



**CT State Library**

*Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped*

Volume 2 No. 3 Summer/Fall 2018

## The LBPH Newsletter

### Quarterly News and Updates

Gordon Reddick, Director  
Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped



#### From the Director:

This is New England! We began this newsletter with the three H's of summer: Hot, Hazy and Humid. Now summer has turned to fall and we're now enjoying the three C's: Clear, Comfortable, and Calm. Or as Mark Twain is reputed to have said: "If you don't like the weather in New England now, just wait a few minutes." For some reason, when the weather turns cool, people come alive and things start to get rolling. Even institutions like the National Library Service act this way as can be seen by their very ambitious initiatives described below. When all of their goals are reached, the LBPH program, as we now know it will no longer exist, but instead a modern, efficient and effective hi-tech system will bring the reading experiences of our patrons to new heights. A future to look forward to.

This newsletter also highlights a couple of troubleshooting issues with BARD mobile, an update on currency readers, a list of approved commercial players, and more. I've also included the eligibility requirements to become a patron so that all of you can help spread the word and attract new patrons. Reaching eligible persons is difficult and we could use your help.

As a reminder, we also now have a fully functional online catalog, called OPAC, from which you can submit your requests directly to the library.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for items to be included in future newsletters. Please email me at [gordon.reddick@ct.gov](mailto:gordon.reddick@ct.gov) at any time.

Gordon Reddick, Director  
September 2018

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## Highlights of the 2018 National Library Service Biennial Conference

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) held its biennial conference for network libraries and supporting vendors this past June in Nashville, Tennessee. The Connecticut Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) was well represented by one of our reader advisors. This conference brings together some of the staffs of the NLS and the LBPH regional libraries for the purpose of analyzing the current state of the network and to discuss and plan for the future. In this modern era of fast-paced development of high tech, including hardware, software and communications, it is vital that the LBPH program stay abreast of these advances and assess their application to our programs. also major changes in the audio book equipment and book distribution systems are forthcoming, which will significantly improve the patron experience. A great deal of information came from the conference and is summarized below:

### **Book Distribution:**

- a. Wireless distribution of audio and braille books is the future of the NLS program.
- b. Future Access Reimagined (FAR) is the name to use for the migration to a wireless environment.
- c. The NLS will build or acquire the delivery infrastructure to provide the wireless services, such as patron access to the internet, and storage of books in the cloud.
- d. The field trials of a wireless delivery device is ongoing and will expand as the program advances.
- e. NLS will explore streaming models for book content and the application of voice- user interface devices such as Google Home and Amazon Echo.

### **Equipment:**

- a. Braille eReaders (refreshable braille displays) will soon be available, exact date not set.
- b. A new generation of audio players is expected in five years. These playback machines will be wireless, have a voice user interface, and easy mode for the automatic download of books, text-to-speech capabilities, and an emphasis on being user friendly. Once implemented, all patrons will have full access to all

NLS materials regardless of their individual skills and computer knowledge.

- c. The NLS will ensure equal access to all materials by having equipment with the same capabilities available to all patrons. These would include free NLS produced players, commercial mobile devices, and other commercial off-the-shelf products.

**Duplication-on-Demand:** NLS is developing a system for the LBPH to create customized digital cartridges for individual patrons which can hold up to ten audio books. These cartridges would employ the bookshelf feature of book players for patrons to choose which book to read and in what order. Based on patron requests, the LBPH would download up to ten requested titles onto one cartridge and mail it to the patron. The patron would then return the cartridge once the books have been read. The Connecticut LBPH anticipates having this duplication-on-demand method available during 2019.

**Miscellaneous:**

- a. The NLS is in the process of changing its name from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to a more appropriate terminology.
- b. Patrons who wish to sign up for BARD may now do so without having to submit a separate application. Paula McLean can directly create a BARD account based on the patron's existing record and information verbally provided by the patron. This greatly simplifies the sign-up process so that more patrons will take advantage of the significant benefits of BARD.
- c. NLS is investigating a change in eligibility requirements in order to ease access for people with dyslexia and other reading disabilities who are not presently eligible. This may require a change in the federal legislation governing the NLS program.
- d. NLS will continue to expand audio and braille content. In the past few years, the NLS has already increased the number of titles published each year from 2,000 to 3,000. More are planned.

The NLS is rapidly reinventing itself to conform to the modern era of electronics and high tech. In the end, all patrons will greatly benefit and the program itself will become, in this day and age of tight budgets and thin resources, much more efficient and productive.

