



CT State Library

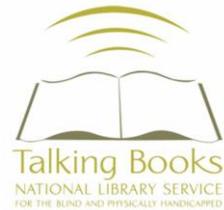
Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Volume 2. No. 1 Winter 2018

The LBPH Newsletter

Quarterly News and Updates

Gordon Reddick, Director
Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped



From the Director:

I hope all of you have had a wonderful and memorable holiday season and welcome to the new year of 2018. We're eagerly looking forward to the new releases from the NLS to satiate our reading needs during the cold and dreary winter months. There's nothing like a good read in the comfort of one's own home while the snow swirls outside. Please don't hesitate to contact your reader advisor, or send us an email, with your book requests. In this issue, we have news concerning BARD and the new remote control unit for the digital talking book. Plus a list of audio magazines now available on BARD and cartridges. We're also beginning a new section called Tech Tips

which will include information about the digital players and other technical issues. We welcome your feedback and suggestions for items to be included in future newsletters. Please email me at gordon.reddick@ct.gov at any time.

Gordon Reddick, Director
January 2018

NEWS FLASH

Now on BARD! "Fire and Fury: inside the Trump White House"

The best-selling controversial new book on the Trump White House is now available for download from BARD Book number DB 89802. The cartridge version is still in production.

Book info:

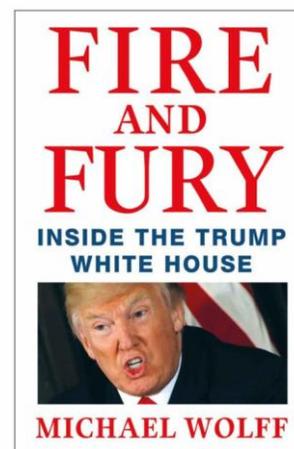
Author: Wolff, Michael. Reading time: 11 hours, 57 minutes.

Read by Holter Graham.

Government and Politics

U.S. History

Journalist examines the first nine months of President Trump's administration. Discusses, among other things, the staff's opinions of Trump, the reasons for FBI director James Comey's firing, the story behind Trump's claims of being wire-tapped by President Obama, and the state of White House strategies following Steve Bannon's departure. Unrated.



Downloading books to one's personal computer and making them usable on the digital talking book machine can be a difficult and time-consuming process. To make it more convenient and user-friendly, NLS has available a Windows-based app which greatly simplifies this process. This app is called BARD Express and a guide to using it can be found at <http://bit.ly/2h7tL1x>.

BARD is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, with no limits to the number of books you can download nor how long you can keep them. Everyone with computer capability is strongly encouraged to sign up for BARD. To do so, please call Paula at 860-721-2033 and she will walk you through the BARD account activation process. We're sure that you'll find BARD to be a much better method of receiving books.

BARD and the downloading of books from the cloud is just the first step in the long term development by NLS of state-of-the-art accessibility to the entire book collection. It's not just a matter of adopting leading edge technology, it is all about making the collection much more readily accessible to all patrons regardless of their individual computer skills which is of utmost importance, for those with no computer skills. The ultimate goal is for each and every patron to have the capability of getting their books wherever and whenever they choose anytime of the day or night. No requests, no reserve lists, no waiting for a book to be returned -- any book in the collection. We have been waiting a long time for this day.

New Accessories

Remote Control Unit: The NLS has just released for distribution their new remote control unit for the digital talking book player, abbreviated as the RCU. The RCU is a handheld device that replicates the buttons of the digital book player. A receiver is connected to the USB port on the right side of the book player which is the aim point for the device. The book player should be connected to AC power when using the remote control.

These RCU devices are now available from the LBPH upon request. No application form is required. Please call, write, or email your reader advisor to ask for one.



Breath Switch Adapter: The NLS has also recently released a new breath switch for the digital book player for eligible patrons, namely, those unable to use the player's buttons. The breath switch provides control of all functions of the digital except for power on or off thus it is recommended that the player be connected to AC power.

To receive a breath switch, the patron needs to request one from their reader advisor along with an explanation of the need. The application form can be found at <https://ctstatelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Breath-Switch-Application-pdf.pdf>

The LBPH will forward the request to the NLS for final approval.

High-Volume Player and Headphones: There is also available from the NLS a high-volume version of the digital talking book player for use by patrons who are hearing impaired. The high-volume player is a machine that has been specifically programmed by NLS to have an amplified volume of up to 120 dB. It can only be used with a set of headphones provided by NLS. Because the high sound level of the player can cause permanent damage to hearing, all patrons applying for the high-volume player must be certified by a physician or audiologist. Furthermore, a patron needs to be periodically checked for symptoms of additional hearing loss while in use.

To order a high-volume player, contact your reader advisor and ask for an application, or download the application from <https://ctstatelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/High-Volume-Player-and-Headphones-Application-2016.pdf>

The patron needs to complete Part I of the application and have a physician or audiologist complete Parts II and III to certify the application. Then submit the application to the LBPH for further processing and final approval by the NLS.

New Magazines

In addition to the many magazines produced by NLS, there are a number of new magazines coming online produced by

Friends Group

The LBPH Friends group had its bi-monthly meeting on December 12, 2017, and the next scheduled meetings are on February 13 and

network libraries. These magazines are also available for download from BARD and as a subscription on cartridge. The current list of such magazines is:

Audubon (AUD3)
Cowboys & Indians (OCI3)
Humpty Dumpty (HDM3)
Kiplinger's Retirement Report (KRR4)
Missouri Conservationist (MOC3)
National Geographic Traveler (NGT3)
Oklahoma Today (OKT3)
Playboy Magazine (PBY3)
Seventeen (SVT3)
Southern Living (SOL3)
Smithsonian (SMT3)
Vital Speeches of the Day (VSD3)

April 10, 2018 at the Library for the Blind. A major point of discussion will be the best ways to advocate for the audio book program with the Legislature and government officials in the upcoming 2018 legislative session. Your comments and advice will be most appreciated. Come and join the Friends Group and take part in interesting activities and camaraderie with fellow patrons. If you have comments but cannot make the meetings in person, please email them to Barbara Blejewski at barbara.blejewski@cox.net and she will present them to the group.

Tech Tips

Batteries: The battery life of the digital player is reduced by 10 hours when a flash drive is used, such as when using a flash drive to play a book downloaded from BARD. Therefore please note that whenever a flash drive is plugged into the digital player, the player will automatically report 10 fewer hours of battery available. If you take the flash drive out, the battery life increases again.

There have also been issues with the battery falsely reporting how much battery power it has. Players will say they are fully charged after only a couple of hours of charging, but they are really only partially charged. We recommend that patrons:

- 1) Leave their player plugged in as often as possible
- 2) Leave their player plugged in to fully charge at least 8-9 hours

And since the digital player only recharges once the battery level has dropped below a certain point, trying to recharge the battery when it has only discharged a little won't work. However, leaving the player plugged in runs it off the power cord, and patrons are still able to use the player while it is plugged in.

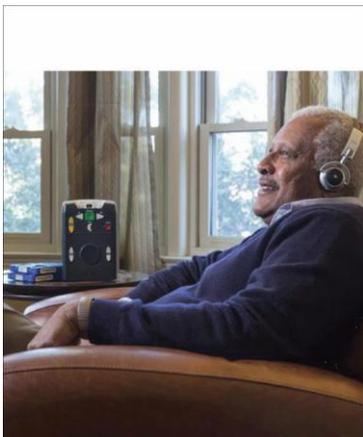
To order books:

Email: 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.



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