

Talking Book Program and Texas Libraries: Partners in Service to Persons with Disabilities

★ Texas State Library and Archives Commission ★



Poll Question

How familiar are you with the Talking Book Program (TBP)?

- a. This webinar is the first I've heard of it.
 - b. Somewhat familiar
 - c. Very familiar
 - d. Very familiar **and** my library is a demo site or has referred people to TBP
- 

80+ Years of Free Library Services

- ▶ Joined National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) in 1931
 - ▶ 15,000 patrons served currently
 - ▶ 892,000 free books and magazines circulated in 2011
 - ▶ 143,000 free books and magazines downloaded in 2011
- 

Service to Veterans

- Blind and other physically impaired veterans receive preference (2 USC Sec. 135b)
- Over one million U.S. veterans have **low vision** (VA)
- 160,000 legally blind veterans in the U.S. (VA)



Fast Disability Facts

- ▶ Over 590,000 Texans have a visual loss (AFB, 2010)
- ▶ 86% of TBP patrons are blind or have a visual impairment (TBP, 2012)
- ▶ 62% of TBP patrons are age 60 and over (TBP, 2012)



Does your library collection have a limited number of...

- ▶ Large print books?
- ▶ Audio books?
- ▶ Downloadable audio books?



TBP and Texas Libraries

- ▶ TBP supplements library collections with a range of accessible library services for individuals with visual, physical or reading impairments.



TBP Services

- Digital audio books, Braille, large print, downloads
 - Reader Consultants, Reader's Advisory Librarians
 - Online access to NLS catalog
 - Disability Information and Referral Center
 - Recording Studio
 - Outreach
- 

TBP library services are not limited to the blind...

- Low vision
- Physical disability
- Reading disability due to organic dysfunction
- Temporary or permanent disability

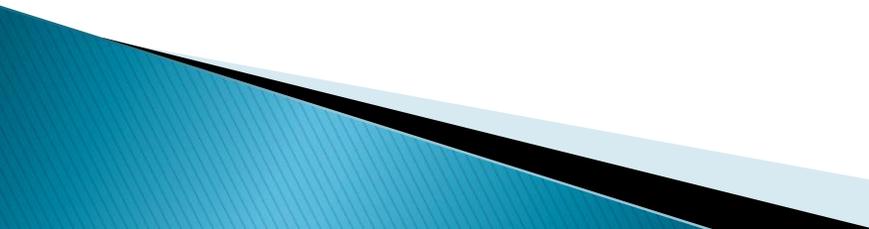


After a patron registers...

- ▶ Receive audio player and books on cartridge
- ▶ Sign up to download books
- ▶ Talking Book Topics
- ▶ Library service tailored to preferences
- ▶ Order books by mail, phone, or email
- ▶ Circulation by postage-free mail



TBP's Collection—80,000 titles

- ▶ Wide variety of fiction and non-fiction genres similar to any public library
 - ▶ Magazines
 - ▶ Music
 - ▶ Spanish and other languages
- 

Non-TBP Resources

TBP does not provide textbooks, but there are others that do:

- Learning Ally (formerly Reading for the Blind & Dyslexic) www.learningally.org
- Bookshare www.bookshare.org

The Digital Talking Book Machine (DTBM)



- Large, easy buttons
- Braille markings
- Rechargeable battery
- 29 hours of battery life
- Great sound quality
- One book per cartridge
- Sleep switch
- Bookmarking
- Adjustable volume, tone, speed
- USB port



Two Versions: Standard and Advanced



Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD)

- ▶ 28,000 books, 45 magazines–no returns!
 - ▶ Download to flash drives or cartridges
 - ▶ Unlimited simultaneous users
 - ▶ Store multiple books per flash drive
 - ▶ Can be played in DTBM USB port
- 

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Downloadable Books and Magazines

BARD: Braille and Audio Reading Download

Potential users

Access to the BARD web site is restricted to eligible readers. You will need a login ID and password to access it. If you do not have them, review the criteria for participation by reading the [BARD application instructions](#) and, if you qualify, request an account.

