

Fall 2008

TALKING TIMES

REGIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Office of Library and Information Services

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Readers' Advisory

Ocean State Libraries (OSL), formerly CLAN, a consortium of Rhode Island Public Libraries and the OLIS (Office of Library and Information Services), subscribes to the database, NoveList. An easy to use, intuitive interface, NoveList, is accessible to Rhode Islanders through the OSL catalog (catalog.oslri.net) at local public libraries and the Talking Books Plus (TBPlus) Library. NoveList is a readers' advisory resource for fiction. For TBPlus readers who don't know what to read next, NoveList can search its database of 155,000+ fiction titles. NoveList contains hundreds of recommended reading lists for adults, teens and kids covering both fiction genres and topics. The database has Author Read-alikes, 500 book discussion guides, 450 searchable award lists, and hundreds of feature articles, book talks, and curricular connection articles on a wide variety of genres, topics and reading levels. While patrons have enjoyed NoveList for years, a new product released this summer by EBSCO is an enhancement to the readers' advisory

service. The new product, NoveList Plus, is a readers' advisory resource for fiction and nonfiction. NoveList Plus will search 50,000+ readable (narrative) nonfiction titles. TBPlus members who are also OSL card holders can independently access the database from home computers using JAWS software. As a member of OSL through OLIS, the TBPlus Library can assist TBPlus members in locating the talking book version of NoveList and NoveList Plus recommendations.

Genre: Suspense

If you like reading James Patterson, author of suspense novels and series character Alex Cross, you might like fellow suspense novelists Read-alikes - John Sandford, Greg Iles, Ridley Pearson, Jeff Deaver, Harlan Coben, and Joseph Garber. To get you started, here are some titles you may want to try.

John Sanford (23 titles) Hard-edged suspense with strong language and graphically portrayed violence.

Certain Prey RC48436

Greg Iles (11 titles) Complex stories of suspense with plot twists, contemporary settings and graphic violence feature prominently.

Black Cross RC41450

Ridley Pearson (16 titles) Densely written and thoughtful, hard-edged suspense stories.

The Angle Maker RC38392

Jeff Deaver (18 titles) Gripping, fast paced, hard-edged, menacing novels with psychological overtones and nightmare quality.

The Blue Nowhere RC52096

Harlan Coben (12 titles) Grips readers from page one and keep readers on the edge of their seats.

Back Spin RC64607

Joseph Garber (1 title) Grips readers from page one and keep readers on the edge of their seats.

Vertical Fun RC42062

The above authors' names and the commentary on these Read-alike authors were gleaned from NoveList. Joyce Saricks from Downers Grove Public Library in Downers Grove, Illinois produced the Patterson Read-alikes. From a home computer, visit catalog.oslri.net and click on "Find An Article", and enter your OSL library card number. In the public library, ask a librarian to assist you. NoveList is made available through Ocean State Libraries (OSL).

Reading Across RI in 2009

Talking Book Plus (TBPlus) readers are invited to participate in the Reading Across RI (RARI) 2009 program. The goal of this reading and discussion program is to involve all Rhode Islanders in a

community dialogue. This is the sixth year for Rhode Island's "One Book, One State" project. The 2009 title is Five Skies by Ron Carlson. This book is set in the West where three men gather high in the Rocky Mountains for a construction project that is to last the summer. The characters, giant and silent Arthur Key, shiftless and charming Ronnie Panelli, and foreman of a local ranch, Darwin Gallego are nonverbal but deep feeling males. In a voice of striking intimacy and grace, Carlson's novel unfolds as a story of almost spiritual force. A RARI conference to launch the program is planned for January 2009. As the program develops, check for a list of related resource books and upcoming events through the RARI website, www.readingacrossri.org/. Books in the TBPlus Library will have an RC number in the RARI resource list. Order the resource books with RC numbers and Five Skies RC65452 directly through the TBPlus Library.

Radio Talk Show About Books

On Saturday mornings, 7 AM to 8 AM, a radio talk show all about books called Reading with Robin airs on WHJJ 920 AM. The website, www.readingwithrobin.com/, says this is the place to tune in for all of the latest book and author information.

Everyone Got One!

