

# **OLBPD DIMENSIONS NEWSLETTER**

**Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled**

**At Cleveland Public Library**

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## **Notes from the NLS Tri-Regional Conference**

**In May, three regions – Midlands, North, and South – of the National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Physically Handicapped met at conference to receive service announcements and updates from NLS about the braille and talking book service. One critical discussion topic involved the length of time which patrons have to read weekly digital magazines before their magazine service is suspended. NLS has received plenty of feedback from network libraries that the amount of time for the weekly digital magazines is not long enough and that it needs to be increased. Currently, NLS does not plan to change their current digital magazine loan period. The current NLS digital magazine loaning period for weekly magazines allows one week for the cartridge to get to patrons. Then, patrons have one week to read it and the cartridge has the third week to get back to the magazine producer.**

**Another interesting discussion involved issues with mail delivery. NLS has received many complaints from patrons and regional libraries regarding delivery and return of their free matter materials. Additionally, NLS and the U.S. Post Office have had discussions regarding “Free Matter” and whether it will be economically possible for the Post Office to continue offering “Free Matter” delivery in lieu of the rejection of a five day mail delivery schedule. Currently, all NLS and OLBPD materials will continue to be delivered as “Free Matter.”**

**NLS also announced plans for the inclusion of locally produced books and magazines from network libraries in BARD. Here, patrons will have access to download digital books and magazines produced locally at other network libraries. NLS is working on quality assurance guidelines and policies and each network library has been asked to prepare two digital books for the initial start-up. NLS will make an announcement when locally produced materials are available in BARD.**

**NLS also shared long-term (5-10 years from now) service ideas that are currently being discussed. Ideas being discussed are a digital talking book player capable of wireless internet access to directly download and play books and magazines. Also the idea of no physical media for materials but rather books and magazines being “pushed” or sent directly to players from the network libraries. NLS is also exploring the possibility and cost effectiveness of offering a refreshable braille display to readers rather than braille books and magazines.**

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# **Notes from the NLS Braille Summit**

**In June, the National Library Service (NLS) and the Perkins Braille School for the Blind co-hosted a summit where braille producers, consumers, educators, as well as NLS staff and regional libraries were invited to provide ideas that NLS will use to shape their strategic long-term plan on how NLS will continue to offer braille book service to patrons. A few of the key ideas discussed involved unemployment rates in the blind community, the importance of braille literacy in school and for older adults, and the advances in technology that could have an effect on braille delivery, its interaction with readers, and its production.**

**NLS identified five critical issues regarding braille literacy and they asked participants to convene and present their top suggestions with respect to braille readers, braille selection, braille production, braille technology, and braille literacy and promotion. The top concerns regarding braille readers consisted of the expensive costs for refreshable braille displays, and the lack of effective instruction for educators to teach braille. The top concerns regarding braille selection was that NLS should lift their policy requiring hard copy braille in favor of electronic braille and on-demand production. The top suggestions regarding braille production was NLS reevaluating quality assurance standards for braille production and advocating for digital book files from publishers for easier and quicker braille production. The top suggestions regarding braille technology was that NLS should offer patrons a free cost effective refreshable braille display and investigate 3D printing for braille production. The top suggestions regarding braille literacy and promotion was that NLS needs to develop a braille marketing campaign, create and offer a braille literacy kit, and work with government agencies to advocate that braille should be added to all consumer packages.**

**NLS is in the process of compiling all the suggestions from this summit and working toward establishing a long term strategic plan for braille service. OLBDP will be working as well on improving braille services and braille literacy in Ohio in 2014.**

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## **OLBDP Kids and Teens Reading Club**

**OLBDP is launching our new Kids and Teens Reading Club for patrons eighteen years old and younger. Patrons who are eleven years old and younger can join the OLBDP Kids Reading Club. Patrons twelve years to eighteen years old can join the OLBDP Teens Reading Club. 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 OLBDP for more information or to sign up by phone at 1-800-362-1262 or email us at [olbpd@cpl.org](mailto:olbpd@cpl.org).**

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# **BARD App Update**

The NLS BARD mobile app for Apple is now available through the Apple App Store. The BARD Mobile app allows searching, downloading and reading braille and talking books and magazines on one fully accessible, mainstream device. Patrons can play talking books and magazines on their Apple devices. Patrons may also read electronic braille books, magazines and music scores using a refreshable braille display connected to their iPhone, iPad or iPod touch through Bluetooth.

The development of the BARD Android app has experienced some critical failures. NLS is considering pursuing another contract for the development of the Android app and they do not anticipate any BARD Android app release until perhaps mid or late 2014.

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## **Magazine in Special Media**

NLS has released the updated “Magazines in Special Media” for 2013. “Magazines in Special Media” is a descriptive listing of periodicals available to blind and physically disabled individuals throughout the country. It includes all of the magazines available through the NLS free reading program, as well as magazines not part of the NLS program but available directly from producers with a paid subscription. Patrons interested in receiving a copy of “Magazines and Special Media 2013” should contact OLBDP.

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## **Locally Produced Magazines**

OLBDP offers the following Ohio locally produced magazines to patrons: Cincinnati Magazine, Cleveland Magazine, Columbus Monthly, Good Old Days, Ohio Magazine, and Timeline: Western Reserve Historical Society. The OLBDP Dimensions newsletter is also available in braille and audio formats.

OLBDP also offers the following locally produced magazines from other NLS network libraries: AARP News Bulletin, Audubon, Black Enterprises, Grit, Guidepost, Humpty Dumpty, Kiplinger’s Retirement, National Geographic in Spanish, National Geographic Traveler, Organic Gardening, Red Book, Saturday Evening Post, Smithsonian, Texas Monthly, Vital Speeches, Woman’s Day, Yankee, and Your Dog. Patrons interested in receiving these magazines should contact OLBDP.

Newsweek and Reader’s Digest available in audio format from the American Printing House (APH) are still being sent on cassette. APH has not announced any immediate plans to offer these magazines on digital cartridge. These titles are available for download through APH’s web site. Patrons can contact OLBDP for more information on receiving Newsweek and Reader’s Digest on digital cartridge.

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## 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: “Until We Reach Home” by Lynn N. Austin – DB 71811; Romance

Ken: “Cuckoo’s Calling” by Robert Galbraith – DB 76784; Mystery

Stephanie: “The Casual Vacancy” by J.K. Rowling – DB 75507; Satire

Will: “The Fault in our Stars” by John Green - DB 74112; Fiction & Relationships

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## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Will OLBPD give patrons an Apple iPad or iPhone to use the BARD app?**

**A: No. OLBPD will not be giving patrons any third party devices. Patrons interested in using the BARD app will have to acquire their own device(s).**

**Q: Are other patrons experiencing delays receiving books in the mail?**

**A: Yes. We advise patrons that it can take anywhere from two to four weeks for materials to arrive through the mail. OLBPD can increase the amount of books to readers to accommodate any unexpected mail delivery delays. Patrons with a computer and Internet access can also use the BARD service to download books and avoid any delays with mailed books.**

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