

Illinois State Library
TBBS
300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1796



Jesse White
Secretary of State
& State Librarian

TBBS launches newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service's newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to update and inform Talking Book Center patrons about the programs and services available through TBBS and the other Illinois Network of Talking Book and Braille Libraries. The newsletter will be published twice a year with mailings being funded by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

In this inaugural issue, the TBBS staff is calling on all talking book and braille users to demonstrate their creative skills and help us come up with a name for the newsletter. We want something that reflects the spirit and enthusiasm of our readers and the libraries that serve them. If you have an idea for a name, please call 800-665-5576, option 5, by November 1. You may submit as many names as you like. The winning entry will be featured in the next newsletter in spring 2011.

Also, if you have any information that might be useful to our readers, please contact the TBBS office. We want to make sure this newsletter is timely and provides the best possible information for our patrons.

The TBBS newsletter is available in braille, in large print, on cassette or via e-mail by contacting the State Library, or on the TBBS Web site at www.ilbph.org (click Newsletter).



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Digital players easy to use

Many readers have been reluctant to request a digital player for fear that they are complicated to use. TBBS staff would like to clear up some misconceptions:

- Digital players are much easier to use than a cassette player.
- There is no longer a waiting list to get a digital player.
- You do not need a computer in order to use a digital player; you may still get books by mail.
- **Beginning in 2011, all new talking books will only come in digital format.**
- You may still keep your cassette player to listen to older books. Magazines provided by the NLS will remain on cassette for the near future.

Standard and advanced digital players are identical in size, shape and sound quality. Advanced players allow users to advance and return to different parts of the book. For readers who usually read an entire book from beginning to end, the standard player works fine. You do not need to rewind the book before sending it back. When the next person receives the book, the player will automatically start it at the beginning.

The battery fully charges in less than three hours and will not overcharge so you can keep the player plugged in all the time. It does not recharge each time you plug it in, but only after it has lost about 75 percent of its power or after being unused for several weeks. Please call your Talking Book Center today to order a digital player (see back page).

Digital books loan policy

The collection of digital books in the TBBS library is growing. Patrons now may check out a maximum of five books at one time and the loan period has been extended to six weeks. Popular books still have waiting lists so return books quickly. Also, be careful with the cartridges. TBBS has received empty and mismatched digital cartridge containers. After you finish a book, please place it back in its original container before opening the next one. Patrons who lose multiple cartridges may have their privileges suspended.

Digital books available from BARD

While the TBBS collection of digital books grows every week, there are more than 20,000 digital books and many magazines available on BARD, the Braille and Audio Reading Download Web site. New books are added to BARD immediately and may be downloaded before copies are available by mail. To use the service you need a computer with high-speed Internet access, a valid e-mail address, and a removable USB flash drive or blank digital cartridge. You also need to know how to navigate the Internet, complete online forms, download large files, and unzip files. A friend or relative may be able to do this for you. For more information, please contact your local Talking Book Center (see back page).

TBBS Advisory Committee

The Talking Book and Braille Advisory Committee serves to aid the State Library in the improvement of library services offered through TBBS. The committee meets quarterly by conference call. Committee members serve three-year terms and represent all regions of the state as well as the ages, interests and concerns of TBBS users. Three positions are currently open for service terms, which begin January 2011. If you would like to be considered, please call Rita Howells at 618-258-9996, ext. 448.

Talking Book Libraries being restructured

Two years of long-range planning have led the Illinois Network of Talking Book and Braille Libraries to begin a restructuring process aimed at streamlining services. The network includes the Talking Book and Braille Service in Springfield; Chicago Public Library Talking Book Center; Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center in East Peoria; Southern Illinois Talking Book Center in Carterville; and Voices of Vision Talking Book Center in Geneva. The following changes are being made:

- Southern will no longer serve as a Talking Book Center but rather will be the machine-lending agency for the entire state.
- Patrons of Southern will now be served by Mid-Illinois TBC.
- State Library TBBS will issue a statewide newsletter for all patrons of the network.
- State Library TBBS will house the descriptive video collection.

Talking Book catalog updates

New issues of the bi-monthly catalog, *Talking Book Topics*, now include books in both cassette and digital formats. Book numbers beginning with RC are only available on cassette; book numbers beginning with DB are only available on digital cartridge. Books produced in both formats have a number beginning with DB/RC, so you must indicate which format you prefer on the order sheets. Because TBBS is receiving fewer copies of cassette books and has fewer titles of digital books, wait times may be longer. The more selections you make, the better your chances are that something will be available.

The National Library Service also publishes a catalog, *Digital Talking Books Plus* (formerly called *Cassette Books*), of the previous year's issues of *Talking Book Topics* and separates the books by subject. The yearly compilation of *Braille Book Review* issues is still called *Braille Books*. The catalogs compiling the 2009 issues will be released this fall.

TBBS Snapshot

- **Total registrations:** 27,557
- **Gender:** Male: 33.8%
Female: 63.8%
- **Ages:** 17 and under: 1,355
18-49: 4,351
50-79: 8,060
80-99: 10,502
100 and older: 62
- **Active patrons in FY2010:** 16,940
- **Digital players out to patrons:** 7,625
- **Total circulation in FY2010:** 907,388

Toll-Free Numbers

Illinois State Library
Talking Book and Braille Service
800-665-5576, opt. 5

Chicago Public Library
Talking Book Center
800-757-4654

Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center
800-426-0709

Voices of Vision Talking Book Center
800-227-0625

In conjunction with the Illinois State Library and local Talking Book Centers, TBBS provides a full range of library services specializing in braille and Talking Books. The goal of TBBS is to enrich the quality of life for all residents of Illinois who are eligible for the program.

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY TALKING BOOK AND BRAILLE SERVICE



JESSE WHITE • ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

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Free matter for the Blind.