Current users

Please log in

E-mail Address:

Password:

Public Libraries and TBP: Working Together That All May Read



Four Ways Your Library Can Partner with TBP

- Become a demo site
 - Refer patrons to TBP and certify applications
 - Welcome patrons to download from BARD at your library
 - Host BARD training for patrons
- 

Connect and Collaborate:

1. Register as a DEMO site with TBP.

We will provide your library:

- equipment
- books
- promotional materials
- free demo BARD account



NLS BARD

Braille and Audio Reading Download Service

BARD main page

FIND BOOKS

[Recently added books](#) - a list of books added in the last thirty days

[Most popular books](#) - a list of the most popular books in the last ninety days

Search the collection:

Enter any search terms and then select the Go button.

Browse by author's last names

Lists books alphabetically by author's last name

Browse by book title

Lists books alphabetically by title

Browse by subject

Lists books alphabetically by subject

FIND MAGAZINES

These links provide ways to search for a magazine or browse the magazine collection

[Recently added magazine issues](#) - listed alphabetically

Magazines by title:

All available issues

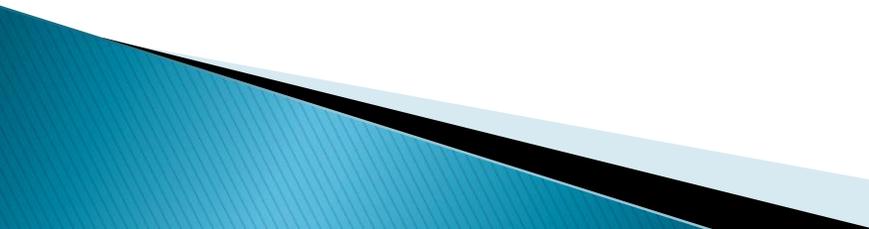
- Digital audio books, magazines
- Downloads play in DTBMs
- Commercially-produced players
- Requires membership
- Searchable catalog
- Books added continuously

Connect and Collaborate:

2. Refer qualified patrons for TBP service and certify individual applications.
- TBP provides any library with applications and brochures upon request
 - Applications are also on TBP website
- 

Certifying Authority

“Certifying authority” can be:

- ▶ doctors of medicine and osteopathy
 - ▶ ophthalmologists, optometrists
 - ▶ registered nurses
 - ▶ therapists
 - ▶ professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or welfare agencies
 - ▶ *professional librarians*
 - ▶ clergy
- 

Connect and Collaborate:

3. Allow patrons with BARD accounts to use library computers to download.



Anansi Boys

Gaiman, Neil. Read by Christopher Walker. Reading time 10 hours 28 minutes.
Fantasy

Fat Charlie considers his father's behavior so embarrassing that even the way he dies in a karaoke bar seems undignified. Then the arrival of a previously unknown brother named Spider, who is so much like their father, turns Charlie's life upside down. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2005.

[Download Anansi Boys, DB61156](#)

Coraline

Gaiman, Neil. Read by Lisette Lecat. Reading time 3 hours 58 minutes.
Fantasy

While exploring her new home, Coraline goes through a doorway that shouldn't be there into a dangerous world where she has a disturbingly different set of parents. Since this other mother kidnaps Coraline's real parents, it is up to Coraline to rescue them and return to her world safely. For grades 4-7. 2002.

[Download Coraline, DB54845](#)



Fragile Things: Short Fictions and Wonders

Gaiman, Neil. Read by Michael Kramer. Reading time 11 hours 54 minutes.
Short Stories

Thirty-one fantasy, gothic, and science fiction tales published between 1990 and 2006. Includes the Hugo Award-winning "A Study in Emerald," several Locus Award winners, and "The Monarch of the Glen,"

Connect and Collaborate:

