

Spring 2009

TALKING TIMES

**REGIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND &
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED**

**Office of Library and Information Services
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Regional Librarian News

Digital Library Program

The National Library Services (NLS) digital program continues to move forward this year. We expect the first shipment of digital players from NLS to arrive by June 2009. In addition, Rhode Island Talking Books Plus and Perkins Braille have established a joint collection of digital books to lend to our members. Initially, both the digital players and digital books will be available in limited quantities, but they will increase in number each year during the transition period from 2009 to 2013. Since the migration to the digital program will develop over 5 years, we are required to follow distribution policies established by NLS and existing library legislation.

By law, Talking Books Plus will give first priority to qualified veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Second priority, set by NLS policy, will be given to Talking Books Plus members who are at least 100 years old. Third priority is given to other registered members of the Talking Books Plus

program. If you are a TBPlus member, call 401-574-9310 or email tbplus@olis.ri.gov to establish your place on the waiting list and update your database record. In addition, the digital player comes in two models - the standard model (DS1) and the advanced model (DA1). Both models are the same size and operate in a similar manner. However, there are some additional controls on the advanced model for setting and retrieving bookmarks and for navigating through the digital book. You should decide on your model preference when you call us. TBPlus staff will be available Monday – Friday between 8 am – 4 pm to take requests and answer any questions about the new digital program.

2009 Summer Reading Program

Talking Books Plus is collaborating with Bradley Hospital and Meeting Street School, our 2009 partners in the statewide Summer Reading Program coordinated by the RI Office of Library and Information Services. According to Nancy Schwegler, Bradley Hospital Children’s Librarian, many of the children benefit from customized materials such as those compiled for the Summer Reading Program. Nancy has developed creative ways to use books, movies, and DVDs in different places – at the beach, at picnics, at campsites, and with pets. This approach fits right into the Summer Reading Program theme, *Be Creative @ Your Library*. Meeting Street School Librarian, Wendy Kirchner, says students love the program charts to keep track of their success at activities. Talking Books Plus supports the Summer Reading Program with books for participants with no or low vision and to those unable to read regular print. As in the past, Talking Books Plus hopes that all preschoolers and students will enjoy the reading theme, the prizes, and listening to storytellers and performers at

participating libraries. Talking Books Plus is supporting the program at Bradley Hospital and Meeting Street with funding for promotional materials and storytellers. On a statewide basis, Rhode Island public libraries offer the summer reading program as well. Check your local public library for accessibility and activities. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.olis.ri.gov/services/srp/> or call your local library to register.

Reading Across RI Events Update

The 7th Annual May breakfast of Reading Across RI is May 9th. Meet Ron Carlson, the author of *Five Skies*. This book is the 2009 selection of Reading Across RI. Hear Ron in person read and speak about his book. To sign up download the registration form from the Reading Across RI webpage, <http://www.readingacrossri.org/>. If you missed the L-TV interview with Ron Carlson in March, you can hear the recording of this event. The link is on the Reading Across RI website. There you can hear Deborah Barchi interviewing the author of *Five Skies*. Listen in as Mr. Carlson talks about his writing and 25 years as a teacher of creative writing.

Don't Miss Out On Online Service

In 2008, the Talking Times newsletters included instructions for basic searching by book number and author and how to order books online. The 2009 Spring issue is dedicated to a wider view of the Talking Books Plus online service. If you haven't visited www.olis.ri.gov/tbp, read the next page for what you are missing.

The main web page for Talking Books Plus has links to its book catalog as well as the Talking Times newsletters. The Catalog offers basic and advanced searching to find book numbers for online ordering. Selected titles can be added to the Book Basket until a member is ready to checkout books. Member information and online book ordering is accessed by entering a User ID and Password. If unknown, ask a Talking Book Plus staff member for the User ID and Password. Member information lists what books a member has now, has had, and what is on reserve. Searches can be limited by subject, author or what you don't like.

On the main web page, there are Quick Links to the BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) Pilot Project, RFB&D (Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic), Bookshare, and the Ocean State Libraries (OSL) E-Zone sites. Below is an introduction to these individual services that are accessible through the Talking Books Plus webpage.

