



Discovery

PERM
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Free-Matter Postage

We have been getting a lot of inquiries lately from patrons about whether postal regulations concerning the mailing of **free-matter** have changed. Some of you have even gotten things returned to you with postage due. The free-matter guidelines have **not** changed, but the postal service is watching the mail more closely since the September 11 tragedy and the recent postal attacks.



Only the following material may be mailed **free-matter**:

- Books, magazines, musical scores, and other reading matter done in Braille, large print, or recorded form.
- Paper, records, tapes, and other matter for the production of reading matter, musical scores, or sound reproductions for eligible persons.
- Equipment and parts for equipment used for writing by eligible persons or for educational purposes.
- Sound playback equipment specially designed or adapted for use by visually handicapped persons, such as Braille watches, white canes, and similar equipment.

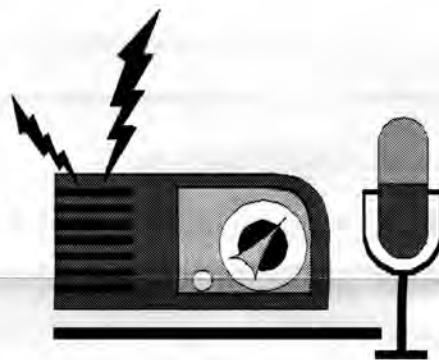
Handwritten letters cannot be mailed free-matter and are subject to applicable postage. When sending letters **free-matter** the letters must be left unsealed to allow inspection by postal authorities. Please do not send handwritten notes in talking book containers or include handwritten notes on talking book orders if you wish to send them postage free.

Talking Books Service 1-800-843-9948
Dakota Radio Reading Service 1-701-328-4189
Machine Lending Agency 1-800-421-1181

DRIS Conducts Survey

Patrons of Dakota Radio Information Service (DRIS) may have received a phone call from the North Dakota State Library recently. The library conducted a survey of its DRIS patrons to get comments, suggestions, and update the patron database. The input from this survey will be used to improve service.

Patrons were asked questions about their use of the radio, which programs they listen to, and how often they listen. They were able to make comments about the service and suggest changes they would like implemented. Most of the patrons were very happy with their service, but if not were asked to suggest things we could do to improve our broadcast.



The patrons surveyed ranged in ages from 30 to 100.

DRIS is only available in the Western portion of North Dakota including areas in and around Bismarck, Mandan, Dickinson, Williston, Jamestown, Valley City, and Minot. Service is also available within the towns of Hettinger, Bowman, Beach, Crosby, Harvey, and Tioga.

The State Library is presently working on a feasibility study funded by a grant from North Dakota Vocational Rehabilitation to explore options for future broadcasting options. If you are interested in information about DRIS and its availability please call the North Dakota State Library at 1-800-843-9948.

Choosing Talking Books

Choosing your own talking books is the best way to get the kind of reading material you enjoy the most. If you are unable to choose your own talking books for any reason, the Disability Services staff will gladly do it for you.

We are able to make selections for you based on the reading interests you have provided us. These interests are matched against the books we have in our collection. If you are being served this way but are not happy with the selection you are receiving, please contact us so we can update your reading interests. Maybe your interests have changed or the subject matter is too broad.

It is important to us that you receive the types of books you enjoy most. There are about 60,000 titles from which to choose.

On the Shelf

Books About the Middle East

Send Titles Checked Below

RC 52901

Reaping the Whirlwind: The Taliban Movement in Afghanistan

Author: Michael Griffin

Analyzes the nature of politics and tribal rivalries in Afghanistan when the U.S.S.R. retreated in 1989 and the Muslim fundamentalists assumed power.

RC 07789

Koran

Translated by N. J. Dawood, this earliest work of classical Arabic is the sacred scripture of Islam as revealed to the Prophet Mohammed by the Angel Gabriel.

RC 44542

God has Ninety-Nine Names

Author: Judith Miller

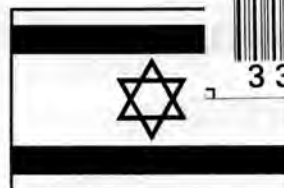
An American journalist profiles the rise of Islamic militancy and government responses in ten countries of North Africa and the Middle East.

RC 51573

Empires of the Sand: The Struggles for Mastery in the Middle East

Author: Efraim Karsch

Two Middle East historians re-examine nineteenth-century politics of the area to refute the popular "clash of civilizations" interpretation.



