

OLBPD DIMENSIONS NEWSLETTER

Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled at Cleveland Public Library
17121 Lake Shore Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44110

Statewide Toll-Free: 800-362-1262

Web: <http://olbpd.cpl.org>

Email: olbpd@cpl.org

Phone: 216-623-2911

Twitter: @OLBPD

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BARD Express Now Available

The BARD Express application for personal computers is now available for download from a link on the BARD Main Page. BARD Express is a free Windows-based application that simplifies searching for, downloading, and transferring audio materials from BARD to a cartridge or a USB flash drive for playback on a digital player. An active BARD account and a personal computer running Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8, 8.1, or 10 are required to use BARD Express. A user guide along with the BARD Express How-To Video Series is available from the BARD FAQ web page. A help menu is also available from inside the app.

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) is a web-based service that provides access to thousands of special-format books, magazines, and music scores. NLS adds new titles regularly, including a growing number of locally produced materials and NLS-acquired music scores and music appreciation books. Digital versions of books previously on cassette are also available from BARD.

The BARD Mobile app for Apple is available for iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch. It allows users to download and listen to talking books and to read braille books using a braille display with a Bluetooth connection. NLS also released BARD Mobile for Android devices (including Amazon Kindle Fire devices) which allow users access to talking books. BARD Mobile may be downloaded through the App Store, Google Play store, and Amazon Appstore. To download and listen to books and magazines available through BARD, patrons must first register for the BARD service. Patrons can apply for BARD by completing an online application at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/NLS/ApplicationInstructions.html>.

Save the Date: Family Fun and Learning Day 2017

OLBPD will host its annual Family Fun and Learning Day in Cleveland on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 featuring programs of interest to our readers, and updates about OLBPD service. Full details will follow in the next Dimensions newsletter.

OLBPD Featured in American Libraries Magazine

OLBPD was featured in the January/February American Libraries magazine article titled “Bringing Assistive Technology to Patrons.” This article showcased libraries and state agencies that team up to offer training for patrons with visual impairments. The article details the OLBPD program, its funding arrangement with the State Library of Ohio, and how Cleveland Public Library offers access to adaptive technology in ten locations throughout the library system. The article can be read at <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2017/01/03/bringing-assistive-technology-to-patrons/>.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) launched a new job portal in October 2016 called OODWorks. This website allows applicants to learn more about vocational rehabilitation, take a self-assessment, and apply for services in a more streamlined process. OODWorks is a new tool for Ohioans (age 55 or older) with blindness or other disability interested in working or independent living. This online tool allows a person to apply for services available through the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) and Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI). Anyone interested in vocational rehabilitation resources is encouraged to visit <http://www.OODWorks.com>.

In an effort to reduce roadblocks for many who could benefit from VR services, such as transportation, this new portal can help a person start the process without having to visit an office. Once the individual or referring source completes the online application, he or she will be contacted by a local OOD staff member to schedule an appointment. Vocational rehabilitation services involve deciding if a person is eligible for services, setting an employment goal, putting the goal into a plan, and getting the necessary job services and training. OOD also maintains the option of calling in to begin an application as well. The statewide toll-free phone number for BVR and BSVI services is 1-800-282-4536. Please contact OOD for more information.

Follow OLBPD On Twitter!

OLBPD is on Twitter. Twitter is an online social networking service that allows users to send and read short messages called “Tweets.” OLBPD uses Twitter to provide patrons with an opportunity to receive timely information and service updates. Patrons can use a computer, smart phone, or tablet connected to the Internet to access Twitter. Patrons interested in following OLBPD on Twitter can search for us using “@OLBPD” or visit our Twitter page at <https://twitter.com/olbpd>.

Volunteer Narrators Needed

OLBPD is auditioning volunteer narrators to read and record books and magazines of local interest for our readers. Volunteers will need their own audio recording equipment, as well as the ability to receive and send files electronically. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer narrator can contact OLBPD for more information.

OLBPD Kids and Teens Reading Club

OLBPD offers Kids and Teens Reading Clubs for patrons eighteen years old and younger. Kids and teens earn rewards as they read books and achieve new member levels. Our goal is simple: we want to make reading fun for you at any age but especially now! Please contact OLBPD for more information or to register.

OLBPD Adult Book Group

OLBPD hosts a monthly book discussion for our adult readers. Patrons can participate using their own computer with a sound card and Internet connectivity. Patrons who do not have computer access can also participate in book discussions from their telephone or in-person at OLBPD. For more information about our monthly book club, please contact OLBPD.

High Volume Player and Headphones

NLS has developed a high-volume version of the digital talking-book machine (DTBM) for use by patrons who are hearing impaired. The high-volume player, which is paired with a headset, is available as a standard or advanced (DS-1/DA-1) model that has been programmed to have an amplified volume up to 120 decibels. It can be issued only by NLS and will bear a warning label. The high-volume feature only works with the set of stereo headphones that NLS provides. The pairing replaces the amplifier/headset accessory.

To receive a high-volume player and headset, a patron must provide certification of hearing impairment by a physician or audiologist. Applications can be downloaded from the NLS web site at www.loc.gov/nls/pdf/hvp.pdf.

Patrons should submit their application with Parts I, II, and III completed to the State Library of Ohio, Talking Book Program, 274 East First Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, 43201. Patrons can also contact the State Library of Ohio Talking Book Program for assistance with their application by phone at 1-800-686-1531. Patrons will be asked to return their current player upon receipt of a high-volume player and headset. A return label will be included with the high-volume player.

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. "No Man's Land" by David Baldacci – DB 86197; Mystery and Detective
2. "The Wrong Side of Goodbye" by Michael Connelly – DB 86195; Mystery
3. "Turbo Twenty-Three" by Janet Evanovich – DB 86177; Mystery
4. "The Woman in Cabin 10" by Ruth Ware – DB 85729; Mystery and Detective
5. "Night School: a Jack Reacher novel" by Lee Child – DB 86175; Mystery

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Where can I get tax forms?

A: The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provides online tax products and services for taxpayers with disabilities. Individuals may visit the IRS Accessibility page (<https://www.irs.gov/uac/irs-gov-accessibility>) to download forms, publications, and other products and to access tax-related videos in English and American Sign Language. The IRS recommends checking the website often as it is continuously adding more products to assist persons with disabilities.



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CLEVELAND, OHIO 44110
TOLL FREE: 1-800-362-1262

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