Even with the digital players coming in 2009, cassette players will continue to be in demand for some time. However, they are no longer being produced just repaired when possible. When a cassette

player is sent to a patron, it is delivered in a brown cardboard box labelled "Property of U.S. Government National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped". The machine is protected inside by a two piece white Styrofoam. If you haven't already thrown out this box and the Styrofoam cover, save them. This box is used to return the cassette player when it needs replacement or is no longer needed. Each machine is assigned to an individual or institutional contact. Return a working machine when talking books are no longer being ordered or played by the individual who borrowed the machine. Cassette players assigned to individuals are the responsibility of the individual and therefore, are not meant to be shared with others. Eligible individuals not assigned a cassette player are encouraged to apply for the Talking Books Plus service to receive loan of their own cassette player. When Talking Books service is no longer needed by an individual or institution, please call TBPlus Library at 574-9310. TBP Library will then update its records, can identify outstanding loans, and answer any questions about returning items.

24/7 Online Search By Author

In the last issue of Talking Times, instructions were given for online ordering by RC number from the Talking Books Plus (also known as KLAS) catalog. In this issue, instructions are given how to search online by author for talking books available from the Talking Books Plus (TBP) Library. From the Rhode Island Talking Books Plus menu

at www.klas.com/ribph , two search types are available, Basic Search and Advanced Search.

Basic search offers a quick list of titles by an author and browsing by author name. The "Search For:" and "Search Index:" fields provide a basic search. Use the "Browse Index" to find an author's name. The "Browser Index" button is located below the "search options:" field and to the right of the "reset" button. Complete the "Search For:" and "Search Index:" fields before continuing to the "search options:" fields to narrow a search. The "Patron Profile" field in "Search Options:" generates a list of books by the author the patron has had and has reserved. To access more "Search Options:" on small computer screens, click "more options". Basic search includes several limiters in the search options area. Below are step by step instructions in searching by author.

Basic search instructions -

1. In the "Search For:" field, type the last and then first name of the author.
2. In the "Search Index:" field, check "Author"
3. To find an author name, click "Browse Index" and type in part of or the full name of the author in the "Search For:" field.
4. To narrow a search of titles by the author, click "Use Patron Profile" and continue to follow the steps in these instructions. Otherwise, skip search options and click "submit search."

5. In the "Search Options:" field, the "Use Patron Profile" creates a list of books already read or reserved. To narrow the search further, click "More Options".
6. In the "Sort By:" field select "Author" from the pull down menu.
7. In the "Limit By: Availability:" field chose from "All Titles" or "Titles with Available Items." "All Titles" include titles in the collection but presently on loan to other patrons. These titles can be put on reserve.
8. Skip "Limit By: Catalogue:" the only choice and default is "All Catalogues."
9. In the "Limit By: Media:" field select "Cassette" from the pull down menu.
10. In the "Limit By: Publication Year:" field enter the start and end years to search.
11. In the "Limit By: Language:" field choose a language from the pull down menu. The default, "All Languages" includes English language. "English" is English language only.
12. In the "Limit By: Age/Reading Level:" choose the reading level from the pull down menu. Choices include "All Reading Levels", "Blank" for no entry, or individual reading levels such as "Adult Level." If "All Reading Levels" does not produce titles wanted, select "Blank" for titles not cataloged by any reading level.
13. In the "Limit By: Fiction/Nonfiction:" choose either "Fiction and Nonfiction", "Fiction", or "Nonfiction" from the pull down menu.

14. Skip "Limit By: Branch Location:" the only choice is "All Branch Locations."
15. Limit the "# records to display:" to "25" for much easier screen reading.

The online ordering service described above is for TBP talking books only. TBP braille must be ordered through the Perkins Library (1-800-852-3133) and TBP large print titles are available through the East Providence Public Library Fuller Branch (401-434-1136).

From the TBP menu, an advanced search is a selection that allows more limiters. This search begins with the choice of up to three criteria. Select from the pull down menu one of the following: Keyword, Annotations, Series, Subject, Title, and Narrator as well as Author. "Keyword" searches all criteria. The "browse" button will search any criteria except Keyword. Other fields in the advanced search are identical to the basic search. The only exception is that Advanced Search does not have a "Browse Index" button. Both the Basic Search and Advanced Search has a "Reset" button to start a new search.

