

# North Dakota State Library



# Discovery

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NORTH DAKOTA  
STATE DEPOSITORY  
DOCUMENT

## Digital Talking Books Update

With the coming of the new digital players and books, the North Dakota State Library Talking Book program has set guidelines to determine when patrons will receive players.

National Library Service (NLS) requires that veterans receive first priority in the distribution of the digital players. The next priority group is patrons who are over 100 years of age who wish to receive digital players. After satisfying these two priorities, patrons in good standing will receive new digital players in the order in which the patron was added to the waiting list.

The following is the library's policy for patrons in good standing:

- ◆ A patron must be "active", meaning that he or she has checked out and promptly returned at least one book or magazine within the last 6 months.
- ◆ The patron currently has no over dues and has a record of not more than one instance in the past year.
- ◆ The patron has a record of no more than one instance of lost items in the past year.
- ◆ The patron has a positive history with the players for the past 4 years.

Currently the digital player is in a testing phase and has been receiving good reviews. We have a sample player at the State Library. You are welcome to stop by and try it out. We ask that you call before your visit, just in case the player would be out for a demonstration.

If you are interested in receiving a digital talking book player when they become available, please contact North Dakota State Library Talking Books to have your name put on the digital player waiting list. We will be contacting patrons prior to sending the digital players out. Please remember that it may take 2-3 years before everyone receives a digital player.

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Talking Books Service .....	1-800-843-9948
Dakota Radio Information Service .....	1-701-328-2185
Player Lending Agency .....	1-800-421-1181

***www.library.nd.gov***

## Event Recognizes Vital Contributions to the State Library

The annual Volunteer Recognition Event was held May 1<sup>st</sup> honoring faithful and dedicated volunteers for their service to the North Dakota State Library.



Volunteers contributed a total of 4,081 hours to the State Library. Volunteers receiving special recognition for their accumulated hours were: 300 hours – Ardis Schmautz; 750 hours – Jim Cody, KaeLynn Hecker, Florence Langen and Dorothy Schmitz; 1500 hours – Diane Weber. Retiring volunteers are Dorothy Schmitz with 750 hours and Mary Tryznka with 643 hours.

The State Library staff are very grateful for the time and work that volunteers give to help make the Talking Books and DRIS programs successful. Our hats are off to those volunteers!

Sharon Raugutt from Great Plains Assistance Dogs Foundation in Jud, North Dakota, gave a very informative and entertaining program with the assistance of Jingles, a trained service dog. Sharon and Jingles demonstrated a number of techniques used in training service dogs for the various needs of disabled individuals.

### **If you like Nora Roberts, you might also enjoy:**

Amanda Quick  
Jennifer Crusie  
Jayne Ann Krentz  
Christina Dodd  
Mary Balogh  
Debbie Macomber

### **Attention Schools for Students**

Remember it is important to provide the Talking Book Library with the student's current reading level. This ensures that the student will receive books at their appropriate reading level.

Whenever players and talking books are checked out under the school's account, the school is responsible to return the books in a timely manner. Please send the book back as soon as the student is finished reading in order for the Talking Book Library to circulate the book to other students.

## **Attention: *Reader's Digest* and *Newsweek* Subscribers**

The American Printing House for the Blind makes the *Reader's Digest* and *Newsweek* available on audio cassette to Talking Books patrons. Each year subscribers receive a questionnaire which must be completed and returned to American Printing House for the Blind in order to continue to receive the free subscription. Also in the letter is an invitation to give a donation, it is strictly voluntary to give a donation but not mandatory in order to receive the magazine.

Please call if you are interested in receiving either of the publications or if you requested the *Reader's Digest* or *Newsweek* on cassette at one time and no longer receive it but would like to. It may take 4-6 weeks for the first issue to arrive. **Call North Dakota State Library Talking Books. 1-800-843-9948 or 701-328-1408.**

### **Useful Tip:**

#### **Here's a tip to avoid mixing up tapes between different cassette books:**

When you start a book, fasten one container strap and leave the other one unfastened. This way you will always know which container to return the tapes in, and no tapes will spill out if it is dropped.



### **Remember:**

As soon as you finish a book, please return it promptly so others can enjoy it.

## **Always contact your reader advisor when . . .**

- ◆ Your name, address, or telephone number changes.
- ◆ You wish to have your service put on hold.
- ◆ You wish to discontinue service.
- ◆ You want to request books, magazines or descriptive videos.
- ◆ Your player malfunctions or does not play properly.
- ◆ Your books stop coming.
- ◆ You have a question about your service.
- ◆ You need information on titles, subjects or authors.
- ◆ You have equipment or books you are not using.

**Contact your reader advisor at 800-843-9948.**



## **Digital Book Availability**

While the new digital cartridges sound quality will be far superior to the audiocassettes they will replace, they are also more expensive. Therefore, NLS in Washington has reduced the copy allotment for all new books, so it will take a number of years to build up the digital book collection. Thus, we are suggesting that patrons keep the cassette player to listen to older books that will only be available on cassette.

During the transition, North Dakota State Library Talking Books will have a limited number of copies of each title and in many cases will only have a single copy. Because of these reasons, patrons may experience longer waits for popular books. Taking this all into consideration, the following guidelines have been created until the library has built up a sufficient collection of digital talking books:

- ◆ Patrons will be limited to only one digital book at a time.
- ◆ Patrons will only be able to keep digital books for one checkout period. Digital books will not be renewable.
- ◆ Digital books will be mailed on a turn-around basis, meaning a book must be returned before the next book is sent out.
- ◆ Digital books will not affect cassette, large print or Braille title circulation. Patrons will continue to receive their regular numbers of books in these formats.

These restrictions will not apply to digital downloads. Patrons who have a digital player, computer, and high-speed internet access may download digital talking books and magazines electronically through the NLS BARD website.

### **Remember:**

Each time you insert a new cassette into the talking book player, the Side Selector Switch 1-2 should be down on the left side (speed 15/16).

This allows you to start each cassette at the beginning.

## On the Shelf Summer 2009

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

ND 00469

### **What Once We Loved: Kinship and Courage, #3**

AUTHOR: Jane Kirkpatrick

In this final book of the Kinship and Courage series, Ruth has a dream to become an independent woman and build a life in southern Oregon for herself and her children. Unfortunately tragedy strikes and shatters Ruth's dream, she must start anew and try to heal her tender wounds. 2001.

ND 00476

### **The Naked Prairie: Pioneer Life in North Dakota**

AUTHOR: Agnes Reiten Hared

Agnes Reiten Hared, the daughter of Norwegian immigrants, shares her family's story, the first in a trilogy, that tells of the hardships and trials her family endured. 1992.

ND 00478

### **Twilight on the Range: Recollections of a Latterday Cowboy**

AUTHOR: William Timmons

Billie Timmons writes of his recollections of riding the range in Texas and North Dakota over a period of two decades. His experiences and adventures range from being lost in a North Dakota snowstorm, to a near riot in a Hebron, North Dakota saloon, to his love of horses. 1962.

ND 00485

### **Touch of Grace: Daughters of Blessing**

AUTHOR: Lauraine Snelling  
Set in early 19th-century North Dakota, this third book in the Daughters of Blessing series features 18-year-old Grace Knutson. In spite of her family's disapproval Grace has always been drawn to Toby Valders. Now Grace finds her loyalties tested when the son of a wealthy New York family arrives in town. 2008.

ND 00486

### **Great People of the Great Plains Volume 1: 25 Biographies of the People Who Shaped the Dakotas**

AUTHOR: Keith Norman

This is a compilation of twenty five biographical vignettes of people who impacted the Dakotas. 2004.

ND 00490

### **The Case of the Lame Canary**

AUTHOR: Erle Stanley Gardner

A crippled canary becomes the only clue for Perry Mason, his secretary Della Street, and detective Paul Drake as they investigate a divorce case turned murder mystery. 1978.

ND 00491

### **Hats**

AUTHOR: Ruth Reckmo Redlin

This funny but serious novel is about people in a fictitious small town in North Dakota. The characters are people you'll find in most small towns. 2003.

ND 00492

### **Blizzard's Wake**

AUTHOR: Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

In March of 1941, when a severe blizzard suddenly hits Bismarck, North Dakota, a girl trying to save her stranded father and brother inadvertently helps the man who killed her mother four years before. 2002.

**ND 00493**

**Hayfield**

AUTHOR: Richard Betting

This novel itself provides an insider's view of a small town. The narrative voice takes the reader into Rod's life and his decision to experience life rather than simply allowing it to happen to him. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2003.

**ND 00494**

**Forevermore**

AUTHOR: Cathy Marie Hake

Hope Ladley moves from one Texas farm to the next as an itinerant cook. When she rides her mule, Hattie, into the Stauffer farm, Hope knows this is the place the Lord wants her to be. Widower Jakob Stauffer, though grateful for a cook to assist his pregnant sister and young daughter through harvest, is baffled by Hope's unconventional ways. But her sunny disposition and unstinting love make changes of a different kind around the place. 2008.

**ND 00495**

**Case of the One-Eyed Witness**

AUTHOR: Erle Stanley Gardner

A frantic woman desperate to retain Master defense attorney Perry Mason's services suddenly disappears. The only clues are a news-clipping about a blackmail case and the combination to a safe. The case is a tangled web involving an eccentric widower, a sexy cigarette girl, a broke real-estate agent, a wife, a lover and too many loose ends. 1950.

**ND 00496**

**Stranger in the Mirror**

AUTHOR: Michael Edward Little

A true story of stroke survival and transformation written with insight, compassion and humor for brain injury survivors and their families. 2006.

**ND 00497**

**Hold Tight the Thread**

AUTHOR: Jane Kirkpatrick

The true story of Marie Dorion Venier Toupin, the loway Indian who accompanied the Astor overland expedition in 1812. Set in the emerging Oregon territory of the 1840's, the novel weaves together the social, political, theological and personal strands of Toupin's life. 2004.

