

Summer 2013

TALKING TIMES

REGIONAL LIBRARY FOR
THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Andrew Egan, Regional Librarian

Ann Piascik, Editor

Please return Newsletter Cartridges!

If you receive an audio recording (digital cartridge) of the newsletter, please return the cartridge as soon as you have finished listening to it. Future issues will not be sent until the cartridge is returned. Please note that all book, magazine and newsletter cartridges mailed to you are on loan for six weeks. The selection of titles in the collection is limited as well as the number of copies of these titles. We thank you for your cooperation in promptly returning all book, magazine and the newsletter cartridges to ensure that Talking Books Plus (TBP) resources are available to all who want them.

TBP Annual Report : October 2011 - September 2012

By Andrew Egan

FY2012 was another year closer to completing the transition from cassette to digital books, magazines, equipment, and accessories. BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download), the national download service available to all regional libraries and their members continued to add new digital book titles. Talking Books Plus (TBP) members without BARD service were urged to join so they, too, could download from the growing collection in BARD. BARD members need only have a computer

with high speed internet access and an email account. Access can be from a home, a nursing facility, or a local public library. In addition, a family member, caregiver, or a friend can do the downloading for a TBP/BARD member.

The majority of TBP members now have a digital player to listen to digital titles on either a cartridge sent through US Postal Service or via digital download to a cartridge from a computer with high speed internet access. TBP continues to provide online service at its main web page, <http://www.olis.ri.gov/tbp/>, through the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) website. The TBP webpage allows members to access the online "Catalog" for self-initiated book searches, browsing and ordering; to read TBP announcements; to quick link to player and downloading instructions; and to listen to short postings on the TBP Blog. Members can also send emails requesting titles and information about TBP services. All this can be done electronically 24/7.

The digital transition is evident in our circulation numbers. During 2012, members received 20,597 digital books through the United States Postal Service. Individual and institutional members downloaded 11,097 digital titles from BARD, the online library of digital books. Three hundred members, 19% of TBP membership, have BARD accounts. A bi-annual publication, the Talking Times newsletter was published in the Fall of 2011 and the Summer of 2012. The Talking Times newsletter transition from cassette to digital format was accomplished with the Summer 2012 issue of the newsletter. Members are able to access the newsletter electronically, or now listen to a digital cartridge version sent through

the mail, or read the large print version. Of the 3,327 copies sent in FY2012, 130 digital copies were sent through the mail, and 475 were sent via email to subscribers. Overall, circulation for all types of media by all types of delivery totaled 56,917 titles. In addition, there were 18,101 visits to the TBP website and 4,113 visits to the TBP Blog.

An ongoing TBP objective is the promotion of public library programs to TBP members. In 2012, the OLIS Summer Reading programs were targeted to TBP members of all ages. Another Rhode Island public library program targeted for inclusion of TBP members, the Reading Across Rhode Island (RARI) program, was promoted through the Talking Times newsletter, TBP webpage and TBP Blog. The 2012 RARI theme book and resource books available through the TBP collection were identified by book number and promoted through the RARI program. TBP increased awareness of these programs by staffing exhibit tables at the Rhode Island Library Association Conference, the ATAP Assistive Technology Conference, and at RI Library Legislative Day. During the year, the Regional Librarian promoted the services of TBP to members of the RI Small Public Library Group and the RI Association of Private Education Schools.

TBP was the host regional library for the 2012 National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals, held in Newport, in May 2012. More than 200 librarians, consumers, and presenters discussed the future of library services for individuals unable to read standard print. At the conference, Karen Keninger, the newly appointed director of the NLS outlined the goals of NLS and the affiliated

network libraries. (TBP is the Rhode Island network library.) Those goals were described in the "Charting Our Course: Expanding Our Services" article of the Winter 2013 issue of the Talking Times.

Web Braille in Voice Output

The "New Generation" edition of the Victor Reader Stream (VRS) player from HumanWare is capable of voice output of Braille. BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) members who purchase this player have audio access to at least 12,000 BARD Web Braille titles and at least 28,000 BARD audio downloadable titles not in Web Braille format. At least ten thousand of the audio downloadable titles can be delivered through the mail. The number of titles newly recorded increases daily.

