Refreshable Braille Display Demo Transcript

[Ka] Hi, my name is Ka Li. I'm an accessibility analyst at NNELS, and in this video, we'll be talking about refreshable braille displays. Refreshable braille displays are devices that will convert digital text into braille. It does this by creating braille using pins that raise up and down. It may look something like this.

So what I have here is a braille display that I'm holding up to the camera, where you can see a Perkins style keyboard, where you've got keys that correspond to dots in a cell, and below that you've got cursor routing buttons, which allows you to control the cursor, which is very useful for editing. And below that is the braille display itself. This is a 40-cell braille display, which means that it shows one line at a time or 40 characters at a time, and you'll have to use the buttons on either side of the display or the buttons at the front of the display, which are called thumb keys in this case, to be able to advance the display forwards and backwards.

Now, if I have this display connected to a screen reader, all the information that the screen reader sees will not only be announced auditorially but it can be sent to the display itself. Right now I have it connected to my laptop, so when I navigate through this window, you can see the pins raise and lower. Now, a lot of these displays will work with common screen readers such as NVDA and JAWS on Windows, VoiceOver, on Mac and iOS or iPad OS, and on Android using TalkBack. So screen readers generally are required to use refreshable braille displays. However, there are some displays, like the one that I was holding up, that has built-in software for you to be able to load books and documents onto the device itself, and it can be used as a standalone reader.

So that's refreshable braille displays in a nutshell. Thanks for watching.