

# OLBPD DIMENSIONS NEWSLETTER

Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled  
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## 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NLS

This year, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS)—the Library of Congress' talking-book and braille program—will celebrate 80 years of helping visually impaired and physically handicapped individuals enjoy reading their favorite books and magazines. This free library program brings reading materials in digital audio and braille formats straight to the homes of patrons from preschoolers to centenarians.

The talking-book program was established by an act of Congress in 1931 to serve blind adults, and it began with just 19 libraries. Today, the NLS network includes 113 cooperating libraries throughout the United States and its territories. The NLS program was expanded in 1952 to include children, in 1962 to provide music materials, and again in 1966 to include individuals with other physical impairments that prevent the reading of standard print. Congress appropriates funds annually to the Library of Congress for the NLS program. Regional and sub-regional libraries receive financial support from federal, state, and local sources.

The NLS collection of more than 400,000 titles of bestsellers, classics, biographies, romance, and other genres delights even the most selective readers. Magazine-lovers enjoy free subscriptions to more than 40 periodicals in audio format, including *Consumer Reports*, *National Geographic*, and 30 periodicals in braille, such as *Ladies Home Journal*, *ESPN: The Magazine* and the New York Times *Large-Print Weekly*. The NLS program also keeps pace with the latest book titles, adding 2,500 annually. Patrons learn of new releases through two bimonthly magazines, *Talking Book Topics* and *Braille Book Review*.

OLBPD plans to honor the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NLS and our involvement as one of the 19 charter libraries during this fall's annual Family Fun and Learning Day. Details will be forthcoming in the next edition of our OLBPD Dimension Newsletter.

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**Save the Date: Family Fun & Learning Day  
Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at OLBPD**

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## **Digital Talking Book Players**

The State Library of Ohio Talking Book Program has distributed more than 10,000 digital talking book machines to all active OLBDP patrons who want a digital player. OLBDP patrons who are still waiting to receive their digital talking book machine should contact OLBDP to reserve a digital talking book player.

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## **Damaged and Missing Books**

OLBDP 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. OLBDP 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 other patrons.

OLBDP 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. OLBDP 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 is 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.

OLBDP will contact patrons when a book was returned missing its cartridge or contains a mismatched book. OLBDP 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.

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## **Download Newsweek & Reader's Digest**

Patrons of the National Library Service (NLS) are eligible to download Reader's Digest and Newsweek in Digital Talking Book (DTB) format. To play downloadable magazines, you must have a Digital Talking Book player that has been authorized by NLS. In addition, you must have a computer from which to download the magazines. If you are using the NLS player, you must also have either a flash drive or a blank NLS cartridge and a cable to connect that cartridge to the computer. For more information please visit <http://tech.aph.org/mags/>.

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# OHIO-BARD

OHIO-BARD allows OLBDP 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 OLBDP, 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 spring 2011.

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## Online Book Club Discussions

OLBDP hosts a monthly online book discussion on the second Thursday of each month, from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Please visit the OLBDP 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.

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## New Playaway and Described DVD Titles

Thanks to a grant from the State Library of Ohio, OLBDP has purchased new Playaway, described DVD and select Blu-ray titles. There are a limited number of copies available, so patrons may have to wait on popular titles. New Playaway titles include The Twilight Saga and The Millennium Trilogy consisting of "The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo", "The Girl Who Played With Fire", and "The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest." New described DVD and Blu-ray titles include "Despicable Me," "Toy Story 3," "Iron Man 2," "Grown Ups," and "Secretariat." New standard described DVD titles include "The Social Network," "Prince of Persia," "The Wolfman," and "Eat, Pray, Love."

The "English DVS" described video audio track can be accessed through the DVD menu for the movie as a special feature of the Languages menu. The track can often be located simply by repeatedly pressing the Audio button on the remote. The DVD and Blu-ray discs for "Cars Toon" and "Toy Story 3" include a special short cut to enable the DVS track. When the disc is inserted into a DVD player and begins to play, viewers will hear a chime. This chime accompanies a screen which all of the DVD's viewers will see, which has options for "English" or "English Audio Description Service". Viewers can press "5" or "5" + "Enter" to enable the DVS track, and the described version of the video will immediately begin to play.

For more information about our Playaway and described DVD collection, please contact OLBDP.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Can I get more than one NLS issued digital talking book machine?**

**A: Individual patrons are allowed only one NLS digital talking book player.**

**Q: How long can I keep the books you send?**

**A: In order to keep receiving books on a regular basis, please return books as soon as you are finished reading them. OLBDP would like to encourage our patrons to return books within two (2) months of receiving them to ensure quality service to all of our patrons. Patrons can always request a book to be sent to them again. OLBDP may phone you if books are listed being charged out to you for more than one year.**

**Q: Why does it take so long to send and receive books in the mail?**

**A: Materials are mailed as "free matter" through the U.S. Post Office, and can take anywhere from two to four weeks to arrive both to you and back to OLBDP. OLBDP processes all returned materials within two (2) business days and inspects all digital books to ensure that they are in good condition and ready for the next reader.**



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