

**SUMMER 2013**

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



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

This issue of *TBBS NewsLink* is all about IMPROVEMENTS — new developments at both the state and national level that will enhance your service.

## **Talking Book and Braille Service changes**

For patrons living outside the city of Chicago, the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service in Springfield is now the main circulation hub, while the Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center in Burr Ridge takes care of reader advisory and outreach services. The Chicago Public Library Talking Book Center continues to serve Chicago patrons and share its collection statewide. These changes allow for continuity and uninterrupted services following the consolidation of Mid-Illinois and Voices of Vision Talking Book Centers. Talking book machine distribution for all Illinois residents is handled by the Illinois Sub-Machine Lending Agency in Carterville. Following is the updated address and contact information:

- **Chicago Public Library Talking Book Center**  
400 S. State St.  
Chicago, IL 60605  
800-757-4654 (Chicago only)  
tbc@chipublic.org
- **Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service**  
300 S. Second St.  
Springfield, IL 62701  
800-665-5576, ext. 1  
isl**t**bbs@ilsos.net
- **Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center**  
125 Tower Dr.  
Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
800-426-0709  
info@illinoistalkingbooks.org
- **Illinois Machine Sub-Lending Agency**  
607 S. Greenbriar Rd.  
Carterville, IL 62918  
800-455-2665  
imsastaff@imsa.lib.il.us

*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](http://www.ilbph.org) (click TBBS NewsLink).



## Audio magazines now on digital cartridge only

In the spring of 2013 the National Library Service (NLS) stopped sending magazines on cassettes. Now all NLS-produced audio magazines are circulated on digital cartridge or are available by download from the BARD website. **You MUST have a digital talking book player to continue receiving your magazines.**

Magazines are mailed in a dark red plastic box, and the magazine cartridge is light blue. **Do not throw these cartridges away when you are done with them — they are recycled for the next issue!** Treat the magazine cartridge just like a book cartridge — return the magazine cartridge to its red container, flip the mailing card and place in the outgoing mail.

A single cartridge may contain multiple magazine subscriptions. Audio instructions on the cartridge will explain how to easily move from one magazine to the next using the **Bookshelf Feature**. To access this feature, insert the cartridge and hold down the PLAY/STOP button until the player announces “Bookshelf” and the number of books or magazines on the cartridge. Use the FAST FORWARD and REWIND buttons to move to the next or previous item on the list. When you hear the desired book or magazine announced, press the PLAY/STOP button to begin.

The cartridge loan period for weekly publications is one week after you receive it, and one month for monthly, bimonthly and quarterly publications. A magazine cartridge that includes a monthly, bimonthly or quarterly publication — even if it also has a weekly publication on it — will have a loan period of one month. **Your magazine subscriptions may be suspended if the cartridges are not returned in a timely manner.** If you subscribe to the audio version of *Talking Book Topics*, it will be included on the cartridge with your magazines. It also MUST be returned in order to receive future issues. The printed order form will be mailed separately.

## Special features of the *advanced* digital player

The advanced digital player offers special features and is the best model to choose if you often listen to books that are not always read from cover to cover, such as the Bible, cookbooks, medical guides or other nonfiction. This player has extra control buttons that allow you to skip back and forth between sections and to bookmark your favorites. Contact your Talking Book Center if you have a standard player and would like to replace it with an advanced player.

## NLS applications for mobile devices

NLS is in the process of developing applications to enable downloading and reading its books using commercial mobile devices. Two versions are being developed independently — one for

Apple iOS devices (iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad) and one for Google Android devices. The iOS application should be available to patrons this fall. The Android application will only be available on Android 4.2 "Jelly Bean" and later versions because of poor accessibility support on earlier versions. The Android application is expected to be available to patrons in late fall.

## **Battery charging tips for digital talking book players**

Your digital talking book player will lose its charge if it is not used for several months. We recommend that you keep your digital machine plugged in AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE (even when you are not using it) to avoid a dead battery. As the battery ages, it will not always charge up to the original 29 hours. The player can only estimate the time remaining on the battery, and it may take a couple of hours of playing time for a drop in charge to be recognized. Please contact us to initiate a machine replacement only when the battery charge will not last over 12 hours.

## **New materials and features on BARD**

NLS has upgraded the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) website with the addition of Web-Braille, special collection materials, music books and scores, foreign-language books produced abroad, and other new and enhanced features. For a complete listing of the new changes to BARD, visit <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/NLS/NewBARDOverview.html>.

## **Keeping yourself well-stocked with books**

- Return each book as you finish it. New books are sent when the old ones come back.
- Place each book back in its container before you open a new one. A book returned in a mismatched container will delay another book being sent.
- Increase the number of books you receive so you always have plenty on hand. Keep in mind that you need to allow for books in transit and the occasional book that might not hold your interest.
- Sign up for **BARD**. You or a friend or family member can download books anytime. Best of all, these books are yours to keep if you wish!

## **Help us serve you better!**

- Contact us if your mailing address or phone number changes. Address changes for TBBS materials take place immediately, but NLS magazines can take up to three months.
- DO NOT mark "REFUSED" on book or magazine mailing cards. We don't know if you no longer want that book or magazine, want a temporary hold on materials, or want to cancel your service entirely. Contact your Reader Advisor to adjust or end your service.

- If you experience delivery problems, contact your local Post Office. TBBS can only intervene if the Post Office staff has questions about free delivery to the blind and physically handicapped. The USPS is obligated to deliver all TBBS materials to your home, but is not required to pick them up. If your mail carrier does not pick up your books, please arrange to have the TBBS materials returned to the Post Office — postage is not required.

## **TBBS Advisory Committee members**

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

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.



Free matter for the Blind.

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