Downloading NLS Digital Books

Registered members of Talking Books Plus (TBPlus) Library who purchased a commercially available digital player, have their own email address and a high speed Internet connection, can download National Library Services (NLS) digital recorded books. TBPlus

Library is a affiliate of NLS which to-date offers more than 10,000 books and 13 magazines in digital format. To effectively use this service, members need to know how to download files and how to transfer these files from a computer to a digital player flash drive. To take advantage of the digital recorded book downloads, TBPlus members can apply online at www.nlstalkingbooks.org/dtb. Presently, only commercially produced digital players are available and must be purchased by TBPlus members. The first NLS free digital talking book players are not scheduled to be manufactured until late 2008 and will be in limited quantity. One of the commercially produced digital players, The Victor Reader Stream, manufactured by HumanWare sells for about \$329. The commercially available players have the software key that allows these third party players to use NLS-produced books. The NLS user key is free. The Victor Reader Stream will, also, read RFB&D (Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic) books. Their user authorization keys (UAKs) cost up to \$20 to play RFB&D produced books. Other machines that play NLS digital recorded books are Braille Plus Mobile Manage by American Printing House and Icon by Level Star. TBPlus members who already own these machines can use them with NLS digital recorded books. These machines cost about \$1,300 each.

Purchasing Digital Players

The Association of Blind Citizens offers Assistive Technology Fund Grants that can be applied to the purchase of a Victor Reader

Stream, Braille Plus Mobile Manage or Icon digital player. Eligible patrons must have a family income of less than \$50,000 and cash assets of less than \$20,000. Any product funded must retail between \$200 and \$6,000. The next grant deadline is December 31, 2008. For more information, go to:

www.blindcitizens.org/assistive_tech.htm

World Book Discover Includes Text-To-Speech

World Book and World Book Discover, online databases, are available statewide to everyone. The Discover database provides Reference Tools such as Dictionary, Atlas, Timelines and How to do Research. In addition, the Discover database includes Life Skills covering Financial questions, Health issues, Transportation, Housing and much more. Educators are provided curriculum correlations. Further, World Book Discover offers engaging reference resources for students reading below grade level because of language or learning difficulties. The exciting news for Blind students and Talking Books Plus patrons is that the article text in World Book Discover can be read aloud. To access World Book Discover go to: www.askri.org and click on the World Book link. Use the search or find an article buttons to select an article. Once an article is opened, find the "Tools" box and click "Enable read-aloud toolbar" to activate the text to speech reading. Then place the cursor in the sentence you would like to have read aloud and a voice automatically starts reading the text. The reading speed choices are either Faster or Slower. To stop the text to speech reading at any time, press the Stop button in the Read Aloud box. While at AskRI, check out other great resources including Homework Help RI, Heritage Quest and EBSCO databases. Access to these

resources including World Book Discover is made possible through a cooperative effort of the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) and the Statewide Reference Resource Center at Providence Public Library. Let us know what is useful to you.

Low Browse

Lighthouse International has developed a way for visually impaired Internet users to browse the web. Called Low Browse, this add-on to Mozilla's Firefox browser, enables people with severe low vision to view web pages and read text on those pages tailored to meet their own visual needs. This downloadable extension to Firefox browser features customized font, text size, color contrast, letter spacing, image enlargement, speech capability and more. For more information and to download LowBrowse , visit lighthouse.org.

TBPlus Library Staff Changes

After 28+ years of state service, Dolores Caruolo retired in December 2007 and Ken Marold retired in June 2008. Neshmayda Calderon joined our staff in September 2008 as the newest voice on the Talking Books Plus telephone. Neshmayda has previously worked for the Department of Environmental Management. She is fluent in Spanish and will help us reach out to the Latin Community in Rhode Island.

TBPLUS Library 2008-09 Holiday Closings

Election Day	Tuesday, Nov 4
Veterans Day	Tuesday, Nov 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, Nov 27
Christmas Day	Thursday, Dec 25
New Year's Day	Thursday, Jan 1
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, Jan 19

Regular Hours: Monday – Friday 8 AM to 4 PM
Email: tbplus@olis.ri.gov Fax: 401-574-9320
Phone: 401-574-9310 TTY 711

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