

Chicago Public Library Talking Book Center

TBC Focus Newsletter

FALL Edition 2009

Talking Book Center News

New Digital Service Begins !!!

From records to flexible discs to cassettes, many changes have occurred in the 75 years that talking books have been available. The newest innovation of the Library of Congress National Library Service (NLS) is finally here – the digital age has arrived!



(Picture of new NLS digital talking player and cartridge with mailing container)

The Illinois Talking Book Centers are excited about the transition from cassette to digital format. The new digital players are similar to cassette players, but much smaller and easier to use. Two models are available: the standard player which is suitable for most users, and the advanced player which has more navigation options. The advanced player may be a better choice for nonfiction readers who need bookmarking capabilities. Both players feature better sound quality, a sleep button that will stop play after a specified time and a place to insert a thumb drive to download books from the Internet if you wish.

Transitions take time. It will take a few years for the National Library Service (NLS) to produce enough digital players for every talking book user. Until then, digital players will be distributed for loan according to NLS and local guidelines. Anyone interested in digital service should contact their Talking Book Center to be added to the digital machine waiting list, or complete the form listed at the end of this newsletter.

There are two ways to receive digital books: By mail or by Internet download.

Books by mail: The new digital books are much easier to use. Each digital book (DB) comes on a single cartridge instead of multiple cassettes. It requires no flipping or changing of side selector switches. The digital book cartridge is comparable in size to a cassette. The dark blue mailing container has the same snap latches and mailing card slot.

The loan period for digital books is two weeks. Patrons will be allowed to check out two books at a time by mail and these must be returned before more are sent. We've been fairly lenient with overdue titles in the past, but we will have a very limited number of digital books for some time. It is important that you return books promptly because others will be waiting to read them.

Books by Download: More than 15,000 books and 40 magazines are available immediately on the Braille and Audio Recording Download (BARD) site: <http://nlsbard.loc.gov> .

To use BARD to download books for use in the digital player you will need:

1. A high-speed Internet connection (dial-up service will not work)
2. An e-mail address
3. A standard 1G flash drive, also known as a thumb or travel drive

4. Knowledge of navigating the Web, filling out online forms, downloading large items and unzipping files. A friend or relative could also do this for you.

Keep your cassette player—don't send it back. Direct mail magazines will only be available on cassette. You will also need your cassette player to read books from the current collection that won't be provided in digital format. New titles will be offered in both digital and cassette formats until NLS stops producing cassette books in late 2010. Due to high demand and the limited number of digital copies we receive, it may be faster to get a new book on cassette instead of waiting for the digital book.



(Picture of the new NLS standard and advanced digital players)

Machine distribution: When supplies are adequate, all talking book users will automatically be issued a digital player. Until then, Illinois will manage the waiting list for digital players through a tiered system. Machines from NLS will be distributed in the following order until every patron in that tier has been served:

1. Veterans – By law, all patrons who are veterans of the US Armed Forces will be given first priority. This includes both new and current patrons.

2. Centenarians (people who are 100 years old or older) – As requested by the Library of Congress National Library Service. This includes both new and current patrons.

3. E-1 Users (patrons who cannot use a standard cassette player) – Because E-1 players are in short supply, a digital player may be the only option for someone unable to operate a standard cassette player due to a physical or cognitive disability. This includes both new and current patrons.

4. People who requested service prior to October 2009 – Veterans, centenarians and E-1 patrons will be added to the top three tiers. All other patrons who requested service prior to October 2009 will be placed in the fourth tier according to request date.

5. Patrons who request service after October 2009 – Veterans, centenarians and E-1 patrons in this group will be added to the top three tiers. All other patrons who requested digital service after October 2009 will be placed in the fifth tier according to request date.

6. Institutions – Nursing homes, schools and other institutional accounts will be served when all interested individual patrons have received a digital player. Students and nursing home residents can request individual service.

Please call the Talking Book Center at (800) 757-4654, if you want to be added to the waiting list for digital service or if you have any questions. Or, fill out the enclosed form and return it to the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service as listed on the form.

Chicago Public Library News

One Book, One Chicago

Fall 2009 Selection

In celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of *The Plan of Chicago of 1909*, the Chicago Public Library has selected CIL 2170, *The Plan of Chicago: Daniel Burnham and the Remaking of the American City*, by Carl Smith for its award-winning program, One Book, One Chicago. The book explores Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett's bold vision for our city and region. It helps one understand Chicago's astounding evolution from prairie, to industrial hub, to the great city it is today. The book also explores the fascinating life of architect and city planner, Daniel Burnham, the man responsible for many of Chicago's distinctive and remarkable landmarks, parks and buildings.

