
In Focus

Fall 2016



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

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

Patron Satisfaction Survey

In June, the Braille and Talking Book Library surveyed patrons living in counties directly served by the Regional Library in Lansing, and we received over 700 responses back! High percentages of patrons rated the various aspects of our service with top marks, selecting “Good” or “Excellent”: Courtesy of library staff (98%); Quality of the digital player (97%); Overall service provided by BTBL (96%); Helpfulness of library staff (95%).

Eighty-eight percent of respondents rated the BTBL newsletter as “Good” or “Excellent”. We plan to improve this statistic. Those who are getting braille service will be surveyed in braille for their interest in receiving the newsletter in that format. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email call **1-800-992-9012**. Audio format can be found under the ‘News & Events’ link on our website at www.michigan.gov/btbl. We look forward to your input and hope you will participate in the next Consumer Involvement Committee Forum (see page 2 for more details).

Seventy percent of respondents rated the titles we select for you as “Good” or “Excellent”. This is an area in which much improvement is needed. If you are not satisfied with your book selections, please call **1-800-992-9012** to rectify. A reader advisor will work with you to alter your selection profile.

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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 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 by conference call or our online meeting room. Call the library for more information on how to join.

Club Schedules

October 8: Two presentations: iOS 10 and the new iPhone 7 presented by Al Puzzuoli, and see how Bob Beacom created a home-made CCTV with an iPad and flat screen TV

October 8: **DB41823** *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

November 19: Holiday Shopping presented by J.J. Meddaugh

November 19: **DB80616** *Elephant Company: The inspiring story of an unlikely hero and the animals who helped save lives in World War II* by Vicki Croke

December 10: TBD

December 10: **DB58836** *A Red Bird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg

Programs to be announced in future issues of InFocus for the following dates:

January 14

February 11

March 11

Consumer Involvement Committee (CIC) Forum

Please join us via phone for the next CIC call on Thursday, October 20th from 1-2 p.m. by dialing **1-888-278-0296** and entering the access code **5836578**.

This call is open to all patrons and we encourage your participation. This is a chance for you to give feedback on our service, ask questions about library procedures, and make suggestions for future priorities of the library. We are here to serve you! Use this opportunity to be heard and voice your opinions.

NLS Funding for Refreshable Braille Displays

The Schumer bill, S. 3207, was recently passed by both the House and Senate, and was signed into law by the President in July. Thanks to this bill, service for braille users of the Braille and Talking Book Library throughout Michigan has the potential to expand by leaps and bounds in the near future!

The bill, which was introduced by Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), amends existing law to generalize the types of equipment that can legally be purchased, maintained, and replaced for library patrons through the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), from “sound-reproduction recordings” to “any such forms.” This essentially allows NLS to utilize funding in the future on refreshable braille displays for patrons! Braille displays (sometimes referred to as braille readers) allow users the ability to read braille from a device connected to a computer. This exponentially increases the amount of braille a person can have fast and easy access to.

Prior to this bill, NLS was limited in its options available to provide braille materials to patrons. Most commonly, patrons received braille in print format from the library. These books are costly to produce and ship, and they are quite large for libraries and patrons to store. For example, the widely popular book *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* by J. K. Rowling is made up of 13 volumes of braille, which must then be shipped in multiple braille containers to patrons. In contrast, the braille files in electronic format that are also available to NLS patrons take up no space and can be downloaded quickly. However, this option previously remained underutilized by patrons because braille displays are costly and many patrons cannot afford this technology on their own. Now, thanks to the Schumer bill, we hope this will change!

We eagerly await more news on how NLS plans to move forward with this exciting opportunity for expanding ways people with disabilities can have access to the information they desire, in the format they prefer. As the NLS slogan goes, “That All May Read.”

Local Recordings

Betsie Branch, Studio Coordinator Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or branchb1@michigan.gov

This fall we are highlighting non-fiction books, including memoirs and collections of articles, that were recorded in our local recording studio.

