



Winter 2010

CTBL News

Colorado Talking Book Library • Denver

Highlighting The New Digital System

Digital has finally arrived at CTBL! All of our veterans and centenarians have received their new machines. If you are in this category and have not received a call from CTBL, please call the library so we can correct your patron record and get you on the list.

One important issue to understand is that although we call this the new digital machine, you **DO NOT** need to have a computer or even know how to use one. The new system is called digital because it uses technology from the computer world but it is a stand alone system.

One concern is the small quantity of books available to circulate. All patrons are put on turnaround service for the digital format and can have two digital books at a time. As we have more digital books available, this limit will be raised. So, please be prompt in listening to and returning your digital books. Eventually, this will no longer be a problem but it will probably take about a year to sort out.

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www.myctbl.org

The New Digital System continued from page 1

We strongly suggest that you keep your cassette player after you receive the new digital player. By having both machines you can still listen to books in either format and possibly reduce your wait time for a particular title.

Another option to avoid wait times on digital books is to sign up for BARD. Patrons will need a computer and broadband access. See "Tech Talk" for more information.

Outreach

Outreach continues at dizzying pace as everyone wants to see the new digital machine. We continue to visit lots of vision support groups around the state. CTBL was represented at many events such as the Low Vision Fairs in Estes Park, Denver, and Glenwood Springs; Disability Awareness Day at Auraria Campus in Denver; the Homebound Librarians meeting in Estes Park; and the Possibilities Fair in Denver. 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 2010:
January 15th and 18th; February 12th and 15th;
April 2nd; and May 28th and 31st**

From the Director

Budget issues continue to be under watch. As you know, the state budget is not good and in constant flux as income continues to decline. CTBL did not face a budget reduction for the current fiscal year but state employees have taken four furlough days and are expected to take four more in 2010, as reflected in the closing schedule on page 2. This reduces the number of days we can provide service to you.

It is unclear if our budget will escape cuts for the upcoming fiscal year 2010-2011. Since the state contributes only 49% of the operating costs there is not much to cut. The state pays for 5.5 of the 13 staff and provides money to operate the building. If any of that is cut, services will be compromised. What you can do is remain in contact with your state legislators—not the ones in Washington. Let them know how important the service that CTBL provides is to you.

Debbi

Advocacy for CTBL

Given the current economic climate and the state's budget situation, the Board of the Friends invite you to call your state legislator to tell them about the Colorado Talking Book Library and let them know how much the library's services mean to you. If you need their name or phone number, the reader advisors can give that information to you when you call the library. Please do not send letters to CTBL.

Tech Talk—New Digital Players

As the first shipment of players arrived so did the first firmware upgrade. One of the features in this upgrade is a bookshelf mode, which allows the player to access multiple books on a single cartridge or flash drive.

To access the bookshelf feature, when there is a cartridge in the player, press and hold the play button. The player will announce it is in bookshelf mode. Then use the Fast Forward or Rewind buttons to scroll through the list of titles on the cartridge. When you hear a title you want to listen to, press the play button and that book will start playing. If you have any problems using this feature, call the library and ask for a Reader Advisor.

In past issues of Tech Talk, we've discussed BARD (Braille and Audio Recording Download) available through the National Library Service. For any of you that have received the new digital player and have access to a computer with a broadband internet connection, you can download books from this site onto a flash drive and play them through the USB port on the side of the digital player or your personal cartridge. The books on this site are the same books we will be mailing out on digital cartridges. However, using BARD means that you don't have to wait for books. You can get more information on BARD by calling the library or visiting our website at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/ctbl/Digital/bard.htm>

If you are interested in the using the service, you will need to fill out an application which is located at:

<https://nlsbard.loc.gov/cgi bin/nlsbardprod/index.cgi>

If you are downloading books and prefer the digital book cartridge to a standard flash drive, Independent Living Aids is selling a blank cartridge that you can download books onto for use with the digital player. If you do order your personal cartridge, please write your name and patron number on the cartridge. If you send your personal cartridge to the library by mistake, we will be able to send it back to you.

