had damage issues.

#### **Farmington Community Library:**

We put them in a Janway bag. We have them on the shelf without the bags so they are more visible, with the bags next to the books, and ask they put them in a bag at checkout. Of course, they sometimes go home without a bag.

No waiver.

No chargers sent home. Pages bring the returned books to children's staff and we charge them before putting on the shelf. No one has ever said that their charge didn't last at home.

Vox books are very popular - your patrons will love them!

**Huntington Woods Public Library:**

We also put ours in a hanging plastic bag (and display them that way, too); we do not have any type of agreement they have to sign to take them home; and our staff re-charges them upon return.

**Commerce Library:**

We store them on file organizers on the shelf. And we charge them when they're returned. We circ them like regular books without an agreement or the charger.

**Salem-South Lyon District Library:**

Hanging plastic bag, no waiver and staff re-charges them upon return.

**Traverse Area District Library:**

We have had Vox books at TADL for a few years now and they are super popular. They have moved around our collection, but have found a great spot near our Beginning Readers section. We use metal magazine holders for them on the shelf since they don't stand up very well on their own or together.

In terms of your questions:

1. We do not put them in bags.
2. We do not have a special agreement. They check out as long as our other books and audiobooks (4 weeks).
3. We charge these at the library after they are returned.