DBC05944 - *Damn Near White : an African American Family's Rise from Slavery to Bittersweet Success* by Carolyn Marie Wilkins, narrated by Danielle E. Ward - The author uncovers and explores her family history including issues of class and racial identity. 2010. (6h 45m)

DBC03399 - *I'll See You Again, Lady Liberty : the True Story of a German prisoner of War in America* by Ernst W. Floeter, narrated by Nicholas Colovos - Memoir of an anti-Nazi German who became a prisoner of war in the United States during World War II. Later he returned to the United States to live near Lansing, Michigan. 2014 (4h 46m)

DBC05924 - *One 11 Millionth of a War : The True Story of a 307th Bomb Group Navigator Who Survived Two Ships That "Did Not Return"* by Frank Maleckas, narrated by Michael P. Donovan - The true story of the 307th Bombardment Group deployed to Okinawa during the Korean War. 2000. (7h 48m)

DBC05923 - *When Boppa was a Boy* by Kurt D. Thelen, narrated by Nicholas Colovos – Life on a typical Midwestern dairy farm during the mid-1900's. 2013. (6h 42m)

DBC03356 - *Splitting Wood* by Tom Rademacher, narrated by Michael P. Donovan - A selection of ninety-eight short columns written for the Grand Rapids Press. 2009. (10h 4m)

DBC03418 - *Right at Home* 1994. (6h 47m) and **DBC03419** - *View from the Top* 2005. (8h 32m) by Jim Hough, narrated by Michael P. Donovan - Collection of articles written for the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association's Michigan Country Lines magazine.

For more Michigan-related books, call **1-800-992-9012** to order a copy of the Michigan BTBL's Catalog of Locally Recorded Digital Talking Books, or view an online copy on our website at: www.michigan.gov/btbl.

Youth Services

Stephanie Wambaugh, Youth and Outreach Librarian
1-800-992-9012 or wambaugh@michigan.gov

Summer Reading Fun and Fitness!

July was the kick-off for our youth Summer Reading Program, and over the course of 6 weeks kids under 18 were able to participate in challenges and complete activities for the chance to win prizes!

The theme of the program this year focused on wellness and fitness. We are proud to announce that over **1 million steps** were taken by summer reading participants in our Pedometer Challenge this year!

BTBL would like to congratulate everyone who joined in the program for taking the time to exercise their minds AND bodies this summer! Three participating kids were randomly chosen to receive \$25 gift cards for joining the fun in the Pedometer Challenge, and the Bingo Reading Challenge for both a braille reader and other format reader.

The lucky winners were:

- Hope C. (Pedometer Challenge)
- Julia S. (Bingo Challenge- braille reader)
- Danielle C. (Bingo Challenge – any format)

In related news, the first ever Summer Reading Event was also a huge success! BTBL opened the event up to all patrons, friends and family members to encourage reading, wellness, and fitness statewide.

Hall of Fame wrestling coach, Larry Powell, gave an engaging and insightful talk. This was followed by informative sessions at our wellness stations, including Playmakers, Ski for Light, and Capital City Scuba. BTBL would like to thank everyone who participated in this dynamic event!



Summer reading participant, Julia, is sitting on a brown couch reading a braille book. She is in a gray t-shirt and jeans. She has a huge smile on her face!

News

Book Containers

We have noticed an increase in the number of labels being removed from the mailing containers and cartridges. Removal of these labels will cause materials to not be checked in from your account. We need to replace these labels before we can add them back to the collection for circulation. Please do not remove any labels on the mailing containers or cartridges.

New DVDs Available for Checkout!

This year, BTBL has expanded its described DVD collection, adding recent movies with an audio description track that can be mailed out to patrons across the state! New acquisitions include, but are not limited to: Batman V Superman; Miracles from Heaven; and Star Wars: The Force Awakens. Navigating through the DVD menu to turn on the audio description track may require the assistance of a sighted person. For a complete list of the described DVDs and VHSs in our collection, please visit our website at <http://michigan.gov/btbl>, or call us to request an alternative format.

Talking Book Topics Audio Format Shipping Change

Due to feedback from subscribers to the audio version of Talking Book Topics, the magazine cartridge and the order form will be circulated in the same package beginning with the September–October 2016 issue. Please note that the magazine cartridges and order forms will still need to be returned separately with the cartridge going back to the producer in its red container and the order form mailed back to the library.

