

# **OLBPD DIMENSIONS NEWSLETTER**

Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled

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## **NLS Begins Distribution of Digital Magazines**

The National Library Service (NLS) is now sending audio magazines to patrons on digital cartridges. Some aspects of the magazine on cartridge program will be similar to the magazine on cassette program, but many will be new and will take some getting used to by our patrons.

One critical change is the initiation of an Overdue Policy. There are no fines or fees for overdue magazine cartridges. Each patron is allotted a specific number of magazine cartridges they can have "out" at one time based on the frequency (weekly, monthly, bimonthly, quarterly) of magazines on the cartridge. The number of cartridges "out" will adjust as cartridges are sent and returned. If a patron exceeds the number of magazine cartridges they can have out at one time then the magazine producer will stop sending new magazines until the cartridges are returned.

Essentially, there are two types of magazine cartridges sent to patrons: weekly cartridges, which hold only weekly magazines, and monthly cartridges, which hold monthly/bimonthly/quarterly (and sometimes weekly) magazines. Any cartridge that has a monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly publication on it will be considered a monthly cartridge. Weekly cartridges are designated as overdue by NLS when they are more than three weeks old. According to NLS, the weekly cartridge has a week to get to the patron. The patron has a week to read it and the cartridge has the third week to get back to the magazine producer. Monthly cartridges are designated as overdue when they are more than six weeks old. According to NLS, a monthly cartridge has a week to reach the patron. The patron has a month to read the magazines on it. And then the cartridge has a week to get back to the magazine producer. Patrons will be designated as delinquent and their magazine service will be deferred when the total number of cartridges patrons have overdue is two. Patrons should know that delinquent magazines cartridges do not affect their digital book service and they can continue to receive talking books despite their audio magazines being suspended. Magazine service will resume once the producer receives any overdue cartridges. NLS is aware that some cartridges will be lost and they are developing a Forgiveness Policy. As they gain experience with the circulation of digital magazines on cartridges they will be better equipped to determine the details of this policy and OLBPD will share them when they are available.

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## **Distribution of Digital Magazines (continued)**

Another significant change is that audio magazine readers may find more than one magazine title on a cartridge. They will need to use the bookshelf mode in the digital player to access their magazines. Cartridges containing more than one magazine will include an initial message giving instructions on using the bookshelf. Patrons can also contact OLBDP for help on using bookshelf mode.

Another change is that audio magazine readers may receive different magazines on a cartridge each month. For example, in January, February, and March a patron receives a cartridge with *Consumer Reports*, *Good Housekeeping*, and *National Geographic* on it. In April they receive a cartridge with *Consumer Reports* and *Good Housekeeping* on it because *National Geographic* was more than one week late arriving to the magazine producer. In May the patron then receives a cartridge with *Consumer Reports*, *Good Housekeeping*, and two issues (the April and May) of *National Geographic* on it.

Perhaps the biggest change is that audio magazine readers must return their cartridges. Please **DO NOT** throw away any digital cartridges. Patron can return their audio magazines to the magazine distributor by flipping the mailing card affixed to the outside of the red magazine mailing container and dropping it in the mail. Please **DO NOT** return magazines to OLBDP. 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.

OLBDP strongly advise weekly audio magazine subscribers to prioritize and read their weekly magazines first, and mail them back to the producer as soon as you are finished to prevent any delays with your magazine service. Weekly audio magazine cartridges need to be returned in three weeks from when they were sent from the magazine producer not from when it was delivered to readers by the Post Office. Please contact OLBDP with questions regarding these changes to the audio magazine service.

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## **Family Fun and Learning Day Preview**

If you live in the greater Cincinnati, Cleveland, or Columbus area, OLBDP Dimensions contains program information about our Family Fun and Learning Day event in your area. OLBDP will host Family Fun and Learning Day in Cincinnati on Wednesday, July 10, 2013 at the Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. OLBDP will host Family Fun and Learning Day on Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus. Our final Family Fun and Learning Day event in 2013 will be in Cleveland on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at OLBDP. Please contact OLBDP to register or for more information about the Family Fun and Learning Day event in your area.

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# **Postal Service Delivery Update**

The United States Postal Service announced in April they will postpone plans to end Saturday mail delivery this August. Congress has prohibited implementation of a new national delivery schedule for mail and packages, which would have consisted of package delivery Monday through Saturday and mail delivery Monday through Friday, and would have taken effect the week of Aug. 5, 2013.

The U.S. Postal Service will delay plans to implement its proposed delivery schedule until legislation is passed that provides it with the authority to implement changes to the delivery schedule. Until then, the U.S. Postal Service will continue to deliver mail Monday through Saturday. OLBDP will continue to keep patrons informed of any changes with the Postal Service that may affect delivery of their books.

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## **New Playaway, Blu-Ray, and DVD Titles Added**

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 Blu-Ray and DVD titles include “Les Miserables,” “Marvel’s The Avengers,” “The Amazing Spider-Man,” “Wreck It Ralph,” and “Lincoln.” New Playaway titles include “The Litigators” by John Grisham, “Friends Forever” by Danielle Steel, “Witness” by Nora Roberts, and “Odd Apocalypse” by Dean Koontz.

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

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## **Receive Current Updates about OLBDP**

OLBDP is currently working on new ways to deliver current information to keep patrons informed about their braille and talking book service. OLBDP is planning to add a new web page to our web site that will offer patrons access to current news and announcements from NLS and OLBDP about their braille and talking book service. Plans for developing this new web page are currently underway.

Patrons can also sign up to receive up-to-the-minute news and updates from OLBDP through their email. Please contact OLBDP for more information or to register your email for OLBDP announcements. OLBDP will continue to explore new avenues for connecting with our users and delivering more timely updates about our service.

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## Recommended Reading from OLBDP Staff

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

Carol: "The Shoemaker's Wife" by Adriana Trigiani – DB 74522; Romance

Ken: "Trace Evidence" by Elizabeth Becka – DB 60782; Mystery

Rose: "Out of Captivity" by Marc Gonsalves – DB 68619; Biography

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

Joslyn: "Never Seduce a Scot" by Maya Banks - DB 75873; Romance

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## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is BARD?**

**A: It's the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service from NLS. BARD allows patrons 24x7 access to download braille and audio talking books and magazines. The best features about BARD include unlimited books and magazines downloaded directly to you that never go overdue, and you can delete whenever you are finished without having to worry about Post Office delivery to and from OLBDP. Contact OLBDP to learn how to register for BARD.**



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