



Fall 2023

Talking Times Newsletter

That All May Read

Rhode Island Regional Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

Talking Books Library

Office of Library and Information Services

olis.ri.gov/tbl / 401-574-9310 TTY 711 / talking.books@olis.ri.gov

Free Telecommunications Equipment for Eligible Individuals with Combined Hearing and Vision Loss

iCanConnect is a Federal Communication Commission (FCC) funded program, also referred to as the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP). iCanConnect provides free modern equipment and training for distance communication purposes to people with both significant vision and hearing loss, who meet disability and income guidelines.

iCanConnect is a nationwide program with local contacts to help people stay connected with friends, family, their community, and the world. Each U.S. state and territory has a certified organization responsible for the program, including the Perkins School for the Blind, which administers services in twenty-three states and territories. People eligible for iCanConnect services receive a personalized assessment to identify solutions to support their distance communication needs. Then, participants are provided with equipment and training that meets their specific situation. Examples of equipment might include smartphones, tablets, computers, or laptops, large print screen magnification software, and refreshable braille devices.

In Rhode Island, the Talking Books Library is responsible for the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program services in Rhode Island. Contact the Talking Books Library at (401)574-9310 for any questions about applying for the program, or to request an application in English regular print or large print, or braille, or available in print in Spanish or Portuguese.

For other inquiries about the program, contact The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (iCanConnect) Toll-Free:(800) 825-4595 or visit www.icanconnect.org.

Collection Building Policy

NLS patrons are invited to fill out the [Book Recommendation form](#) at <https://tinyurl.com/NLSBookRequest> to request books or magazines to be added to the NLS collection. NLS [patrons should always check the catalog](#) to see if we have a book before requesting it.

Recommendations are reviewed for possible additions to the collection by the NLS Collection Development team, and only those published in the past five years will be considered. No personal information is collected on the [Book Recommendation forms](#), and NLS cannot contact patrons about their requests.

Braille Request

The Braille on Demand pilot project allows patrons to request, receive, and retain up to five hard-copy braille books of their choice per month. Go to the Braille-on-Demand Request Form at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NLSbrailleondemand> to learn more or to request a title now.

Jewish Braille Institute Library (JBI)

Jewish Braille Institute is dedicated to meeting the Jewish cultural needs of individuals who are blind or visually impaired, physically disabled, or reading disabled by offering free Jewish interest books, magazines, and special publications in Braille, Large Print, and Audio format. Books are compatible with NLS Digital player machines. Contact the JBI Library at 110 East 30th Street, New York, NY 10016, or Telephone at 212-889-2525. Toll-free: 800-433-1531.

<https://www.jbilibrary.org/>

Free Braille and Large Print Calendars Available

If you want a 2024, free wall-sized or pocket-sized, braille or large print calendar, call the Talking Books Library at (401)574-9310 or email us at talking.books@olis.ri.gov.

NLS BARD Support: BARD Mobile for the Fire operating system; version 1.4.6 release

NLS has released BARD Mobile Kindle Fire version 1.4.6. This is the second in a series of releases designed to support native Amazon Kindle Fire OS development and Amazon accessibility functions, including VoiceView for screen reader and braille output support. This release includes several usability and accessibility enhancements, including improved color contrast and text sizing. Some issues related to the VoiceView have been resolved. A few bug fixes have also been

implemented to enhance the user experience. Version 1.4.6 is supported by Fire tablets running 8.0 and above.

NLS BARD Support: BARD Mobile Android Version 2.0

NLS is releasing version 2.0 of the BARD Mobile Android app. This major release includes in-app search capability and several other feature updates, increased app stability, and bug fixes. This is the first in a series of planned releases to allow robust in-app searching and to eliminate the need to exit the app to search on the BARD website. With this update, BARD Mobile no longer includes the embedded view of the BARD website. Instead, it allows patrons to search within the app by keyword, author, title, or annotation and download the book directly to their Android devices from the search results listings. Learn more about additional enhancements at <https://lorinet.info/tbp/?p=5931>.

