

OLBPD DIMENSIONS NEWSLETTER

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

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Digital Talking Book Update

The digital talking book (DB) collection has grown steadily since its launch in September 2009 to nearly 40,000 copies and 3,200 titles. As a result, OLBPD will be allowing patrons to borrow as many digital talking books as they would like to have, lifting our previous ten book limit. The only DB limits that will be enforced is toward patrons who are not being responsible borrowers for the books – i.e. digital book cartridges not being returned to the library by patrons, DB containers being returned without cartridges, and DB cartridges being returned in the wrong container. OLBPD will phone patrons when we receive any digital books with mismatched cartridges or containers or who have digital books checked out for more than one year to try and recover our collection.

Thanks to monies provided by the State Library of Ohio, OLBPD has purchased all the needed equipment and supplies to duplicate digital talking books. OLBPD and the State Library of Ohio Talking Book Program will be working together to duplicate and supplement high-demand and popular NLS digital talking book titles with our own locally produced copies. All locally produced copies will be recorded to a green cartridge housed in a gray container versus the white cartridge and blue container distributed by NLS.

The National Library Service (NLS) ceased production of new books on cassette as of October 1, 2010. Diminishing guaranteed availability of supplies has forced the end of audiobook production on cassette. New talking book titles produced by NLS will be available only on flash memory cartridges and online through the OHIO-BARD system. The inventory of over 57,000 NLS titles on cassette will continue to be available. Cassette production of NLS magazines will continue until further notice.

NLS has also announced its goal to convert from analog to digital, all RC titles with the exception of those that are out-of-date or for which the original master is of insufficient technical quality for conversion. These titles will be available on OHIO-BARD as they become available. NLS will not be providing libraries DB cartridge copies for any of the converted RC titles.

The State Library of Ohio Talking Book Program has distributed close to 9,000 digital talking book machines. State Library anticipates that all OLBPD patrons will have digital players by late spring or early summer 2011. OLBPD is still accepting patron reserves for digital players. Simply contact OLBPD to reserve a digital talking book player.

Damaged and Missing Books

OLBPD is inspecting all returned digital talking books. But our greatest resource for quality control is patrons helping us by marking mailing cards of books that are damaged. OLBPD would like to remind patrons how important it is to mark an “X” near the punch hole on the mailing card when returning books that are damaged or missing items. We have noticed an increase in the amount of missing media, especially digital cartridges. Digital cartridges currently cost \$7.00 per cartridge to replace. Furthermore, damaged or missing media is one of the most frequent patron complaints from our most recent reader satisfaction survey.

OLBPD inspects all books that are marked damaged. But we do not have the staff to inspect each of the 700,000 plus books returned to us annually. OLBPD has volunteers who inspect books for us and we are always in need of volunteers willing to inspect books here at the library. Even if you cannot volunteer at the library, you can do your part by inspecting the quality and condition of books that you receive, rewind cassettes, make sure the correct book is returned in the correct container, and mark mailing cards as damaged when media is missing, needs to be replaced, or the wrong book was inside the container. We have been told that the Post Office may remove rubber bands or strings tied or wrapped around mailing containers. So please mark mailing cards with an “X” rather than tying string or wrapping rubber bands to containers.

OLBPD will contact patrons when a book was returned missing its cartridge or contains a mismatched book. OLBPD will also be phoning patrons with overdue digital titles that have been checked out for more than one year. Patrons who enjoy rereading a particular digital title will be encouraged to place another request or to download a copy using OHIO-BARD.

OHIO-BARD Update

OHIO-BARD currently has over 1,200 patrons subscribed. This year, over 60,000 books have been downloaded from OHIO-BARD by OLBPD patrons. Patrons who would like to register to download books from OHIO-BARD can visit the BARD web page at <http://nlsbard.loc.gov> and follow the BARD application instructions link.

OHIO-BARD allows OLBPD patrons to download and listen to books 24 hours a day, seven days a week. New titles will appear on OHIO-BARD before they are shipped to OLBPD and patrons can keep the books as long as they wish. NLS produced magazines and converted RC titles are also available for download on OHIO-BARD as they become available.

NLS has determined that institutional BARD accounts will be available after all network libraries have assumed responsibility for BARD administration. NLS anticipates institutional BARD accounts will be available in March 2011.

Cincinnati Magazine

OLBPD has added Cincinnati Magazine to our locally produced magazines. All patrons who had been receiving Cincinnati Magazine from Cincinnati LBPH were automatically set up to receive it from OLBPD. Any patrons interested in receiving Cincinnati Magazine can contact OLBPD at 216-623-2911 or 1-800-362-1262 or by email at OLBPD@cpl.org.

Receiving Books around the Holidays

The mail service around the holidays can tend to slow down. Therefore, OLBPD staff 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. Patrons can call OLBPD at 216-623-2911 or 1-800-362-1262 or by email at OLBPD@cpl.org to make arrangements for book service around the holidays or to make any changes to their service.

Change of Residence

Patrons leaving the State of Ohio for the winter can arrange to have their book service delivered to another address, even if the address is located outside Ohio. Likewise, patrons can also arrange to have their book service delivered to a temporary address anytime throughout the year. Please contact OLBPD to make these arrangements.

Online Book Club Discussions

OLBPD hosts a monthly online book discussion on the second Thursday of each month, from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Please visit the OLBPD home page at <http://olbpd.cpl.org> for more information about the Cyber-Dialogue discussions, such as book titles, instructions for logging in, and a direct link to download books for discussion when available. Patrons will need their own computer with a sound card and Internet connectivity to participate.



OLBPD has a new logo! The new logo features the letters “OLBPD” and below each letter is the matching braille character. The color version shows the matching letters and braille characters in the same color. The new logo will appear on our communications, marketing, and promotional items.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I received a new digital machine even though I did not request one. I'm not really sure what to do with it. What should I do?

A: First, take it out of the box and plug it in. You will hear "Player On." Do not insert a book cartridge just yet. Press each button to hear a brief description of its function and use. When you are finished, insert a book cartridge by holding it by the finger hole, and with the braille label facing up firmly insert it into the slot at the front of the player. You will receive up to five books after receiving your digital player. Contact OLBDP if you need any assistance using your new player or receiving digital books.

Q: I only have a digital talking book machine. I returned my cassette player. In Talking Book Topics, I notice a book is only available in "RC" but not "DB." What should I do?

A: If you only have a digital player, then you should not order RC's. You should only order DB's in Talking Book Topics.

Season's Greetings



In keeping with the traditional season's greeting, the staff and friends of OLBDP wish you a happy holiday season, and peace, good health and good reading in the new year.



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