



**MEDIA ADVISORY:** March 15, 2017

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**CRIS RADIO, STATE LIBRARY, AND IDEAL GROUP LAUNCH  
VOICES OF WORLD WAR I**

**First-of-its-kind service in support of people who are blind or print disabled**

**WHO:** CRIS Radio, Connecticut State Library, and IDEAL Group representatives...

**WHAT:** ... will announce the launch of "Voices of World War I," a new, first-of-its kind service that aims to **improve access to historical documents and archival records** for people of all abilities, including those who are blind or unable to read due to learning, physical, emotional or intellectual disabilities.

This service is two-pronged, and includes the following:

- 1) Human narrated audio recordings of historic documents and archival records that bring to life the thoughts and experiences of Connecticut residents and servicemen/servicewomen during World War I; and
- 2) New technology designed to provide archivists, teachers, researchers and librarians with tools to improve accessibility to historic primary source documents and records in support of individuals with print disabilities.

This service is the culmination of a two-year, collaborative pilot project funded in part by the National Archives (National Historic Publications & Records Commission).

**WHEN:** **Monday, March 20 at 10:00 a.m.**

**WHERE:** Connecticut State Library  
231 Capitol Ave., Hartford

On-street parking only

**WHY:** People with print disabilities have limited access to primary source historic records and documents. A primary goal of this project is to provide opportunities for individuals with a wide range of print disabilities, including people who are blind or visually impaired, to provide them with the same access to primary source documents that other students, researchers and citizens enjoy and that would be difficult for them to discover, use and evaluate otherwise. Another primary goal is to develop technology that aims to provide archivists, teachers, librarians, and researchers with the tools needed to improve accessibility of archival records and historical documents in support of individuals with print disabilities.

### ***About CRIS Radio***

CRIS (Connecticut Radio Information System) is a 39-year-old nonprofit based in Windsor and is Connecticut's only radio-reading service providing audio access to news and information for people who are blind or print-handicapped, including those unable to read due to physical, learning, intellectual or emotional disabilities. CRIS Radio, through its CRISKids program, also provides audio access to children's classroom materials and children's magazines. In addition, CRIS offers Spanish-language recordings of newspapers and magazines, as well as audible tours for museums. CRIS operates with nearly 350 volunteers at its broadcast center in Windsor and four satellite studios located in Danbury, Norwich, Trumbull and West Haven. For more information, contact CRIS Radio at [info@crisradio.org](mailto:info@crisradio.org) or call (860) 527-8000.

### ***About the Connecticut State Library***

The Connecticut State Library is an Executive Branch agency of the State of Connecticut. The State Library provides a variety of library information, archival, public records, museum, and administrative services to citizens of Connecticut, as well as the employees and officials of all three branches of State government. The Connecticut State Archives and the Museum of Connecticut History are components of the State Library. For more on the State Library's WWI collections and events, visit the Connecticut in the Great War website at <http://ctinworldwar1.org> or the State Library at [www.ctstatelibrary.org](http://www.ctstatelibrary.org).

### ***About IDEAL Group***

IDEAL Group is a 2002 spin-off from IDEAL at NCR Corporation. IDEAL Group's mission is to "enhance the independence, quality-of-life, and employability of individuals with disabilities through the development and distribution of low/no cost technology-based products and services." IDEAL Group serves as the parent company to several information and communications technology companies, including InftyReader Group, Inc., Apps4Android, Inc., and Knowledge Discovery Solutions, Inc. For more information please see: <http://ideal-group.org>, <http://inftyreader.org>, <http://apps4android.org>, and <http://kds.global>.