

In Focus

Summer 2012

News from the MCB Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL)



New NLS Director Named

Karen A. Keninger was named director of the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), effective March 26, 2012. Ms. Keninger was the Director of the Iowa Department for the Blind since 2008 and was elected 2012 president of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind. She was director of the Iowa Library for the Blind from 2000 to 2008. Keninger announced her five-point plan for the next five years at the National Conference of Librarians Serving the Blind and Physically Handicapped, held in Newport, Rhode Island, as follows:

- Maintain the highest quality standards for all NLS products.
- Enhance the reading experience for all NLS patrons by leveraging current and future technologies to improve the reading and delivery systems.
- Expand the scope and quantity of titles available in alternative formats.
- Take a leading role in positioning braille as a viable, practical, and achievable medium for all blind Americans.
- Increase the number of patrons being served by 20 percent over the next five years.

We are looking forward to Karen's leadership!

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Technology Corner

Scott Norris, *Adaptive Technology Librarian*
1-800-992-9012 or norriss5@michigan.gov

Computer and Book Clubs

Computer and Book Clubs meet on the second Saturday of each month in the BTBL public service area on the ground floor of the Michigan Library and Historical Center, across from the elevators. Computer Club meets from 10:30 to 12:30 followed by Book Club at 1:30. If you cannot attend in person, you may join either club via the BTBL Online Meeting Room using this link:

<http://www.conference321.com/masteradmin/room.asp?id=rs417aa6694fed>

Users of the BTBL online room may enter any username they wish. To enter the room as a participant, please leave the password field blank. A software plug-in is required for full access to tcConference, the web conferencing software from Talking Communities. The entry page to the BTBL Online Meeting Room contains helpful information about the plug-in. A no-plug-in-required web interface also is available for Mac, Linux, and MS users who cannot install the software plug-in. Please note, however, that not all tcConference features are available through the web interface.

Club Schedules

September 22: ***Twenty-five Favorite iPhone Apps***, presented by Scott Norris and Jessica Goodrich

September 22: ***Keeper's Son***, RC/DB6150, by Homer H. Hickam

October 13: ***GoodReads.com***, presented by Jessica Goodrich

October 13: ***Hunger Games***, RC/DB68384, BR18488, by Suzanne Collins

Tech Update

By Scott Norris

I recently attended the National Library Service (NLS) conference in Rhode Island at which we were updated on several NLS projects:

Braille and the BARD Download Service: Later this year, users of the BARD service will receive messages alerting them to the addition of braille books to the BARD site. This means that braille users will be able to download the braille books that are currently available on the WebBraille site directly from BARD. These books can be read by using a refreshable braille display, embossing on paper using a braille embosser, or having the books read by a synthesized voice through a program such as Kurzweil 1000.

BARD Website New Features: The BARD website has been rewritten and will soon be made available for use. The new design includes a list of books that you previously downloaded, a more robust search engine, a “More Info” button that will give you additional information about an author or list the titles in a series, a wish list to keep for future downloading, and braille music scores.

Smartphone App: NLS is working on the long-awaited smartphone application for playing BARD downloaded books. They are in the process of finalizing standards and requirements for the app. The app is expected to be released for prime time in 2013.

Newsline App: The very popular newspaper service made available by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) has a new smartphone application. Newsline subscribers who use iPhone can go to the App Store, search for “Newsline,” and download at no cost.

Talking Book Topics (TBT) on Newsline: That’s right! The Northern California Regional Braille and Talking Book Library has successfully converted the html version of TBT and posted the past two issues (March/April and May/June) on the Newsline California channel. Any Newsline subscriber around the country has access to all state channels and can access TBT this way.

Audio Magazines

Digital Magazine Delivery

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) has announced the method of delivery for digital magazines to be used in the near future. Currently, digital magazines are only available as a download from the BARD website. Those who subscribe to magazines through the mail are still getting them on cassettes that may be kept by the patron or discarded after use. In the future, subscribers will receive one cartridge containing all of their monthly magazines. The cartridge must then be returned in order to continue receiving new issues. If subscribed, a cartridge for weekly magazines will also be sent. Monthly magazines will be subject to cancellation if not returned after six months and the same applies for weekly magazines after three months. Although returning magazines will require additional effort on the part of subscribers, the quality of the recording should be worth it!

The digital magazine program won't roll out until the end of 2012 or early 2013. You may want to check with your reader advisor now to update your subscription list. Once digital magazines start shipping, cassette magazines will stop being produced.

Michigan History Magazine

Subscribers to *Michigan History Magazine* have likely noticed that there have been no new issues as of late. We apologize for the delay. Relatively soon all *Michigan History Magazine* subscribers will receive the July/August 2011 and the September/October 2011 issue on the same digital cartridge. After this cartridge, the next issue to be released will be the July/August 2012 issue. We will then backfill the missing issues, as possible.

