

FALL 2013

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



Jesse White
Secretary of State
& State Librarian

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TBBS NewsLink is available in braille and large print, on cassette or via e-mail by contacting the State Library, or on the TBBS website at www.ilbph.org (click TBBS NewsLink).



New School Year — A reminder for students, parents & teachers

TBBS recommends that students contact their Reader Advisor at the beginning of each new school year to update their reading grade level and subject interests. This information needs to be reviewed annually or the student may receive materials that aren't suited to his or her current grade level and reading needs. Students can also call us for help in finding books on their reading list and for books needed for research and reports.

Full STEAM ahead — Adult Summer Reading Program

This summer many accepted the library's challenge to learn something new and expand their horizons through the joys of reading. As indicated by the theme's acronym "STEAM," the program focused on science, technology, engineering, arts and math. The reading guide included titles from bestsellers to biographies, romance to mystery, as well as how-to books and more.

The library's annual summer and winter reading programs have always been a great way for patrons to discover new authors and genres. If you would like to join the upcoming 2014 Adult Winter Reading Program, **Globe Trekking @ Your Library: From the Seven Continents to Beyond**, which begins in January, contact the library at 800-426-0709.

Medical conditions and health care topics

The TBBS collection contains books about a variety of medical conditions and health care options, including the **Affordable Care Act**. Besides books relating to vision loss, you can also find books on heart disease, cancer, depression, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's, diabetes and obesity, to name just a few. Some titles focus specifically on children's, women's or veterans' health issues. Let us know if you are interested in a medical condition and we will be happy to send related books.

Changing digital player verbosity

Your standard digital player announces the function of each button when pressed, but this setting can be changed. Turn the player on without a book inserted. Press the FAST FORWARD and SPEED DOWN buttons at the same time and hold until you hear "Reduced Verbosity." To return to the original setting, press and hold these buttons until you hear "Normal Verbosity."

Descriptive Video Service now on Blu-ray DVDs

If you own a Blu-ray DVD player you will find that many Blu-ray DVDs now include DVS (Descriptive Video Service). DVS allows a blind or visually impaired person to enjoy the full experience of a movie by hearing a description of the action happening during a film.

Blu-ray discs are available at most retail stores, online outlets, or through a Netflix subscription. You can check out Blu-ray DVDs from some public libraries. TBBS has a small collection of audio-described DVDs; however, they are not Blu-ray. Contact a Reader Advisor for information and assistance.

TBBS Advisory Committee

Applications are accepted year-round for the Talking Book and Braille Advisory Committee, which assists the Illinois State Library in improving library services offered through TBBS. Members serve three-year terms and represent all regions of the state, as well as the ages, interests and concerns of TBBS users. To apply for the committee, please call Delilah Jackson at 618-244-5089 for more information.

Cassette books being phased out

The National Library Service (NLS) is no longer producing new titles on cassette and plans to withdraw the entire cassette collection by 2015 — **all audiobook users will need to have a digital player.**

Many older cassette titles have already been converted to the new digital format, and NLS plans to convert 25,000 more. If a title you are interested in is not available in the TBBS digital collection, contact your Reader Advisor to receive the book through interlibrary loan. All converted titles are available for immediate download for patrons using the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) website.

Unrated commercial audiobooks

NLS is partnering with commercial audiobook publishers to make some titles available at the same time or soon after the release of the printed book. These titles will have a “commercial audiobook” designation in their annotation. Because NLS staff cannot always examine the print book prior to the release of the audio version, some audiobook titles will be listed as “UNRATED” in the annotation.

If you do not like books that include descriptions of sex, violence and strong language, you should not request unrated commercial audiobooks and ask your Reader Advisor to note this in your record.

Digital magazines for institutions not available

NLS is not sending digital magazines to schools, nursing homes and other institutions at this time, as the loan periods and multiple-titles on a cartridge format are not well-suited to institutional use. Institutions may choose one of the following digital magazine options:

- Assist your students, residents, or clients in setting up individual TBBS accounts so they may receive direct digital magazine subscriptions; or
- Download digital magazines using an institutional BARD account for use by your eligible students, residents or clients.

***Talking Book Topics* on cartridges**

Subscribers who get *Talking Book Topics* (TBT) on a digital cartridge will receive the TBT order form in a separate mailing and on a different date than the cartridge. The loan period for *Talking Book Topics* on cartridge is one month. Once you’ve made your selections, please mail your order form to your library and return the TBT cartridge to the producer. If you need more time to make your selections, you can download an audio copy of TBT from the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) website. Contact your Reader Advisor for more information about BARD. Current and back issues of *Talking Book Topics* are also available on the NLS website at <http://www.loc.gov/nls/tbt/index.html>.

Personal cartridge return address labels

NLS recommends that patrons place a return address label on the back of any green digital cartridge that they have purchased. If a personal cartridge is sent to a magazine producer or talking book library by mistake, it can then be returned to its owner.

Toll-free numbers

Illinois State Library TBBS: **800-665-5576, ext. 1**

Chicago Public Library Talking Book Center: **800-757-4654**

Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center: **800-426-0709**

The announcement of products and services in this newsletter should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation by the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service. Products and services are listed free of charge for the benefit of our readers. TBBS cannot be responsible for the reliability of products or services mentioned.



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Free matter for the Blind.