One Book, One Chicago encourages all Chicagoans to read the same book at the same time, offering events, discussions, exhibits and more to enhance the experience. Carl Smith's remarkable and engaging book will bring people together to learn about our city's past and to contemplate its future. Call the Talking Book Center to order a copy of *The Plan of Chicago* today and join us Thursday, October 22, 2009 at 12 noon for an enthusiastic book discussion of the title.

One Book, One Chicago Events

Chicago – The American City

The author of *The Plan of Chicago* will give an exciting and engaging illustrated Talk about the remarkable effort to create and implement *The Plan of Chicago*.

Saturday, October 24, 11:00 a.m.

Harold Washington Library Center
400 S. State St.

The Biography of Chicago

A historian will trace our city's story from the explorers of old to today's urban pioneers.

Wednesday, October 28, 6:00 p.m.

Harold Washington Library Center

400 S. State St.

Community Discussions: What's Next?

Throughout the month of October at eleven library branch locations scattered throughout Chicago, facilitators will seek insights and suggestions from attendees on how the city of Chicago should evolve in the future.

For a complete listing of the many One Book, One Chicago events and the program resource guide, visit online

www.chicagopubliclibrary.org or call 1(312) 747-4300.

Land of Lincoln Readers

Summer Reading Program Finale

On Saturday, September 5, the Talking Book Center held its annual summer reading program finale celebration. Program participants of all ages gathered together at the Harold Washington Library Center to celebrate reading and Illinois' own Abraham Lincoln's Bicentennial.

The event was a smashing success. The guest lecturer, Barbara Kuck, a culinary historian and curator, gave a presentation of "The Foods that Lincoln Ate." Participants explored the culinary history of Lincoln's era while perusing relics and artifacts. The discussion that ensued between the participants and Ms. Kuck was riveting and enthusiastic and would have lasted much longer if time allowed! Special prizes were awarded for winners of the Lincoln Trivia Game. Children in attendance were enthralled with "Read on the Wild Side" tales from

storyteller, Portia Latalladi; they also enjoyed craft making and games. Participants enjoyed a delectable luncheon and summer reading program gifts.

The Talking Book Center and program participants extend a heartfelt thank you for the gracious luncheon donations from the following businesses:

Exchequer Restaurant
226 S. Wabash Ave

Chicken Planet Grill
21 W. Jackson Blvd

Fontano's Subs
20 E. Jackson Blvd

Sbarros Pizzeria
333 S. State St

Jewel Food Store
1224 Wabash Ave

Taco Fresco
23 E. Adams St

New PlayAway Titles Available !!!

New titles were recently added to our state collection of PlayAway self-playing digital audio books. The minute you receive a PlayAway device, which is no bigger than a deck of cards, you can plug in the earphones, push a button, and listen. New titles include:

- PL 210 *Keep Travelin'* by Louis L'Amour
PL 211 *KnockOut* by Catherine Coulter
PL 212 *Autumn Lover* by Elizabeth Lowell
PL 213 *Back on Blossom Street* by Debbie Macomber
PL 214 *Amazing Grace* by Danielle Steel
PL 215 *On the Grind* by Stephen J. Cannell
PL 216 *Red & Me* by Bill Russell
PL 217 *Fearless* by Diana Palmer
PL 218 *Angel Creek* by Linda Howard
PL 219 *NPR Funniest Driveway Moments*
PL 220 *Classic Crime Short Stories*
PL 221 *Bone by Bone* by Carol O'Connell
PL 222 *Call of the Crayon* by Zane Grey
PL 223 *Soloist* by Steve Lopez
PL 224 *Boys will be Boys* by Jeff Pearlman
PL 225 *Let's Face It* by Kirk Douglas
PL 226 *Never Hit a Jellyfish with a Spade* by Guy Browning
PL 227 *Faith of Barack Obama* by Stephen Mansfield
PL 228 *Vanished* by Karen Robards
PL 229 *Killer View* by Ridley Pearson
PL 230 *Power of Now* by Eckhart Tolle
PL 231 *Dead Irish* by John Lescroart

RFB&D Individual Membership is now FREE !!!

Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic has just announced that thanks to major funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs and support of private donors, its Individual Membership is now free to individuals with proper certification.

RFB&D®, a national nonprofit, volunteer organization, is the leading accessible audiobook collection for students with disabilities such as visual impairment or dyslexia. With titles available in every subject area and grade level, RFB&D's digitally recorded audio textbooks help students challenged by the printed page.

Individuals can register online for immediate access or download an application form from the RFB&D website, <http://www.rfbd.org>. Alternatively, individuals can call (800)221-4792 for material to be mailed to them.

Donations Welcomed

The Talking Book Center welcomes contributions to help support, enhance, and spread the word about our services, especially during these present times. Donations may come from many sources, including family, friends, and organizations. Gifts of any amount are welcomed throughout the year and are tax-deductible. If you need more information on making donations, contact the TBC at 1(800) 757-4654. We extend a heartfelt thank you to those patrons that have recently given a donation in support of the TBC mission, including:

Alice Fox

Harold Dawson

Resources, Resources, Resources

Blind Service Association (BSA)

Reading & Recording Program

BSA provides reading and recording services free of charge with no restrictions, to its clients. Reading material delivered to BSA is recorded in audio format by dedicated volunteers or alternatively read aloud by appointment directly to client. Materials that are read

include college-level readings, professional journals, manuals, private correspondence, office memos and leisure reading. Priority is given to what is needed for study or work, although nothing is turned down, unless it is already available on tape. Clients value the service because it enlarges their freedom to study and work, and it enhances the quality of their lives.

The Reading & Recording Program service is provided in reading rooms at BSA's downtown office, in clients' offices, school libraries or homes, or at a BSA-affiliated outlying site. This is one BSA's most popular programs, in addition to a number of other successful and popular educational, recreational, and support programs for visually impaired people of all ages. For more information call (312) 236-0808.

Guild for the Blind

Career Services

The Guild's Employment Connection program assists those seeking professional careers learn the practical and soft skills needed to conduct effective job searches, addressing each individual's needs, goals, and interests. Services include:

- Individual and group career counseling and coaching
- Assessments to identify work style, interests, skills, and goals
- Identification of industries and jobs of interest
- Workshops on self-advocacy, job search activities, job retention, networking, and presentation skills
- Network opportunities with HR professionals to hone interview skills
- Consultations on disclosing a disability in an interview, requesting reasonable accommodations, and negotiating salaries and benefits
- Monthly Career Networking Club

For those who have little to no work experience, there is a Job Readiness Training program. For information, contact Lauri Dishman at (312) 236-8569 or lauri@guildfortheblind.org.

Autumn Quote:

**“Besides the autumn poets sing,
A few prosaic days
A little this side of the snow
And that side of the haze.
by Emily Dickinson**

**Chicago Public Library
Talking Book Center
400 South State Street 5N
Chicago, IL 60605
1-800-757-4654
tbc@chipublib.org**

**Illinois Network of Talking Book Centers
Digital Service Request Form for Patrons**

The Illinois Talking Book Centers have created a waiting list of registered patrons who want to receive a digital player. To be on this list, please contact your Talking Book Center or complete this form, re-fold so that the library's address is showing, tape it closed and mail it to the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service.

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

Voices of Vision Talking Book Center, Geneva: 800-227-0625

Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center, East Peoria: 800-426-0709

Southern Illinois Talking Book Center, Carterville: 800-455-2665

Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service, Springfield:
800-665-5576, option 5

Put an X in front of the statement that best describes your interest in digital service. You may indicate your preference for a standard or an advanced player, but since supplies are limited you might not receive your first choice.

I want to receive a standard digital player as soon as possible.

I want to receive an advanced digital player as soon as possible.
(Supplies are limited and the wait may be longer.)

I'm downloading books from the National Library Service and do not need a digital player at this time.

Don't send me a digital player. I prefer to continue using the cassette player and cassette books.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

PHONE:

E-MAIL:

The response form is addressed to:

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY
TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE SERVICE
ATTN: DIGITAL SERVICE REQUEST
401 E WASHINGTON ST
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701

Again, if you would like to be added to the waiting list to receive a digital player. Please call us at 1 (800) 757-4654, or email us at tbc@chipublib.org

Please look for an email response from us to be sure we've received your email. Please let us know whether you prefer the standard or advanced digital player. Please note, there may be a longer wait for the advanced player. Thank you in advance for your response.