

Winter 2015

TALKING TIMES

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

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ANNUAL REPORT by Andrew Egan

During the 2014 federal fiscal year, Talking Books Plus (TBP) services were promoted to RI residents by employing several outreach initiatives. In October 2013, TBP met with INSIGHT members at 9 RI senior and community centers to introduce TBP services to potential members. In November 2013, the BARD Mobile app used to download TBP titles wirelessly was introduced to the RI Veterans Low Vision Group at Veterans Medical Center. Also, in November, RI Parent Information Partnerships Conference attendees visited the TBP exhibitor table to learn hands on about TBP services.

TBP coordinated two continuing education programs at RI libraries for library staff. In November 2013, digital download training was conducted at the Cross Mills Public Library. In May 2014, TBP in cooperation with the Governor's Commission on Disabilities and the New England ADA Center presented "Accessible Technology in the Library" at the Warwick Public Library.

The new TBP Online Public Access Catalog was launched in March 2014. This catalog introduced new features that provide greater access to more than 93,000 titles online.

Between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014, 45 members with 76 registered mobile devices downloaded the BARD Mobile App. Two issues and 3,240 copies of the Talking Times newsletter were distributed to subscribers by mail and posted on the web. In addition, 56,189 titles were mailed to or downloaded by Talking Books Plus members. A total of 8,862 web page and 2,323 blog visits were recorded.

BARD Without A Computer

In September 2014, Humanware (www.humanware.com) announced an update for the Victor Reader Stream. This player is one of several players authorized by NLS to play NLS talking books. The version 4.4 update provides the first wireless access to the NLS BARD service wishlist without the use of a computer. Unlike other authorized players, the BARD wishlist can be managed directly on the Stream. For more information about this product sold by Humanware, call 1-800-722-3393 or email: info@humanware.com.

Photography with the iPhone Camera

Judy Dixon, Consumer Relations Officer at NLS, presented her newest book, *Get the Picture: Viewing the World with the iPhone Camera* before a worldwide Tek Talk audience. The program is archived at www.accessibleworld.org. Published by National Braille Press (NBP), the book is about photography by blind people. Totally blind people can use iPhone applications (apps) to detect color and light. Judy reviewed 36 apps for iPhone photography. For example, Judy mentions Seeing Assistant, Text Detective and Talking Goggles. In her book, Judy talks about camera and photo apps. She refers to accessories such as the stand scan which controls light well, the tripod, and wide angle lens that the blind can use to take pictures. She adds that the iPhone 5s version has burst mode in which

the camera picks the best picture. Currently, this book is only available in Braille.

If Judy's book topic has piqued your interest in photography, NLS has a book in the collection for exploring this medium. The book, Let your camera do the seeing: the world's first photography manual for the legally blind is written by George Covington (2008), a legally blind photographer. In the manual, camera functions are explained concisely and directions are given for shooting, processing and printing film. Request DB17386.

2015 Reading Across RI Book

The Rhode Island Center for the Book has announced the 2015 Reading Across Rhode Island (RARI) selection: Norwegian by Night by Derek Miller. The book is being recorded for TBP and should be available in early 2015. RARI kicks off in January; watch the TBP website for announcements on this statewide reading program.

NLS Magazine Cartridge Returns

Many Talking Book Plus members are very familiar with magazines on digital cartridge. However, new members may not know that in the spring of 2013 NLS launched its transition of the magazine program from analog cassettes to digital cartridges. Now all NLS-produced magazines are circulated on digital cartridge. The introduction of the digital format is what brought today's enhanced sound quality and navigation capabilities to all NLS audio magazines. For a list of NLS-produced magazines, look at the *Audio Magazines* offerings in *Talking Book Topics*.

All NLS-produced magazines are circulated on blue cartridges. As with books on digital cartridge, the magazines need to be returned to help keep costs down and potentially expand the magazine program. The cartridge

loan period for weekly publications is one week after you receive them. The cartridge loan period for monthly, bimonthly, and quarterly publications is one month after you receive them. Please treat magazine cartridges the same as book cartridges; read your publications, return the blue magazine cartridge to its red container, flip the mailing card on the container, and place it with your outgoing mail. Timely reading and returning of magazine cartridges will help NLS continue to provide the high-quality audio-magazine program for you to enjoy.

In some cases you may receive a magazine cartridge that has more than one magazine on it. The NLS digital talking-book player is equipped with a bookshelf feature to assist you in navigating your digital cartridge. To activate the bookshelf feature, press and hold the green, rectangular Play/Stop button on your player until you hear a beep. Complete audio instructions for using the bookshelf feature are included on all cartridges that contain more than one magazine issue. Keep in mind that any magazine cartridge that has a monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly publication on it—even if it also has a weekly publication on it—will have a loan period of one month after you receive it.

