

FALL 2014

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



Jesse White
Secretary of State
& State Librarian

In this issue:

Free iBill Currency Reader

New Online Catalog

Advisory Committee

Download Alternatives

Digital Player Accessories

National Library Service
Music Section

TBBS NewsLink is available in braille and large print, on cassette or via email by contacting the State Library, or on the TBBS website at www.ilbph.org (click TBBS NewsLink).



Free iBill Currency Reader

The National Library Service (NLS) is partnering with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to distribute the iBill currency reader to eligible individuals. On September 2, 2014, the government initiated a four-month pilot program to test its ordering and distribution processes and gauge demand for currency readers. During the pilot, only registered TBBS users can pre-order a currency reader. In January 2015, the program will be open to all U.S. citizens and legal residents who are blind or visually impaired.

The iBill currency reader is convenient and easy to use. Its compact design allows it to be carried in a pocket, clipped to a belt or attached to a keychain. The device identifies all Federal Reserve bills in circulation, \$1 - \$100, and can be set to announce the denomination in either a clear, natural voice, a pattern of tones or a pattern of vibrations for privacy.

Call the Talking Book Center to pre-order a free currency reader, which will be delivered when it becomes available later this year. To learn more about the program, visit www.bep.gov/uscurrencyreaderpgm.html.

Toll-free numbers

- Illinois State Library TBBS800-665-5576, ext. 1
- Chicago Public Library Talking Book Center800-757-4654
- Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center800-426-0709

New Online Catalog

The Web Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) is now easier to use thanks to a recent upgrade. Anyone can search the catalog, but to order materials online a patron must have an account and log in with a username and password.

The most noticeable change is an overhaul of the *Search* feature. The process has been simplified so when a search term is entered, the OPAC automatically searches the entire catalog and lists all the books that match the term. The search results provide brief title information and status for the books, and can be further sorted and filtered to narrow down the choices.

The new *Browse* page lets the patron peruse lists of the most recent or popular books in the collection. The browsing lists are a great way to discover new authors and reading interests.

Click on a title on any *Results* or *Browse* list to get to the full record for that book, including the author, narrator and complete list of subject headings. The subject heading keywords can be used to search for similar books. The status details let the patron know if hardcopies are available or are all checked out, and a link to Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) is provided if the book is downloadable. If the status shows the book is download or special order only, the patron will need to contact the library to order a hardcopy.

Patrons who order online can use the new *Quick Request* feature to easily request one or more books just by entering the DB number(s). In addition, patrons can update their contact information on the *My Account* page and review their reading history, preferences and current checkouts.

For a limited time, both the old and new catalog formats will be available at <http://webopac.klas.com/il1aopac>. Contact the Talking Book Center if you have any questions or to set up an account to order online.

TBBS Advisory Committee

On June 30, Camille Caffarelli and Bill Cope stepped down after serving two, three-year terms on the Advisory Committee. TBBS sincerely appreciates their efforts and advocacy for the program. Current members are new appointees Anthony Chandler, Sean Martin, Donald Skoller, Antonietta Tesfaye and Deborah Watson, along with Maryann Bartkowski, Delilah Jackson, Paul Rink, Larry Whewell and ex-officio member William Bogdan. The Advisory Committee assists the Illinois State Library in improving services offered through TBBS. To make arrangements to talk with a committee member about the program, please call ISLTBBS at 800-665-5576, ext. 1.

Download Alternatives

Talking book and braille users can download books from several other sources in addition to BARD, which greatly expands their reading choices. The alternatives offer titles that can be downloaded in audio, enlargeable text or braille formats. While some can be used with the NLS digital player, others must be used with a patron's own mobile device, tablet or computer.

1. eRead Illinois – (Free) New releases and popular titles in adult, young adult and juvenile fiction and nonfiction. Some titles are offered in Spanish. Book formats are mostly text, which some include text-to-speech or studio narration. NLS equipment cannot be used with these materials. Call TBBS to register.
2. Local Public Library – (Free) Many public libraries subscribe to Overdrive, which offers MP3/WMA audio books and eBooks in various formats for loan. NLS equipment will play unprotected MP3 files, but not WMA.
3. Bookshare – (\$50 per year plus one-time \$25 membership fee) Electronic braille in refreshable braille format and Daisy audio books in either text-to-speech or MP3 formats. NLS equipment will support only the MP3 format. www.bookshare.org
4. Internet Archive – (Free) Partnership of multiple online resources resulting in an impressive collection of audio books in various formats and full-text/html books. <https://archive.org>
5. Learning Ally – (\$119 per year) Mostly textbooks and reference materials in Daisy narrated audio. NLS equipment can play the books after a Learning Ally decryption key is installed. www.learningally.org
6. Project Gutenberg – (Free) Books with expired copyrights in various eBook formats including some narrated audio, but most in text. NLS equipment cannot be used with these materials. www.gutenberg.org

Digital Talking Book Player Accessories

The following accessories for the digital talking book player are available upon request.

Headphones: Available to individuals who require them for reading audio books where speakers are not permitted, such as in nursing homes and hospitals.

Pillow Speakers: Available to individuals who are confined to a bed. The speaker is placed under a pillow and is normally heard only by that individual.

Amplifiers: Available to individuals with significant hearing loss. Amplifiers require a separate application with medical certification because the sound is boosted to a level that can cause permanent hearing loss to persons with normal hearing.

Breath Switch Adapters: Available to individuals with little or no use of their extremities. The adapters enable the user to control the Play/Stop function of the digital player.

National Library Service Music Section

TBBS patrons can take advantage of the Music Section provided by the National Library Service. From beginning to advanced levels, this special music collection consists of more than 30,000 audio, braille and large-print music scores, texts and instructional materials. The collection does NOT offer actual musical renditions of songs and scores. To register, contact the NLS Music Section at 800-424-8567 or email nlsm@loc.gov.

The Music Section recently launched a new blog, *NLS Music Notes*, available on the Library of Congress website at <http://blogs.loc.gov/nls-music-notes/>. NLS Music Section staff post at least once a week, and guest bloggers also contribute. Topics range from the Music Section's latest acquisitions and established music collection to music patrons and blind musicians past and present. The blog also covers music subjects in general and news about the NLS Music Section.

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.



Free matter for the Blind.

300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1796