Multiple Books or Magazines on one Digital Cartridge

Sometimes more than one book is stored on a single cartridge. You can access each book by using the “bookshelf” feature on your digital player by following these steps.

Insert the cartridge in to the player. Turn on the player. The player will announce the number of books on the cartridge. Press and hold the rectangular, green, Play/Stop Key until you hear the player say, “Bookshelf mode” (approximately five seconds.) The player announces the first title to be played. Tap the Fast Forward Key one time to move to the next book on the cartridge. Tapping the Fast-forward Key moves you through the rest of the books on the cartridge. Tapping the Rewind Key moves you backwards through the list of books on the cartridge. When you hear the title of the book you want to listen to, press the green Play/Stop Key to play the book.

Around the State

The following programs may be offered only to patrons within the counties served for each library location. To find out if a program is available to you, refer to the library listings on page 10 or call the location in question to verify.

Kent District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Sub-regional Library of the Year.** We are hosting an Open House Thursday, October 13th from 3 – 5 p.m. in celebration of KDL's Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped being awarded the Sub-regional Library of the Year by NLS! People with disabilities and their friends and families are invited to join us in this celebration on World Sight Day. Enjoy refreshments, special tours of the Wyoming Branch, and door prizes. Discover services including adaptive technologies, LBPH, and services offered by partner organizations. Hope to see you there!

Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library

- **Brown Bag Talking Book Club.** Wednesday, October 12th from 12-1:30 p.m. Bring your lunch and discuss:
 - DB77904** - *Innocence* by Dean Koontz
 - DB84059** - *The Passenger* by Lisa Lutz.
- **World Sight Day.** On Thursday, October 13th from 2- 4 p.m. the documentary *Going Blind: Coming Out of the Dark about Vision Loss* will be presented along with audio-described narration track.
- **V.I.P. Support Group.** Wednesday, October 26th from 12-1:30 p.m. Discuss the challenges of vision loss and share helpful tips to enhance life.

Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled @ AADL

- **Washtenaw Reads.** The annual Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads program has expanded to include the libraries of Chelsea, Dexter, Milan, Northfield Township and Saline. The program is now called Washtenaw Reads. The Read will take place in January and February 2017, however right now there are 2 finalist titles being considered: *Orhan's Inheritance*, a work of fiction by Aline Ohanesian (**DB82407**), and *\$2.00 A Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*, a work of non-fiction by Kathryn J. Edin and H. Luke Shaefer (**DB83304**). A panel of judges will choose one of these titles later this month to be the focus of the Read. The Reads website can now be found at www.wread.org.

Muskegon Area District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Muskegon County Low Vision Support Group.** Meetings held at United Way Lakeshore (31 E. Clay, Muskegon) on the third Wednesday of the month at 9:15 AM.
- **Ottawa County Low Vision Support Groups.**
 - **Grand Haven:** The Village at the Pines (1450 S. Ferry St.)
the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 AM
 - **Holland:** Village at Appledoorn (630 Hastings Ave.)
the fourth Monday of the month at 9:30 AM
 - **Zeeland:** Royal Park Place (500 Parkside Dr.)
the first Thursday of the month at 9:30 AM
 - Call **1-800-466-8084** for more information regarding any of the support groups.
- **Open Houses.** We are offering a new winter series of Open Houses at three branches of Muskegon Area District Library: Egelston, North Muskegon, and Norton Shores. We will demonstrate talking books and equipment, BARD, and answer questions. To register, call **231-737-6310** for dates and times. Information is available at www.madl.org.

Oakland Talking Book Service @ RHPL

- **Improving Website Accessibility.** We are in the process of adding Sitecues by Ai Squared to our website. Sitecues is software that allows each user to customize his/her experience. It improves accessibility by allowing users to customize the font size or have the screen read to them.