To prevent overdue notices and stopped service, please return magazines within the loan period and open one case at a time to avoid returning cartridges in the wrong case. Most of all, enjoy your audio magazines.

Talking Times Cartridge Returns

Talking Times, locally produced on cartridge, has a loan period different from book and magazine cartridges produced by NLS. The loan period for the newsletter on cartridge is two months, unlike the large print version which has no loan period and should not be returned to the library.

Even though the newsletter is a bi-annual subscription, prompt return of the newsletter on cartridge allows the library to resend the same newsletter issue to other subscribers. All returned cartridges are used for future recordings of the newsletter. Prompt return of the newsletter on cartridge assures that enough cartridges are on hand to produce the next issue. As with NLS-produced magazine cartridges, reusing the newsletter cartridges keeps down the cost of cartridge reproduction of the newsletter. If you subscribe to the audio version of the newsletter, enjoy it and return the cartridge so that others may enjoy it. Remember, returning the audio version assures that all subscribers of the newsletter on cartridge will get every issue of the newsletter for listening pleasure in a timely manner.

If you have access to a computer, you may also download the newsletter from the TBP website. Please let us know if you no longer want to receive the newsletter on an audio cartridge.

Change in Service

To update or stop Talking Books Plus service, please contact us at 401-574-9310 or via email at olis.tbplus@olis.ri.gov. Please let us know if you have a new local or temporary address, a new phone number, an out-of-state move or want to return a machine for replacement or to cancel service.

Book Catalog Order Form Updated

Beginning with the September–October 2014 issue, the order forms for *Talking Book Topics* and *Braille Book Review* returned to listing books in the same order as titles appear in the publications. Order forms will also include subject category headings to assist with navigation. According to NLS, member demand for this reversion far exceeded the requests that prompted the original change to numerical order in the May–June 2014 issue.

Free Screen Readers

Two blind men, Michael Curran and James Teh, founded NV Access in 2006 leading to the development of NVDA (NonVisual Desktop Access), a screen reader for the blind and visually impaired. As open source software, the code is accessible to anyone to expand and improve computer accessibility to the blind. A computerized voice reads text on the screen or text can be converted into braille with a braille display device. NVDA has been translated into more than 43 languages. This screen reader works with Microsoft Windows. Flash drive access is easy and portable on a Windows computer. Although some screen readers may be costly, NVDA can be downloaded for free. The latest version of NVDA is 2014.3. For more information, visit www.nvaccess.org.

Another free screen reader, VoiceOver, is available on all Apple computers running Mac OS X Tiger or later. VoiceOver provides built-in speech, output and screen magnification for the blind and low vision user. VoiceOver also runs on all of the latest iOS devices such as the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch. This screen reader makes the BARD app accessible to Talking Books Plus members. According to MacForTheBlind "navigation and access to a touch screen for the blind is almost on the same level as a sighted individual." Macfortheblind.com is specifically for blind people who are either users or potential users of Macintosh computers or iOS devices such as the iPhone, iPad or iPod. For more information about this service, visit www.macfortheblind.com.

The no cost version of Window-Eyes was announced by GW Micro (www.gwmicro.com) in January 2014. Available in over 15 languages, eligible individuals using Microsoft Office 2010 or later can use Window-Eyes for free. GW Micro partnered with Microsoft Corporation to make

Windows XP to Windows 8.1 fully accessible to the blind, visually impaired and print disabled. This screen reader makes the computer accessible via speech and/or Braille. For more information about the free full version of Window-Eyes, visit www.WindowEyesForOffice.com.

Screen readers provide Talking Books Plus members or any visually impaired individual who cannot read standard text with access to the Talking Books Plus website (www.olis.ri.gov/tbp) and allows independent management of email communication with Talking Books Plus at olis.tbplus@olis.ri.gov.

Cartridge or Container Missing?

If you receive an empty container or have a cartridge without a container, please contact Talking Books Plus at 401-574-9310.

U.S. Currency Reader

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) is offering a pocket size iBill U.S. currency reader to U.S. citizens who are blind or visually impaired. Talking Books Plus members may sign up for the currency reader by calling 401-574-9310. In 2014, NLS plans to start distributing the 1½" x 3" device to TBP members who have already requested the device through Talking Books Plus. Other eligible individuals may sign up for the device by contacting BEP Customer Support Center at 844-815-9388. The device will be made available to the general public in 2015.

Verizon Wireless Supporting Special Needs

Verizon unveiled the National Accessibility Customer Service (NACS) to support people with special needs using Verizon wireless devices. If a TBP BARD member is having trouble with their Verizon provided wireless device, call the Verizon wireless center for special needs 888-262-1999 for help.

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**FREE
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OR HANDICAPPED**

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