The delay is due to a shortage of recording and monitoring volunteers. If you know anyone in the Lansing area that would like to volunteer to be a reader or a monitor, or would like more information about our volunteer program, please contact Jessica Goodrich, goodrichj1@michigan.gov or 1-800-992-9012.

For Better Battery Life

The library recommends that the digital player remain plugged into a wall outlet as much as possible. The player can remain connected to the main power indefinitely with no ill effect. If using battery power, players should not be replaced as long as a twelve-hour charge can be held.

On Cassette (RC) Collection

With cassette books accounting for only 17 percent of circulation from Lansing, BTBL will be cooperating with NLS toward a reduction and eventual withdrawal of the cassette collections from network libraries by mid-2015. Libraries are expected to retain at least one copy of each RC title until then. Multiple copies will be kept of popular titles needed to meet patrons' reading preferences until all titles have been converted to digital.

About Overdue Digital Books

Please return digital books after four weeks so that others may enjoy the same title. Please also be sure to return cartridges in the correct container by matching the DB number on the cartridge to that on the container. Don't want to bother with due dates? Download. We can teach you how. BARD offers digital books and magazines to borrow for as long as you like. Did I say "borrow?" Actually, anything you download from BARD is yours to keep! To learn more, call 1-800-992-9012.

On Getting the Books You Like

Reader advisors are on hand to help refine the selection of books that are sent when you return a book and have another automatically shipped. The authors and subjects that interest you may have changed over time and we can adjust your profile to reflect that. For those who have a narrow range of interests, such as the Detroit Tigers as opposed to baseball in general, your best option would be to call each time you want a book rather than depend on the computer to select. If you are regularly requesting books from Talking Book Topics using the mail-in order form, you may want to have only those books sent that you request. Just be sure to keep adding to the list so that there are always specific titles from which the computer can select.

BTBL Staff

Terence Rose Leaving BTBL

As of August 10, Terry Rose will be trading in his reader advisory hat for a mortar board to be issued by the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he is scheduled to begin working on his Ph.D. degree in communications and information science. We all wish Terry the best in this new endeavor and hope he will think of us as he writes numerous theses from his laptop on the beach. Well, maybe not on the beach, but it sure is fun imagining it that way. Aloha, Terry!

Jessica Goodrich, Youth Librarian

Some of you know that Jessica is the new librarian on the block here at BTBL, but you may not know she is also the young adult and children's librarian. Her focus will be on offering more programming for youth so there will be more ways to interact with each other and the library. In the next few weeks, our young library patrons may receive a letter asking about their interest in a book club, what sort of books they like, and what sort of activities they would like to see the library offer. If you have some ideas or suggestions, or want to talk about what you would like, send an email to goodrichj1@michigan.gov or call 1-800-992-9012 and ask for Jessica.

BTBL is pleased to announce the availability of DBL 8280, *Miss Martin is a Martian*, by Colleen Murray Fisher, narrated locally by Jo Ann Dashner. This book is a Michigan Notable Book for 2012. Is



it possible that Miss Martin is a Martian? Melvin Eugene Baxter is convinced that his new teacher, Miss Martin, is a Martian. It is his mission to stop her before she takes over the planet. He documents his findings of her x-ray vision and her super Martian memory, but after completing his investigation, he realizes she isn't a Martian after all – she is a superhero from Saturn!

Library of Michigan Foundation

By making a gift to the Library of Michigan Foundation, donors can help the MCB Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) better serve thousands of Michigan residents statewide who are visually impaired or have other disabilities. Donors may also opt to provide for the Library of Michigan Foundation in their wills. By doing so, donors are able to make a larger gift than what might be possible during their lifetime, become eligible to receive tax benefits, and enjoy recognition and thanks now for their planned charitable contributions later. To make a gift of support, please send a check to the Library of Michigan Foundation, P.O. Box 30159, Lansing, MI 48909, or contact Carolyn Sparks at (517) 373-1297.

The Library of Michigan Foundation is a non-profit organization which offers financial support to the MCB Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) program.

If you would like to receive future mailings and information from the Library of Michigan Foundation, please sign below and return to:

Library of Michigan Foundation
P.O. Box 30159
Lansing, MI 48909



LIBRARY OF
MICHIGAN
FOUNDATION

Check for further information:

- Gifts and Bequests
- Named Endowed Funds
- I have included you in my will
- Here is a gift of \$_____ to help enhance the MCB Braille and Talking Book Library program.

Signature: _____

MCB Braille and
Talking Book Library
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P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909

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MATTER
FOR THE
BLIND**

How to Reach the MCB Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL)

By Phone: 517-373-5614
1-800-992-9012 (toll free)

By Fax: 517-373-5865
1-800-726-7323 (toll free)

By Mail: 702 W. Kalamazoo St.
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909

By E-Mail: btbl@michigan.gov

On the Web: www.michigan.gov/btbl

Online Catalog: www.michigan.gov/ordertalkingbooks

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