North Dakota State Library
Talking Books

Discovery

Volume 21 Issue 1 SUMMER 2016

HIGH VOLUME MACHINE AND HEADPHONES

The National Library Service (NLS) has developed a high-volume version of the digital talking book machine (DTBM) for use by patrons who are hearing impaired. The high-volume machine, which is paired with a headset, is available as a standard or advanced model that has been programmed to have an amplified volume up to 120 dB. It can be issued only by NLS and will bear a warning label. The high-volume feature only works with the set of stereo headphones that NLS provides.

To receive a high-volume machine and headset, a patron must provide a certification of hearing impairment by a physician or audiologist. An agency may assist an eligible patron with obtaining a high – volume machine and headset by downloading a high-volume player application from www.loc.gov/nls/pdf/hvp.pdf and returning the patron's completed and fully signed application to the North Dakota State Library Talking Books Department via email at tbooks@nd.gov or fax at (701) 328-2040. Patrons will need to return their current machine upon receiving the high-volume machine and headset. A return mail card will be included with the high – volume machine.

CHANGES IN BARD

BARD Express: The Bard Express will drastically improve the user experience of patrons using BARD on their home PCs. It will remember your BARD password and log you in automatically each time you use the system. It will have the ability to download multiple books at a time, unzip them automatically, and transfer them to your storage device. The BARD Express should be available for patrons in the next few months.

New Search Engine: The long awaited new search engine for BARD will be more modern and will produce more relevant results for patrons based on the NLS catalog.

Success of Commercial Titles: By including commercial titles in the NLS collection, patrons now have access to over 1000 more books per year than they did before. NLS has the ability to add these commercial titles to BARD within weeks of their initial release, lessening the wait time for new releases. These books are still unrated though, so patrons should keep that in mind when ordering commercial audio books.

WINTER READING PROGRAM SUCCESS

The "I Cannot Live without Books" reading program was well received. 92 patrons participated and 34 patrons completed the challenge of reading 10 books in the required amount of time. Those 34 patrons qualified for a drawing, and Pat Crary was the winner. The prize was an Amazon Kindle Fire. Now Pat can download books from BARD at any time, without using a computer or Talking Books machine!! Congratulations Pat!

WHEN DO NEW TITLES COME IN?

Many of our patrons often ask when some of the newer titles will be available on Talking Books. The National Library Service records approximately 4,000 titles each year. This is adult through children's books, fiction and non-fiction. Most of the books in our collection come from the National Library Service and are recorded elsewhere, so it makes it very difficult for us to know exactly what titles we will receive or when we will have them available. Occasionally, you may also hear at the end of a story "other titles by this author". This refers to other titles in print, but it does not necessarily mean those other titles have been recorded for Talking Books. However, we can add any title to your wish list and we will add the requested title to your record and notify you if it becomes available. Please remember that it takes time for a new book to get recorded and distributed to the Talking Book Libraries. Books are sent out to patrons in the order that requests are taken.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

The Talking Book Library has more than 1500 active registered patrons spread throughout North Dakota. We've long known that the people who are signed up for the Talking Book service provide some of the best advertising and outreach just through encounters in their day-to-day lives. We'd like to ask that if you belong to a club, church, fraternal organization, resident's association, neighborhood organization or any other group that you might give us the opportunity to speak to your group about the services that the Talking Book Library provides to those with a visual or physical impairment in our state.

ON THE SHELF: SUMMER 2016

CALL 1-800-843-9948 TO ORDER

LD 00711

Wedding Dress

Author: Mary O'Donnell

In the eleventh book of the cozy mystery series, Annie Dawson discovers a wedding dress stored for years in the attic of Grey Gables and linking back to Captain Zacharias Grey, the builder and first inhabitant of the Victorian mansion. The discovery launches a series of adventures as the mystery behind the dress unfolds. 2011.

LD 00739

Dakota Stories II: Dakota Dusk, Dakota December, Dakota Destiny

Author: Lauraine Snelling

The lives of five inspiring women intertwine in the early 1900s in the immigrant community of Soldahl, North Dakota. 2008.

LD 00740

Lonnie Gentry

Author: Peter Brandvold

Life has not been easy for young cowboy Lonnie Gentry. Lonnie and his mother live alone, working hard, raising cattle and horses on their remote Colorado mountain ranch. This book contains some strong language. 2014.

