



---

**BARD**  
**BRAILLE & AUDIO READING DOWNLOAD**  
**TEXAS TALKING BOOK PROGRAM**

---

**1-800-252-9605    [www.texastalkingbooks.org](http://www.texastalkingbooks.org)    [tbp.bard@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:tbp.bard@tsl.texas.gov)**

---

To register for the Talking Book Program:  
**<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/application/index.html>**

To register for BARD (must be a patron of the Texas Talking Book Program):  
**<https://nlsbard.loc.gov/TX1A/ApplicationInstructions.html>**

To log in to BARD (must have a BARD account):  
**<https://nlsbard.loc.gov/TX1A>**

For more information:  
**1-800-252-9605    [www.texastalkingbooks.org](http://www.texastalkingbooks.org)    [tbp.bard@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:tbp.bard@tsl.texas.gov)**

---

## **NOTES:**

## What is BARD?

- BARD is a National Library Service (NLS) free download service.
- Around 120,000 books and over 45 magazine titles in Braille and audio book formats are available; books and magazines are usually added more than once a week.
- Any active individual Talking Book Program patron is eligible.
- Active institutional Talking Book Program account-holders may also be eligible.
- More information about BARD is available at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/bard-access/>

## How does it work?

Once you are a registered patron of the Talking Book Program, you are eligible for a free BARD account.

### • Getting your BARD account:

- We can create a BARD account for you on request, or you can do it yourself by submitting a BARD application:  
<https://nlsbard.loc.gov/TX1A/ApplicationInstructions.html>
- Your username/login ID is your full email address.
- After your BARD account is created you will get an email with a temporary password and the link to the BARD website.
- Go to the BARD site using the link in the email.
- Log in with your email address and the temporary password provided in the email.
- BARD will prompt you to create a permanent password of your choice.
- Make sure you memorize or write down the password you create. You will need it.
- After you've created a permanent password for your BARD account, select which method you will be using to download from BARD.
- Pick the method that applies to you depending on the equipment you have access to.

### • BARD Mobile app on a smartphone, tablet, or Kindle Fire:

- If you have an Apple iPhone or iPad you can download the BARD Mobile app from the App Store. Here is the BARD Mobile User Guide for iOS:  
<https://nlsbard.loc.gov/apidocs/BARDMobile.userguide.iOS.1.3.htm>  
|
- If you have an Android smartphone/tablet, or a Kindle Fire you can download the BARD Mobile app from the Google Play Store. Here is the

BARD Mobile User Guide for Android:

<https://nlsbard.loc.gov/apidocs/android/v1.3/toc.html>

- The app is FREE. Once you download it just log in with the permanent password you created.

- **Digital Talking Book Machine (DTBM), using BARD Express software on your PC computer:**

- This method uses a PC to download audio books or magazines to a cartridge or flash drive to play in your DTBM.
- You cannot play BARD books on your computer (unless it's a tablet, which can use the BARD app—see above).
- You will need a blank cartridge or a flash drive. We will send you a blank cartridge on request.
- Download and install the BARD Express software at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/bard-access/welcome-to-bard-express/>
- Log into BARD Express using the permanent password you created.
- Search for and download a book.
- Connect your flash drive or blank cartridge to your computer.
- On the Bookshelf screen, select the title and activate the button called 'Copy to Cartridge' to move the book from your computer to the flash drive or cartridge.
- Unplug the flash drive or cartridge from your computer and plug it into the DTBM machine. Play your book on the DTBM machine.
- Here is the link to the full BARD Express User Guide: <https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/bard-access/bard-express-user-guide/>

- **Commercial digital player, authorized to play BARD downloads:**

- You may own, or may wish to purchase, a commercial player that can be authorized to play audio books and magazines downloaded from BARD.
- Download and playback details vary by type of player. Some use the BARD app; some use flash cards for storage. Consult the user guide or the manufacturer for instructions.
- The following commercial players may be authorized for BARD use. New players are sometimes added to the list.

*Apex BrailleNote/VoiceNote*

*APH Book Port DT*

*APH Book Port Plus*

*APH Braille Plus Mobile Manager*

*HIMS Blaze ET*

*HIMS Blaze EZ*  
*HIMS BookSense*  
*HIMS BookSense DS*  
*HIMS BookSense XT*  
*HIMS Sense Notetaker*  
*Humanware Victor Reader Stratus*  
*Humanware Victor Reader Stream*  
*Humanware Victor Reader Trek*  
*LevelStar Icon*  
*Milestone 212*  
*Milestone 312*  
*PLEXTALK Pocket PTP1*  
*PLEXTALK PTN2*

- **Braille downloads:**

- Braille files may be read online or may be downloaded for offline reading or embossing with a braille display, braille-aware notetaker, or braille embosser.
- A braille-aware device does not need to be authorized in order to read BARD downloads.
- The file type is .brf. Zipped files must be unzipped before being read.

- **Where can I get help?**

- BARD-specific questions may be answered by the BARD online instructions and FAQs at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/TX1A/support.html>.
- If not, you may contact the Texas Talking Book Program at [tbp.bard@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:tbp.bard@tsl.texas.gov) or at **1-800-252-9605** (512-463-5458 in Austin).
- Machine-specific questions may be answered by your machine's user guide or other documentation, or information provided on the manufacturer's website.
- If not, you may contact the machine's manufacturer (contact the Texas Talking Book Program with questions about the NLS DTBM).
- You may use your usual local technical supports (friend or family member, or other knowledgeable sources).



**TALKING BOOK PROGRAM  
TEXAS STATE LIBRARY  
AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION  
PO BOX 12927  
AUSTIN TX 78711-2927**

**FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND  
& PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED**

**1-800-252-9605**

**Talking Book Program  
Texas State Library and Archives Commission  
512-463-5458 (Austin area)  
tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov (e-mail)  
512-936-0685 (fax)  
PO Box 12927, Austin TX 78711-2927**



Copies of this publication are available in alternative format upon request.  
Published by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission