

A dark gray square logo with a white Braille character inside, positioned at the top left of the white text area.

Braille and Talking Book Library

michigan.gov/btbl

That all may read...

800-992-9012

History

- National Library Service for the Blind was started in 1931 by the Pratt Smoot Act to provide books in Braille and on recorded discs to blind adults.
- Helen Keller helped to popularize the service.
 - Special consideration was given to veterans (and still is).



History cont.

- 1935 the first recordings begin circulating to patrons.
- Children were added to service population in 1950s.
- Persons with physical disabilities (inability to hold a book and turn its pages) were added in the mid 1960s.
- Persons with organically based reading disabilities were added in 1979.



Format

- Service moved from vinyl to cassettes in the mid-1970s.
- National Library Service skipped over CD technology in the 1990s and went directly to “solid state storage” – they use the same technology you’d find in an SD card or a thumb drive.
- DAISY format now used for recording file format, the international **D**igital **A**ccessible **I**nformation **S**ystem



Digital

- September 2007 – **B**raille and **A**udio **R**eadin**D**ownload begins. Patrons can download their books
- 2009 – National digital player and digital cartridge deployment begins
- As of May 2011 there are 6,000 digital books on cartridge available and over 21,000 books available via download.



Application Process

- Simple application process.
 - For visual or physical disability a librarian or library support staff member can be the certifying authority. Also, medical professionals, clergy members, social workers, teachers, rehab specialists and associated disciplines.
 - For an organically-based reading disability a doctor's signature is needed.



Materials

- Total of 60,000 titles on cassette and 21,000 digitally.
- Over 40 magazines on cassette and in Braille including Good Housekeeping, Atlantic Monthly, Money, Outdoor Life, Smart Computing, Cooking Light, People, Seventeen, PC World.
- Described Video Service (500+ titles)



Collection Development

- 65% Fiction; 35% Non-Fiction
- 80% Adult; 20% Young Adult and Children
- 2,250 books recorded in a year, 5% of books published in the US in a given year
- Popular fiction: Westerns, Romances, Mysteries, Science Fiction, Fantasy
- Popular non-fiction: Biographies, Politics, History, Cookbooks



Circulation

- Multiple methods.
 - Call or submit an online form when you want books sent
 - Send/Return automatic Netflix-like service
 - Weekly/Monthly



Michigan Method

- Two regional libraries, Lansing and Wayne County
- 8 subregional libraries for the Lansing library that carry a subset of the collection and do local support for the program



Michigan Materials

- Volunteer program for narrators
- Books recorded on demand for patrons
- Michigan-specific titles recorded for the collection as well such as Michigan Notable Books and books like *The Virgin Suicides*



1-800-992-9012