Summer Reading Programs for All Ages

By Cheryl Space and Lauren Miklovic

This summer, your local library is offering entertainment for the whole family. Check in, find out what's planned, and sign up for the summer reading program in your community. This year's program invites readers to dig into a good book. Younger readers may participate in the "Dig Into Reading" program, while teens can go "Beneath the Surface," and adults can check out "Groundbreaking Reads."

Participating in any summer reading program is as simple as visiting or calling your local public library. Registration starts in June. Sign up, then record the books you read or the time you spend reading. Readers can earn free passes to more than 18 museums and attractions statewide.

This summer's reading program also includes programs and interactive workshops for children and teens by artists and educators at libraries around the state, including the library at Meeting Street School. Many libraries plan special book clubs, workshops, and raffles for participating adults.

All programs are free, though sign up may be required at some libraries. Don't miss the fun this summer. Call or visit to sign up for the summer reading program at your local public library. Talking Books Plus (TBP) has audio books to support TBP member participation. For facts about the program, visit the summer reading program web page at <http://olis.ri.gov/services/srp>. The Summer Reading Program is coordinated by the RI Office of Library and Information Services.

NLS Music Materials

The Music Section of the National Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) was established on October 9, 1962. President Kennedy signed Public Law 87-765 authorizing the Library of Congress to establish and maintain a library of musical scores, instructional texts, and other specialized materials for the use of the blind.

John Hanson is the current Music Section head. In December 2012, NLS started the digital audio conversion and recording of new music books in the Music Section. Over 700 titles have been recorded on cartridge and are available through BARD (Braille Audio Reading Download) today. The first Spanish-language music book tutorial was recorded in 2011. Since 2012, all music magazines are available in digital format. Most

titles in the music collection can be converted into BARD by request for member downloading onto a cartridge. Music scores, music books and music magazines are ordered directly from the NLS Music Section by calling toll free at 1-800-424-8567 or e-mailing nlsm@loc.gov. To request that a title be added to the collection, call the NLS Music Section directly or email a request to the NLS Music Section.

BARD was recently updated to include music books. Look for "Find Music Books and Scores" on the BARD main page with a link to "Music Collection - Music books and scores." NLS is currently developing a Music Section blog to provide more information about the music collection.

Audio Described Video Collection

The Audio Described DVD Video Collection provides borrowers with access to described videos that can be played with a DVD player and television. No other special equipment is required. For more information on how Talking Books Plus members can subscribe to the DVD Collection, call 401-574-9310. Players and televisions are not provided.

Accessories for the Digital Player

The Talking Books Plus (TBP)/National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) players are built to work with several accessories. The current accessories include Headphones, Amplifier/Headphone System, Pillow speaker and Breath switch. The Extension Lever and Remote Control Unit are currently available only for the cassette player. Special adapters for player accessories are provided as needed.

All of the accessories are listed on the TBP application form. The Headphones alone are for use where speakers are not permitted, such as in nursing homes and hospitals. For TBP members who need headphones and did not request the headphones when applying for TBP membership, they may request the headphones by calling 401-574-9310 or emailing tbplus@olis.ri.gov. Another accessory, the Amplifier/Headphone System is for individuals with significant hearing loss. This accessory can cause permanent damage to hearing if misused. The Amplifier/Headphone System will produce sound up to a level of 130 decibels (dB.) The Application and Certification for Specialized Amplifier/Headphone System form must be signed by a physician or audiologist to qualify for the Amplifier/Headphone System. Eligible TBP members should request this form by contacting TBP. Another accessory, the breath-switch unit is used to control the Play/Stop function of the player. Two accessories, the breath-switch unit and the pillow speaker, are intended for TBP members who are confined to bed. In addition, the breath-switch unit is for TBP members who have little or no dexterity in manipulating the TBP/NLS players. Contact TBP to request the breath switch or pillow speaker. Specify with which player(s) the accessory is needed.

TBP members who are using a thumb drive to download books on the NLS digital player can also receive a right-angle USB adaptor so that USB flash drives won't protrude so far out of the right side of the digital player. The NLS digital cartridge provided by TBP does not require the USB adaptor.