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## NLS News

### Unrated Audio Books

In order to rapidly increase the number of book titles available to patrons, the NLS began a program to modify commercially produced audio books to be compatible with NLS standards and equipment.

Through this process, the NLS has increased its book production to 3,000 or so new titles per year, up from 2,000 titles. But what NLS cannot do is to search through each book looking for strong language, violence, or descriptions of sex. Thus these books are considered to be 'unrated' and the annotation in the title record will so indicate. Unfortunately, you, the patron, won't know if an unrated book actually contains strong language, violence or descriptions of sex. To many of you, that's okay. But to many others, that is not ok. For those who are uncomfortable with an unrated book, there is a special exclusion available which will prevent an unrated book from automatically being sent to you. Please contact your reader advisor and ask that the unrated exclusion be checked. You can always override this exclusion by requesting a specific book that may be unrated, and only for that request.

However, a group of volunteers across the country are reviewing each new unrated audio book and assigning specific ratings. Eventually all of the unrated books will be rated.

### Currency Reader Update



In association with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP), the National Library Service (NLS) in 2014 made an initial distribution of electronic currency readers. These currency readers are a part of the BEP's U.S. Currency Reader Program and are available free of charge to all patrons of the LBPH, as well as to all other U.S. citizens or legal residents who are blind or visually impaired. The devices are called the iBill Talking Banknote Identifier and announce paper money's value in either voice, a pattern of tones, or a pattern of vibrations. Just slide the banknote into the device and press the button on the side to have the denomination identified. It only works for U.S. currency. These devices offer a very convenient and accurate way of counting and managing your cash. They also save a lot of time and aggravation while standing in store check-out lines. Complete details of the currency reader can be found at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's website at [www.bep.gov](http://www.bep.gov).

Applications and support for the currency readers is handled by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. To receive a new free currency reader, download and mail the application directly to the BEP. If an NLS/LBPH patron, the application does not need to get certified but instead check the

box on the BEP application indicating that they are already a certified patron.

Applications can be found at [www.moneyfactory.gov/uscurrencyreaderform.html](http://www.moneyfactory.gov/uscurrencyreaderform.html).

Applications can also be requested from the BEP by calling their customer service center at 1-844-815-9388. Technical support for the currency readers is also provided by the BEP, and not by the LBPH, by calling the customer service center. If no longer needed, please return the currency reader to the LBPH.



## NLS-Approved Commercial Audio Book Players

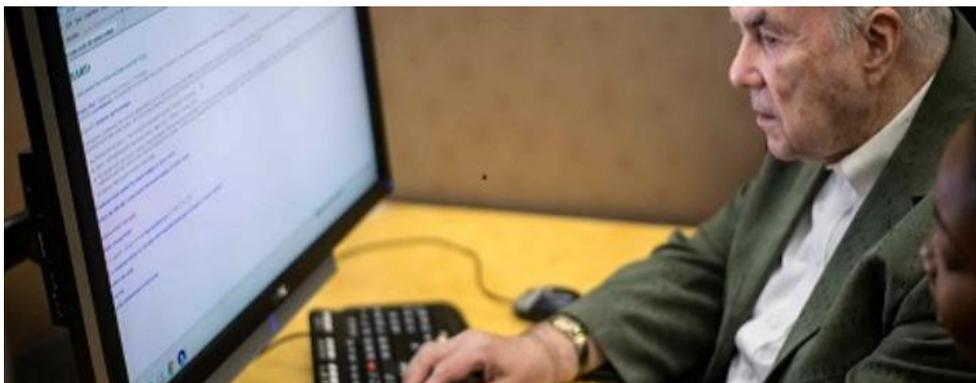
The audio book player can be one of those provided by NLS, the DS1 and DA1 machines, or a player manufactured by a commercial firm. However, the BARD program is compatible with only certain audio players. NLS provides a list of approved players. For your own benefit, please check this list before purchasing any commercially produced player. The NLS provided machines are loaned to you at no cost. The list of approved players is on the National Library Service's website entitled Digital Audiobook Players, located at: <https://www.loc.gov/nls/enrollment-equipment/equipment-needed-for-nls-materials/digital-audiobook-players/>. This website also lists the players that are not compatible with NLS audio books as well as vendors offering commercial players.

