

Summer 2014

TALKING TIMES

REGIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Office of Library and Information Services

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TBP Increases Number of Book Loans

You can now check out up to 15 digital book titles (cartridges) when using the postal mail system. Please return books after they are read so they become available to others and you can check out more. Titles in the mail are counted as circulating until they are returned and checked in. Please note that all books and newsletters mailed to you are on loan for six weeks due to the limited number of materials available in the Talking Books Plus collection. We thank you for your cooperation in promptly returning all books and the newsletter cartridges to help keep costs down and ensure that TBP resources are available to all who want them. For more information, please refer to "Talking Book Policies and Procedures" posted on the Talking Books Plus web site.

New OPAC

The Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) is the Talking Books Plus (TBP) catalog of books and magazines available for loan to TBP members. The latest OPAC has increased search and browse capability. Links on the search screens let members refine an author search by format such as audio digital cartridge or braille and by subject. Browsing categories include "Recent Titles" recorded and added to the TBP collection. Have you ever misspelled an author's name to produce 0 titles when searching? A new

feature called, "Author Sounds Like", increases the probability that an author will be found by phonetic spelling.

On the OPAC's Search Results screen, BARD titles include a link directly to the BARD catalog. To enjoy the BARD titles, become a BARD user if you are not one already.

TBP has joined a network of libraries offering locally produced, talking book and braille titles through the Shared Electronic File (SHELF) program. In the OPAC, SHELF book and magazine numbers begin with the letter "S." Titles are added weekly with currently over 3,364 SHELF titles available for delivery through the mail or to download.

Visit the TBP web site, www.olis.ri.gov/tbp, to learn more about the new OPAC. Check out the "New RI Talking Books Plus Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC)" announcement. In this announcement is a link to "using the OPAC." For more information about SHELF, scroll to the bottom of the "New Talking Books Plus Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC)" web page and click the "using SHELF" link.

Tracking Books and Magazines through the Mail

When books are put in the mail but are not checked in at the library, the books are still outstanding in the member's name. Therefore, if a member doesn't receive books, magazine issues, Talking Book Topics book catalogs, or the Talking Times newsletter as expected, members may want to track the return of materials they borrowed.

To track materials, just keep a record of every cartridge returned. Log the book number or magazine week number found on the cartridge and the date the book or magazine cartridge was put in the mail for return to the

library. If a delivery problem is suspected, call Talking Books Plus at 401-574-9310 to ask if the materials in question have been returned.

Don't Miss the Fun This Summer

This summer, your local library is offering entertainment for the whole family. Stop by, find out what's planned, and sign up for the summer reading program in your neighborhood. Younger readers may participate in the "Fizz, Boom, Read!" program, while teens can go "Spark a Reaction," and adults can check out "Literary Elements."

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 14 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. Talking Books Plus (TBP) has audio and braille books to support TBP member participation. For facts about the program, visit the summer reading program web page. The Summer Reading Program is coordinated by the RI Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS.)

Summer Reading Program Resources

Below are some suggestions for summer reading in all age categories from the Talking Books Plus collection. These books are in the Collaborative Summer Library Program resource list and manual for the RI Summer Reading Program coordinated by OLIS. The book order number for each title in the list below is preceded by a format code. The BR and BRM codes are for Braille format and DB is for audio digital cartridge format.

Ten, nine, eight by Molly Bang. Preschool-Grade 1 BRM01049

A Tree is Nice by Janice May Udry. K-3 BR006122

The Popcorn Book by Tomie DePaola. Grades 2-4 DB056913

It's Raining Pigs & Noodles by Jack Prelutsky. Grades 2-4 DB052558

The Talent Show by Dan Gutman. Grades 3-6 DB071420

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan. Grades 5-8 DB063443

Code Orange by Caroline Cooney. Grades 6-9 DB066309

The Christopher Killer. Senior High Readers DB064689

Poisoner's Handbook by Deborah Blum. Adult DB072307

Global Weirdness by Climate Central. Adult DB076324

Great Tips on the BARD Mobile App and More...

For those who have yet to try the BARD Mobile app on an Apple iOS device, Hadley School for the Blind has online seminars and YouTube videos for learning to download talking books with the mobile phone app. For current BARD Mobile app users, tips are included. These educational programs are free.

“Going PC Free with the New BARD Mobile App” is an accessibility and technology seminar presented by Seminars@Hadley. The presenter, Douglas Walker, is an Instructor of Assistive Technology at Hadley and a member of the Tennessee talking book library. Three segments make up this hour and a half long audio seminar.

Only registered BARD users can download talking and Web-Braille books with the BARD app and only Talking Books Plus members can be BARD users. Applications for Talking Books Plus membership and BARD service are on the Talking Books Plus website. Once the app is launched, the user is presented with 4 tabs at the bottom of the mobile device screen. The multiple menu choices of these tabs are detailed in the seminar. The online bookshelf is where BARD books are stored. These virtual bookshelves can be custom arranged. The audio and the low vision settings, user account settings, and the “scrub gesture” and the finger taps used to swipe and move around the device’s screen are reviewed. For those who might experience the “not authorized to play” voice announcement on their device, Douglas says it could be the result of an incorrect login or a network connection that has gone bad. In that case, close down the computer and download again. If the problem persists, contact Talking Books Plus.

In segment two, headings on the mobile device screen, how to activate the wish list to download books, how to use the phone's clock timer to create a sleep feature and how the "now playing area" button is used to move between books, are covered.

In the last segment, the NLS digital player display on the mobile device is demonstrated. The rewind and fast forward buttons are used to set time intervals and the edit switch and done buttons are used to delete items from the bookshelf.

"Using the BARD Mobile App iOS7" is an hour long video. On the BARD website, authors are searched by the last name of an author first, comma, and then the first name of the author. The audio portion of the YouTube video is very easy to follow. Another Hadley online seminar entitled "Using the Rotor" is recommended for those who want to learn how to navigate the mobile app using the rotor gesture. Hadley's "How To Touch Type" online seminar is recommended for those who need instruction on how to apply this set of skills to the mobile app.

BARD titles offered in Web-Braille are accessible by iPhone. Refreshable braille devices will pair with the iPhone without changing settings. For those who want to learn Braille, Hadley offers Braille correspondence courses as well.

So That All May Get Their Titles

When downloading titles from BARD, please be considerate of your fellow BARD users. You can download as many books as you want from the BARD site. However, remember that more than 50,000 people are also using the service.

The more books downloaded at the same time, the more congested the Internet becomes and the slower the download speeds will be. What do you do? Go ahead and download that title you've been wanting to read, but if the Internet is backed up with downloads, try to download other books at another time. Historically, a good time to download has been in the morning. BARD downloading is usually lighter at that time. Whenever the traffic is lighter, chances are that the download speeds will be optimal. Find the time of day that works best for you!

Unrated Books in the Collection

The National Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) in prior years recorded all narrated audiobooks in-house or by contracts with producers. These selected titles are evaluated for violence, strong language and sexual content using print copies of the books. Now, with "shared masters" which are audiobooks recorded in the commercial market, NLS staff at this time do not review commercial books for violence, strong language and sexual content which some members prefer not to receive. As a way of addressing this, there is a new category called "unrated" which is placed on books NLS has not evaluated for these "exclusion factors". If you would prefer not to receive unrated books, please let us know so we can exclude them from your reading profile. Please be aware, when making this decision, that "unrated" will also exclude many books which, if evaluated, would be acceptable.

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