

# **ARKANSAS REGIONAL LIBRARY F/T BLIND**

## **Spring 2009 NEWSLETTER**

**Arkansas Regional Library for the Blind & PH  
Arkansas State Library  
1 Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201-1081  
Phone Toll Free: 866-660-0885  
Web: <http://www.asl.lib.ar.us/ASLBPH.htm>  
Email: [NLSbooks@ASL.Lib.AR.US](mailto:NLSbooks@ASL.Lib.AR.US)**

### **NLS Digital Service Update**

#### **THE NEW DIGITAL TALKING BOOK MACHINE (DTB)**

**The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress, has approved contracts to begin mass production of the new digital talking book machines and book cartridges. Patrons at 8 of the largest libraries for the blind will test the new machines from April through June 19th. If there are no major problems or changes necessary the manufacturer will then start to produce 26,000 new machines a month for the first 6 months and 20,000 a month thereafter. We could expect to receive some of the first machines as early as July of 2009.**

#### **WHO GETS THE FIRST MACHINES?**

**NLS gives first preference to veterans, and 2nd to members of the 10 Squared Talking Book Club (registered patrons 100 years of age or older). Veterans may want to double-check that their patron record shows that they have veteran status. This would have been checked off on your original application for book service. Once these patrons have a new machine we will distribute players to blind or visually handicapped school age patrons. We will then start assigning machines to patrons in good standing. There is no need to call and ask for your name to be put on a list. If you are a heavy reader, return books on time, and do not have a long history of lost or damaged machines you will automatically be in**

**this group. Preference will be given to patrons who have been on the program the longest.**

**Patrons may have to continue to wait long after the launch of the digital talking book system before enough players are available for every reader. At this point NLS projects that in as little as 2 ½ years from the first distribution (as early as December 2011) there will be enough machines for everyone. During this transition, traditional services of Braille books, cassette machines and books on tape will still be available to readers. Patrons who receive a new machine can keep their cassette machine for magazines and have both at the same time.**

## **THE NEW DIGITAL TALKING BOOK**

**NLS has contracted for both 512 MB and 1 GB Book cartridges. This means that no book will need more than a single cartridge. Books that may be on 9 or more cassettes now will be on 1 cartridge and it will not need to be turned over. It will play the entire book without touching any switches or buttons. If you take the cartridge out it will automatically start where you left off when you put it back in.**

**There are currently 13,000 titles that have been converted to or produced in the new format and NLS plans to produce 2,000 titles in each of the 2 formats in both 2009 and 2010. Effective December 2010 NLS will stop production of books in cassette format, although we will continue to receive books on cassette that were in process well into 2011.**

## **WE ARE MOVING**

**We will be moving to a new address down the street. The new location has not yet been renovated, but we will probably be out of our present location sometime after November 1<sup>st</sup>. We will keep our toll free number, and hopefully our regular phone numbers as well. When we move we will need to close for at least 3 weeks as we have 200,000 cassette book copies and 15,000 Braille books that we will have to move and put back into order. We will give everyone as much advance notice as possible before we close.**

## **BARD, WHAT IS IT, AND HOW CAN YOU GET IT?**

**There are now 13,000 audio book titles and 70 magazines available in digital format for free download from the National Library Service and 2,000 or more new book titles will be added every year. If you are a registered NLS reader, have a computer with high speed access, a valid e-mail address, and a digital talking book player that is capable of playing NLS digital books (currently the most economical is the Victor Reader Stream, at about \$325 dollars) you may login to the NLS website and apply for download service. The books can be downloaded to your computer but they will not play on it. They must be transferred to a memory card and played on the digital player. When the new NLS machines become available they will also play the downloadable books. If you wish to wait until our new players become available you will not have to buy one. If you want to buy your own player and download books right away please call us Toll Free at 1-866-660-0885 for more information.**

## **ARKANSAS NEWSPAPERS IN AUDIO FORMAT**

**These are available now free of charge through the Arkansas Information Reading Network 1-800-645-8125.**

## **DO YOU HAVE TROUBLE USING A STANDARD TELEPHONE?**

**If your family income is less than \$50,000, and you have proof of residential phone service, proof of Arkansas residency, and proof of a disability which requires adaptive telephone equipment, you could qualify for free equipment so you can communicate on the phone. Individuals whose income exceeds the limit can still qualify by paying part of the equipment costs. For more information or to receive an application call the Telecommunications Access Program at 1 800 981-4463.**

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**FREE MATTER F/T BLIND**