### Compatible Commercial Players:

- Apex Braille Note - Humanware
- Apex Voice Note - Humanware
- Book Port DT - American Printing House for the Blind
- Book Port Plus Player and Recorder - American Printing House for the Blind
- BookSense - HIMS Inc.
- BookSense DS - HIMS Inc.
- BookSense XT - HIMS Inc.
- Braille Sense U2 - HIMS Inc.
- Braille Sense U2 Mini - HIMS Inc.
- Braille Sense U2 QWERTY - HIMS Inc.
- GuideReader Pod - Dolphin Computer Access (Irie-AT)
- Milestone 312 Voice Recorder and MP3 Player - Bones
- Plectalk Pocket - Shinano Kenshi
- Plectalk PTR2 DAISY Player and Recorder
- Plectalk PTN2 - Shinano Kenshi
- Victor Reader Stream - Humanware

**Incompatible Commercial Players:** ClassMate Reader, DM-4 Audio Recorder/Player, Plectalk Linio Pocket, Tomboy Digital Talking Book Player, and Tomboy Digital Talking Book Player

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## BARD

Be sure to sign up for BARD at your earliest convenience. It is the door to the future. NLS is working diligently to develop a robust electronic book download system from the Cloud wherein BARD is just the beginning. Please call Paula Mclean at 860-721-2033. For BARD, you will need an email address, an audio book player, and some basic knowledge of computers file processes and web browsing. However, the future promises to be far more user friendly, in which audio books will be automatically downloaded directly to your book player thus requiring no computer skills. The NLS is now running tests of audio book players outfitted with a Wi-Fi connection to the internet. In another five years, or so, these new players should become ready for general use.

## BARD-Only Audio Books

There are many commercial audio books that have been converted to the NLS format but are only available for download on BARD or can be duplicated by the LBPH. No digital cartridges will be made for these books. A list of these download-only books is available at <http://bit.ly/2HdFVAb>. Each month new download-only books will be added to this list sorted with the newest additions on top. However, these download-only books will not be included in Talking Book Topics.

## BARD Mobile iOS Upgrades for Apple

There are two recent upgrades to the BARD Mobile iOS system used in Apple products and are available in the Apple Store. They are versions 1.2 and 1.2.1.

Version 1.2 released in June 2018:

- Adds "My previous downloads" and "Most popular books" to Get Books
- Browse magazines by title
- Braille reflow (lines of braille break to match your display length)
- Beep-free mode
- VoiceOver actions added to bookshelf items
- Dynamic sleep timer (matches the jump-by level)
- Adheres to system-wide type size setting (Dynamic Type)
- Total reading time or number of braille volumes added to summary listings
- Automatically reloads next 50 items as you scroll (no more tapping "Load more")
- Error message refinements
- Double-tap gesture to reset speed/tone
- ...along with bug fixes, stability improvements, and performance enhancements.

Version 1.2.1 released in August 2018:

Fixes a problem with braille reflow at some page boundaries and a bug that would cause the app to freeze when loading the bookshelf.

## BARD Mobile Troubleshooting

For users of BARD Mobile with their mobile devices, you may receive an error message from time to time stating that you are not authorized to read this protected book or you have exceeded the number of allowed devices. You cannot fix these errors, rather they must be reported to Paula McLean at 860-721-2033. Please do not try to fix these by deleting the BARD mobile app and re-installing it. This will only make matters worse as all books on your device will also be deleted. Let's take a look at these one at a time:

*You are not authorized to read this protected book:* This error message means that you have reached the built-in limit on the number of audio books that can be downloaded in a 30 day period with the BARD mobile app. That limit is one hundred books or magazines. Once this limit is reached, the BARD mobile app will not allow the patron to download more items until the next 30-day period. The NLS is quite firm in enforcing this limit. In truly exceptional circumstances where there is a bona fide reason for downloading that many books, the NLS may consider temporarily increasing this limit. For technological reasons, this limit is a necessary element of the app.

*You have exceeded the number of allowed devices:* The number of mobile devices allowed to be registered with a patron's BARD account is limited to five devices in a 365-day period, i.e.; annually. You will receive this error message if you try to register more than five devices. Again, this is technological parameter built into the BARD system which the library cannot change. The only fix is to contact your reader advisor and have one or more existing devices of your choice removed from your account. Then the new device can be added.

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## Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC)

As a reminder, the online public access catalog (OPAC) is now available which contains all of the braille and audio books in the LBPH collection. It is automatically updated each time a new book is added to the collection. The OPAC allows you to search our collection and submit your requests online directly to the library. The URL for the OPAC is:

<https://readsopac.nlstalkingbooks.org/WebReadsOPAC/>

To gain access to the OPAC, you need to get a user name and password from your reader advisor. Your user name will be your patron ID, and the password will be forwarded to you by email. You can keep that password or change it to one of your liking. The reader advisors are listed at the end of this newsletter.

