

OLBPD DIMENSIONS NEWSLETTER

**Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled
At Cleveland Public Library**

17121 Lake Shore Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44110

Phone: 800-362-1262

Web: <http://olbpd.cpl.org>

Email: olbpd@cpl.org

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The Year in Review, and Moving Forward to 2014

As 2013 comes to an end, the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBPD) has enjoyed another busy and productive year. OLBPD circulated over 703,376 items to 14,400 active readers. The collection now has more than 69,000 titles, including new Playaway books as well as described Blu-Ray and DVD titles. Patrons using OHIO-BARD downloaded 132,929 books and magazines and OLBPD answered close to 2,500 BARD service and tech support requests. OLBPD inspected over 511,000 returned books and more than 6,200 were damaged or missing media. OLBPD repaired over 1,300 cassette and digital talking books and added over 2,300 copies of high-demand digital talking books to meet patron reading needs. OLBPD answered over 27,000 patron phone calls requesting service and over 8,600 mail and email requests.

In 2013, OLBPD successfully hosted three Family Fun and Learning Day patron events in July at the Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Cincinnati, in August at the State Library of Ohio, and the third event in Cleveland at OLBPD. All three events were well received and patrons really enjoyed the full day of programs, including NLS narrators Michael Kramer and Laura Giannarelli.

Also in 2013, OLBPD launched its Kids and Teens Reading Clubs for readers 18 years old and younger in an effort to foster lifelong reading and encourage literacy, especially braille literacy among our younger readers. This year also marked the initiation of magazine service on cartridge from the National Library Service (NLS), as well as the highly anticipated arrival of the NLS BARD app for Apple devices.

This year has definitely raised the bar for us in 2014. In 2014, OLBPD will work hard to continue providing readers with the best service possible and continue to build upon and improve services. OLBPD will examine being a stronger advocate on behalf of braille literacy among children and adults in the State of Ohio and offer reference resources for those seeking more information on learning braille. OLBPD will also build on the momentum of our statewide Family Fun and Learning Day patron events in 2013 and plan for future patron events throughout the state in the forthcoming years in our effort to build more meaningful and stronger connections with our patrons across Ohio. Thank you for a great 2013 and all of your continued support, and we will all be working hard for an even better 2014.

OLBPD Kids and Teens Reading Club

OLBPD has launched our new Kids and Teens Reading Club for patrons eighteen years old and younger. Kids and teens earn rewards as they read books and achieve new member levels. Our goal is simple: we want to make reading fun for you at any age but especially now! Please contact OLBPD for more information or to sign up by phone at 1-800-362-1262 or email us at olbpd@cpl.org.

Returning Materials to OLBPD

When returning materials, OLBPD would like to remind patrons to please put the correct braille books, cartridges or cassettes in their correct containers. Also, please try and avoid leaving notes or placing other items inside the mailing containers or wrapping ribbons, string, tape, or yarn around containers and media. Mark an “X” next to the punch hole in lower left corner of the mailing card for items needing our attention. Likewise, please do not write on any of the materials you receive including containers. If you are experiencing problems with your service, please contact us directly by phone or email so we can quickly resolve any problems with your library service.

Returning Digital Magazines

Please DO NOT throw away any digital cartridges. Patron can return their NLS audio magazines to the magazine distributor by flipping the mailing card affixed to the outside of the magazine mailing container and dropping it in the mail. Please DO NOT return NLS magazines to OLBPD. This will only delay your magazine service. Please remember to return magazines in the container they were sent to you in. Please DO NOT return magazines using talking book containers. NLS magazine containers are crimson and have raised lettering and “NLS” embossed in braille on the top (snaps side up) of the container in a circular area adjacent to the snap. OLBPD magazine containers are yellow and have a smooth circular library sticker with no raised lettering or braille embossment on top of the magazine container.

OLBPD magazines sent to the NLS magazine producer by mistake may or may not be mailed back to OLBPD by the producer and the cartridge lost. Cartridges cost approximately \$7.00 each. The digital magazine on cartridge program depends on patrons returning their magazines in an efficient and timely manner. OLBPD suggests returning magazines within one week for weekly magazines and one month for monthly magazines. When weekly magazines are bundled together on the same cartridge with monthly magazines, patrons have one month to return the cartridge. OLBPD understands the challenges that the new magazine on cartridge program presents to readers and we will continue working with you to avoid any interruptions to your magazine service.

Cassette Service in 2014

The National Library Service (NLS) still plans for the withdrawal of all recorded books on cassette (RC) by 2015. Patrons can still continue to order and receive books on tape through 2014. Patrons are not allowed to permanently keep any books on tape received from OLBDP for their own in lieu of the RC withdrawal. Books on tape should be returned to OLBDP when patrons are finished with the book. State Library of Ohio still has cassette book machines available if patrons need them. If patrons would like to request a cassette player, contact the State Library of Ohio Talking Book Program at 1-800-686-1531.

As OLBDP withdraws RC books from our collection, patrons receiving only cassette books may notice longer waiting periods. Keep in mind that patrons who do not have a digital talking book player can receive one right away. OLBDP staff can help patrons learn how to use the digital player. Plus patrons will have more copies and newer titles to choose from than what is available on cassette.

Digital Talking Book Player Reminders

The State Library of Ohio would like to share with patrons a few reminders regarding their digital talking book players. First, patrons should know they can play their digital talking book player with or without it being plugged in. The player's battery will run down if left unused and not plugged in. Player charging times could drop dramatically from one time to the next especially if patrons are using the USB port and flash drives rather than cartridges.

Patrons should also not expect their machines to recharge to the original "29 hours of battery charge remaining" when they first received their machine. Any player that charges at or above twelve hours is fine. Please contact the State Library of Ohio Talking Book Program at 1-800-686-1531 for players charging less than twelve hours or any questions regarding players and equipment.

Wintertime and Receiving Books around the Holidays

OLBDP would like to remind our readers to place their book orders early to ensure that patrons will have enough books to get them through the holiday season.

As winter arrives, OLBDP could also close due to inclement weather and power outages. Patrons should be aware that when OLBDP loses power, it also shuts down our phone system until power is restored. When possible, OLBDP will attempt to alert patrons through our web site or voice mail greeting when the library is closed. OLBDP will also alert the State Library of Ohio of any emergency closing. Any email or voice mail messages or service requests will be answered as soon as possible.

Recommended Reading from the OLBPD Staff

Here are new reading recommendations from OLBPD staff. Remember that staff may recommend books that contain sex, strong language, or violence, so be sure to check before ordering.

Rose: "The Girls of Atomic City" by Denise Kiernan – DB 76895; Biography

Ken: "The Supermob" by Gus Russo – DB 66754; True Crime

Stephanie: "Charlie Chan: Untold Story" by Yunte Huang – DB 72582; Biography

Will: "Letters from Father Christmas" by J.R.R. Tolkien - DB 63808; Santa Claus

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I have my books sent to another state during the winter?

A: Yes. Patrons whose permanent residence is still in Ohio but reside seasonally or temporarily in another state can arrange to have their items sent to another address.

Season's Greetings

In keeping with the traditional season's greeting, the staff of OLBPD wishes you a happy holiday season, and peace, good health and good reading in the New Year.



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17121 LAKE SHORE BOULEVARD
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TOLL FREE: 1-800-362-1262

<p>FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED</p>
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