



DISCOVERY

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SPRING 2025

Greetings From the Regional Librarian

Staff and I had a busy winter. One of my priority projects is to resume recording local magazines. I know, I have been talking about this for over a year and it's finally happening. After the studio upgrades, the next hurdle was increasing our number of volunteer readers. We had a very successful volunteer recruitment in January and I'm very happy to say we have several new volunteers who are currently undergoing training. Consequently, and here's the big news, the current issue of North Dakota content magazines should be arriving in your mailbox starting in May. If you are not sure what you are signed up to receive or want to make any changes, please contact us and staff will be happy to assist you.



The DA2 is here!

The State Library just received our first DA2, the next generation of the digital talking books machine. In many ways it is very similar to the current DA1. The DA2 weighs about a half pound less than the previous models even though it is a bit wider. It has a detachable cord, which I think is a nice feature for portability rather than having to windup and stuff the cord. Just like the current DAs, there is still a USB port, mini headphone jack, and of course a slot for cartridges. There are a couple very important differences between the DA1 and DA2. The DA2 has Wi-Fi and an internal memory which will allow patrons to download books directly to the player from their BARD bookshelf. The DA2 also has Bluetooth that will allow users to connect to various peripherals including wireless headphones.



The big question everyone is asking, when will the DA2 be available to patrons? My best answer is soon. Here's what we know, NLS put in an initial order for 21,462 units at the end of 2024. The new machines are currently in production and will start shipping the beginning of summer. There are currently over 350,000 DA1 and DS1s in service so obviously not every Talking Books patron will get a DA2 right away. NLS is

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still putting together guidelines to determine which users will get priority. Since Wi-Fi and Bluetooth are the big upgrades, I would guess current BARD users who also use cartridges will most likely be top candidates to get a DA2. The number of machines each state receives will be based on the number of current patrons. NLS has informed me North Dakota will be receiving 82 DA2s from the initial production run. I highly doubt we will receive all 82 at the same time, most likely we will get a case or two of eight each month, so depending on local demand, soon might be several months.

If you are interested in a DA2, please send an email to tbooks@nd.gov and staff will add your name to the wait list.

If you ever have any issues or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly. It's also nice to hear when we are doing a good job as well. My direct phone line is 701-328-4021 or e-mail shammel@nd.gov.

Thanks Steve Hammel

Have You Heard About...

Have you heard about the Xavier Society? The Xavier Society for the Blind provides the best of Roman Catholic teaching and literature, spiritual and inspirational material, to blind or visually impaired persons of any faith. They provide free materials in braille, large print, and audio to blind and visually impaired individuals worldwide. Their website is <https://xaviersocietyfortheblind.org>.

If you are interested in receiving services from the Xavier Society, please note there is an application and certification process. The easiest way to sign up for the service is to contact us here at the State Library. Our staff will facilitate getting all the paperwork filled out. Patrons are welcome to sign up directly, but we would still have to confirm you are a current Talking Books patron, so save yourself some work and let us do it for you. Once all the paperwork is completed a staff member from the Xavier Society will contact you about getting started. Services from the Xavier Society are not meant to replace the Talking Books service you are receiving from the State Library. They don't have popular authors such as Patterson or Grisham. Instead think of them as a special library which provides access to collections not available through NLS.

Tips and Tricks

Bookshelf Feature Review

To help navigate through cartridges with multiple books, each cartridge has an audio index of titles you can access while in bookshelf mode. Each cartridge begins with instructions on how to use the bookshelf option to navigate between titles on the cartridge. The basic instructions are as follows: after inserting the book into the machine, press and hold the green rectangular play/stop button until the machine announces "bookshelf." While in bookshelf mode, use the FF (fast forward) button, to the right of the play/stop button, to move forward in the list of books; use the RW (rewind) button, to the left of the play/stop button, to move backward through the list of books. When you hear the title announced you want to read, push the green rectangular play/stop button. Use bookshelf any time you want to review the titles on a cartridge and/or select your next book.

NLS Highlights and Updates

NLS Patron Announce Listserv

Want the latest news and updates from the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled sent directly to you? The NLS Patron Engagement Section now hosts an announce-only listserv that will include announcements about NLS programs, services, and products. New announcements will be posted to the list a few times a week. To sign up, send your name and email address to the Patron Engagement Section at NLSPES@loc.gov. You can also unsubscribe yourself from the list at any time by using this same address.

NLS Collections Connections Newsletter

With over one hundred thousand audio and braille books and magazines available from NLS it's hard to know where to start when searching. That is why the NLS Collection Development staff created Collections Connections. It's a free monthly email newsletter highlighting fiction and nonfiction titles focused on a timely theme. To sign up, send your name and email address to the "Collection Connections" team at connections@loc.gov. You can unsubscribe yourself from the list at any time.

FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND

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

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Did You Know

Did you know, the Library of Congress has the largest Barbie doll collection in the world? Copyright is a part of the Library of Congress and consequently receives a physical or design copy of each item in Copyright.

Did you know, the 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm record was developed in the 1930s for talking books? This was long before it became the standard for commercial record albums.



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