BARD, a project of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) began to offer free Internet downloads of digital magazines to up to sixty members in late 2003. This pilot was replaced in late 2006 by a larger initiative that included more magazines as well as a larger selection of books to a limited number of members. By FY2009, NLS expects to have an initial inventory of 50,000 digital talking book machines available for qualifying members. Free loan of the digital collection is scheduled to become the primary delivery channel for reading materials in the NLS program by the second half of 2013. Presently, free

loan of recorded cassettes and cassette book machines are and continue to be the backbone of the NLS system.

TBPlus provides a link to the RFB&D (Recordings for the Blind & Dyslexic) website. RFB&D titles are available in every subject area and grade level. Formats include digitally recorded audio textbooks on CD and downloadable audio textbooks. RFB&D Audio Access membership is free for one year for all qualified students and allows a student to download a digital book to a computer and transfer it to a MP3 player. The RFB&D full membership allows both digital downloads and CD ordering for students. This membership costs \$100 for the first year and \$35 for each succeeding year. Special digital playback equipment must be purchased to utilize the service with the CD format. Visit the RFB&D website for additional membership information (<http://www.rfbd.org>).

Bookshare.com offers accessible books and periodicals for all U.S. students with qualifying disabilities. Student membership is free for K-12, home schooled, post-secondary and adult education. All other U.S. individuals pay a nominal annual fee. Resources include digital books, textbooks, teacher-recommended reading, periodicals and assistive technology tools.

OSL, the Ocean State Libraries Catalog (OSL), lists the entire collection of Rhode Island's free public libraries which includes audio books, CDs, DVDs, large print and E-Books. E-Zone is the name given to the Rhode Island version of Overdrive on the OSL website. Overdrive is a national leader in providing downloadable media. The digital media

offerings include Overdrive MP3 audio, Overdrive WMA audio, Overdrive music, Adobe eBooks, and Mobipocket eBooks. This service is free to OSL cardholders. Get your free library card at any Rhode Island public library.

The newest addition to the Talking Books Plus webpage is the Talking Books blog. Quick and short postings cover a variety of topics of interest to members of Talking Books Plus. The articles can range from short holiday reading lists to the latest on accessible technology. The blog is accessible from the OLIS homepage, www.olis.ri.gov and the Talking Books Plus webpage, www.olis.ri.gov/tbp. For a limited time, new postings are also available in audio format, using a free tool provided by Odiogo. Besides the blog, the Talking Books Plus webpage currently includes links to bibliographies and cassette player troubleshooting tips. The Talking Books webpage recently posted Books and Authors to Read: Mystery Writers. This webpage lists 71 mystery authors who have over 1,500 titles in the Talking Books Plus library catalog. There is also a link to the pamphlet Accessible Rhode Island. This publication lists the names of libraries accessible to people with disabilities. This is just some of the information on the Talking Books Plus webpage. Visit our website regularly to discover all that Talking Books Plus has to offer. And if you have an email address, send us your comments about Talking Books Plus service. If your latest email address is not in our database, we will add it. The Talking Books blog is also available via RSS, so you can subscribe to our news feed through your news reader.

What Patrons are saying about BARD Downloads

Talking Books (TB) Plus surveyed Rhode Island participants of the NLS Download Pilot Project. The library asked members in this test group what they liked about the BARD program, the BARD digital books and the BARD machine. A few participants tested the BARD machine that was produced in limited numbers for beta testing. Other participants purchased their machines from sources outside of NLS. In all, TBPlus wanted to know about the BARD experience. Soon, NLS will be supplying network libraries across the country with their first shipment of machines so that more members can begin to access the digital books collection. Here's what our members said.

"I can instantly download a book, no waiting necessary. I think the program is great and I love it." –Richard C.

"I like having your own public library on your home computer. You can download and read a book at any time day or night. The website is very easy to navigate with combo boxes for either author's name, title of the book, or by subject. In many cases books are on the website before they are in Talking Book Topics." – Catherine G.

"I used to read some before...but now I find out I'm reading a lot more, at least 20 books a month." – John C.