Traverse Area District Library & Talking Book Library

- **Tuesdays at Two Book Club.** Join us the last Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm at the Traverse Area District Library in the McGuire Room.
October 25th – **DB79182** *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
November 29th – **DBC5688** *13 Gifts* by Wendy Mass
- **World Sight Day!** Join us Wednesday, October 12th as we recognize “World Sight Day” from 12 -1:00 pm at the library in the McGuire Room. The purpose of this day is to focus on eradicating blindness worldwide. The VIP Rowing Team will be featured at this event. Doors will open at 11:30 am and all are invited! Bring a packed lunch if you wish to eat, and be ready to feel great pride in the accomplishments of those who overcome blindness and physical issues.

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

- **Our Book Discussion Group.** Meets once a month, by-phone-only. Each month the library selects an audiobook for the group to read and discuss at the following month's meeting.
- **Adaptive computer tutoring.** Available by appointment for Macomb County residents. In addition to software such as ZoomText and JAWS screen reader, we offer tutoring in VoiceOver technology on Apple products, such as iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad. Select tutoring is available on Android products.
- **Personalized device demonstrations.** Including such items as magnifiers, writing tools, lamps, and more are available by appointment for at the library. These items are designed to make life a bit easier if you have vision issues. Since we do not sell any of these items, there is no pressure to purchase, just an easy way to test out a product. This free program is sponsored by the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition.

St. Clair County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Book Talkers Book Club.** Next meeting is in late October at the United Way Carriage House, 1723 Military Street, Port Huron. Please call for more information.
- **The Blue Water League of the Blind (BWLb).** Meets every third Thursday of the month from 1-4 pm at the Carriage House, 1723 Military St., Port Huron, MI. For more information call Phyllis at **810-966-9185**.
- **Low Vision Support Group.** Meets at River District Hospital on the first Wednesday of the month from 11 am to 12:30 pm.

Great Lakes Talking Books

- **Patron Appreciation Party.** Join us on Friday, November 4th at the Superiorland Library Cooperative (1615 Presque Isle Avenue in Marquette) from 12-2:00 p.m. Games with prizes will follow a catered lunch. Patrons may invite a guest to accompany them. To RSVP, please call Lynn at **1-800-562-8985, Ext. 0**.
- **V.I.P. Group.** Patrons who are interested in starting a V.I.P. (Visually Impaired Person) group in the Marquette area, please call us! Activities could include monthly meetings, speakers, social activities, outdoor activities, BINGO, a knitting club, and a book club.

Michigan Talking Book Libraries

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, Braille and Talking Book Library

1-800-992-9012 Counties served: Alcona, Allegan, Arenac, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Emmet, Gladwin, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Iosco, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lake, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Monroe, Montmorency, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Saginaw, Shiawassee, Saint Joseph, Van Buren

Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled @ AADL

1-888-460-0680 Counties served: Washtenaw

Great Lakes Talking Books

1-800-562-8985 Counties served: Alger, Alpena, Baraga, Chippewa, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Ontonagon, Schoolcraft

Oakland Talking Book Service @ RHPL

1-800-774-4542 Counties served: Oakland

Genesee District Talking Book Center

1-866-732-1120 Counties served: Genesee

Kent District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-616-647-3988 Counties served: Ionia, Kent, Montcalm

Traverse Area District Library & Talking Book Library

1-877-931-8558 Counties served: Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford

St. Clair County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-800-272-8570 Counties served: Huron, Saint Clair, Sanilac, Tuscola

Muskegon Area District Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-231-737-6310, 1-877-569-4801 (Ottawa) Counties served: Muskegon, Ottawa

Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL

1-586-286-1580 Counties served: Macomb

Braille and Talking Books @ Taylor Community Library

1-734-287-4840 Serving Wayne County

Detroit Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-313-481-1702 Serving cities of Detroit and Highland Park

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



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 BSBP Braille and Talking Book program.

Signature: _____

BSBP Braille and
Talking Book Library
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**FREE
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 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)

Call to subscribe to this newsletter in braille or via email. BTBL is committed to providing information in the format you prefer!

Please note: All patrons will automatically receive a large print copy of the newsletter in addition to the alternative format selected.

The *In Focus* Newsletter is made possible by your generous donations to the Library of Michigan Foundation. The Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL); Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP); Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA); is an equal opportunity employer/program.