

WINTER 2015

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



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Secretary of State
& State Librarian

In this issue:

Online Catalog Reminder

Adult Reading Programs

iBill Currency Reader

Top 10 Authors

Advisory Committee Openings

BARD Update

Free Bookshare Membership

Library eBook Accessibility Program

VisionAware Website

KNFB Reader for iOS

TBBS NewsLink is available in braille and large print, on cassette, on NFB-NEWSLINE, via email by contacting the State Library or on the TBBS website at

www.ilbph.org

(click TBBS NewsLink).



Online Catalog Reminder

The Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) has a new website address at <http://webopac.klas.com/il1aopac>. Please bookmark this site for future reference.

The online catalog allows anyone to search and browse the collection. Patrons with a User ID and password also can request books and review their account information. To set up an account to order online or if you have any questions, contact the Illinois State Library.

Adult Reading Programs

TBBS is pleased to announce that Mary Sue B., Erwin H. and Thelma B. are the winners of the 2014 Adult Summer Reading Program, "All Creatures Great and Small at Your Library: Exploring Animals and the Environment." Each winner received a talking electric atomic clock radio and a library-themed canvas tote bag. All participants received a letter, certificate of participation and a thank you gift.

Join the upcoming 2015 Adult Winter Reading Program, "United & Brave: Celebrating Nationalism and the End of the Civil War at the Library." Explore America's greatest national crisis and discover the relevance of the Civil War to today's world. Participants will be sent a program catalog

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

filled with engaging reads including bestsellers, memoirs and stories of adventure, romance, mystery and more to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and the rebirth of our nation.

Read at least 10 books from the program guide and return the completed reading log to the library by April 20, 2015 to be entered into a multiple-winner, grand-prize drawing. To register, please call the Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center at 800-426-0709.

iBill Currency Reader

Patrons who are having difficulties using their iBill Currency Reader should contact the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Call Center toll-free at 844-815-9388 or email meaningful.access@bep.gov. The call center is staffed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays. To order a free currency reader, call the Talking Book Center.

Top 10 Authors

Based upon circulation, the top 10 authors of 2014 were:

William W. Johnstone; Debbie Macomber; James Patterson; Sherryl Woods; Charles Todd; Danielle Steel; Nora Roberts; Robyn Carr; Clive Cussler; Linda Lael Miller.

These are authors of mystery, romance, western and adventure novels, which are the most popular styles of fiction requested by TBBS readers.

Advisory Committee Openings

Two seats need to be filled on the Talking Book and Braille Advisory Committee for the term beginning July 1, 2015. This committee assists the State Library by improving services offered through TBBS. Members on the committee serve three-year terms and represent TBBS users in all regions of the state. Applicants from previous years will need to reapply to be considered for the new openings. Applications will be accepted until April 15. If you are interested in serving on the committee or for more information, please call Maryann Bartkowski at 847-683-3633.

BARD Update

TBBS readers have found that the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) website is a great way to get books quickly and easily. More than 2,200 Illinois individuals and institutions are registered to use BARD. Illinois patrons downloaded 127,966 audio and braille books, magazines and music materials during the 2014 federal fiscal year. In addition, more than 950 patrons used the BARD mobile application on an Apple iOS device.

Downloading from BARD requires the user to have an email account, high-speed Internet access, basic computer skills and an NLS digital talking book player, approved commercial player or compatible mobile device. A flash drive, blank digital book cartridge or a braille access device might also be necessary.

A friend, relative or caregiver is permitted to assist with downloading books from BARD. An application for BARD is available at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov>. Contact the Talking Book Center for more information.

Free Bookshare Membership for Students and Schools

Bookshare is an accessible, online library for individuals with print disabilities. More than 300,000 titles are available for download through Bookshare. Membership is free for qualified U.S. students and schools through an award from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. Qualified students include public and private K-12 students, college and graduate students, home-schooled students and students attending Hadley School for the Blind. Students attending adult education classes that are longer than one month in duration also are qualified for free membership.

Bookshare members can download digital books that can be used with a variety of accessible devices to:

- Listen to books with high quality text-to-speech voices
- Hear and see highlighted words on screen
- Read with digital braille or enlarged fonts
- Create physical braille or large print
- Read directly from an Internet browser

For more information, visit www.bookshare.org.

Library eBook Accessibility Program (LEAP)

A collection of accessible e-books is now available to the print-disabled patrons of Illinois libraries using OverDrive, a digital media distribution service. Through a partnership between OverDrive and Bookshare, qualifying individuals will receive access to Bookshare's catalog of print materials in accessible, digital formats. OverDrive fully funds this program and offers LEAP at no cost to the library or patron. Check your local public library's OverDrive digital media website for LEAP registration information.

VisionAware Website

Vision problems are on the rise and are currently affecting more than 25 million Americans. To support this growing community, the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation have launched VisionAware. VisionAware is a free, easy-to-use informational website for adults with vision loss, their families, caregivers, health care providers and social service professionals. VisionAware features dynamic social networking and customized guidance with rich content and practical tips on living with vision loss. For more information, visit www.VisionAware.org.

KNFB Reader for iOS

The KNFB Reader iPhone application provides fast, accurate and efficient access to print materials to meet the mobile reading needs of people who are blind, visually impaired or print disabled. The application allows users to capture pictures of almost any type of printed material including mail, receipts, menus, labels, classroom handouts and other documents. The images are then quickly converted into text and read aloud using high quality text-to-speech. Text also may be read using a connected braille display.

The KNFB Reader application can read multi-page documents and can recognize and read text in multiple languages. Documents also can be imported, exported and stored with the KNFB Reader application. Additional features of the application include text highlighting and navigation, camera viewfinder and tilt guidance and hands-free or touch-free automation.

Developed by KNFB Reading Technology and Sensotec, the application is optimized for use with iPhone 5 or above while running iOS 7 or higher. The KNFB Reader can be downloaded from the iTunes App Store for \$99.99. For more information, visit www.knfbreader.com.

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.



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Free matter for the Blind.