Damaged and Missing Tapes

The best way to report a problem with a Talking Book tape is by calling 401-574-9310. If the tape problem cannot be fixed over the phone, another copy of the title will be sent as soon as available. If instead the machine is the problem and it cannot be fixed over the phone, a replacement machine will be provided. Reporting problems with tapes will tell the library to stop circulating them if they are determined to be defective. When calling to report a problem with a tape, please provide your mailing address, a phone number to contact you, and your first and last name. After you call, if it is determined that the tape is damaged, place a rubber band around each damaged cassette. Place damaged items on top in the mailing container. To return a book that is missing tapes, place a note on top in the container. Please do not put any strings or rubber bands on the outside of the mailing containers.

Save the Box

When a talking book machine is sent to members, it is sent in a box with protective foam inside. Save this box and its contents as it should be used to return the machine when it is no longer needed. There is a plastic slip on the top of the box. Turn the card over inside the slip, seal it, and give the box with the machine in it to the mailman or the post office. Whether the machine that is on loan fails and a replacement is needed or the machine is no longer being used by the member it was loaned to, please reuse the box sent to the member to return the machine. It will save some trees and keep shipping supply expenses to a minimum.

Talking Times Newsletter Delivery Options

To receive email notices of when the Talking Times newsletter is published, send an email to tbplus@olis.ri.gov. Use the email address you want the notices sent to. In the Subject line of the email, write "email me newsletter notice". In the body of the email, provide the member's first and last name requesting the notice. A print or cassette version of the newsletter won't be sent to you unless you specify that you want a print or cassette version. Email notices serve to announce publication of the latest issue of the Talking Times. The email notices and the online version of the Talking Times newsletters give immediate 24/7 access to information that takes longer to hear about through regular mail. To read the current or past issues of the newsletter electronically, visit <http://www.olis.ri.gov/tbp/newsletter/>.

Titles and Authors To Read

The following authors and titles lists were first posted on the Talking Books blog, <http://www.olis.ri.gov/tbp/>. They are in the Talking Books Plus library. The RC (recording cassette) order number is provided for the titles.

Movies from Books

Coming in May and July 2009:

Angels and Demons by Dan Brown (RC051799).

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince by J.K. Rowling (RC060262).

Romance Titles and Authors

All Through the Night by Suzanne Brockmann RC065925

Dark Rider by Iris Johansen RC041032

Dockside by Susan Wiggs RC065271

Echoes by Danielle Steel RC058832

Real Deal by Fern Michaels RC059912

This Heart of Mine by Susan Elizabeth Phillips RC052086

Two Alone by Sandra Brown RC041126

Wedding Ring by Emilie Richards RC062580

Science Fiction Authors

David Brin

Philip Jose Farmer

Robin Hobb

Charles Stross

Teen Authors and Titles

Author: Susan Campbell Bartoletti

Black Potato RC054607

A Coal Miner's Bride RC063700

Growing Up in Coal Country RC046445

Hitler Youth RC060814

Kids on Strike RC050490

Author: Ann Brashares

Forever in Blue RC064188

Girls in Pants RC059737

Second Summer of the Sisterhood RC056256

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants RC053252

Author: Nancy Werlin

The Killer's Cousin RC052612

Locked Inside RC053395

E-Zone Teen Titles

Available from Overdrive in PC and WMA Audio format. For more authors and titles visit <http://riezone.lib.overdrive.com/>. Use an OSL library card to download books from your Rhode Island local public library.

Author: Ann Dee Ellis

Everything is Fine

Author: Ann Godbersen

Luxe, Luxe Series Book 1

Rumors, Luxe Series Book 2

TBPLUS Library 2009 Holiday Closings

Memorial Day	Monday, May 25
Independence Day	Monday, July 6 th
Victory Day	Monday, August 10
Labor Day	Monday, September 7
Columbus Day	Monday, October 12
Veterans Day	Wednesday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 26
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25

Regular Hours: Monday – Friday 8 AM to 4 PM

Email: tbplus@olis.ri.gov Website: www.olis.ri.gov/tbp

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