



Spring 2005

CTBL News

Colorado Talking Book Library • Denver

Highlighting Free Matter for the Blind and Handicapped

Did you know that Congress appropriates money to the United States Post Office's Budget every year to cover the cost of delivering NLS materials such as books and machines? For fiscal year 2004 that was approximately \$115,500,000.

All books, magazines, catalogs, and equipment are sent to a reader through the U.S. Postal Service as "Free Matter for the Blind" and may be returned the same way. There is no postage fee for returning the materials. Materials sent by a network library come with a removable address card that, when turned over and reinserted, will show the library's name and address for return mailing.

However, some patrons have trouble returning machines. If your mail carrier will not pick up your machine, take it to your local public library and they can courier it to CTBL.

The NLS program is funded annually by Congress. The fiscal year 2004 appropriation is \$50,401,000. NLS estimates that their inventory contribution to CTBL is approximately \$5,852,082 based on current holdings in our collection.

From the Director

In May I will attend the Western and Midlands biennial meeting of NLS network libraries. This will give me an opportunity to meet the directors of other libraries from almost half of the United States. I will report about this trip in our Fall newsletter.

Did you know that next year CTBL will celebrate its 75th anniversary? Planning for a celebration is under way and if you have ideas of what could be included, call the Reader's Advisors and pass them along. I can't guarantee that all ideas can be used, but you never know.

On another note, we would like to put together an email list of our patrons so we can quickly communicate with you. Occasionally we get notice of events that may be of interest to you but have no quick way of getting in touch with you. If you would like to be on such a list, please call a Reader's Advisor and give them your email address.

Finally, our annual survey has been mailed out. This year we are using representative sampling, a standard market research method. This means that only some of you will receive the survey each year. Look for the results in our next newsletter.

Debbi

**CTBL will be closed on the following days in 2005:
May 30th, July 4th, September 5th**

Outreach

We continue to participate in lots of outreach opportunities. This winter Debbi visited many vision support groups on the Front Range. Some of the topics covered were CTBL's general services, the move to digital talking books and descriptive videos.

Debbi was invited to speak about CTBL on Colorado Insight, a radio program that aired on 3 radio stations in March.

Other events we participated in were the Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation's Low Vision Technology Fair, Metro State Disability Fair, Standley Lake High School's Disability Fair for parents and students, ACBC's convention in Colorado Springs, and Health SET's VIP fair on May 1.

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 Debbi.

SPRING CLEANING

Please take this opportunity to look around the house and see if there are books you finished but have not sent back to CTBL yet.

If so, please send them along to us so others who may be waiting for them will have the chance to enjoy them. Thanks!

Introducing Our Newest Reader's Advisor

On February 7th Sara Francis joined CTBL as a new Reader's Advisor. Sara replaces Lori Swingle who began another job at the Denver Public Library. Many of you have already met Sara over the phone and know how quickly she picked up the job.

Six years ago Sara moved to Denver to serve in Americorps NCCC and liked Denver so well she stayed. Sara recently completed her Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral Science at Metro State College. Her very first high school job was as a library page at her town library and she's happy to be back in the library world.

Reader's Advisors—Questions and Answers

Q: When I order books online, and the computer says there are copies available, why don't I always receive them?

A: There are a variety of reasons that you may not be receiving your books:

1. When you add your book to the "Book Basket", you must click the "Rush this item" button. "Rush" means that if the book is available, it will be sent right away. If you don't click the button, then the book will automatically go to your Request list and will not be sent.
2. A password is needed to order books online. If you don't have a password, call the library, and we'll set one up for you.

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3. If you have a temporary hold on your account, or if the maximum number of books you can have at one time is set too low, that would also prevent books from being sent. Again, call the library and we'll change the way your account is set up.

Q: I am interested in ordering one of your descriptive videos, but I am not sure what type of machine I need to play it.

A: You watch and listen to these on a TV and a VCR player. Tapes are in the VHS format. Please call the library for a complete listing of titles or go the web site.

SUMMER OUTDOOR FUN

The Colorado Lions Camp, near Woodland Park, serves blind/visually impaired, deaf, and developmentally disabled youth and adults ages 8 and above. The residential camp provides outdoor recreational experiences designed to meet the needs of each camper, to promote independence, and to have fun. Campers are grouped by age during sessions between early June and mid-August with a ratio of 2-3 campers per staff member. A week long camp session costs \$450 per camper. Some "camperships" are available for campers with financial need.

For more information and to request an application, please contact the Lions Camp office at 719-687-2087 or email to lionscampco@aol.com

Summer Reading Program is Back

CTBL is offering a summer reading program this summer. **“Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds”** is this year’s national theme with about 30 states across the country participating in the summer reading program. Children should have received more information by now, but if you have not, please call CTBL to request the information packet. As always, parents are encouraged to get involved with their children and engage in the wondrous world of reading. The program runs from June 15th through Aug 10th.

Volunteer News

“I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.” —Helen Keller

Often in Volunteer Services there is a small, but devoted group of people who unfailingly provide the core of the services we offer. They are not the people who actually record the books you are reading, but rather those who keep enough copies repaired, correctly labeled and returned to the shelves in a timely manner. They quietly supply the various workstations throughout the building with all the materials to get the job done and quickly cover for other volunteers or staff members who are unable to do a regular task due to illness or personal obligations.