RC 26064

Caught in the Crossfire

Author: Jan Goodwin

An account of a journalist's experience traveling with the Afghan rebels. Describes the day-to-day hazards of life with the Mujahideen.

RC 44913

The Meaning of the Glorious Koran

Translated by Marmaduke Pickthall with explanatory notes, this earliest work of classical Arabic is the sacred scripture of Islam as revealed to the Prophet Mohammed by the Angel Gabriel.

RC 47506

Islam and the West

Author: Bernard Lewis

Eleven essays by a Princeton professor of Near Eastern studies explore 1,400 years of historic relations between the Islamic nations and the Christian world referred to as the West.

RC 38536

A History of God

Author: Karen Armstrong

The author, a former nun, looks at the changing ways people have conceived of God from the time of Abraham to the 1990s.

- RC 51183 **Islam: A Short History**
 Author: Karen Armstrong
 Describes the origin and spread of the religion of Islam.
- RC 27408 **Holy Terror: The Inside World of Islamic Terror**
 Author: Amir Taheri
 A behind the scenes look at the Islamic international terrorist movement.
- RC 48185 **The Taliban: War, Religion, and the New Order in Afghanistan**
 Author: Peter Marsden
 An examination of the beliefs and policies of the Taliban, their rise to power, and the interaction of the Taliban with the Afghan people.
- RC 50889 **Afghanistan**
 Author: Sharifah Enayat Ali
 A description of the geography, economy, and the culture of the nation of Afghanistan. Grades 5-8
- RC 52899 **Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil, and Fundamentalism in Central Asia**
 Author: Ahmed Rashid
 Journalist covering Afghanistan discusses the origin and rise of the Taliban and its fundamentalist concepts of Islam.
- RC 39289 **Price of Honor: Muslim Women Lift the Veil of Silence on the Islamic World**
 Author: Jan Goodwin
 An examination of the lives of women of various stations and the effects of changing Islamic attitudes in the late twentieth century.
- RC 44743 **The Middle East: a Brief History of the Last 2,000 Years**
 Author: Bernard Lewis
 A perspective on historical transformations of the Middle East over twenty centuries.
- RC 40808 **The New Middle East**
 Author: Shimon Peres
 The Israeli minister of foreign affairs presents his vision for the future of the Middle East. Peres is eager to preserve the peace accord and desires that Israel be a good neighbor to the Arab world.
- RC 32137 **Soldiers of God: with the Mujahidin in Afghanistan**
 Author: Robert Kaplan
 A journalist reports on the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The war was characterized by technologically sophisticated weapons in the hands of primitive fighters.

Christmas Program

Dakota Radio Information Service (DRIS) aired a special Christmas program this past December. This year's program was narrated by several of our regular volunteers who broadcast the daily newspapers each week. The Christmas broadcast is our way of wishing our listeners a happy holiday season and thanking you for tuning in to our broadcasts on a regular basis.

We would like to thank our volunteers for the great job they do serving the reading needs of our patrons who otherwise may not be able to get this kind of information. Without them we could not keep DRIS on the air each day. The selections that were aired

this year were from the book "Seven Stories of Christmas Love" by Leo F. Buscaglia. We hope the patrons that had an opportunity to listen to this special programming continue tuning in to Dakota Radio Information Service. Our staff and volunteers look forward to serving you in the future.



Volunteer Sally Fleig reads the "Christmas Morning Memory" for the DRIS holiday broadcast.

Volunteers Needed

North Dakota State Library Disability Services is looking for volunteers to listen to talking books recorded at the North Dakota State Library. The volunteers will check the books for sound quality, content, and reader accuracy. Many of the titles we record are submitted to a national database so other libraries and patrons may borrow the titles we record at the State Library. Before they are sent out to other libraries and patrons, we want to be sure the quality of the talking book is satisfactory.

We will provide simple guidelines to volunteers who are interested in providing this service. You must be an active user of the talking book service to volunteer for this position. Volunteers will receive credit for the time spent listening and critiquing these recordings. All volunteers will be invited to our volunteer event sponsored by the North Dakota State Library each spring. Please call Sue Bicknell at 1-800-843-9948 for information about our volunteer program.

North Dakota Titles

If you are interested in receiving a listing of books that have been recorded at the State Library, please call and request a catalog in large print or cassette. Many of the books we record are about North Dakota or by a North Dakota author. There are currently about 200 titles to choose from.



Happy New Year from all of the staff at the North Dakota State Library. We look forward to serving your reading needs during

NORTH DAKOTA STATE LIBRARY
DISABILITY SERVICES
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