

Spring 2021
Illinois State Library
TBBS
300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1796



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TBBS NewsLink is available in braille and large print, on NFB-NEWSLINE, via email by contacting the State Library or on the Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) website at www.ilbph.org (click TBBS NewsLink).

NLS initiatives

National Library Service (NLS) updates on new initiatives include:

- In 2021, NLS will implement a new policy that eases access to the program for individuals with reading disabilities, such as dyslexia, by expanding its list of certifying authorities.
- NLS will begin the cross-border exchange of braille and audiobooks under the guidance of the Marrakesh Treaty. This will help NLS expand its foreign-language offerings in Spanish and many other languages.
- A new digital talking book machine (DTBM) is in development to serve as a bridge between the current player and a next-generation device. The new DTBM would play cartridges and books from Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD). NLS is still considering options for a next-generation device.
- After pilot testing, distribution of eReaders will expand in 2021, fulfilling NLS's goal of providing a device to patrons who read braille but cannot afford expensive commercial refreshable braille displays.
- BARD will be moved to cloud servers to handle growing demand and to provide faster download speeds. BARD Mobile iOS and Android apps will get an improved search feature and an expanded subscription options for book series. Patrons will soon be able to download eBraille books on the Android app — a feature that is already available on the iOS app.
- NLS is researching ways to provide data connectivity to patrons who live in areas with no

broadband service so they are able to download from BARD.

- NLS will diversify its pool of narrators to represent a wider group of voices. Its studios will use these narrators for both new recordings and rerecordings of older titles.

2020 Goodreads Choice Awards

The Goodreads Choice Awards are the only major book awards decided by readers. Category winners in 2020 include:

Fiction – **The Midnight Library** by Matt Haig, DB 100906

Mystery & Thriller – **The Guest List** by Lucy Foley, DB 99917

Historical Fiction – **The Vanishing Half** by Brit Bennett, DB 99791, BR 23212

Fantasy – **House of Earth and Blood** by Sarah J. Maas, DB 99138

Romance – **From Blood and Ash** by Jennifer L. Armentrout, DB 101634

Science Fiction – **To Sleep in a Sea of Stars** by Christopher Paolini, DB 101997

Horror – **Mexican Gothic** by Silvia Moreno-Garcia, DB 99404, BR In Process

Nonfiction – **Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You** by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi, DB 98926, BR 23102

Memoir & Autobiography – **A Promised Land** by Barack Obama, DB 100966, BR and Spanish DB In Process

History & Biography – **Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents** by Isabel Wilkerson, DB 100088, BR 23343

Science & Technology – **A Life on Our Planet** by David Attenborough, DB 100970, BR 23386

Food & Cookbooks – **Modern Comfort Food** by Ina Garten, DB 101418, BR In Process

Debut Novel – **Such a Fun Age** by Kiley Reid, DB 97929, BR 23303

Young Adult Fiction – **Clap When You Land** by Elizabeth Acevedo, DB 99823

Young Adult Fantasy – **The Queen of Nothing** by Holly Black, DB 97610, BR 22943

Middle Grade & Children's – **The Tower of Nero** by Rick Riordan, DB 100996, BR 23432

Picture Books – **Antiracist Baby** by Ibram X. Kendi, DB 100445

COVID-19 Accessible Resources

The COVID-19 Accessible Resources microsite — produced by the Georgia Tech Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation — provides the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance in accessible formats. Sections include symptoms, testing and treatment; prevention and cleaning; people with disabilities; school safety; mental health and therapy animals; and travel and communities. Visit <https://cidi.gatech.edu/covid>

to download accessible Microsoft Word documents and PDFs. Embossed braille is available upon request.

BARD Mobile users

If you use BARD Mobile exclusively and no longer need your digital talking book machine, please return it to the library so another patron can use it. Include a note indicating that you are BARD only and that the DTBM does not need to be replaced. Call 800-426-0709 or email islfbbs@ilsos.gov if you need a box and/or a return label. Return the machine via Free Matter for the Blind.

Changing DTBM verbosity

Your digital talking book machine announces the function of each button when pressed, but this verbosity or wordiness setting can be changed. First, remove any cartridge that might be in the player and turn on the power. Press and hold the **fast forward** and **speed down** buttons at the same time until you hear “reduced verbosity.” To change back to the original setting, press and hold the **fast forward** and **speed up** buttons simultaneously until you hear “normal verbosity.”

Automatic book selection

Many patrons are set up for automatic book selection, which chooses from the book order requests and preferences we have on file for each patron. When a patron needs books, the computer selects from available requests first, followed by author and then subject preferences. Preferences are set to include all the authors, series and subjects a patron likes and to exclude those they dislike. For example, if you like westerns but do not care for romances, you should have westerns listed as a preference and romance as an exclusion so you do not receive a western romance. More tips for using automatic book selection include:

- Certain subject matter, such as descriptions of sex, strong language and violence can be excluded if you find them offensive. In this case, you would also want to exclude unrated books.
- Books selected from your request list or author likes are not checked for exclusions.
- Our system cannot check to see if a book is part of a series. Contact us if you get a series book sent out of order and would like to receive the entire series from the beginning.
- You can now add sequels as an exclusion if you do not like series books. You might receive the first book in a series, but you should not be sent any of the others unless you add it as a series preference.
- The best way to get the books you want is to send in book orders to add to your request list.
- Please contact TBBS to update your preferences if your reading interests change or you are getting too many books that do not suit your needs.

Emergency preparedness from NLS

The National Library Service has created a list of emergency preparedness resources specifically for individuals with a visual impairment, blindness or physical disability. This reference guide offers valuable information on how to effectively plan for an emergency situation and how to recover from a serious event. For more information visit: <https://www.loc.gov/nls/resources/general-resources-on-disabilities/emergency-preparedness/>.

TBBS Contact Information

Phone: 800-426-0709 (toll-free in IL) or 217-785-0022

Email: isltbbs@ilsos.gov Website: www.ilbph.org

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