We thank these Volunteers for their on-going efforts to keep our books available to every reader in ways great and small. Space does

not allow us to list everything each of them does for us, so we chose just to highlight a few key jobs they do.

Eunice Alton—Tape and box recycling, catalogue labeling, Braille translation

Dorothy Cichowski—catalog labeling, book recycling, previews new materials

Evelyn Dosch—Large print processing, loose tape filing

Veralyne Fenty—New Patron out-reach

Joy Fisher—Box labeling

Coutney Hansen—Loose tape rewinding, cassette box recycling, cassette recycling

Michael Jones—Braille embossing, Friends Board member

Dorothea Ketelsen—Audio duplication and repair

Kay Lundin—Records management, clerical support, mass mailings

Dorothy Nelson—Cassette box replacement, labeling

Marilynn Newcomb—Book labeling

Stuart Noyes—New book processing, submaster shelving

Danielle Paullin—Material recycling, document destruction, catalog labeling

Carri Peterson—Book labeling, bulletin board, Friends Board member

Don Wiens—Audio tape duplication, analog equipment repair, studio technician, Friends Board member

Carol Wilson—Labeling, loose tape filing, clerical support

Tech Talk

As some of you know CTBL was closed for the last day in February and the first day in March as we converted over to an upgraded version of our integrated library software known as KLAS. The transition went quite smoothly. Patrons will not see many changes, but our staff now has more flexibility in how we can serve our patrons . We have refined and updated our subject codes and are working on getting those changes reflected in the catalog records. We hope this results in your receiving books that you really like instead of books that you might like.

For those of you who use the internet, you may have noticed that our web site has changed. Our CDE web support staff did a major overhaul addressing accessibility issues under ADA. Accessibility is our main concern and we were the first site in CDE to get the work done. They took out a lot of bad code that was problematic for screen readers. We have added a navigation bar and changed the background color to make it easier on the eyes. We hope the end result is a user friendly site that is accessible to our patron population.

Mailroom News

During our software conversion the mail was not processed for 3 days. As you can imagine when the computers were back up and running we had lots of mail in backlog. We send our heartfelt

thanks to all the volunteers who came in extra hours to help with the rewinding! We were back to the normal routine within a week.

Q: I need to send back an un-needed or broken machine, but I don't have the box. What should I do?

A: If we are sending you a replacement machine, you may send the old machine in the new box, tape the box, flip the address card and send back to CTBL. If you are canceling service and we are not sending you a new machine, we can send you a box with the packing materials in it, OR you may drop it off at your local public library and a courier service will bring it back to CTBL.

Collection News

New large print books continue to arrive every week. Please check the online catalog for titles.

Braille:

We have received from NLS the New Revised Standard Bible and a donated new copy of the New King James Version Bible. Both are available to check out. We have entered them into our system by volume so you can check out the specific books of the Bible and will not receive all 22 volumes at once.

Descriptive Videos:

- Shrek 2 VO-230 (rated PG)
- Last Samurai VO-231 (rated R)

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Colorado Collection:

CC 7947 Schoolwomen of the Prairie and Plains

by Mary Hurlbut Cordier

Sharon Huckins, Narrator

This lively book focuses on the women responsible for educating prairie children. Most were natives of the region, often teenaged girls away from home for the first time. Teaching under difficult circumstances, schoolwomen not only struggled to meet their students' needs but also used all the means at their disposal such as summer institutes, physical schools, and even reading programs by mail to upgrade their own educational credentials.

CC 7941 Wyoming Wind, A Story of Tom Horn

by Jon Chandler

Nelson Grabenstetter, Narrator

Tom Horn was a real man, but his life and especially his death have become legend. Horn was reputedly the only white man trusted by Geronimo and later became a stock detective for some of the biggest cattle ranchers in the West. This well-written, carefully researched fictional version of Horn's death focuses on the events surrounding his conviction for murder and subsequent hanging on the plains outside Cheyenne, Wyoming. Chandler has written an exciting, enjoyable western adventure that will appeal to both romantics and realists.

Nancy Bolt, State Librarian, Retired April 30th

After 19 years with the Colorado State Library, Nancy Bolt retired on April 30th. Under her leadership the State Library developed a very positive national reputation. She provided an organizational incubator where the Library Research Service and Networking & Resource Sharing began and flourished. Nancy drove changes resulting in the creation of COLAB, Colorado Library Advisory Board to the State Library and CLiC, Colorado Library Consortium. She plans to stay involved in both the state and national library community.

Highest Circulated Titles at CTBL

The Brethren—John Grisham: 1,055

A Painted House—John Grisham: 956

Bittersweet—Danielle Steele: 900

Skipping Christmas—John Grisham: 823

The Summons—John Grisham: 794

The Kiss—Danielle Steele: 758

Leap of Faith—Danielle Steele: 804

Hondo—Louis L'Amour: 730

Riders of Purple Sage—Zane Gray: 692

Colorado Department of Education
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180 Sheridan Blvd.
Denver, CO 80226

Free Matter for the
Blind & Handicapped

How to Reach Us:

Colorado Talking Book Library
180 Sheridan Blvd.
Denver, CO 80226

303-727-9277—metro Denver
1-800-685-2136—outside Denver

www.cde.state.co.us/ctbl

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201 E. Colfax Ave.
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- William Moloney, Commissioner
- Nancy Bolt, State Librarian
- Debbi MacLeod, Director, CTBL



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