



Texas Talking Book News

Texas State Library and Archives Commission **SUMMER 2018**

Director's Report

Greetings! Here is the latest news:

Updates on the new automation system: The Talking Book Program (TBP) made its final switchover in late June to the WebREADS circulation system. WebREADS is a system originally designed by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) and is in use by many libraries in the NLS network of cooperating libraries. Our previous circulation system was over 30 years old, could no longer be supported, and had been deemed a “legacy” system by the state Department of Information Resources and had to be replaced. The initial switchover went smoothly, and staff are slowly getting a handle on how the system works, especially in how it goes about selecting books for patrons. Several bugs in the system have been fixed, with some still being worked on. In the meantime, if you are having service problems (too many books, not enough books, no books at all), please call 1-800-252-9605 or 512-463-5458 and speak with a reader consultant. More serious service problems may be the result of bugs in the system, so the sooner we know about them, the sooner the vendor can be working to fix them.

Automatic call-back from your cell phone: If you use AT&T, Sprint, or Verizon for your cell phone, you now should be able to use the “call back” feature to call us back. When TBP Reader Services calls you, the caller I.D. will show “TBP Reader Services” on AT&T phones or “512-463-5458” on Sprint and Verizon phones. For best results, add 512-463-5458 to your cell phone contacts list.

Sunset Commission review has been published: The Sunset Commission staff has published their review of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC). There were no findings or recommendations concerning TBP, and TSLAC is recommended to be reauthorized for another 12 years. You may read the report and other documents here:

<https://www.sunset.texas.gov/reviews-and-reports/agencies/texas-state-library-and-archives-commission>. (If you need a copy in alternate format, please call 1-800-252-9605 and request a Braille or large print copy. The document is also available in audio on the toll-free information line at 1-866-388-6397.) A public hearing for several agencies, including TSLAC, is tentatively scheduled on August 29-30, 2018. If you would like to attend the hearing and make any

comments, you are welcome to do so. If you cannot attend the hearing but wish to submit a comment, you may use the online form at this link:

<https://www.sunset.texas.gov/input-form>.

TBP's Administrative Rules Review: All state agencies and their programs have administrative rules, which are reviewed every four years, amended as needed, and then readopted. The notice of the review of TBP's 18 rules has been published in the July 27, 2018 edition of the *Texas Register* (<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/pdf/currview/index.shtml>). You may read the rules here: <https://bit.ly/2AABKA4>. Comments about the rules review may be made by postal mail, email, or phone to Ava Smith, Director, Talking Book Program, at P.O. Box 12927, Austin, TX, 78711-2927, amsmith@tsl.texas.gov, or 512-463-5428. Comments must be received by August 27, 2018.

The Marrakesh VIP Treaty update: Both the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted unanimously in late May to approve sending *The Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities* to the full U.S. Senate for a final vote. The Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act (S.2559) was easily approved on June 28. The implementation act still has to be approved in the U.S. House of Representatives and then signed by President Trump. If all approve, the treaty could be implemented by mid-October.

If you would like to discuss the treaty with your representative and need contact information, just call 1-800-252-9605 and ask a reader consultant for that contact information.

Until next time,
Ava Smith
Director, Talking Book Program

Disability News

The Texas Technology Access Program (TTAP) provides demonstration centers in several cities in Texas to learn about assistive technology. The program also offers a "try before you buy" option where certain equipment may be borrowed for up to six weeks. Contact TTAP at 800-828-7839 or visit <https://tatp.edb.utexas.edu/>. For assistive technology funding resources, contact the Talking Book Program's Disability Information & Referral Center: 1-800-252-9605 or 512-463-5458, tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov.

The Talking Book Program will be closed on the below listed days.

Monday, September 3 ~ Labor Day

2nd Annual Poetry Contest

The Talking Book Program is proud to announce 2nd annual poetry writing contest. The contest will run from now until October 31, 2018. There are three category levels: TBPL #1: Ages 0-10; TBPL #2: Ages 11-18; and TBPL #3: 19 and above. Winners will be announced in the TBP Winter Newsletter, in early 2019. All poem submissions must be received by October 31, 2018.

The winners will be featured in the TBP Newsletter, have their poem recorded in the TBP Volunteer Recording Studio, uploaded TBP website, and put on the TSLAC Facebook page. One winner will be selected from each category level. Poems will be judged on originality, creativity, and artistic and style quality. Good luck and happy writing.

TBP Poetry Contest Rules

- Must be a current/active TBP patron
- Must sign and submit a release form (Find it on TexasTalkingBooks.org under TBP News or if you want a release form mailed to you call, 512-463-5452)
- Limit one submission per patron
- Poem must be the original work of the participant
- Can be on any subject or topic
- Poem does not have to rhyme
- Poem must not contain any of the following: violence, strong language, sexual content

Submit typed, hand written or Brailled poem and release form to:

Talking Book Program
c/o Public Awareness Coordinator
PO Box 12927
Austin, TX 78711-2927

Or email to: TBPinfo@tsl.texas.gov
Subject Line: 2018 TBP Poetry Contest

Deadline is October 31, 2018

Talking Book Program
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
PO Box 12927
Austin TX 78711-2927

Free Matter for the
Blind or Physically
Handicapped



Helpful contact information for the Talking Book Program:

- To order books or report a problem with your machine: 1-800-252-9605
- To request an application or ask about enrollment: 1-800-252-9605
- To access the toll-free information line: 1-866-388-6397
- To contact the Disability Information and Referral Center: 1-800-252-9605
- To contact the Public Awareness Office: 1-512-463-5452 or 1-800-252-9605
- To send email to anyone in the Talking Book Program:
tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov
- To ask for assistance using BARD or to make changes to your account:
1-800-252-9605 or tbp.bard@tsl.texas.gov
- To ask a librarian for reading advice or reference assistance:
1-800-252-9605 or tbp.ral@tsl.texas.gov
- To access the TBP blog: <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/texastalkingbooks/>
- To see the TBP book club schedule:
<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/tbpbookclub/index.html>

Copies of this publication are available in alternative format upon request.
Comments or complaints regarding programs and services of the Texas State Library
and Archives Commission may be made to:
Director and Librarian. PO Box 12927, Austin, TX 78711-2927

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