



## TEN (OR SO) MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT NEW DIGITAL TALKING BOOKS

### **1. What are the new digital books like?**

The new digital books are on a cartridge about the same size as a cassette. It connects to the player by being inserted into a USB port, rather than fitting over two rotating pegs. It can hold up to 46 hours of audio, in contrast to a cassette that contains only six hours of audio. This means that the longest books can be contained on a single cartridge.

### **2. What is the digital player like?**

The player is approximately 6 by 9 by 2 inches, slightly smaller than the cassette player. Weight of the digital player is about two pounds compared to the cassette player's seven pounds. All function buttons (power, rewind, fast forward, play, volume, tone and sleep) speak to the user and the power button reports how much battery life (up to 29 hours) remains.

### **3. How do I order Digital Talking Books?**

The bimonthly Talking Book Topics catalogs contain digital book information. If the book has a DB/RC designation in front of the number (DB stands for Digital Book), it is available in digital format. You can also find digital books by using online catalogs (explained on page 4), or by downloading them from BARD (explained on page 5).

### **4. Is there a limit to the number of digital books that I can borrow at one time?**

Yes, you may only have one digital book checked out at a time; another book will not be sent to you until the State Library receives one back from you. The State Library does not have as many individual copies of each book, so please return them as soon as you are finished listening to them, as someone else may be waiting for that book.

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

[www.library.nd.gov](http://www.library.nd.gov)

**5. How are digital players and books being distributed?**

The first to receive the digital players are veterans and those who are older than 100 years old. Both of these groups now have players. Remaining players are being distributed in the order in which patrons signed up for the distribution list.

**6. When I receive my digital player, should I send back my cassette player?**

No. Please keep your cassette player until further notice. Many books will still only be available on cassette format.

**7. Will the cassettes be replaced by digital books?**

Yes, but it will take approximately two to three years to complete the process.

**8. Is there more than one kind of digital player?**

Yes. There is an advanced model that is exactly the same size as the standard, but has a second row of controls for setting and retrieving bookmarks and for navigation through the chapters of the book.

**9. If I move, go south for the winter, etc., can I bring my digital player with me?**

Yes. Please keep your digital player and cassette player with you. Please let the State Library know about your move, including new address, phone number and whether the move will be temporary or permanent.

**10. Can I exchange one type of digital player for another?**

Yes, but currently there are four times more basic players than advanced players. The advanced players are most useful for cookbooks, poetry, and other books that have many chapters and sub-chapters.

**11. Why didn't talking books change to CD format?**

CDs, or compact discs, would not withstand the multiple times an average talking book is checked out. They are also fragile and could break in the mail. Other considerations included producing an easy to use and sturdy player. The final reason to use flash memory cartridges was determined because of durability, cost, storage capacity and lack of moving parts.

**DIGITAL LOAN TIME**

Due to the limited number of digital books available, the State Library is changing the loan period for digital talking books. The loan period will now be 30 days for digital books. Also, a book must be returned before another one will be sent out. Checkout time on cassettes will stay the same at 60 days.

## ATTENTION VETERANS

To honor you for the time spent serving your country, federal NLS guidelines state that you will be the first to receive new digital talking book players. In order to provide this service, the State Library needs to know who you are. Please call, write, or email the State Library if you are a veteran of the U.S. military.

## COZY MYSTERIES

Even though winter has finally passed, spring is still a good time to enjoy cozy mysteries. These are murder mysteries (often in a series) that are bloodless with little sex, language, or violence in them. They are usually set in a small town and feature an amateur sleuth such as Agatha Christie's "Miss Marple" who solves the murder. Here are some popular authors in this genre:

Sarah Graves - "Home Repair is Homicide" series

Carole Nelson Douglas - "Midnight Louie" series

M.C. Beaton - "Hamish Macbeth" and "Agatha Raisin" series

Donald Bain - "Murder She Wrote" series

Lillian Jackson Braun - "Cat Who" series

Joanna Fluke - "Hannah Swenson" series

Agatha Christie - "Miss Marple" and "Hercule Poirot" series

Laurien Berenson - "Melanie Travis" series

Carolyn Hart - "Death on Demand" series

Sue Henry - "Maxie and Stretch" series

Elizabeth Peters - "Vicky Bliss" and "Amelia Peabody" series

## GLEAMS

The Glaucoma Research Foundation provides a free newsletter - *Gleams*. The print edition of *Gleams* is published three times per year and the email edition is published once per month. *Gleams* includes information about new glaucoma treatments, research updates, and more. Subscription information can be found at [www.glaucoma.org/news/newsletter.php](http://www.glaucoma.org/news/newsletter.php).

## PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR CASSETTE PLAYER

The State Library has been receiving rave reviews about the new digital player, and more than one patron has returned his cassette player thinking that the era of flipping cassettes had come to an end. Not so fast! Even if you receive a new digital player, you will need to keep your cassette player. This is due to the relatively few titles that NLS has recorded in the new digital format. The State Library has about 65,000 titles on cassette and only a small fraction of that available on digital cartridges at this time. In addition, magazines will continue to be produced in the cassette-only version indefinitely. So please take care of your cassette player. It will still be your friend for some time to come.



*Don't return your  
cassette player quite yet!*

## CATALOGS

Many patrons ask if there is a catalog that contains all of the roughly 65,000 titles that are available on talking books. While there is no printed catalog, NLS does have a website where patrons can search for books by author, title, subject, or book number.

To get to the NLS website, go to [www.loc.gov/nls](http://www.loc.gov/nls). Scroll down to Online Catalogs. Click on either the Quick Search of the Online Catalog, or the Voyager Search of the Online Catalog. The Voyager Search allows for more detailed search options. Also available is the NLS Kid Zone, which searches audio, braille, and print/braille books for preschool through grade 8. For assistance with searching NLS online catalogs, please call the North Dakota State Library Talking Books Department at 800-843-9948.

## SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT DIGITAL PLAYER PACKAGING

If you send back your digital player for any reason, please send it back in the cardboard box it came in and include the styrofoam in which it was packaged. It's important to keep the packing boxes with the new players.

Return mail cards supplied in the plastic sleeve make it easy to send back players. All you need to do is flip the card and place it back in the sleeve with the State Library's return address showing. There is no postal charge for returning players.

# ON THE SHELF

## SPRING 2010

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

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

### ND 00501

#### **San Diego**

AUTHOR: Cathy Marie Hake

San Diego is comprised of 4 novellas. Couples-to-be seek love and romance in this uplifting four-story collection. In "Love is Patient," Vanessa is surprised to feel her heart beating madly when a father and son with matching soulful brown eyes enter her pet store. The second story, "Love is Kind," Valene is startled to realize that handsome Navy fighter pilot, Jordan, shows a strong interest in her, despite social disparities. In, "Love Worth Finding," Della realizes that fairy tales come true when Brandon wanders into her bridal shop. In the final story, "Love Worth Keeping," Tessa learns that even when pride and unforgivingness have torn a marriage apart, love can make a comeback. Will these couples find the key that unlocks lasting love? 2006.

### ND 00503

#### **The Great Buffalo Hotel**

AUTHOR: Gordon Webber

Nicholas Cleveland Horne is a nonconformist professor who lives in an old commercial hotel in a college town on the Dakota plains. Beneath the story's comic surface runs a deeply serious theme: Horne's struggle to preserve some

measure of integrity in a cockeyed world of compromise. Strong Language. 1979.

### ND 00504

#### **Waiting for White Horses**

AUTHOR: Nathan Jorgenson

Waiting for White Horses is set in the tall pines of northern Minnesota's spectacular lake country. It is a story of trusted friendship, loss, recovery, love and redemption. The enduring friendship between Grant Thorson and Will Campbell is all that sustains Grant through a series of painful losses as the seasons pass. Grant must find a way to embrace the sometimes bitter struggle that is life. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2004.

### ND 00507

#### **Song of Laughter**

AUTHOR: Lauraine Snelling

No matter what the hardships, Lareanna Amundson can almost find something to smile about, even with the tragic death of her husband John, a new baby son to raise alone and managing a large dairy farm. Her faith remains strong and her sense of humor intact. It is only when she remembers John's accident at the hands of a drunken driver or the mounting bills that she lapses into a bout of the blahs. When a wealthy entrepreneur offers to buy some land to keep Lareanna from going under, she has no way of knowing how their lives will be linked. 1992.

### ND 00508

#### **Help Lord, I'm Having a Senior Moment: Notes to God on Growing Older**

AUTHOR: Karen O'Connor

While growing older certainly has pluses, its downside poses big challenges. Each of the 90 short pieces contains a note to God about a topic of special interest to seniors and a word from God in scripture. This book brings encouragement to people in their golden years, prompting them to reflect, laugh, play and to take both burdens and joys to the Lord who cares for them. (Prequel to ND 00511 - Help Lord! I'm Having A Senior Moment - Again!) 2002.

**ND 00511**

**Help Lord, I'm Having a Senior Moment – Again!**

AUTHOR: Karen O'Connor

This sequel to (ND 00508 Help Lord! I'm Having a Senior Moment: Notes To God On Growing Older), brings encouragement to people in their golden years, prompting them to reflect, laugh, play and take both burdens and joys to the Lord who cares for them. 2005.

**ND 00512**

**Per: Immigrant and Pioneer**

AUTHOR: E. Palmer Rockswold

Per is a poignant story of a Norwegian immigrant and Dakota pioneer. This is a story about everyone's grandfather, who made the crossing "steerage class" on borrowed money; and of every immigrant, who came to America with a burning desire to own land. The period of history is roughly from 1880 to 1920. 1981.

**ND 00513**

**Great Stories of the Great Plains: Tales of the Dakotas; Vol.1**

AUTHOR: Keith Norman

This is a compilation of stories on North and South Dakota history taken from the radio show "Great Stories of the Great Plains." 2003.

**ND 00514**

**Witness of Combines**

AUTHOR: Kent Meyers

Meyers tells the story of growing up on the farm, from the joys of playing in the hayloft to the steady pattern of chores. Meyers' father is the central figure around whom these memories revolve. After his father's death, he discovers that his father was a great teacher and that he himself is no longer a boy but a man. Meyers recounts the wake of his father's death and reflects on families, farm and rural life in the mid-west. 1998.

**ND 00516**

**"You have been Kind Enough to Assist Me": Herman Stern and the Jewish Refugee Crisis**

AUTHOR: Terry L. Shoptaugh

Herman Stern, an extraordinary man from Germany, born in a Jewish family spent most of his life in North Dakota. When conditions deteriorated in Germany, Herman and his wife, Adeline, helped many of their relatives to get out of danger by bringing them to America. 2008.

**ND 00517**

**If this Land Could Talk: Homesteading on the Northern Plains**

AUTHOR: Judy R. Cook

This story provides a riveting look at three generations of life on the Northern Plains. The author offers a poignant yet

entertaining glimpse into her ancestors daily lives and recounts growing up on the same land in the 1950's, shaped by a way of life since vanished. 2008.

□ **ND 00518**

**Dear Sergeant Honey**

AUTHOR: Hildegard Sophie Scott

This biography is a compilation of entries from Hilde Scott's diary. In it she reflects about her hardships, adventures, friendships, travels and opinions while she served as a WAC during World War II. 2008.

□ **ND 00519**

**Real Life in the White House**

AUTHOR: John Whitcomb

This historic book celebrates two centuries of domestic life in America's most famous residence. This sourcebook takes us on an intimate tour of the daily life of each president and his family, bringing into view everything from china patterns to built-in closets, from plumbing to telephones, from state dinners to family meals. Filled with anecdotes and presidential quotes from Washington to Clinton. This thoroughly engaging book captures the texture of presidential life while documenting the very human history of a house. 2002.

□ **ND 00521**

**The Beet Fields**

AUTHOR: Gary Paulsen

In this book, Gary Paulsen reworks material from his own life that has appeared earlier in his novels. Fleeing his mother's confusing drunken advances, a boy runs away and finds work in the beet

fields of North Dakota. During the summer he learns about life, people, and his own ability to work and survive. When Ruby invites him into her bed, his transition to manhood is complete. Contains explicit descriptions of sex. 2000.

□ **ND 00522**

**Child of the Prairie, Man of the World: The Memoirs of Lavern "Vern" Freeh with Lori Freeh Tufte**

AUTHOR: Lavern A. Freeh

This memoir traces Vern's adventures from the farm in North Dakota through the University of Minnesota, to Washington, D.C., and the international scene. Coming from very humble beginnings and working his way to one of the highest offices in the land, he had qualities of wisdom, tremendous energy, vision and unbeatable determination. 2005.

□ **ND 00523**

**Too Close to the Sun: Growing up in the Shadow of My Grandparents, Franklin and Eleanor**

AUTHOR: Curtis Roosevelt

Curtis Roosevelt was 3 years old when his grandfather FDR became president and he and his sister Eleanor and mother Anna, became residents in the White House for much of the next 12 years. Curtis and Sis became known through the press as Sistie and Buzzie. Curtis writes affectionately about his grandparents, but he also describes the tensions between his grandmother and her mother-in-law and the painful fact that his father was excluded from this tightly knit family. He brings this poignant coming-of-age story vividly to life in this richly illustrated memoir. 2008.

**ND 00524**

**Westhope: Life as a Former Farm Boy**

AUTHOR: Dean Hulse

Dean Hulse recalls his idyllic childhood in a small town that will look and feel familiar to many. He movingly describes his failed attempt to carry on the family farm. Like many of his generation, he discovers that the way of life he grew up with is threatened with extinction. 2009.

**ND 00525**

**Hear it Now and Then: Prairie Public Radio Commentaries**

AUTHOR: Bruce Berg

Bruce Berg is a writer, educator, and Prairie Public Radio commentator from Jamestown, North Dakota. This book is a collection of the author's commentaries from the "Hear It Now" segment on Prairie Public Radio. 2008.

**ND 00526**

**Jay Cooke's Gamble: The Northern Pacific Railroad, The Sioux, and the Panic of 1873**

AUTHOR: M. John Lubetkin

In 1869, Jay Cooke, the brilliant but idiosyncratic American banker, decided to finance the Northern Pacific, a transcontinental railroad planned from Duluth, Minnesota, to Seattle. M. John Lubetkin tells how Cooke's gamble reignited wars with the Sioux, rescued George Armstrong Custer from obscurity,

created Yellowstone Park, pushed frontier settlement four hundred miles westward, and triggered the Panic of 1873. 2006.

**ND 00527**

**The Invisible Wall: A Love Story that Broke Barriers**

AUTHOR: Harry Bernstein

The narrow street on which Harry Bernstein grew up in a northern English mill town was seemingly unremarkable - except an invisible wall ran down its center, dividing the Jewish families on one side from the Christians on the other. Geographically the distance was yards; socially it was miles. But when his older sister falls for the boy across the street, Harry becomes a go-between for the secret lovers and must choose between the morals he's been taught all his life, his loyalty to his selfless mother, and what he knows to be true in his own heart. This charming memoir is a moving tale of working-class life and the boundaries that can be overcome by love. 2007.

**ND 00528**

**Then are the Children Free**

AUTHOR: Sylvia Klope Eller

This memoir's colorful vignettes unfold with a generosity of spirit and a very real yearning for an often difficult but rewarding way of life. The author captures a bygone era with a clear-eyed unsentimental look at rural life in the early to mid-20th century. 2007.

**MAIL THIS FORM TO:**

**NORTH DAKOTA STATE LIBRARY - DISABILITY SERVICES**

**604 E BOULEVARD AVE - DEPT 250**

**BISMARCK, ND 58505-0800**



## WHAT IS BARD, AND HOW DO I USE IT?

You may have heard talk about BARD and wondered, what is it? BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) is a service offered through NLS that allows you to download books off an NLS website onto your computer. With the press of a few computer keys, thousands of books will be at your fingertips. These books can then be transferred to a blank cartridge similar to the ones NLS uses, or to a USB flash drive, and then played on NLS digital players. The flash drives can also be used with portable digital devices such as the Victor Reader Stream, BookSense, Plectalk, and others.

To use BARD, you must have a high speed Internet connection, an email address, and the ability to unzip downloaded files. For more information, please consult the website that includes an application at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/> or call the North Dakota State Library at 800-843-9948.