LD 00741

All We Left Behind: Virginia Reed and the Donner Party

Author: Nancy Herman

In 1846 the Reed and Donner families leave Illinois on a 2,000-mile journey to California in search of free land and a healthy climate. This story takes the reader on Virginia's emotional journey as she evolves from an obedient daughter to an independent young woman during the crossing. 2013.

LD 00742

Cold War in a Cold Land: Fighting Communism on the Northern Plains

Author: David Mills

The cold war as it played out across the Great Plains was not the cold war of the American cities and coasts. Nor was it tempered much by Midwestern isolationism, as common wisdom has it. Cold war in a cold land adopts a regional perspective to develop a new understanding of a critical chapter in the nation's history. 2015.

LD 00743

If Nuns Ruled The World: Ten Sisters On A Mission

Author: Jo Piazza

During a time when American nuns are under attack from the very institution to which they pledge, these Sisters offer inspiring, provocative counter stories that are sure to spark debate. This book contains some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2014.

LD 00744

Nowhere, Everywhere: A Good Place To Be From

Author: Josie Blaine

Gertie knows everything about the Dairy Princess two years in a row at the country fair. Having grown up on the farm with her brothers, feeling forlorn since her mother passed, and sort of lost after her class of 1933 graduated this spring, Gertie finds herself looking for adventure. 2014.

LD 00746

Hissing Cousins: The Untold Story of Eleanor Roosevelt and Alice Longworth

Author: Marc N. Peyser

Born eight months and twenty blocks apart from each other in New York City, Eleanor and Alice spent a large part of their childhoods together and were far more alike than most historians acknowledge. But their politics and temperaments couldn't have been more distinct. Blood may be thicker than water, but when the family business is politics, winning trumps everything. 2015.

LD 00747

Pinky: The Story of North Dakota's First Aerial Combat Ace on Guadalcanal

Author: Franklin Hook

This is the story of one such forgotten warrior, a World War II U.S. Navy fighter pilot charged with defending Henderson field, Guadalcanal, and other lands against Japanese air attacks with the Cactus Air Force. He was Lieutenant Francis Register, also known as "Pinky". Along with interviews and surviving family members, his diary was used as one of the primary sources for this look at a real American hero. 2014.

LD 00748

Tumbleweeds Burning: (Tumbleweeds Burning, #1)

Author: Milt Ost

Heinrich and Anna Marie Oster are invited by the Czar to move to Russia. Their excitement runs high when one of their sons is selected to serve in the Czar's elite body guard, the Imperial Hussars, and life is good but before long the corruption and greed in high places are exposed, and soon bitter persecution of the family makes their days difficult. Through it all they come together in faith and turn their little spot of earth into the breadbasket of the world. 2014.

LD 00749

Tumbleweeds Burning: (Tumbleweeds Burning, #2)

Author: Milt Ost

Life for the Osters, immigrant Germans in Russia, started out well enough. Then, persecution began and life turned sour. But events bring a twist that adds an entirely new dimension. 2015.

The Talking Book office hours are
Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

LD 00750

Scoria Roads: Twenty Houses In Twenty-One Years

Author: Norma Thorstad Knapp

Here is a dynamic memoir set mostly in the barren prairie of western North Dakota where hardship and heartbreak are mirrored in the landscape. In the captivating read of short stories with letters to her sister, this book gives a profound affirmation of the importance of hope, love, caring teachers, resiliency, and extended family. 2015

LD 00751

Once Upon a Christmas

Author: Lauraine Snelling and Lenora Worth

In "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," a walk in the park leads to romance for a single father, and in "Twas the Week before Christmas," a beautiful socialite is hired by her grandmother to perform a task involving a handsome man. 2005.

LD 00752

Aren't We Sioux Enough

Author: Eunice Davidson

This is the story of the University of North Dakota Fighting Sioux controversy through the eyes of the Dakota Sioux supporters who are tribal members of the Spirit Lake Nation. This tells the story of how political correctness was used to deceive the public of truth and to gain a personal victory during the battle from 2007 to 2012 for a small group. 2014.

LD 00753

Fractured Land: The Price of Inheriting Oil

Author: Lisa Peters

What does an environmentalist do when she realizes she will inherit mineral rights and royalties on fracked oil wells in North Dakota? She interviews workers and farmers, geologists and lawyers, those who welcome and those who reject the development, and she finds herself able to see shades of gray in what had previously seemed black and white. 2014.

