

This newsletter is a bi-monthly publication of the Texas Talking Book Program for recording studio volunteers and staff. If you have comments or suggestions, please email Ruth Wedergren, TBP Public Awareness Coordinator at rwedergren@tsl.state.tx.us.

Calendar

Studio closings:
Veterans Day:
Nov. 9, 11
Thanksgiving:
Nov. 28, 29, 30

Studio Statistics

201	July hours
32	July active volunteers
233	August hours
36	August active volunteers

Studio Hours

Mon - Thurs	8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Fri	8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sat	9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Talking Book Program
Texas State Library & Archives
Commission
P.O. Box 12927
Austin, TX 78711-2927

Volunteer Recording Studio News

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Mark Smith Appointed New Director and State Librarian

On August 30, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission unanimously selected Mark Smith as the new Director and State Librarian. His tenure begins on November 1.

“The commission conducted a nationwide search for this very important position,” said TSLAC Chairman Michael C. Waters of Dallas. “We had an accomplished and impressive pool of applicants, and we’re excited and proud to welcome Mark Smith into service for the State of Texas.”

Smith is a native Austinite who received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and his master’s degree from the UT-Austin School of Information.

He currently serves as Vice President for West Coast Operations for Library Systems and Services (LSSI) and has been with the company since 1999. →

Smith also served as the Texas Library Association’s Director of Communications from 1997 to 1999. And, from 1991 to 1996, he was Library Systems Administrator at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

For more information on Mark Smith, read the interview on the TSLAC website:

<https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/news/2013/get-to-know-mark-smith>. ■

Welcome New Studio Volunteers

The Talking Book Program welcomes our new volunteers: David Dausman, Frank Dunaway, Rita Fennelly, Jordan Geiger, Laura King, Kim Morgan, Anne Peters, Sita Sasi, and Gail Viebig. Welcome aboard! ■

TBP Submits Local Recording for NLS Pilot Project; BARD Mobile App Released

TBP was one of eight libraries selected to submit a locally recorded book as part of a pilot project aimed at making local materials available nationally for download via BARD. BARD is the Braille and Audio Reading Download service which allows patrons to download books to a thumb drive or digital cartridge to play in the NLS digital player, or an approved commercial device. ↓

★ Texas State Library and Archives Commission ★



Same Kind of Different As Me by Ron Hall—narrated by Staci Thompson and monitored by Kerry Pivonka—was submitted for review due to its popularity. “When we first produced it on digital cartridge in February 2012, we hadn’t yet started doing post-production/mastering to the audio, and my knowledge of the proper way NLS wants the books marked-up for navigation was very limited,” says Studio Manager Miles Lewis. “So for this submission we applied the ‘new’ mastering and post-production techniques we’ve been using in the past year and a half, as well as re-did the navigational markup to be more in compliance with NLS’s guideline.”

In the future, locally recorded books from talking book programs across the country will be available for patrons to download from BARD, either online or via the new BARD mobile app, which was released on September 19. The app is for iOS devices, giving patrons with iPhones and iPads a way to download from BARD to their portable devices. An app for Android devices is being developed by NLS. ■

All Audio Magazines Now Distributed on Digital Cartridge

Earlier this summer, the National Library Service (NLS) moved all magazines to digital cartridge, replacing audio cassettes. TBP also made the switch to digital-only Texas magazines.

The biggest difference between receiving magazines on cassette and cartridge is that cartridges must be returned. Digital cartridges are expensive and will be reused. ■

New / Digitized Books Completed and Circulating

Above the Law by Tim Green. Narrator: Lionel Jacobs; monitors: John Long, Gary DeVries, Sally Daverse.

Goodbye to a River by John Graves. Narrator: Bill Davis; monitor: Carolyn Randall.

Hank the Cowdog 52: The Quest for the Great White Quail by John R. Erickson. Narrator: Sarah January; monitor: Michael Todd.

How Things Really Work: Lessons From A Life In Politics by Bill Hobby. Narrated by David Erdody.

Mississippi Vivan: A Ted Stephens Mystery by Bill Crider and Clyde Wilson. Narrator: Leslie Rogers; monitor: Cindy Johnson.

No One Heard Her Scream by Jordan Dane. Narrator: Leslie Rogers; monitor: Stephanie Childs.

Orphans’ Nine Commandments by William Roger Holman. Narrator: Jeanne Guichard; monitor: Becky Smith.

State Library and Archives of Texas: A History, 1835-1962 by David B. Gracy II. Narrator: Ev Lunning, Jr.; monitor: Craig York.

Texas, My Texas: Musings of the Rambling Boy by Lonny Taylor. Narrator: Linda Fox; monitor: Stephanie Childs.

Audio Production Services, FY13 4th Quarter Report

During the fourth quarter, staff duplicated 4,034 copies of books and 1,215 copies of magazines (including newsletters) requested by patrons; studio staff and volunteers in Austin completed recording of 9 books, while Midland studio staff and volunteers also completed 4 books. These were forwarded to production staff for mastering (cleanup and editing), markup, and finalization for production. Production staff digitized 6 analog recordings (including one Special Project for ARIS). Austin studio volunteers contributed 665.00 hours, equivalent to work of 1.28 FTEs during the quarter. →

One Audio Tech increased from 20 hours per week to 25. No new narrators were auditioned this quarter. ■ (from Miles Lewis)

Need a Speaker for Your Group?

If you need a speaker for your civic group, club, or faith organization, contact TBP’s Public Awareness Coordinator, Ruth Wedergren. She travels around the state promoting TBP through outreach events and programs, including the Austin area. Her number is (512) 463-5452; email: rwedergren@tsl.state.tx.us. ■

Read TBP’s Blog!

It’s full of great info about books and happenings at TBP, and now includes Podcasts!

www.tsl.state.tx.us/textalkingbooks/ ■