Here are instructions for downloading books, courtesy of the Idaho Talking Book Service:

### **Register for BARD:**

- Go to the BARD registration site at <http://bit.ly/c5K8L8>.
- Complete each field of the application as requested. The address you submit must match the information on file with NLS. If you are uncertain what that information is, contact the North Dakota State Library at 800-843-9948.
- Submit the application.
- NLS will email you to confirm receipt of your application.
- NLS will accept or reject your application within 48 hours. If accepted, you will receive a password to access the database. You may change the password once you've entered the database. If rejected, you will be notified of the reason for rejection.

*NOTE: North Dakota State Library Talking Books staff cannot supply missing passwords. There is an email address on the BARD log-in page to request a new password. You cannot receive a new password by applying again.*

### **Select and download a title:**

- Go to <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/> and log in.
- Search the database by author, title, subject, or keyword.

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- Select the title to download by clicking on the download link.
- Choose where you want to save the file on your computer by creating a new folder titled “NLS Downloads” or something similar, and click on Save. The zipped file will be downloaded onto your computer. This may take up to thirty minutes, depending on the size of the file and the speed of your Internet connection.
- Plug your flash drive or cartridge into your computer.
- Locate the zipped file folder on your computer and right click on it.
- Extract zipped files from the folder and copy them to either a flash drive or NLS compatible cartridge.
- Place either a flash drive in the USB port on the side of the digital player (next to the headphone jack) or a cartridge in the front cartridge bay. Turn player on and press Play.

**NOTE:**

- *These downloaded books cannot be listened to on the computer; they can only be played on an NLS-compatible player.*
- *More than one book can be loaded onto a flash drive or cartridge. To access them, hold the play button down until the player says “Bookshelf.” Pressing rewind or fast forward will allow you to move from book to book.*
- *A 1 GB flash drive will hold approximately 100 hours of listening time.*

## WHERE TO GET USB FLASH DRIVES AND BLANK CARTRIDGES

Patrons will be responsible for buying their own USB flash drives or digital cartridges to download NLS books onto. Blank digital cartridges can be purchased from Adaptive Technology or American Printing House for the Blind. Adaptive Technology is selling a 1 GB blank cartridge for \$14.95, while cartridges bundled with a compatible 36-inch USB cable sell for \$17.95. Contact Adaptive Technology by telephone at 978-462-3817 or online at [www.perkinsproducts.org](http://www.perkinsproducts.org), or by mail to Perkins Products, P.O. Box 778, Amesbury, MA 01913. American Printing House for the Blind is selling 2 GB blank cartridges for \$12.00. To find out more, you can contact American Printing House for the Blind by telephone at 800-223-1839 or online at <http://shop.aph.org>. Flash drives can be purchased at most office supply stores, discount stores, or electronics stores.



*Disability Services staff member Dave Anderson checks out the first digital talking book downloaded at the North Dakota State Library.*

## XAVIER SOCIETY

Effective January 2010, materials from the Xavier Society for the Blind, including Catholic Digest, will be available on MP3 CD only. Patrons will need a special CD player, one that is able to play MP3 format (they will not play on the new digital players). If you would like more information on where to get an MP3 CD player, please call the North Dakota Talking Books Library at 800-843-9948.

## TALKING BOOK HISTORY

### *Did you know?*

- In 1931, Congress enacted the Pratt-Smoot Act, which authorized federal funding “to provide books for the use of the adult blind residents of the United States.”
- The first talking books were recorded on 33 1/3 RPM records. An average book of 60,000 words would require about nine double-sided 12-inch records.
- In 1958, talking books began to be recorded on 16 2/3 RPM records, and in 1973 they were recording on 8 1/3 RPM records.
- The Library of Congress began to use flexible discs in 1968. These discs were used with great success until 2001, when talking books, magazines, and program materials were only produced on cassettes.
- The first talking book cassette players were produced in 1971.
- In 2007, more than 25 million copies of talking books, braille books and magazines were circulated.

## EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

If you would like to correspond with the State Library via email, please supply your email address and it will be added to your record. You can reach the State Library at [tbooks@nd.gov](mailto:tbooks@nd.gov) or 800-843-9948.

## THANK YOU, CONTRIBUTORS!

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*DISCOVERY* is a publication of the North Dakota State Library  
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ND Department of Public Instruction

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FOR THE BLIND

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