Getting Enough Books?

Recently, Talking Books Plus (TBP) members have been calling to ask why they haven't received books in a while. One common reason is that the maximum number of digital audio books allowed OUT to a member at any one time is 8 titles. When a member requests digital books, circulation counts returned digital books that haven't been checked in yet into the number of digital books OUT before sending any books. Allow up to 2 weeks for book delivery through the US mail before reporting a problem with book delivery. To increase access to the TBP/NLS book collection, TBP members are encouraged to sign up for BARD. Visit <http://www.olis.ri.gov/tbp/bard/> to apply.

Books Selected for You

Talking Books Plus members who elect to have books automatically selected for them can improve the selections sent with the help of a Talking Books Plus Reader's Advisor. Mystery and Detective and Romance books can be narrowed down by subcategories such as Cozy Mysteries and Western Romance, for example.

Member Survey

Talking Books Plus (TBP) members are our top priority. Please help us serve you better by answering the member survey included in this newsletter or online at www.olis.ri.gov/tbp. If you need help with the survey, call 401-574-9310 Monday through Friday 8 am to 4 pm. Your responses are important to us.

2013 RI Talking Books Plus Member Survey

This survey is set up by Talking Books Plus (TBP) service areas with rating scale questions. Please circle only one rating choice per question. If you want to mail comments concerning the TBP program, send them with the survey in a stamped envelope. Otherwise, remove this double sided sheet from the newsletter and fold to mail this survey as Free Matter for the Blind to TBP. Please return by June 30, 2013.

Please rate the following TBP services and their importance to you.

Rating Scale

1 - Not Important 2 - Least Important 3 - Important
4 - More Important 5 - Most Important

1. Telephone Contact with TBP Staff (401-574-9310)

Not Important 1 2 3 4 5 Most Important

2. Reading List on the TBP web page

Not Important 1 2 3 4 5 Most Important

3. Talking Times newsletter

Not Important 1 2 3 4 5 Most Important

4. Talking Book Topics book catalog

Not Important 1 2 3 4 5 Most Important

5. TBP Online Catalog (available on TBP website)

Not Important 1 2 3 4 5 Most Important

6. Braille and Audio books/magazines downloading (BARD)

Not Important 1 2 3 4 5 Most Important

7. TBP WebPage

Not Important 1 2 3 4 5 Most Important

8. TBP Blog
Not Important 1 2 3 4 5 Most Important
9. TBP access to OLIS Facebook
Not Important 1 2 3 4 5 Most Important
10. Navigating the Talking Books Plus webpage
Most Difficult 1 2 3 4 5 Easiest to Navigate
11. Do you or someone who helps you have access to the Internet?
Yes No Don't Know
12. Do you use an iPhone, iPad or iPod touch?
Yes No
13. How satisfied are you with TBP Customer Service?
Not Satisfied 1 2 3 4 5 Most Satisfied

Fold Here

**RI TALKING BOOKS PLUS
OFFICE OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES
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OR HANDICAPPED**

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Magazine Transition to Digital Cartridge

National Library Services (NLS) began the transition of magazines from audio cassette format to digital format for Rhode Island Talking Books Plus members in April 2013. All members who want Talking Books Plus magazines and only have a cassette player should order a digital talking book machine now. After listening to a digital magazine cartridge, mail it back in its red container with the Free Matter for the Blind and Handicapped label. If your digital magazine cartridge is not returned, service may be interrupted. Call Talking Books Plus (TBP) at (401) 574-9310 to request the digital machine or to ask questions.

Digital Magazine Containers

Digital magazines are mailed in a container similar to the digital book container. Only the color of the container, the Braille label and the large print wording on the container will distinguish a book from a magazine container. Magazine containers are red, book containers are blue. If a Talking Books Plus (TBP) member cannot read Braille or large print and the member has more than one container in their possession, it is hard to distinguish containers. While listening to a book or magazine cartridge members are encouraged to keep all other books and magazines on cartridge in their containers. This assures that cartridges will be returned in the correct container.

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