LD 00754

Dad Lemmon's Friends #2

Author: Bob Penfield

A recollection of stories of the author's family and friends from the Lemmon SD area. 2015.

LD 00755

15 Months of Winter: My Year In North Dakota

Author: John Bayer

Fifteen months of winter: my year in North Dakota contains John's reflections and musing about living in the Dakota that doesn't have Mount Rushmore. Many of the essays in this book come directly from his award-winning O! Pioneer newspaper column. 2014.

LD 00756

Butch Cassidy: The Lost Years

Author: William W. Johnstone

On November 7, 1908, in the town of San Vicente, Butch Cassidy was killed in a bloody shootout with the Bolivian Army. Or was he? So begins a novel about the West's most legendary outlaw, revealing the stunning secret behind the infamous shootout that claimed the lives of the Sundance kid and, allegedly, Butch himself. This book contains some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2013.

SEND AS YOU FINISH

We recommend that you return a book as soon as you finish it, as other patrons are waiting to read those titles. Please do not wait until you finish several books to send them back. This helps to keep your books coming to you in a prompt fashion. Also, please ensure that the correct cartridge is in the proper container.

Please send your magazines back as soon as you finish reading them so we can recycle and reuse them for other magazines and the newsletter.
Thank you for your cooperation!

MORE MAGAZINES AVAILABLE

The National Library Service has added several new audio magazines to its magazine program. Call the library to order a free subscription to any of these. Audio magazines come on digital cartridges and are on loan for a month. Please read and return magazine cartridges as soon as possible; having 2 or more overdue magazines will prevent you from receiving more issues.

The new magazines are: AARP Bulletin and AARP The Magazine (packaged together), Audubon, Humpty Dumpty Magazine (for ages 3-5), Missouri Conservationist, National Geographic Traveler, O, the Oprah Magazine, Oklahoma Today, Playboy, Rolling Stone, Seventeen, Smithsonian, Southern Living, Vital Speeches of the Day.

MORE BOOKS FOR YOU

The National Library Service (NLS) has an agreement with 5 major book publishers to convert their unabridged commercial audiobook titles into Talking Books. The publishers are Hachette, MacMillan, Penguin Random House, Scholastic, and Audible. This means you have faster access to more titles, while reducing costs for NLS.

For example; NLS records 2000 titles a year. The average book takes approximately 3-5 months to produce, while a typical commercial audiobook takes only weeks to convert. In addition to the books NLS will record this year, there will be over 1500 additional titles available courtesy of these 5 publishers.

The only drawback is we don't know whether or not the books recorded by the publishers contain sex, violence, or bad language. Some may be perfectly fine, while others may contain a little or a lot of material some readers find objectionable. We can mark your account so that we do not select unrated books for you, but keep in mind this may also eliminate books that do not contain such material. If we run low on the types of books you like, we may start sending you unrated books. If you get a book you don't care for, just return it and we'll send you another.

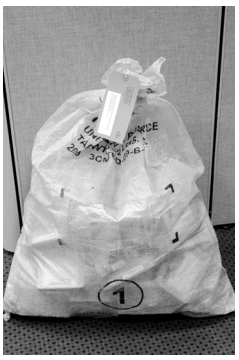
STAYING ACTIVE WITH TALKING BOOKS

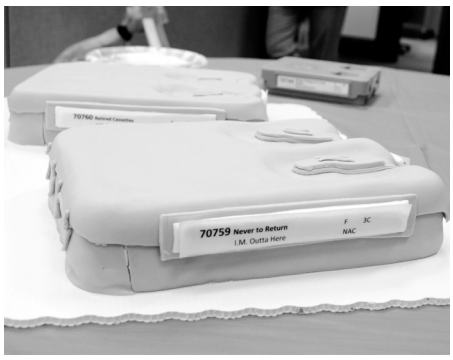
Has it been a while since you logged into BARD and downloaded a book? Last month NLS examined all existing BARD download accounts and any account that showed no activity in the past year was suspended. If you cannot log in and you DO want to continue to use BARD, call ND Talking Books and we will reactivate your account. Just keep in mind that you must download at least one book a year to keep that account active. Call us if you have forgotten your password and we can send you a new temporary one that can be changed to the password of your choice. Having a suspended BARD account will not affect your account with Talking Books; we will still continue to mail audio books to you. However, to remain active, a patron must borrow one book or subscribe to one magazine per year.

