



Spring 2009

CTBL News

Colorado Talking Book Library • Denver

Highlighting Digital Talking Books

There is good news all around. At the beginning of the year the number of new digital machines that the library will receive each month more than doubled. This means that the transition will take less time and patrons will be able to receive the new machine faster. You can expect to receive a phone call from the library when your name comes to the top of the list. Remember, the library is transitioning over veterans first, then centenarians, then individual patrons starting with those who read the most. Organizational accounts will come next and finally, patrons who have access to BARD. We are still expecting machines and books in June.

President Obama signed the 2009 Omnibus Bill which included \$29 million for NLS to complete the digital transition. This was the balance of the additional money that originally was to be spread out over the next four years. It has now been pulled up into this fiscal year. This enables a faster transition but we don't know the specifics at this time.

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www.myctbl.org

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The quota on cartridges has also been increased so the library will be receiving more copies of digital books for circulation. It still will not be like the "old days" when we had enough copies and minimal wait times for books. We hope patrons will be courteous and read the books in a timely manner and send them back to the library. There will be other patrons waiting.

Finally, you will be able to keep you current machine to listen to tapes for as long as you want.

Outreach

Outreach continues at a busy clip with many staff pitching in to cover events. We continue to visit with many vision support groups. CTBL was represented at many events such as the Transition Fair in Aurora, Foundation for Fighting Blindness in Denver, the Broomfield Senior Wellness Day and participated in the Low Vision Fair at the Retina Center in Grand Junction in February. In March CTBL was at the Vision Fair in Fort Collins. With the 9Health Fairs in April we covered about 16 events in one week. Wow! If you would like Debbi to visit a support group, meet with a group or know of an event that CTBL should attend, please contact her.

**CTBL will be closed on the following days in 2009:
May 25th, July 3rd, and September 7th**

From the Director

Process changes and what does it mean for you? It's been about 18 months since we started a project to change the stacks over to random shelving. Every box and large print book will be given its own barcode. That amounts to over 450,000 barcodes. We are far enough along in the project to shift over our check-out and check-in processes to the new method. There are two reasons for doing this major shift. The first is most simple, we will be able to interfile cassette and digital books in our stacks and create space on our shelves. The second is the most important. We are hoping to eliminate most of the human error that contributes to patrons receiving books they didn't order and books not being checked in correctly that lead to those pesky overdue reminders. The new process will contribute to a more accurate inventory and ultimately, better service to our patrons.

Debbi

Second Annual Patron Open House

Tuesday, July 14th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Come visit your library, meet the staff, have a tour, try out the studio by recording your story about the library and enjoy refreshments. Fun was had by all last year so we decided to host the party again. And, on our website, check out the stories recorded last year.

Resource of Interest—ReadHowYouWant

This company sells books in large print or Braille. You can order a large print book in 5 different type sizes from 16 to 24 point. This is a nice customizing option not available from standard large print publishers. For more information call toll free, 1-866-428-5344 or:

For large print books: <http://www.readhowyouwant.com>

For Braille books: <http://www.readhowyouwant.com/braille>

Reader Advisors—Summer Reading

“Be Creative” and “Express Yourself” are the themes for CTBL’s summer reading program, which will run from June 15th to August 7th. Patrons under 17 years of age will receive a letter and registration form in May. A reading list with titles relating to the themes will be sent upon registration.

To qualify for prizes the required reading is a minimum of 2 hours per week every week. Prizes will include gift cards for ice cream, pizza or subs. The top 5 patrons reading the most number of hours will be in a drawing for the grand prize—a choice of a ZenStone MP3 player or a \$40 gift certificate to amazon.com.

This year we will also have a library program at CTBL on Wednesday June 24th at 10:00 am for participants to come and talk about the books they are reading and have some fun.

Upcoming Events of Interest

- **Colorado Lions Summer Camp**—provides a camp experience for special needs people in the mountains of Pike National Forest west of Colorado Springs. This year's "Blind Only" week is July 5-10. The cost is \$500. For more information and the application contact the camp director at 719-687-2087 or via email lionscampco@aol.com
- **Blind Outdoor Adventures**—dedicated to providing safe outdoor experiences to the blind community. BOA typically hikes every weekend, weather permitting, either Saturday or Sunday or sometime both, Contact the director Steve Rarey at 303-589-2453 or via email srarey@blindoutdoors.org

Tech Talk—Screen Readers

Any computer with internet access running Windows can now be accessible using a free screen reader provided by Serotek and the AIR Foundation (Accessibility is a Right). System Access To Go is available at www.satogo.com. You will have the option of creating an account so that each time you log in your settings and other preferences will be remembered.

In addition to the free software, Serotek also offers other versions of System Access. These screen reader products are reasonably priced and don't require the internet in order to

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function. One of the versions can be loaded onto a U3 enabled flash drive and used on any compatible computer.

For more information on Serotek's products visit:
<http://serotek.com/softwareolutions>

More information on the AIR Foundation is available at:
<http://accessibilityisaright.org/>

Volunteer News

"Learning is like rowing upstream: not to advance is to drop back."

—Chinese Proverb

Our volunteers continue to take on new challenges and to learn new skills in almost every area of the library.

In the recording studio, we have begun a series of workshops aimed at helping the narrators and their monitors develop better techniques for recording the books, magazines, and other materials requested by our patrons. We have focused on improving breath control while reading, using audio descriptions of photographs, and proper procedures for setting sound levels and making seamless edits.

In our tape duplication room, volunteers are learning how to use the Print-Braille Label System to generate labels for new

cassettes. The system can be challenging and at times even frustrating, but with help from our Braille-reading volunteers, we are mastering this important system.

We have new members in the talking book machine repair crews learning how to keep the C-1 machines working until our new digital machines start to arrive.

In the mailroom, our volunteers are learning the new system for shelving the books and checking them in and out using bar codes and random shelving model. It has not always been easy, but each week we make progress towards a much more efficiently run library, which will result in quicker turnaround time for all the book orders.

If you would like to learn new skills or to share your lifetime of experience with us, please call Terri Marcotte and ask about current openings in the volunteer program.

Mail Room News

At times, patrons receive broken or damaged tapes and machines eventually need repair. It would be most helpful to CTBL staff if it is at all possible, you could write a note to include with the tape or machine telling us what is wrong with either the tape or machine. It will help speed the diagnostics and repair.

Collection News—New Additions

Suggestions from the hundreds of Large Print books:

PR17322

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle Author: David Wroblewski

Wisconsin, 1970s. Gar and Trudy Sawtelle raise an intuitive and intelligent dog breed on their farm. One dog, Almondine, can communicate with the Sawtelle's mute son Edgar. After Gar's brother arrives, Gar dies and fourteen-year-old Edgar flees into the forest with three of the dogs. [\(Best seller\)](#)

PR17323

Scarpetta Author: Patricia Cornwell

Despite their troubled past, detective Pete Marino works again with pathologist Kay Scarpetta, her husband, and her niece, to expose the sadistic sexual psychopath who killed a graduate student who was a dwarf. Meanwhile someone trashes Scarpetta's reputation online. [\(Best seller\)](#)

PR017318

Twilight Author: Stephenie Meyer

When seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, she meets an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and who she comes to realize is not wholly human.

PR17266

The Eleventh Man Author: Ivan Doig

Driven by the memory of a fallen teammate, TSU's 1941 starting lineup went down as legend in Montana football history, as the players charged through the season undefeated. Two years later, the "Supreme Team" is caught up in World War II. Ten of them are scattered around the globe in the war's lonely and dangerous theaters.

Suggestions from the Colorado Collection:

CC 8178

Tabor's Trinket

Author: Janet Lane ** Narrator: Kate Van Wyhe

After an act of aggression by his neighbor, Lord Tabor seeks refuge in a Gypsy camp and there meets and is captivated by Sharai. She falls in love with him, thinking that his money will save her from her life of poverty, not understanding that his plight is desperate. When he is offered the hand of a woman with a sizeable dowry and a family that will help protect his lands, Tabor and Sharai are plunged into a life-and-death struggle that leads to a painful choice between duty and love. Contains some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

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CC8183

The ABC's of Dominating College Life

Author: Shannon Hurd ** Narrator: Jean Schneider

A lighthearted guide to college life, written for the student who wants to succeed academically, financially, and socially. Includes nutritional tips; recipes for quick and easy cooking; help with time management; what to expect from classes and professors; handling money; and how to get along with your roommate.

CC8140

The World of Willa Cather

Author: Mildred R. Bennett ** Narrator: Louise Lederhos

Describes the people and places in Nebraska that figure prominently in many of Cather's best novels and short stories. It offers material that can be found nowhere else. Here are Willa Cather of Red Cloud, her family and friends, and the things that formed her sensibilities.

CC8144

Fleeting Splendor

Author: Julie Moffett ** Narrator: Joanne Rudoff

From the Scottish Highlands to the streets of London, this book is a historical romance filled with love and passion. For Alana MacKenzie, her childhood friendship with Malcolm MacGregor has

grown into a deep, mystical love. But that love will be forever threatened the day the stranger arrives.

CC008182

Third Down and a War to Go

Author: Terry Frei ** Narrator: Maurice Devany

A Denver Post staff writer tells the story of All-American football player Dave Schreiner and other members of the Wisconsin Badgers football team who sacrificed their comfortable lives to serve, fight, and die in World War II.

Contributors to The Friends of the Colorado Talking Book Library and The Colorado Talking Book Library

An additional way to contribute to either the Friends or to CTBL is through a charitable bequest as part of a will or through life insurance. You do not have to rewrite your current document but can add a written amendment called a codicil. Such a bequest only becomes irrevocable at your death. Giving to the library helps support the programs and service we provide to our patrons.



Colorado Department of Education
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Free Matter for the
Blind & Handicapped

How to Reach Us:

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303-727-9277—metro Denver
1-800-685-2136—outside Denver
www.myctbl.org

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