

**MARCH 2011**

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



**Jesse White**  
**Secretary of State**  
**& State Librarian**

## Newsletter gets new name

*TBBS NewsLink* was selected as the name of the TBBS newsletter from more than 100 great titles submitted by patrons and staff members. TBBS staff members believe the new title says it best because the newsletter provides TBBS news and links to other useful information for our readers. To receive the newsletter by e-mail instead of in print, please contact the State Library at the phone number or e-mail below.

## TBBS moving to State Library building

The Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service is moving from a stand-alone location in downtown Springfield into the beautiful Illinois State Library Gwendolyn Brooks Building across from the State Capitol. The staff is doing everything possible to make certain patron service continues to run smoothly during this transition. The move is one of the major goals of the State Library's long-range plan, and will give TBBS more space for its collections and more functional working areas. TBBS staff is looking forward to the move and the opportunity to improve patron services.

The TBBS newsletter is available in braille, in large print, on cassette or via e-mail by calling 800-665-5576, opt. 5, or e-mailing [ilstbbs@ilsos.net](mailto:ilstbbs@ilsos.net). The newsletter also is available at [www.ilbph.org](http://www.ilbph.org) (click TBBS NewsLink).



## In this issue:

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## **Institutions eligible for digital book players**

Nursing homes, senior centers, hospitals, public libraries, schools and other organizations are now eligible to receive digital book players. The players are lightweight and have excellent sound quality, a long battery life and built-in instructions. Contact your library to order a digital player for your institution.

## **NLS ends production of cassette books**

The National Library Service (NLS) ended production of cassette books in October 2010. All audio books are now produced only on digital cartridge or may be accessed on the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) Web site.

More than 57,000 cassette titles are still available, but to read the newest audio books you must have a digital player. Call your Talking Book Center today to obtain a digital player.

Patrons may keep their cassette machines to use with older books from the TBBS libraries, and magazines will continue to be produced on cassette for the immediate future.

## **Digital book loan policy changes**

As the collection of digital books continues to grow, TBBS staff has increased the number of books patrons may borrow at one time. Patrons may now check out a maximum of 15 digital books at a time for a loan period of six weeks. If you currently are receiving fewer books than this talk to your Reader Advisor about raising your limit.

There continues to be issues with empty and mismatched digital containers. Each lost book on a patron's record prevents him or her from obtaining another book and may require an overdue notice. When finished with a book, please place it back in its container before opening the next one and make sure the latches on the case are firmly locked into place. Also, please do not send two cartridges back in one container — the container might pop open in the mail and both books will be lost.

Keeping track of digital books is especially important because they cost nearly \$9 each to produce as opposed to 50 cents each for cassettes. Please call your library if you discover a problem with the cartridges or their containers. Taking just a few minutes to ensure your books go into the mail correctly will save unnecessary replacement costs and ensure an adequate supply of books.

## **Customize your reading service**

Are you getting books that don't interest you or are you in the mood to try something different? Your Reader Advisor can work with you to customize your service to suit your needs.

Tell your Reader Advisor what authors you like and dislike or if you want to try another type of fiction or nonfiction for a change. Suggestions on authors and subjects will be based upon your favorite books, activities or even television shows and movies.

Sometimes you may need to narrow your focus. For example, you may have requested historical fiction and found that you really only like historical fiction that takes place in the United States. Or you may like biographies, but only those about actors and media celebrities. Maybe you have read everything your favorite author has written and don't know what to read next. Your Reader Advisor can suggest readalikes — authors who write the same types of books in a similar style.

Any changes you make will take effect immediately and you can change your preferences any time. Call your library if you are interested in customizing your service.

## **National Resource Directory (NRD) supports veterans**

A collaborative partnership among the U.S. Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs, the National Resource Directory (NRD) at [www.NationalResourceDirectory.gov](http://www.NationalResourceDirectory.gov) connects veterans and their families with support services. The directory provides information about benefits and compensation; education and training; employment; family and caregiver support; health; homeless assistance; housing; transportation; and travel. Because the talking book service is a federal program, veterans get first-priority service.

## **BARD update**

Illinois currently has more than 1,300 patrons registered on the National Library Service Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) Web site and registers more than 50 new users each month. In 2010, more than 70,000 books and magazines were downloaded by TBBS patrons and that number is on pace to increase this year.

BARD offers instant access to thousands of books. NLS-produced magazines and converted RC titles also are accessible as they become available. To use the service you will need a digital player, a computer with high-speed Internet access, an e-mail account, and a USB flash drive or blank digital cartridge and computer skills.

An application for BARD is available at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov>. Complete the form with information exactly as it appears on your TBBS account. Contact your library if you are unsure of this information or have any other questions about using BARD.

## Call TBBS to:

- Make book requests
- Report service problems
- Make name, address or telephone number changes
- Temporarily stop service or resume service
- Change the number or types of books you receive
- Report problems with books or machines
- Change the format of your catalogs
- Cancel your service

## Toll-Free Numbers

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

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Chicago Public Library  
Talking Book Center  
800-757-4654

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Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center  
800-426-0709

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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.



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Free matter for the Blind.