
In Focus

Fall 2014

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*News from the BSBP Braille and
Talking Book Library (BTBL)*

U.S. Currency Reader Program Announced



The U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) has announced the release of currency readers, free of charge, to eligible blind and visually impaired individuals. This is an interim measure in advance of issuing tactile-enhanced Federal Reserve notes. Beginning September 2, 2014, in partnership with the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress, the BEP will initiate a four-month pilot where NLS patrons who are blind or visually impaired can pre-order a currency reader. The pilot program allows the government to test its ordering and distribution processes and gauge demand for currency readers. To receive a currency reader, eligible individuals who are currently patrons of NLS can call a BTBL reader advisor at 1-800-992-9012. Orders will be shipped directly to the patron from BEP.

Currency readers will be widely available to all U.S. citizens who are blind or visually impaired starting January 2, 2015. Individuals who are not NLS patrons must submit an application, signed by a competent authority who can certify eligibility. Applications will be available on a website and processed for non-patrons of NLS beginning January 2, 2015.

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Technology Corner

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

BTBL 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 plugin 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

- October 11: The new features in iOS 8 will be demonstrated by Al Puzzuoli, Adaptive Technologist from the MSU RCPD (Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities).
- October 11: DB/RC47299 *Confederates in the Attic* by Tony Horwitz
- November 8: Holiday shopping presented by Scott Norris
- November 8: BR19254, DB70029 *Flashforward* by Robert Sawyer
- December 12: New features of the iPhone 6 will be demonstrated by Scott Norris.
- December 12: Book TBA

New Victor Stream and iPhone Capabilities

A couple of long-awaited opportunities are coming soon to owners of the second generation Victor Stream or the iPhone. The next firmware release by Humanware will allow the Victor Stream to download books directly from the BARD web site. This update is slated for mid-September.

The much anticipated KNFB Reader app is coming to the iPhone. This app was previously available for the Nokia phones running the Simbian operating system. Because of limitations on the iPhone's camera and flash the app has not been a viable option until now. The KNFB Reader will allow effortless scanning of print documents, whether they are a meeting agenda, restaurant menu, report, or even a book. Students will love the KNFB Reader for its ability to scan and read PowerPoint slides up to 25 feet away. The app is slated to make its debut in September after the release of iOS 8. It will be available from the Apple App store for \$99.00.

Ask Bob: The Equipment Technician

Question: My player will not play. What should I do?

Answer: Plug your player into AC power and make sure the wall plug and power cord are fully functioning. The player will automatically turn on if it is plugged in. If it still doesn't turn on, hold the power button down for 7 seconds. This will reset the player back to factory settings. When running on battery, the player is fine until it says "battery low". Plug your player into a power source to recharge within 3 hours. The player can be used while recharging. If you are still having problems, call us to order a replacement.

Question: My player has gone directly to the end of my book. What does this mean and how do I get back to the beginning?

Answer: On the standard player (DS1) press the Play key twice. It will go back to the beginning. On the advanced player (DA1) press and hold the Prev key (located left of the Menu key). The reason it went to the end of the book is because the player recognizes that it has played that book before.

Sue Greene, Machine Technician
Robert Blakes, Machine Assistant
1-800-992-9012 or blakesb@michigan.gov

Summer Reading Success

The “Fizz, Boom, Read!” themed Summer Reading Program for ages 0-21 was held from June 9th- August 28th. Participants were entered to win gift cards by reading and completing experiments throughout the summer and reporting back to the library. Below are the drawing winners for this summer. All other participants will receive a Summer Reading Certificate and a flash drive wrist band for their efforts! Thank you to all who participated, and we hope you join us next summer.



Grand Prize Winner: Vasili Tsaprailis

He was chosen at random from participating kids who reported their reading hours.

He won a \$50 Amazon gift card!

Experiment Prize Winner: Autumn Michels

She was chosen at random from participating kids who completed experiments this summer.

She won a \$25 gift card to Seedlings Braille!

