

OLBPD DIMENSIONS NEWSLETTER

Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled

At Cleveland Public Library

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NLS Legislation Passes the House and Senate

On July 13th, both the Senate and House passed a bill which amends an existing law that will allow the National Library Service (NLS) to spend its money to provide and maintain readers in 'all forms,' e-readers included. The legislation (S.2893) was introduced by Senator Chuck Schumer. It was amended to also include language (S.3207) from Senator Roy Blunt that authorizes NLS to use its authorized funds to provide playback equipment in all formats. This is good news because it gives NLS permission to extend its service to patrons who read braille by providing refreshable braille reading devices to those users.

Prior to this bill, NLS could only supply hard copy Braille books which are expensive to produce. For example, one Harry Potter title in print has the equivalent of thirteen volumes of braille. NLS does offer books and magazines as downloadable electronic braille files to patrons through BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) but many patrons cannot afford refreshable braille display devices.

Refreshable braille displays use moveable electronic pins to generate braille from computer screens, mobile phones or memory cards, so users can instantly access braille versions of books, magazines, emails, text messages or e-books. For braille users, the displays are a more convenient alternative to bulky hard-copy braille books and documents. Some models include wireless and Bluetooth capability.

NLS has been investigating ways to offer braille reading devices as part of their service in the future. OLBPD will continue to share announcements and keep readers informed of any developments from NLS as a result of this legislation.

BARD User Account Audit

NLS is required to perform a yearly audit of all patron BARD accounts. This audit looks for accounts that have not been used in the last year. As of June 17, 2016, accounts that have not been logged into for twelve consecutive months have been updated to reflect an Inactive/Suspended status. A record of this status change has been logged in the account transactions. Patrons who need to reactivate their BARD account should contact OLBPD.

Readers Digest on Cartridge

The American Printing House (APH) for the Blind has announced that beginning September 1, 2016 they will offer Reader's Digest on digital cartridge, in addition to braille and cassette. Patrons who are interested in receiving Reader's Digest or would like to change how they receive it should contact OLBDP.

NLS Public Service Announcements

As part of its ongoing public education campaign, NLS has released a series of television and radio public service announcements (PSAs) to increase awareness of the braille and talking book program. The television PSA, titled "Our Stories: That All May Read," and the two radio PSAs, titled "The Freedom to Read Your Way" and "A Library in Your Pocket," were produced and distributed in 15-, 30-, and 60-second cuts to broadcast and cable television stations around the country. Please be aware that the stations will use the PSAs at their discretion, without charging cost to NLS. Patrons interested in listening or watching the PSA can visit the NLS web site at <https://www.loc.gov/nls> and follow the link "Spread the Word: That All May Read."

New Playaway and Described DVD Titles Added

OLBDP has purchased new Playaway, described DVD and select Blu-ray titles. New Blu-Ray and DVD titles include Oscar nominees "The Big Short," "The Revenant," "The Martian" and "Mad Max: Fury Road," along with blockbusters "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," "Deadpool," and many more.

Described Blu-Ray and DVDs are available to OLBDP readers and include television programs, feature films, and other visual media accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired by providing descriptive narration. The descriptions include key visual elements in a program that a viewer who is visually impaired would ordinarily miss. Described DVDs are free to borrow, just like our braille and talking book service. Any patron interested in receiving described DVDs can contact OLBDP for service. Patrons can also search the OLBDP online catalog at www.klas.com/talkingbooks/ohio and perform a Subject search for "DVS DVD" or "DVS VHS" or "DVS BLU-RAY" for the most up-to-date list of available titles.

Playaway books are self-playing digital audio books that are pre-loaded on a small memory storage unit housed in a lightweight, portable player the size of a credit card. Patrons interested in receiving Playaway audio books can contact OLBDP for service. Patrons can also search the OLBDP online catalog and perform a Subject search for "Playaway" for the most up-to-date list of available titles.

iCanConnect

iCanConnect is a Federal program that provides communications technology, free of charge, to low-income people of all ages who have a combined vision and hearing loss. iCanConnect promotes the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program, made possible by the 21st Century Communication and Video Accessibility Act of 2010.

The Columbus Speech and Hearing Center is the only partner in the State of Ohio providing equipment and services through this special grant. The goal is to get technology into the hands of Americans with combined hearing and vision loss so they can connect with family, friends, and community. For those who qualify, technology equipment used for distance communication is provided free. Installation, training, and technical support are also available at no charge. To be eligible, an individual must have combined hearing and vision loss verified by a doctor or professional service provider. Also, the individual must be able to be trained to use adaptive technology that makes it possible to use a telephone, computer, or other communication equipment. Finally, the program's income guidelines must be met.

To learn more, contact Gayle Stanford at gstanford@columbusspeech.org or by phone at 614-261-5792, or Betsy Bachtel at bbachtel@columbusspeech.org or by video phone at 614-429-1378.

Annual Consumer Conferences in Ohio

The American Council of the Blind of Ohio (ACBO) will have its annual conference and convention at the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio, October 21st-23rd. Their keynote speaker is Dr. Anthony Easley, Manager of Quality Assurance at the Cleveland Sight Center. Dr. Easley lost his sight as an adult and has regained it, so he has an understanding most sighted people never achieve. Their banquet speaker is APH talking book narrator John Polk. There will be sessions on technology, BARD, public speaking, women's concerns, and an update from Vanda Pharmaceuticals. For more information or to register, go to www.acbohio.org. Anyone interested can also call the ACBO office at 800-835-2226 or 614-221-6688.

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Ohio will host their 70th anniversary convention, Nov. 11-13th at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, 6200 Quarry Lane, Independence, Ohio 44131. As Ohio's oldest organization comprised of blind people working together to change what it means to be blind, their 70th anniversary convention will inspire, empower, and celebrate their accomplishments. Join NFB of Ohio to learn more about issues confronting blind people today and walk away ready to advocate for change. The convention will showcase products from low- to high-tech designed to enhance how people who are blind live and work. Visit www.nfbhio.org or call 937-396-5573 for more information.

The OLBDP Hot List

The OLBDP Hot List features titles that are currently in high-demand by our readers. Patrons ordering books from the Hot List should remember that these titles may contain descriptions of sex, strong language, or violence.

1. "Among the Wicked" by Linda Castillo – DB 84704; Amish Mystery
 2. "Family Jewels" by Stuart Woods – DB 84345; Mystery
 3. "The 15th Affair" by James Patterson – DB 84176; Mystery and Detective
 4. "Find Her: a novel" by Lisa Gardner – DB 83828; Thriller
 5. "The House of Secrets" by Brad Meltzer – DB 84347; Thriller
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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does the library have braille brochures for national parks?

A: The Cleveland Public Library has received braille brochures for select national parks from the National Park Service that are available for loan. Please contact the Cleveland Public Library or your local public library to check on availability. Also, braille readers as well as other visitors with disabilities can go to the national park web site to check whether they have a braille brochure available or other accessibility options to help plan your visit.



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