

I am the owner/operator and sole employee of Handid Braille Services. Founded in 2018, Handid is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has come to specialize in producing braille and tactile media for languages other than English (UEB too!). Handid maintains HIPAA and GDPR compliant systems and processes. This enables me/Handid to work for clients needing braille for medical, insurance, legal, and other documents requiring high levels of security and privacy, as well as commodity materials like textbooks and other documents.

Each of these factors makes Handid Braille Services unique. There are very few providers of reliable braille transcriptions in languages such as Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Farsi, Hmong, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and others that do not use the Latin alphabet. Adding HIPAA and GDPR compliance, I/Handid is able to handle legally protected information in a manner that ensures security for intermediating clients and the customer.

After gaining certification in braille transcription I did not set out to become an expert in producing braille for multiple languages. However, after a conversation with members of the National Library Service in the US Library of Congress at an NFB convention about a request for producing Arabic braille materials — a request that I completed well ahead of schedule — the word got out. With a knack for learning "hard stuff" I/Handid have become a go-to source for braille in the languages noted above.

Educated as an instructional-technologist and a sociologist, I have both a service and maker mindset. In terms of service, in a nation with an increasingly multicultural and multilingual population, Handid contributes to the promise that the US is welcoming and supports braille readers in their efforts toward independence in a world that demands literacy. As a maker, I apply my skills to produce things that people simply need and which facilitate independence.

non-English documents transcribed include medical, legal, insurance, and engineering-patent documents. Languages include Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Farsi, Hmong, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Tagalog, Vietnamese. Menus and other documents for hospitality properties in the Middle-East are transcribed on contract with those properties. I have won a contract to produce Arabic and English braille transcriptions for a museum in Dubai.

A partial of non-English language books transcribed include:

ARABIC, ENGLISH

Nawawi. 2003. AL-MAQASID: Nawawi's Manual of Islam. Revised and Expanded Edition. Beltsville, MD: Amana Publications.

'l-Walad, Ayyuha. 2005. AL-GHAZALI Letter to a Disciple: Ayyuha 'l-Walad · Bilingual English-Arabic Edition Translated with an Introduction & Notes by TOBIAS MAYER. Cambridge, MA: The Islamic Texts Society.

Al-Nawawi. 2009. Al-Nawawi's FORTY HADITH: An Anthology of the Sayings of The Prophet Muhammad. Ryadh, Saudi Arabia: International Islamic Publishing House.

Kristen Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal, and Abbas Al-Tonsi. 2021. Al-Kitaab Part One: A Textbook for Beginning Arabic. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

HEBREW, ENGLISH

Author. 2019. The Messiah of Israel: Prophecies from the Holy Scriptures. The Society for Distributing Hebrew Scriptures.

KOREAN, ENGLISH

Haewon Cho, Jae Hong Lee, Hye Young Shin. 2021. Epic Korean, Vol2. Foundation for Korean Language & Culture in the USA.

Because Handid is a non-profit organization on a shoestring budget with policies to ensure resources serve braille readers and not the organization, I would like to apply for the Bolotin Award to fund infrastructure and training in braille for non-English languages in order to expand Handid's capacity to grow the organization and serve demands for non-English braille at a faster rate.

Additionally, as Handid grows, I have goals to expand services to provide online instruction in braille for adults who have experienced vision loss later in life. This can also support readers of non-English braille to learn UEB. Partnerships with other non-profit organizations are already in place to enable this. We are searching for funding to facilitate development of instructional materials and support systems.

In addition to operating Handid Braille Services, I am the treasurer for the Idaho Affiliate of NFB. I am also a member of the Board of Directors for the National Braille Association (NBA), chairperson of the NBA Tactile Graphics committee, and member of

the NBA Foreign Language committee. I am the sole USA representative on the Committee on Technical Braille for the International Council on English Braille (ICEB) and a member the NFB President's Committee on Braille. I am also a Full Professor in the Boise State University College of Engineering, where I teach graduate level courses in organizational improvement, and support faculty, undergraduate, and graduate students to incorporate applied ethics into engineering and computer science.