**ND 00498**

**Between Sundays**

AUTHOR: Karen Kingsbury

Derrick Anderson, a retiring quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, promised his dying son that he would win a Super Bowl for him. His hope may rest on upcoming Aaron Hill, who is finding the glitz and glamour of life at the top meaningless.

**ND 00502**

**The Case of the Runaway Corpse**

AUTHOR: Erle Stanley Gardner

Perry Mason is hired to track down a letter implicating his client with the murder of her husband. When the corpse turns up alive, only to die again en route to the county line, Mason is determined to crack the case. 1954.

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**Mail this form to:**  
**North Dakota State Library - Disability Services**  
**604 E. Boulevard Ave. - Dept. #250**  
**Bismarck, ND 58505-0800**



## **Cassette Player Tips**

With declining numbers of cassette players available and no new cassette players being made, it is important to keep players in working condition as long as possible. Here are some tips that may help.

### **Preventing problems and extending player life:**

- ◆ It is okay to leave your player plugged in at all times.
- ◆ Charging the battery on a regular basis is the best way to ensure longer player and battery life.
- ◆ Keep your player clean to avoid damage from dust, liquids, or contaminants. Keep the cassette door closed at all times except when changing the tape; store the player indoors and away from food, liquids, and pets.
- ◆ Never insert foreign objects, open the battery door or case, or attempt to repair the player.
- ◆ Be sparing with the rewind function as it puts the most stress on moving parts.

### **If a player or cassette tape is not working properly:**

- ◆ Always try stopping and ejecting the tape, reinserting it and trying again to see if that fixes the problem.
- ◆ Always try a different tape to see if the problem is with the tape or the player.
- ◆ Try a different electrical outlet in case the problem is with the outlet.
- ◆ Try plugging the player in for a few hours to recharge it.
- ◆ Check the speed selector and side selector switches.
- ◆ Be sure the tape is fully rewound before playing the first side.
- ◆ Try tapping the back edge of the tape a time or two on a hard surface.
- ◆ Try tightening the tape in the cassette by inserting the end of a pencil or pen in the hub and turning it gently.

### **Returning a player:**

If your player still doesn't work properly after you have tried these tips, please call the Talking Book Library at 1-800-843-9948 for further troubleshooting advice or to get a replacement.

## **Frequently Asked Questions: Digital Talking Books and Players**

The new digital talking book players will begin arriving sometime this fall. Many patrons have had questions about how the digital players will affect their talking book service. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions.

### **Do I need to return my old player as soon as I receive the digital player?**

No, hold onto your cassette player until the North Dakota State Library asks for it to be sent back. For the next few years, you may still want to request books that are only available on cassette.



### **How long will I have the old cassette player?**

After getting a digital player you may have the old cassette player for 2-3 years. After putting your name on the request list for a digital player, it could be up to one year before you receive a digital player.

### **When will I know to return the old player?**

You will return your old player when the State Library asks you to do so.

### **Does the digital player have a battery?**

Yes, the digital player has an internal battery, just like the cassette player. However, when fully charged, the digital player's battery will last approximately 30 hours. It will take about 3 hours to fully charge the digital player's battery once it runs down.

### **How many titles will be available for the new digital player?**

Initially, there will be about 20,000 titles available for the new digital player. This is compared to the 60,000+ titles currently available in cassette. In the coming years, the digital collection will catch up as new titles are added on a regular schedule.

### **Will my magazine subscriptions be in digital format?**

Cassette magazines will continue to come in cassette form. Magazines will not yet be produced in digital format.

**Continued on the next page . . .**



## Frequently Asked Questions continued . . .

### How many digital books can be checked out at a time?

Due to the limited number of titles, only one digital book will be checked out per person at a time for the foreseeable future. Digital books will be mailed on a turn-around basis. We must receive the digital book back before another book will be sent out. The loan period for each book will remain at 6 weeks.

### Why is it called a digital player?

The digital player is called a “digital player” because the books it plays are formatted and recorded using a digital process rather than an analog process used with the cassettes. This allows for clearer playback sound, longer life of books, ease of play, and freedom to navigate through the book. The digital player is specifically designed to play only NLS cartridges or any MP3 formatted file.



### Will the new digital books be on CD's?

No, they will be on a customized flash-memory cartridge. The cartridge is the same size as the cassettes and will be inserted in the front of the machine.

### What if I don't want to sign up for a digital player now?

If you choose not to sign up for a digital player at this time, you will not be a part of the initial shipments that will take place over the course of the first year. We will not automatically send digital players to any patron who has not expressed interest.

### How does the player work?

The player is very exciting because it “tells” you how it works. When there is no book inserted in the player, and the player is turned on, all buttons function as tutorial buttons: each one telling exactly what it does and how to use it. The buttons are play, stop, fast forward, rewind, volume, tone, speed and power.

## Thank you Contributors!



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