4. Host a BARD training for patrons with TBP staff as trainers.



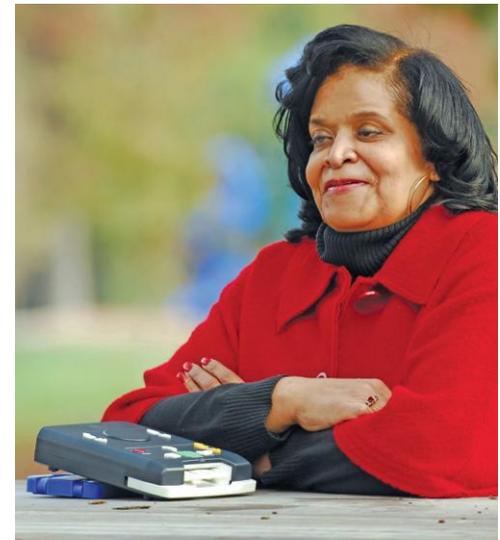
Vision Problems are Increasing

- ▶ In 2010, 4.2 million Americans ages 40+ were blind or had a visual impairment
- ▶ **89%** increase in persons with diabetic retinopathy from 2000 – 2010 (7.7 million)
- ▶ Based on current trends, 13 million Americans will have a visual impairment or be blind by 2050.

(Prevent Blindness America, 2012)

Collaboration Benefits Your Library

- ▶ Expansion of service
- ▶ Help patrons with disabilities continue to enjoy books
- ▶ Professional development for staff, volunteers
- ▶ Publicity for becoming a demo site
- ▶ Increase library usage
- ▶ Serve local veterans



Connect with your community...

- ~Send prepared press release to local media.
- ~Create a TBP promotional display near your large print and audio books.
- ~Highlight the service on your library website.



Key points to remember:

- ▶ Not just for the blind
- ▶ Formats: digital audio cartridge, Braille, large print, cassettes (being phased out)
- ▶ Librarians can certify applications
- ▶ 80,000+ accessible books
- ▶ Downloadable media via BARD
- ▶ Your library can be a demo site
- ▶ Referral service, publicity materials and outreach services are available

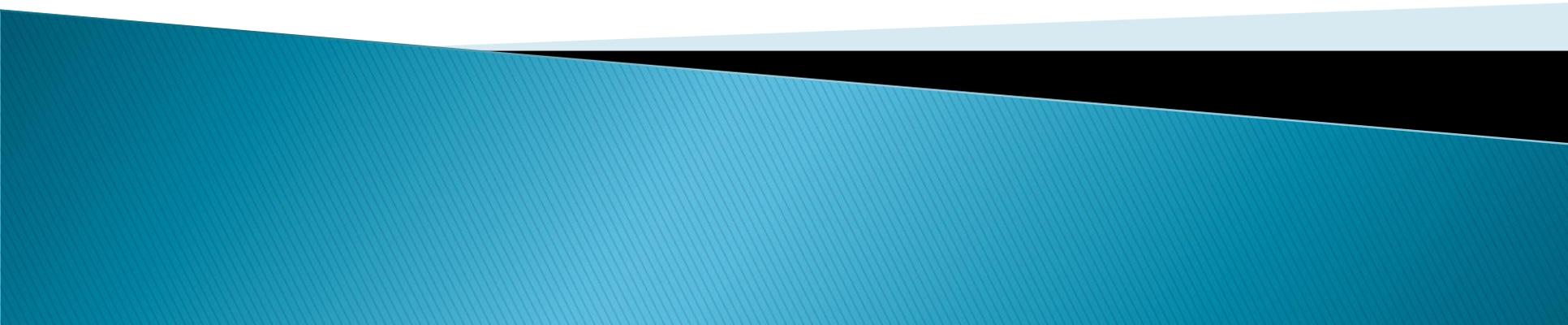


Our patrons have their say...



“I have been listening to talking books since 1972. Your services changed my life. I went back to school, got a master’s degree and am still working as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. In my spare time I listen to mystery novels and other non-fiction. Thanks to all of you.” --TBP Patron

Questions & Answers



Contact TBP

Email: tbp.services@tsl.state.tx.us

Website: www.texastalkingbooks.org

Toll-free: 800-252-9605; Austin: 512-463-5458

For speaker requests:

Ruth Wedergren, Public Awareness Coordinator

rwedergren@tsl.state.tx.us

512-463-5452

★ Texas State Library and Archives Commission ★



Poll Question

Would you be interested in an in-depth webinar about the BARD download service?

a. Yes

b. No

