

Summer 2021

Illinois State Library

TBBS

300 S. Second St.

Springfield, IL 62701-1796

**NewsLink**

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Secretary of State
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90th anniversary of NLS and TBBS

On March 3, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed the Pratt-Smoot Act, which established what is now known as the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) and its nationwide network of libraries. Although its name has changed throughout the years, the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) was one of the original 18 libraries to join the NLS Network that year.

All this year, NLS will highlight its history and the range of services provided to patrons. Veterans have always been given preference in lending because NLS was founded to address the reading needs of World War I veterans blinded by mustard gas. At first only for adults with vision loss, the service was expanded to include children in 1952, and again in 1966 to include those with physical disabilities. Visit <https://www.loc.gov/nls/about/organization/history/> and <https://www.loc.gov/nls/90th-anniversary/> to learn more about NLS history.

Change of certifying authorities

NLS has changed its regulatory language to make it easier for people with reading disabilities, such as dyslexia, to enroll by expanding its list of certifying authorities. Certified reading specialists, school psychologists, school librarians, speech pathologists and other

types of professional educators are now able to certify the applicant's eligibility for NLS services.

Leave voicemail when contacting TBBS by phone

The most efficient way for TBBS staff to handle the more than 2,000 calls we receive each month is to send them straight to voicemail. When answering a call directly, once the conversation is over the Reader Advisor (RA) is often unable to complete the patron's request before taking other calls and has to return to it later. Working from messages allows the RA to focus on one request at a time. Please follow these steps when leaving a message:

- Do include your full name, telephone number including the area code and city. Please spell your last name. When calling for another person, provide that name in addition to your own.
- Do provide concise information regarding your book order, address change, machine problem or service change.
- Do let us know which authors and series you like. Once they have been added to your preferences you will get them automatically. You only need to call again if you decide to stop the series or no longer want books by certain authors.
- Do not leave your name and phone number without stating the reason for the call. A request that could have been handled immediately will now be delayed if we cannot reach you and end up playing "phone tag."
- Do not leave multiple messages with the same request or hang up without leaving a message.
- Do not expect a return call. The RAs will only call you back if additional information is needed to handle your request.

BARD Mobile operating system requirements

Patrons should be aware that older Android and iOS devices may no longer work with BARD Mobile if they cannot be upgraded to the current operating system and may need to be replaced. Version 1.3.1 of BARD Mobile Android supports devices running Android 7 through Android 11 and version 1.4.1 of BARD Mobile iOS supports devices running iOS 11 and above.

Library of Congress Crime Classics Series

Poisoned Pen Press and the Library of Congress have collaborated to reissue a diverse selection of classic American crime novels. Published between the 1860s and 1960s, the series ranges from cozies to police procedurals. Series entries to date include:

That Affair Next Door by Anna Katharine Green – DB 98273, BR 22933

Miss Amelia Butterworth notices a man and woman enter the house next door at midnight, although the owners are on a trip abroad. The man leaves, and the next morning Miss Butterworth finds the woman dead, crushed under a cabinet. Detective Ebenezer Gryce takes the case, but Miss Butterworth also investigates. 1897.

The Rat Began to Gnaw the Rope by C.W. Grafton – DB 99086, BR 23072

Gil Henry is the youngest attorney in a small firm, not a hard-boiled sleuth. When young Ruth McClure walks into his office and asks him to investigate the value of the stock she inherited from her father, he thinks nothing of it—until someone tries to kill him. Some violence and some strong language. 1943.

Case Pending by Dell Shannon – DB 99976, BR 23262

This is the first entry in the police procedural series featuring Lieutenant Luis Mendoza in 1950s Los Angeles. A child's battered body is found in an empty lot. Meanwhile, a young man finds a spot of blood on his sleeve and worries that "it's happened again." Strong language and some violence. 1960.

Final Proof; Or, The Value of Evidence by R. Ottolengui – DB 99993, BR 23281

New York Private Investigator Jack Barnes is good at his job—no nonsense and thorough. Mr. Robert Leroy Mitchel—a gentleman and an amateur sleuth—is confident in his ability to find answers where the professionals cannot. By choice or circumstance, the two men are thrown together in pursuit of the truth in this collection of cases. 1898.

Last Seen Wearing by Hillary Waugh – DB 101933, BR 23639

Based on a true story, this novel is considered to be one of the first police procedurals. Lowell Mitchell disappears in the middle of the day from her dorm room at a Massachusetts women's college. When she fails to return, the police begin a thorough investigation of the baffling case. 1952.

Silent Bullet: The Adventures of Craig Kennedy, Scientific Detective by Arthur B. Reeve – DB 102361, BR 23643

This collection of twelve short stories features scientific detective Craig Kennedy and his sidekick, newspaperman Walter Jameson. In "The Seismograph Adventure," Kennedy is asked to lend his talents in a case to determine if the mysterious death of a young woman is due to natural causes, suicide or murder. Violence. 1912.

Foreign language materials

NLS acquires audio and braille titles in many languages from domestic and foreign producers and—courtesy of the Marrakesh Treaty—from cooperating agencies around the world that serve the print disabled. Though some languages are represented with only a few titles, the foreign language collections are constantly growing. To learn more about foreign language materials and how to search the NLS Voyager Catalog for them, visit their website at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/foreign-language-materials/>. Contact TBBS to borrow talking books on cartridge or embossed braille. Audio and braille titles in digital format can also be downloaded from BARD.

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