

## 1.3 Picking a Story for an Audiobook

Be open to any genre, but please don't pick subject matter that will offend students, is scandalous, or contradicts the University's dedication to equality and diversity.

Please *do not* choose audiobooks that describe suicide, hanging, or drowning in any graphic detail. These are ways in which students have occasionally died whilst studying at the University of Bath.

Last year we found that listeners didn't have the attention span for a full audiobook in one broadcast that lasts more than 35 minutes. This presents a dilemma – you need to pick either a story that will fit into this timeframe, that fits within 15 minutes so that it can be broadcast back-to-back with another audiobook, or that can be broken up into suitable-length chapters and broadcast over more than evening.

What we also found last year was that the ideal length of story for an audiobook was 5-10 pages long. A 5 pager will probably fit within 15-20 minutes when read at a decent pace, whereas a 10 pager should fit nicely within half an hour. Bear in mind the production workload for a longer story. Cleaning and editing the vocals on an audiobook will take at least twice the length of the actual recording.

You might find a couple of words that are no longer suitable for broadcast. Rewrite them as subtly as possible.