There are a number of things that can affect your service so that you are not receiving talking books; it could be you have had overdue books, you asked us to hold your service and never asked us to restart it, or if you have not requested any books. It could also be because you moved and we were not notified of your new address. If in doubt, call us. We want you to enjoy reading Talking Books, so we need to know if you have any problem affecting your service.

A FINAL FAREWELL

The North Dakota State Library offically sent off the last bag of Recorded Cassettes! To celebrate the end of the seven-year changeover, Liz, a reader advisor on staff, made cakes in the shape and color of the cassette mailing containers. They even had book tiles on them "Never to Return by I.M. Outtahere" and "Retired Cassesttes by I.M. Gone."





NETFLIX TO ENHANCE ACCESS FOR BLIND CUSTOMERS

In a first-of-its-kind settlement, advocates for people who are blind have reached an agreement with Netflix to make accessible the movies and videos offered through the Netflix video streaming and DVD rental subscriptions. The settlement means that Netflix will make its video content accessible by adding a new technology called "audio description" as a feature that blind customers can activate so they can more fully understand and enjoy the movie and video experience.

Netflix provides one of the nation's most popular online streaming and DVD rental services, offering convenient and affordable video entertainment, including original content, to millions of Americans.

Under the agreement, Netflix will provide audio description for many popular titles in its streaming and disc rental libraries. Audio description technology lets blind people know what is happening in scenes without dialogue or scenes with significant visual elements via an audio description track that contains narration of the visual elements that is synchronized with the show or movie. Television and movie studios will create the audio description tracks and provide them to Netflix. Without audio description, blind individuals do not know what is happening in scenes without dialogue and can misinterpret the meaning of other scenes. Under the settlement, Netflix will also provide audio description for the "Netflix Original" shows that Netflix has begun distributing such as "House of Cards" and "Orange is the New Black."

Under the agreement, Netflix will also make its website and mobile applications accessible to individuals who are blind and use screen-reading software to navigate websites and apps. Screen-reading software is an interface between people who are blind or low vision and computers and/or mobile applications. The software creates an audio version of text and images that appear on a screen that it reads aloud to a user. The user then controls the computer or mobile device by pressing keys or tapping on a mobile application. With the changes Netflix is making, users who are blind or low vision will be able to independently use the Netflix website and mobile applications.

This agreement is the first-of-its-kind to provide screen-reader and audio access to users who are blind or low vision. These improvements will provide people who are blind or low vision with unparalleled access to online video entertainment services currently enjoyed by millions of Americans.

WANT BOOKS FOR THE WEEKEND?

The Talking Book Library is closed on Saturday and Sunday, but do you know the best way to ensure you have enough reading material for the weekend? It's simple: call the library no later than Tuesday by 3:00 pm and we will be happy to help.

TALKING BOOK DELIVERY SERVICE:

One of the main concerns we hear from our patrons is the length of time it takes to receive their talking books. It is important to remember that it may take several days for your books to reach us once you put them in the mail. The day we receive your books they are checked in, then this alerts the computer to run mail cards so new books go out to you the next working day. Once again you must remember to allow enough time for the mail service to get your books to you. Due to circumstances beyond our control, it sometimes takes more time than we anticipate. The only time books may not go out to you the day after your books are checked in is if the next day is a holiday, a weekend or if we do not have enough book requests for you.

Requests/Reserves for Talking Books

It is important for our patrons to know that the Talking Book Library operates like a print library. The Talking Book Library often has a couple of copies of the most popular books on our shelves, however other titles may only have one copy on the shelf. The talking books are sent out in the order in which the requests are taken. When the title comes back to our library, the book goes out to the next patron on the waiting list. This process continues until all patrons requesting this title have received it. Therefore, if it is a popular title, it may take some time for all the patrons who have requested it to receive a copy.

1-800-843-9948 • 701-328-1408 • TBOOKS@ND.GOV

FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND

North Dakota State Library
Talking Books
604 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0800

THANK YOU, CONTRIBUTORS!

Donations and Memorials given to Talking Books

Ruth Hoglund
William Trujillo
Phyllis Roth
Memorial for Elena Njos

TALKING BOOK CLOSURE DATES

September 5th
November 11th
November 24th
December 26th