

OLBPD DIMENSIONS NEWSLETTER

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Cassette Books and Equipment Update

After more than three decades of service, the National Library Service (NLS) has determined that the C-1 cassette book machines are at the end of their lifespan. NLS no longer expects network libraries and machine lending agencies to maintain an inventory of or repair C-1 cassette players. This announcement also corresponds with NLS completing the conversion of talking book titles in cassette form (RC) to digital talking books (DB).

The Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBPD) and the State Library of Ohio (SLO) will begin to coordinate the end of cassette service to coincide with NLS. Currently, OLBPD has over 3,000 patron records that are active for cassette service. Staff will be reviewing these records and may contact patrons to discuss their cassette service. Please know that OLBPD and SLO will not be actively recalling cassette players and books on tape that are currently on loan, and patrons are permitted to continue using their cassette service. Patrons may also contact OLBPD to extend loan periods for cassette books that are charged out.

As part of the end of cassette service, OLBPD will begin the disposal of the cassette collection over the next year now that NLS has finished the analog to digital conversion. Patrons are encouraged to request the DB format of their favorite titles previously available on RC. Cassette books will continue to circulate directly from OLBPD through the end of the year. Starting in 2018, patron requests for cassette books will be sent to the Multi-State Center as an interlibrary loan.

Also as part of the end of cassette service, SLO will begin the disposal of their stock of C-1 cassette book machines. SLO will continue to maintain a small stock of cassette players which will be available to patrons while supplies last. Also be aware that NLS has stopped providing parts to repair cassette players. Therefore, any damaged cassette players will be replaced while supplies last.

OLBPD is requesting that patrons who have a cassette player but do not use it should return their cassette machine and any remaining cassette books they have in their possession. These items are considered property of the U.S. Government, and they must be returned in accordance with the NLS provisions for borrowing materials if they are not being used. Please contact OLBPD for further information or questions regarding cassette service.

Updates from the Regional Conference

The Midlands and Northern network of libraries as part of the National Library Service met in June in Ann Arbor, Michigan as part of a combined regional conference. During the conference, NLS staff offered presentations and provided updates regarding library services.

NLS delivered a progress report on moving forward with adding refreshable braille devices as part of their library service. This summer, NLS will be conducting a pilot project with the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Massachusetts to test the Orbit braille reader. NLS will also be hosting an open contest welcoming submissions for braille reader concepts and designs not available commercially. Tentatively, NLS plans to be able to offer braille readers to patrons in 2019.

NLS also updated network library attendees on the developments of the next generation digital talking book player. Two of the key features NLS continues to explore including with the next-gen player is internet connectivity and Wi-Fi enabled, allowing library materials to be downloaded or sent directly to the player. As part of this feature, NLS is also investigating no-cost solutions for those patrons without internet access, including one idea that tests connections using a mobile virtual network enabler (MVNE). Other requested features being examined include a built-in text-to-speech reader, as well as the capability to support voice enabled commands or compatibility with other voice enabled applications like Apple's 'Siri' or Android's 'Alexa.'

NLS also continues work on a new update to the BARD Mobile app for Apple iOS. This update will feature an improved user interface, as well as improvements to the search and result functions. NLS is also planning to add a log-out feature to BARD Express – a highly requested option from network libraries and patrons. OLBPD will continue to keep patrons informed as NLS updates network libraries on these and future developments.

NLS Launches New Website

In July, NLS launched their new web site at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/>. According to NLS, most major links and their descriptions important to longstanding users within the website have not changed or have been made painless by internal redirects. NLS feels that the website redesign features new, more explicit navigation that will lead first-time visitors to what they need to find quickly.

NLS will continue working on improvements and revisions based on user feedback and their experiences with the new website. Patrons interested in sharing feedback with NLS and their website redesign can visit <https://www.research.net/r/locNLS> or send comments about the NLS site to nls@loc.gov.

New Playaway and Described DVD Titles Added

OLBPD has purchased new Playaway, described DVD and select Blu-ray titles. New Blu-Ray and DVD titles include Oscar nominee “Hacksaw Ridge,” along with blockbusters “Star Wars: Rogue One,” “Star Trek: Beyond,” “Suicide Squad,” “Beauty and the Beast,” and many more.

Described Blu-Ray and DVDs are available to OLBPD 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 OLBPD for service. Patrons can also search the OLBPD online catalog at www.klas.com/talkingbooks/ohio and perform a Subject search for “DVS DVD” 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 OLBPD for service. Patrons can also search the OLBPD online catalog and perform a Subject search for “Playaway” for the most up-to-date list of available titles.

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 from October 20th-22nd. For more information or to register, go to www.acbohio.org. Anyone interested can also call the ACBO office at 800-835-2226.

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Ohio will host their state convention at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Columbus-Worthington from October 27-29th. Visit www.nfbohio.org for more information.

Returning Materials to OLBPD

When returning materials, OLBPD would like to remind patrons to please put the correct braille books, cartridges or cassettes in their matching containers. Also, please try and avoid leaving notes or placing other items inside the mailing containers or wrapping ribbons, string, tape, or yarn around containers and media. Mark an “X” next to the punch hole in the lower left corner of the mailing card for items needing our attention. Likewise, please do not write on any of the materials you receive including containers.

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. "Camino Island" by John Grisham – DB 88138; Suspense and Thriller
2. "An Obvious Fact" by Craig Johnson – DB 86569; Mystery
3. "Echoes in Death" by J.D. Robb – DB 87365; Mystery
4. "The Night the Lights Went Out" by Karen White – DB 87838; Thriller
5. "Scrapbooking Mystery Series" by Laura Childs – DB 85483; Mystery

Fall Library Closings

OLBDP will be closed on the following days this fall:

Columbus Day – October 9th

Thanksgiving Day – November 23rd

Patrons receiving library materials directly from OLBDP are reminded to place their book orders early to ensure that they have enough books to read through these closings.



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AT CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
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