

SUMMER 2016

Illinois State Library
 TBBS
 300 S. Second St.
 Springfield, IL 62701-1796



Jesse White
 Secretary of State
 & State Librarian

In this issue:

TBBS consolidations

Patron survey summary

Book borrowing etiquette

Aipoly App

New audio magazines available

High-volume player and headphones

New author is TBBS staff member

TBBS NewsLink is available in braille and large print, on cassette, on NFB-NEWSLINE, via email by contacting the State Library, or on the Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) website at:
www.ilbph.org
 (click TBBS NewsLink).

TBBS consolidations

The Talking Book and Braille Service program will undergo some program consolidations effective July 1, 2016. Beginning July 1, Talking Book services provided to patrons by the Chicago Public Library (CPL) and Heartland Library System (Heartland) will be moved to the State Library in Springfield. These changes are in response to the lack of a state budget controlled by the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor. It is important to understand that the process is changing, not the services provided to TBBS patrons.

In anticipation of the consolidation, circulation of audio books has been provided by the State Library to Chicago patrons for several months. In addition, the State Library will be providing Readers Advisory and Reference Service to both English and Spanish languages Chicago patrons using the same phone number, 1-800-757-4654. For Chicago patrons interested in participating in a monthly book club program, this service is available from the Chicago Public Library's Literature and Language Department. Statewide machine lending services provided by Heartland will also be moved to the State Library.

For Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) patrons, Reader Advisory and outreach services will continue to be provided through the Illinois Talking Book Advisory and Outreach Center in Burr Ridge. Also, circulation services for all patrons statewide will continue from the State Library.

In addition, the State Library hopes that the consolidation will position the program to adapt to future changes developed by the National Library Service (NLS) at the Library of Congress.

Patron survey summary

This spring, TBBS staff conducted a biennial customer service survey and called nearly 450 patrons randomly chosen from a computer generated list. To summarize the results:

- 97 percent were satisfied with the program, with 80 percent being very satisfied.
- 97 percent say it meets their reading needs.
- 74 percent would not have access to audiobooks without TBBS and NLS materials.
- 53 percent do not have access to the quarterly newsletter when it is not sent by mail in large-print format.
- 44 percent read more than eight hours a week.
- 48 percent do not have access to internet and email.
- 69 percent do not have a smart phone.
- 95 percent have not experienced any problem with mail delivery.
- 65 percent would read an unrated book knowing it might contain sex, violence and strong language.

TBBS uses the survey responses to gauge the effectiveness of its current services and to implement long-range planning.

Book borrowing etiquette

Just like in a public library, the number of copies TBBS retains of each title varies according to the book's subject, author, age and expected demand. Lower number titles (those below DB 67000) were originally issued on cassette. Although they can be downloaded from BARD, TBBS has to make digital copies of these books or order them through interlibrary loan for patrons requesting copies by mail. TBBS needs your help to keep books with limited quantities circulating freely. Please practice good book borrowing etiquette by following these guidelines:

- Return each book as soon as you have finished reading it — someone else might be waiting to read that title.
- Read lower number books first because fewer copies are available.
- Abide by the six-week loan period.
- Renew the book by calling your service center if you can't finish it by its due date.
- Do not hold on to a book for months because you want to reread it. You can always request it again or ask your Reader Advisor how to obtain a permanent copy.

Aipoly app

The Aipoly app recognizes objects and colors to help people who are blind, visually impaired or color blind understand their surroundings. Simply point your phone at the object of interest and press the large toggle button at the bottom of the screen to turn on the artificial intelligence. Aipoly will keep running and recognizing objects until you switch to a different tab, or toggle the Aipoly button. Aipoly is suited for individuals with a visual impairment and those who can see.

- **Recognize Objects:** Aipoly can recognize a wide variety of objects at a rate of three times a second. Simply switch on the Aipoly button and it will start identifying what it sees through the camera. Recognizing objects does not require an internet connection.
- **Recognize Colors:** Aipoly can recognize 954 colors. The color list can also be simplified through the settings if you are unfamiliar with most color names.
- **Teach Aipoly:** Help Aipoly acquire knowledge about new items and become even smarter. Once object recognition is turned on, press the pencil-shaped button to type in a detailed description of the object or scene in focus. Everyone can help Aipoly grow and learn.
- **VoiceOver:** For those with VoiceOver switched on, simply access the text above the toggle button. For those who are sighted and do not require VoiceOver, access the Speaking Voice setting to listen to what the app can see.
- **Voice Modes:** You can switch between different voice modes on the settings page. Ranging from standard, one word at a time, to advanced for multiple words.
- **Multiple Language Support:** Available in English, Italian, Spanish, French, German, Japanese and Arabic, depending on a phone's language settings.

