New!

Braille Blaster

American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.

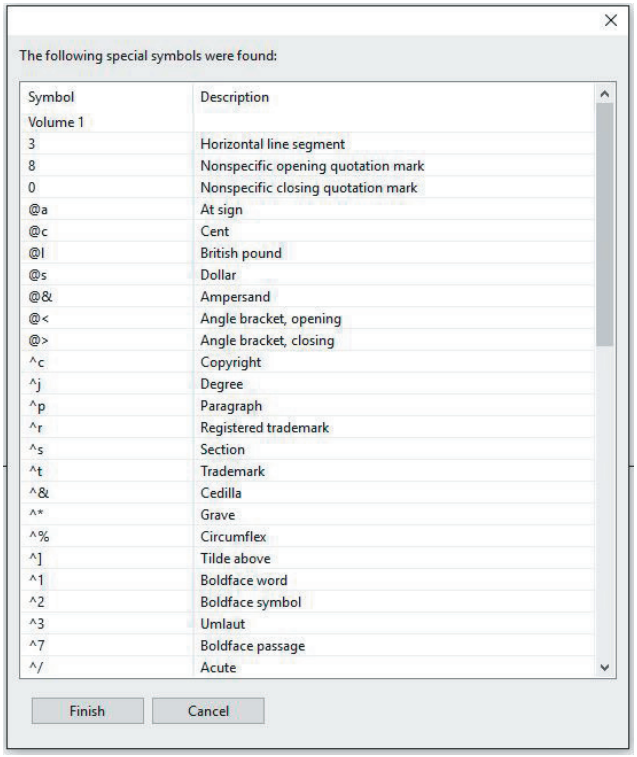
Blasting Braille into the Future!

BrailleBlaster software is a revolutionary new tool for braille transcribers and others who need to produce high-quality braille material! It takes advantage of the rich markup contained in NIMAS (National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard) and EPUB files to automate basic translation and formatting, and to make advanced tasks quicker and easier. Designed primarily for editing braille textbooks that meet the specifications published by the Braille Authority of North America (BANA), the purpose of BrailleBlaster is to help braille producers ensure that students have the necessary textbooks on the first day of class.

BrailleBlaster relies on Liblouis (**liblouis.org/**), an open-source braille translator, for translating text and mathematics to braille. BrailleBlaster provides all the tools necessary for a trained transcriber to efficiently produce a quality embossed braille textbook from an original publisher file, using the raw translation from Liblouis. *Using BrailleBlaster, testers have seen a substantial increase in the number of pages that a transcriber can produce compared to current methods.*

BrailleBlaster offers braille transcribers a rapid means to:

- Translate braille accurately in UEB or EBAE
- Format braille
- Automate line-numbered poetry and prose
- Split books into volumes
- Add transcriber notes
- Describe images
- Automate braille tables of contents, glossaries, preliminary pages, and special symbols pages
- Automate a variety of tables
- Do much more!



One of many features of BrailleBlaster is the Special Symbols Finder, which scans the entire transcription, identifies all special symbols, and inserts them appropriately into each volume.

continued...

BrailleBlaster, cont.

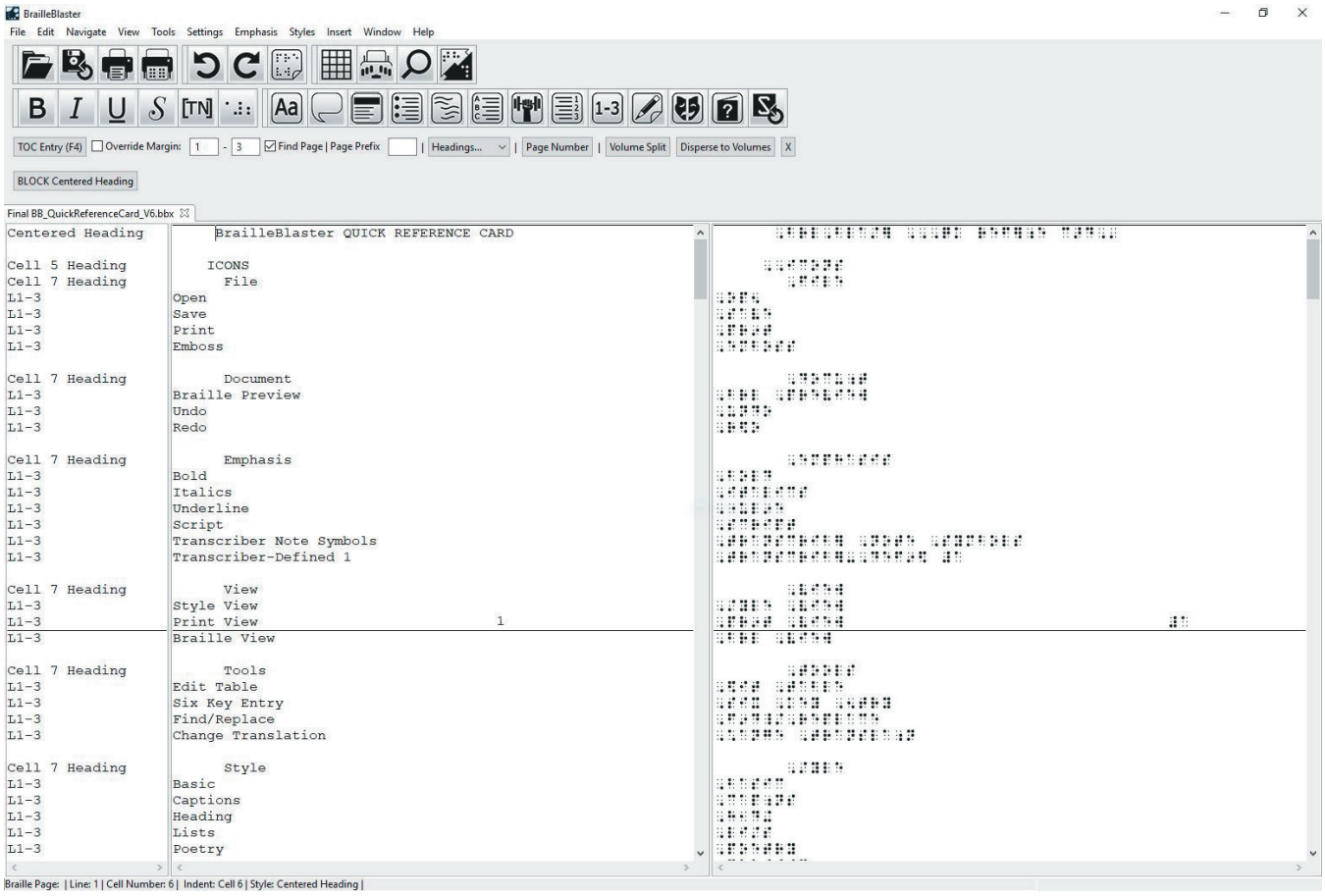
Other BrailleBlaster features include:

- Style, Print, and Braille Views that allow the transcriber to see the print text and braille text simultaneously, and to apply styles, all at the click of a key.
- Windows® and Mac® versions.

The development of BrailleBlaster and modifications to Liblouis are part of the REAL (Resources with Enhanced Accessibility for Learning) Plan. The REAL Plan is an ongoing initiative of the American Printing House for the Blind to improve the conversion and delivery of braille and other accessible formats to students who are blind and visually impaired.

NEW! Beta testing of BrailleBlaster software now expanded to teachers, transcribers, students, and parents across the United States!

For more information, visit **www.brailleblaster.org**



BrailleBlaster screen with Style, Print, and Braille Views simultaneously visible.