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## Tech Tips

**Verbosity of your player:** The audio book player is designed to verbalize the functions associated to the various buttons, such as "volume up" or "fast forward" etc. To some this may become annoying and wish there could be less wordiness. You can thus reduce the wordiness of the player's announcements by using this method:

- a. Remove any cartridge that may be in the player.
- b. Press and hold simultaneously the **Fast Forward** button and the **Speed Down** button for two seconds.
- c. The player will give the message "reduced verbosity" which indicates that some of the wordiness has been reduced.
- d. To return to normal operations, simultaneously press and hold the **Fast Forward** and **Speed Down** buttons for two seconds. A message will play stating "normal verbosity".

**Bookshelf:** Bookshelf is a feature of the audio book player which allows you to play digital cartridges that have more than one book on the cartridge. In general, a cartridge can hold up to ten books. Bookshelf is available on both player models, the standard DS1 and the advanced DA1. Knowing how bookshelf works is essential to take advantage of the forthcoming duplication-on-demand method of distributing audio books. Follow the following directions to use bookshelf:

- a. Enter Bookshelf mode by Inserting a multi-book cartridge into the player and then press and hold the **Play/Stop** button for two seconds. The player will then announce the number of books on the cartridge and the title of the book currently selected.
- b. You can also have the player announce the titles of the other books on the cartridge

by pressing the **Rewind** or **Fast Forward** buttons.

- c. After selecting the book, exit the Bookshelf mode by pressing the **Play/Stop** button. The player will remember which book was selected even if the cartridge is removed from the player.
- d. On the standard DS1 player, the User Guide will always be the first book listed on the cartridge.

**USB Joystick:** A patron can program a USB joystick to control the player's functions. With a joystick, the patron won't have to locate and press any buttons but will be able to control the player by moving the joystick in up to eight directions. These are the top-left, top-center, top-right, and then to the left or right, and the bottom-left, bottom-center, and bottom-right. A two-axis joystick like those used with digital games will suffice. The joystick can control eight different functions by assigning a function to each of the joystick directions using the learning mode (described below). There are no default function assignments for the joystick.

**Programming the Joystick:** To assign specific functions to the joystick:

- a. Connect the joystick to the USB port on the right side of the player. Do not insert a cartridge.
- b. Press the **Power** button to turn on the player.
- c. Enter the learning mode by pressing and holding the **Sleep** button for 5 seconds.
- d. Press the **Fast Forward** button to begin the programming.
- e. To assign a function, press the button on the player to be assigned and then point the joystick in one of the eight directions and return it to the center. Repeat until all eight directions have been programmed. You may choose any direction you want for each function.
- f. Press the **Power** button to complete the process.

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## Friends of the Connecticut State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

The purpose of the Friends group is to draw together and unite those people who are committed to enhancing the level of services and resources of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped serving the State of Connecticut, and to further enrich the lives of its users.

The LBPH Friends group had its bi-monthly meetings on February 13th and April 10th. The next scheduled meetings are on June 12th and August 14th at the Library for the Blind. Come and join the Friends Group and take part in interesting activities, enjoy the camaraderie, and lend your voice in support of the LBPH. Your thoughts, opinions and comments are always appreciated. If you cannot make the meetings in person, please email comments to Barbara Blejewski at [barbara.blejewski@cox.net](mailto:barbara.blejewski@cox.net) and she will present them to the group.

Attached to this newsletter is the application for joining the Friends group. The annual dues are just ten dollars for an individual. Of particular need are persons interested in organizing activities and engaging in advocacy. Please fill it out and mail it to the address indicated.

The Friends also gratefully accepts donations which will be put to good use in support of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

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## **LBPH Rules and Regulations**

We will be using this section of the newsletter to educate our patrons about the rules and regulations pertinent to their use of the program. Such rules and regulations are designed to give the program structure and to provide fair and consistent service to all patrons. We at the LBPH have our duties and responsibilities in providing these services, and all patrons in turn have their duties and responsibilities as users of the services. In this issue, we will present the eligibility criteria for being a member of this service. Though you may already be a qualified patron, please use this information to help identify and encourage others to join up. We strive to reach as many potential patrons as possible and your help will be very beneficial and greatly appreciated.