- **Intelligent Torch:** When Aipoly detects darkness through the camera, it will automatically turn on the torch so you don't have to worry about lighting. When the light is switched on, it will turn the torch off.

Aipoly works on iPhones 5S, 6, 6Plus, 6S and 6S Plus; iPad Air and above; and iPad Mini2 and above. This free app is available from the Apple iTunes Store. The Android version is under development.

New audio magazines available

Fifteen new audio magazines are available to subscribers via download on the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service or by postal delivery through the Magazine on Cartridge (MOC) program. Eleven of these are produced by network libraries and meet NLS quality standards, and one is provided courtesy of Audible, Inc. The new magazine titles, their frequency and a short description of their subject matters are listed below. Contact your service center to subscribe or to inquire about other braille, audio and large-print magazines distributed by NLS.

- **AARP The Magazine** (bimonthly) and **AARP Bulletin** (10 issues/year): Magazine and bulletin of the nonprofit, nonpartisan organization for people ages 50 and older; the two periodicals are bundled as a single subscription.
- **Audubon** (bimonthly): Magazine of the National Audubon Society, its mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems.
- **Cowboys and Indians** (eight issues/year): Magazine about the American West.
- **Humpty Dumpty** (bimonthly): Interactive activities and stories for children ages 2-6.
- **Missouri Conservationist** (monthly): The Missouri State Department of Conservation's magazine.
- **National Geographic Traveler** (bimonthly): World exploration trips and travel tips.
- **The New Yorker** (47 issues/year): Selected articles from print edition's blend of reporting, commentary, criticism, fiction and cartoons.
- **O, The Oprah Magazine** (monthly): Information and inspiration, including expert advice, style ideas, health tips and recipes.
- **Oklahoma Today** (bimonthly): Official state magazine exploring the people, places, history and culture of Oklahoma.
- **Playboy** (monthly): Men's lifestyle and entertainment magazine.

- **Rolling Stone** (biweekly): Pop culture magazine with music reviews, movie reviews and interviews.
- **Seventeen** (10 issues/year): Magazine for teens with fashion, beauty, dating and health tips.
- **Smithsonian** (11 issues/year): Looks at topics researched, studied and exhibited by the Smithsonian Institution.
- **Southern Living** (13 issues/year): Guide to Southern culture, recipes, travel and events.
- **Vital Speeches of the Day** (monthly): Speeches important to the public concern.

High-volume player and headphones

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 player, which is paired with a headset, is available as a standard or advanced (DS-1/DA-1) 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. The pairing replaces the amplifier/headset accessory.

To receive a high-volume player and headset, a patron must provide certification of hearing impairment by a physician or audiologist. TBBS will assist an eligible patron with obtaining a high-volume player and headset by downloading an application from www.loc.gov/nls/pdf/hvp.pdf and returning the completed and signed application to the NLS equipment control officer (ECO) via email at nls-eco@loc.gov or fax at (202) 707-0712. Patrons are asked to return their current player upon receipt of a high-volume player and headset. A return label will be included with the high-volume player.

New author is TBBS staff member

Mark Eldrich began writing at age 13 with his entry in a local poetry contest called the The Write Stuff, where he was named a finalist. Married with two sons, the left-handed guitar player and former youth pastor works full time at the State Library Talking Book and Braille Service. When he isn't working at the library or playing with his boys, Mark is at home writing stories. His first book, "**Imaginary Boy**," won the Gelett Burgess Children's Book Award for outstanding contribution to children's literature in a debut middle school novel. The action and adventure fantasy takes place in Victorian England. The book is now available on digital cartridge or for download on BARD:

DB 83674 – “Imaginary Boy” by Mark Eldrich

Eleven-year-old Benji, who uses a crutch and has a disfigured face, escapes his life through the heroes he reads about in books. When his father suddenly dies and leaves behind an unfinished story, Benji realizes that his fiction may be actually true. For grades 4-7.



Toll-free numbers

- Illinois State Library TBBS**800-665-5576, ext. 1**
- Chicago Public Library Talking Book Center**800-757-4654**
- Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center**800-426-0709**

The announcement of products and services in this newsletter should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation by the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service. Products and services are listed free of charge for the benefit of our readers. TBBS cannot be responsible for the reliability of products or services mentioned.