The photo shows Summer Reading participant Autumn Michels completing a Bottle Thermometer science experiment. She is shown sitting at a table with a Braille copy of the experiment instructions and a green tall neck bottle sitting in a pot on the table in front of her. The bottle is stoppered with a glob of white modeling clay and has a pink flexible straw inserted through the clay and into the bottle.

Two new reader advisors have joined the Braille and Talking Book Library team!

Bridgid Murphy holds a master's degree in Library and Information Science from Wayne State University. Her background includes working as a library resource center specialist in an educational setting. In addition, Bridgid spent seven years teaching social studies at an alternative high school in Saginaw. She is one of nine children, whose father has used BTBL services for most of his life. Bridgid brings enthusiasm for doing what she knows first-hand to truly make a difference in people's lives. She enjoys obstacle races and triathlons as well as spending time with her twenty-four nieces and nephews. She is excited to learn from and serve the patrons of the Braille and Talking Book Library.

Caitlin Wolfe holds a master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Michigan, and a bachelor's degree in English from Michigan State. She primarily worked with seniors in her previous job and is very excited to serve our patron population. Caitlin loves to read, especially fantasy and science fiction, and is eager for the return of the television series *Game of Thrones*, based on George R.R. Martin's *Song of Ice and Fire* series (DB45742). This is her first full-time librarian position, and she is looking forward to helping patrons discover books that they will enjoy, as well as expanding her own knowledge base.

Libraries Without Walls

Mark your calendars for Libraries Without Walls (LWW), coming to Lansing June 2, 2015. LWW 2015 will offer sessions on adaptive technology such as screen readers, mobile devices, screen enlargement, and more. AT vendors will be on hand to answer your questions and provide hands-on demonstrations. More information on this exciting event will follow in the Spring newsletter.

Local Recordings

Betsie Bush, Studio Coordinator Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or bushb2@michigan.gov

Michigan Notable Books

DBL8324 - ***Sixty to Zero: An Inside Look at the Collapse of General Motors and the Detroit Auto Industry*** by Alex Taylor, III,
read by Nicholas Colovos

DBL8388 - ***The Indians of Hungry Hollow*** by Bill Dunlop,
read by Michael P. Donovan

Michigan-Interest Books

DBL8419 - ***The Purple Gang : Organized Crime in Detroit, 1910-1945***
by Paul R. KaviEFF, read by Andy Andersen

DBL8376-DBL8377 - ***North Woods Reader series***, books 7-8
by Cully Gage, read by Michael P. Donovan

DBL8360-DBL8364 - ***Michigan Chocoholic Mystery series***, books 1-5
by JoAnna Carl, read by Lili Krezel

Books by Michigan Authors

Special thanks to the following authors for sending us a copy of their book for recording. Their contributions to the program are invaluable and allow us to create high quality audiobooks for our patrons:

DBL8341 - ***Warning Signs: What Every Woman Should Know: a Dating Guide***
by Danielle E. Ward, read by Danielle E. Ward

DBL8395/DBC00111 - ***Enslaved by Ducks*** by Bob Tarte, read by Mark Simonis

DBL8396/DBC00112 - ***Scarred for Life*** by Tina Smith, read by Jamila Jones

DBL8355 - ***Winds of Change*** by David C. Russell, read by Michael P. Donovan

DBL8354 - ***Escape : The True Story of a World War II P.O.W.
the Germans Couldn't Hold*** by John M. Roberts,
read by Michael P. Donovan

DBL8373 - ***Behold the Heavens : the Spiritual Journey of Ernest J. Burns II***
by Ernest J. Burns, read by Michael P. Donovan

*DBC numbers are locally recorded titles that are available for download on BARD. To order from our collection, continue to use the DBL number.

Library of Michigan Foundation

By making a gift to the Library of Michigan Foundation, donors can help the BSBP 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 BSBP 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



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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 BSBP Braille and Talking Library program.

Signature: _____

BSBP Braille and
Talking Book Library
702 W Kalamazoo St.
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909

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MATTER
FOR THE
BLIND**

How to Reach the BSBP 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

BARD: <https://nlsbard.loc.gov> (to download digital books)

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