# 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 Phone: 216-623-2911

# Web: http://olbpd.cpl.org Twitter: @OLBPD

## Email: olbpd@cpl.org Edition: Spring 2021

# COVID-19 Update and Reopening to the Public

**As spring arrives, it is encouraging to hear news that vaccinations are underway, hospitalization rates are more stable, and stay-at-home advisories and curfews are expiring. Accordingly, the Cleveland Public Library (CPL) – which includes the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBPD) – reopened to its community effective February 22, 2021.**

**OLBPD is operating at normal business hours Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Library materials continue to be mailed and received, and patrons can again enter the Library. Entry into the Library requires wearing an appropriate face mask type and wearing it properly, and safe social distancing (six feet apart) remains in effect while inside the building. Since pandemic conditions persist, patron visits are kept to 1.25-hour time limits, and curbside delivery continues to be available. CPL continues to monitor the latest information and the status of cases at local and county levels to adapt plans as necessary, based on the guidance of state and local officials.**

**Although conditions are more encouraging, OLBPD will continue to offer updates about our status through our phone greeting and web home page to alert patrons if we are closed due to COVID-19 precautions. These remain the two best sources to find out about our current status. Patrons needing more books should contact the Library. Patrons are allowed to check out up to 50 items. Keep in mind the amount of books you would like to have on hand ready to read, along with those that are on their way to and from the Library. Generally, it is better to have books at home waiting for you to read than you waiting on books to arrive.**

**Remote Library Programming Survey Still Open**

**OLBPD is still interested in patron feedback on adding more library events and programs for patrons in 2021. These programs would be presented over the phone or online rather than at the Library. Please visit the OLBPD home page at http://olbpd.cpl.org, and select the patron survey “Remote Library Programming” link or call the Library to speak with staff. Thank you for taking time to share feedback as we look to gauge interest in developing and expanding more programs to readers throughout the State.**

**NLS Celebrating Its 90th Anniversary**

**This year, NLS will mark its 90th anniversary. As part of their anniversary, NLS will be highlighting its history and the array of services provided to patrons with programming that will include online events, recognitions, and digital content, shared throughout its various channels including social media and website. Updates will be posted on the NLS website (https://www.loc.gov/nls) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ThatAllMayRead).**

**NLS Aspiring Leaders Internship Program**

**The NLS Aspiring Leaders Internship Program was established through an endowment to provide legally blind individuals opportunities to work at NLS in areas of study or interest to qualifying interns. The program runs during spring, summer, and fall sessions, between ten to twelve weeks each session. Currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students and those who have graduated within the past five years from an accredited two-year or four-year college or university are eligible to apply. In addition, applicants must be U.S. citizens; must be legally blind; and must be able to work remotely.**

**The knowledge, skills, and abilities an intern needs for this program include knowledge of word processing and spreadsheet programs, such as Microsoft Office Word and Excel; knowledge of braille; and the ability to assist in planning, reviewing, researching, and collecting information. While in session, interns work part-time, between ten to twenty hours a week. Schedules are flexible and the days and hours worked are determined between the intern and supervisor. The internship offers no health benefits or insurance.**

**NLS accepts applications on a rolling basis. However, applications must be received by the deadline for the selected session: spring deadline – November 1st; summer deadline – March 1st; and fall deadline – June 1st. A complete application package will include a résumé, cover letter expressing interest, most recent official or unofficial transcript, and Aspiring Leaders application. More information about the internship is available on NLS’ web site at https://www.loc.gov/nls/about/internship-program/. Questions about the internship program can be emailed to NLSInternships@loc.gov.**

**NLS Braille e-Reader Pilot Update**

**In the last newsletter, we announced that NLS invited Ohio and its braille readers to be part of the phase two testing for their braille e-Reader pilot project. From that announcement, we received feedback from quite a few excited braille readers about the pilot and the opportunity to test the e-Readers. Unfortunately, some technical concerns were discovered with the units. As a result, NLS is postponing the pilot to analyze and investigate these concerns. We will follow-up with any updates on the pilot as they become available.**

# Maintaining an Active Reader Status

# NLS requires patrons to borrow at least one book or magazine per calendar year to maintain an active reader status. “Borrowing” includes reading materials that are mailed as well as downloaded using BARD. It is important to note that receiving NLS publications such as Talking Book Topics and Braille Book Review does not count toward active readership.

# For many of our readers, borrowing at least one item per year is not a problem. Usually, inactivity is easily corrected, especially for those who wish to continue receiving books and magazines. Understandably, we all read at our own pace. Nevertheless, do not be alarmed if OLBPD staff should contact you to check-in if there has been no activity on your account. In most cases, we are just trying to verify whether patrons are still interested in receiving our materials and keeping BARD accounts active. Rest assured that the Library will not cancel any patron’s service without their knowledge or after repeated attempts to contact them about their service. Please notify OLBPD of any changes to your contact information or address. Likewise, please contact the Library if you do not want to receive our materials and wish to cancel your service.

**Multiple Books on One Cartridge**

**OLBPD is working with NLS this year on plans to begin circulating multiple books on one cartridge for patrons receiving talking books through the mail. Instead of receiving one cartridge with one book, patrons would receive a cartridge with multiple books bundled on it. The cartridges would be customized with titles from your preferences and requests, increasing access to the wide range of older and newer titles available in our collection, and less waiting time for new books to arrive on cartridge. Implementation of these cartridges will be gradual over the course of this year. Patrons will be able to specify the number of books per cartridge they prefer to receive. By next year, NLS hopes to transition all libraries to these customized cartridges. More details will become available throughout the year as we move closer to a starting date.**

**Returning Damaged or Unused Materials**

**As a reminder, please return any damaged or unused reading materials, and contact us if you need any boxes to return these items. Please do not throw away any library books, magazines, or equipment. Any damaged items can be replaced on request.** **When returning reading materials, please pair books and magazines inside the container they were delivered. 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 mailing containers.**

###### The OLBPD Hot “100’s” List

**In celebration of talking book call numbers breaching the six digit DB 100-mark, the Hot List features titles currently in high-demand by our readers in the DB 100000-plus range. These titles are available now for download through BARD or by request. Books in the Hot List may contain descriptions of sex, strong language, or violence.**

1. **“The Law of Innocence” by Michael Connelly – DB 101096 – Suspense**
2. **“Deadly Cross” by James Patterson – DB 101338 – Mystery**
3. **“Shakeup” by Stuart Woods – DB 101095 – Mystery**
4. **“The Return” by Nicolas Sparks – DB 100846 – Romance**
5. **“The Searcher” by Tana French – DB 100859 – British Detective Mystery**

# 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 or know anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer narrator can contact OLBPD for more information.**

**Go Paperless!**

**Electronic versions of the OLBPD Dimensions newsletter are available from our website in audio, braille, and large print. Patrons can be added to our email list to receive notice when the next edition is available.**

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FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND OR HANDICAPPED

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at Cleveland Public Library

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