Updates on Two Ongoing Field Tests

Four network libraries (Pennsylvania, Texas, Oklahoma, and Utah) are participating in a field test of the next-generation digital, wifi-enabled talking-book player, DA-2s, and have begun distributing them to selected patrons. NLS is also conducting a field test of the Amazon Alexa smart speaker app. The app—a “skill” in Alexa lingo—allows users, via voice commands, to connect with BARD, search the collection, and stream books. This follows an initial test with 100 patrons last fall, which led to some refinements in the app. We hope to have more information in our next newsletter.

Do You Have More Than 1 Player Machine?

The Talking Books Library digital player machine inventory is low. It is vital that all members have just one player machine and return any extras so that we may issue machines to new members or send machines back for repair. If you have an institutional account, please send back any machines you feel are in excess. Please return them by packing them in their box and flipping the address card over to reveal the return address to Perkins. If you need a box or boxes, please call the Talking Books Library at (401)574-9310 or email us at talking.books@olis.ri.gov, and we will mail out boxes to you. All materials and equipment are postage-free matter and can be returned to your local post office.

Reading for Those Cold Winter Months

The Christmas Spirit: A Novel by Debbie Macomber DB110519

"Peter Armstrong and Hank Colfax are best friends, but their lives couldn't be more different. Peter, the local pastor who is dedicated to his community. Hank, a bartender, serves a much different customer base at his family-owned tavern, including a handful of lonely regulars and the local biker gang. When Peter scoffs that Hank has it easy compared to him, the two decide to switch jobs until Christmas Eve. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2022. Family Story.

Long Live the Pumpkin Queen: Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas by Shea Ernshaw DB110289

Saddled with queenly duties after marrying her one true love, Sally Skellington wonders if she traded one captivity for another until she finds a long-hidden doorway to an ancient realm, putting everything into perspective. Sally Skellington is the official, newly-minted Pumpkin Queen after a whirlwind courtship with her true love, Jack, who Sally adores with every inch of her fabric. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022. Fantasy.

Manual Para Dias Rojos by Paula Ramos DB111174

"When Audrey Hepburn's character in Breakfast at Tiffany's had a bad day, she would take a cab and have breakfast in front of the Tiffany's jewelry store. But, as you can imagine, I don't live in Manhattan, but in a rented apartment in Madrid. I'm not at my best right now, so I listened to my friends and decided to return to the town where I grew up to spend my Christmas vacations. The idea was simple: to disconnect, relax and reflect; but you know that nothing EVER goes as planned." Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2022. Spanish language. Friendship.

The 19th Christmas by James Patterson DB96863

When a fearsome criminal known only as "Loman" seizes control of the headlines, December is upended for the Women's Murder Club. Loman is planning a deadly surprise for Christmas morning and has commissioned dozens of criminal colleagues to take actions that will mask his plans. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019. Suspense. Mystery/Detective.

Next Book Discussion

Join Talking Books Library staff and members on November 28th from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. for a lively discussion on selected books. Book discussions will occur every other month, on the 4th Tuesday of the month, from 2 - 3 p.m. For registration, schedule, and book titles, see <https://tinyurl.com/TBLDiscussion>. If a book title has no available hardcopy, you can request a duplicate copy, by calling or emailing the Talking Books Library staff, or you may download the title from BARD.

High Volume Players for Members with Hearing Loss

The High-Volume Player is for use by members of the talking books program with hearing loss. If you have hearing loss and vision loss or another issue preventing you from reading standard print materials, you can receive a high-volume player, which requires a separate application. The high-volume player and headphones are designed for use only by hearing-impaired patrons. This high-volume player and headphone combination will produce a sound level of up to 120 dB in adults. If you require greater amplification to listen to the recordings, this high-volume player and headphone combination is not suitable for you. Contact the talking books staff if you need an application.

Happy Holidays!

The Talking Books Library staff want to wish you and yours a very happy holiday season. Stay safe and warm.

RI TALKING BOOKS LIBRARY
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Postage
Free
Matter
for the
Blind

November 23 - Thanksgiving Day
December 25 - Christmas Day



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