### **Eligibility Criteria for Loan Service for Individuals:**

The following persons are eligible for the LBPH loan service: Residents of the United States, including territories, insular possessions, the District of Columbia, and American citizens living abroad. Connecticut residents will receive services from the Connecticut State LBPH. There are no minimum age requirements, though children too young to benefit from the experience of reading books are discouraged.

By Federal law, every individual who applies for library service must provide written certification, signed by a competent authority, of his or her inability to read or use standard printed material as a result of visual or physical limitations. This inability may be either permanent or temporary. If temporary, the library service must be discontinued when the condition establishing eligibility no longer exists. Applicants must be certified as having one or more of the following conditions:

- a. Blindness
- b. Visual handicap
- c. Physical handicap
- d. Reading disability
- e. Deaf blindness

**Definitions of Conditions:**

1. Blind persons whose visual acuity, as determined by competent authority, is 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses, or whose widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.
2. Other physically handicapped persons are eligible as follows:
  - a. Persons whose visual disability, with correction and regardless of optical measurement, is certified by competent authority as preventing the reading of regular printed material.
  - b. Persons certified by competent authority as unable to read or unable to use regular printed material because of physical limitations. Physical limitations generally means the inability to hold a book or turn pages. These can include, but not limited to, the loss of hands or arms, disabling paralysis, muscle or nerve deterioration severely affecting coordination and control, confinement in iron lungs or similar mechanical devices, or other physically disabling conditions.
  - c. Persons certified by competent authority as having a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity to prevent reading regular printed material in a conventional manner. Non-organic factors must be ruled out in applicants with adequate visual acuity for the reading of standard print.

Conditions and non-organic factors that do not establish eligibility include:

- a. Developmental disabilities
- b. Emotional illness
- c. Hearing impairment
- d. Illiteracy due to lack of education
- e. Mental retardation, e.g., Down's syndrome

**Certifying Authorities include:**

1. In cases of blindness, visual impairment, or physical limitations, competent authority Includes.
  - a. Doctors of medicine; doctors of osteopathy; ophthalmologists; optometrists; registered nurses; therapists; and professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or private welfare agencies (e.g., social workers, case workers, counselors, rehabilitation teachers, and superintendents.
  - b. In the absence of any of the above competent authorities, certification may be made by professional librarians or by any person whose competence under specific circumstances is acceptable to the Library of Congress.

2. In the case of a reading disability from organic dysfunction, competent authority is defined as only doctors of medicine and doctors of osteopathy who may consult with colleagues in associated disciplines.
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**To order books:**

Email: [csl.lbph@ct.gov](mailto:csl.lbph@ct.gov)

Telephone: 860-721-2020 or 800-842-4516

Please leave a message. You can order up to 10 books at a time. Identifying the books by their book number is most effective. Or please give the title and, if known, the author.

Address: Connecticut State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped  
198 West Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

**Reader Advisors:**

For patrons with the last name beginning with the letter A through K, please call Paula Mclean at 860-271-2033 or email [csl.lbph@ct.gov](mailto:csl.lbph@ct.gov).

For patrons with the last name beginning with the letter L through Z, please call Kathy Hotchkiss at 860-721-2024 or email [csl.lbph@ct.gov](mailto:csl.lbph@ct.gov).



The LPBH is a free braille and talking book library service for people with low vision, blindness, or a physical disability that prevents them from reading or holding the printed page. Books are offered in braille and audio formats, mailed to your door, or instantly downloadable

**APPLICATION**

**FRIENDS OF THE CONNECTICUT LIBRARY FOR THE  
BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED (FLBPH)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zipcode:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose one category:**

\_\_\_ **Individual**            **\$10.00**

\_\_\_ **Family**              **\$15.00**

\_\_\_ **Organization**      **\$25.00**

\_\_\_ **Corporation**      **\$100.00**

\_\_\_ **Donation only \$**\_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to volunteer for:**

\_\_\_ **Board Member**

\_\_\_ **Plan Annual Meeting**

\_\_\_ **Preparing Mailings**

\_\_\_ **Publicity**

Contributions and dues are tax deductible. Membership dues are renewable at our Annual Meeting in October.

The Connecticut Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization created to support the programs of the Connecticut State Library and the Museum of Connecticut History, will act as a fiscal sponsor for the LBPH Friends Group. Therefore, please mail checks made payable to: **“Connecticut Heritage Foundation”** with **“Friends of LBPH-CT”** in the memo line.

Mail application and check to:

Friends of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped  
198 West Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067