The link to their website is:

<http://www.independentliving.com/searchprods.asp?txtsearch=1gb>

Reader Advisors

For those patrons who are downloading audio books from BARD and listening to them on the new digital player, we want to alert you to the presence of side announcements in some of the older digital books. NLS has been recording books in digital for over seven years. Since these books needed to be on cassette, side announcements were added to the recording. These book files are now available on BARD and due to limited staff time the side announcements have not been taken out. So don't be confused, just keep listening.

Resource of Interest—For Veterans

All U.S. military veterans, whether they served during war or peace, whether service-connected or non-service-connected, may be eligible. The VA has services that may help you deal with problems related to vision loss of vision. For more information about the low vision/blind services, contact Pamela Newton, Visual Impairment Services Coordinator at 303-399-8020 ext. 3040 or toll free at 1-888-336-8262 ext. 3040.

Upcoming Events of Interest

- **American Council of the Blind of Colorado 2010 Annual Convention**—April 16 and 17, 2010 at the Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs.

There will be a variety of speakers and exhibitors to help you learn about the most up-to-date issues, information, adaptive aids, and services. The Saturday night banquet includes guest speaker Mitch Pomerantz, President of the American Council of the Blind.

Train transportation is being arranged from Denver to Glenwood Springs and back for the low round-trip fair of \$52 with travel dates of April 15 and returning on April 18, 2010. Discounted room rates will be available at the Hotel Colorado. More details will be available in January. Visit the website at www.acbco.org or call 303-831-0117 or toll free 1-888-775-2221.

Volunteer News—Celebrate!

On December 5th The Friends of CTBL, with expert organization from Terri Marcotte, hosted the annual Volunteer Recognition Brunch at the Lakewood Country Club. We gathered to show our appreciation for all the wonderful ways our volunteers support us at the library. We enjoyed delightful piano music from Steve Denny, great food, and speakers who reminded us how valuable our volunteers are. Those honored were:

5 Year Awards (2004):

Vince J. Beeson, Kate Van Wyhe

10 Year Awards (1999):

Alfred Busnardo, Michael Jones, Marilyn Newcomb, Stuart Noyes

15 Year Awards (1994):

Ed George, Laverne Rios, Melissa Roberts, Jean Schneider

20 Year Awards (1989):

Steve Austin, Jack London

Kay Lundin received the "Heart of a Volunteer" Award for her dedication to the mission of CTBL. She has supported the staff and other volunteers by her many acts of kindness. When we call in volunteers to help with special projects, Kay is always the first person to sign up and insists on staying until the project is completed. Before she even comes in, Kay bakes fresh cookies to encourage the other volunteers. From the first time she volunteered at CTBL, Kay has always said she would do whatever job needed to be done—in short, she has the "heart of a volunteer".

Collection News— Suggestions from New Additions

Suggestions from the hundreds of Large Print books:

PR018025

True Compass: A Memoir Author: Edward M. Kennedy

Autobiography of the Democratic senator from Massachusetts, Ted Kennedy (1932-2009). Reminisces about his family, childhood, education, marriages, and five decades in politics. Discusses the assassinations of his brothers John and Bobby, the 1969 car accident at Chappaquiddick, and his battle with terminal brain cancer.

PR018030

The Lost Symbol Author: Dan Brown

Peter Solomon, friend and mentor of professor Robert Langdon, from *The Davinci Code* (RC 55735, BR 17772), invites Langdon to speak at the U.S. Capitol. When Solomon is kidnapped, Langdon races to save him by uncovering the ancient secrets within Washington, D.C. Some violence and some strong language.

PR018102

Last Night in Twisted River Author: John Irving

A story spanning five decades begins in 1954 when an anxious twelve-year-old boy mistakes the local constable's girlfriend for a bear. He and his father are forced to run, pursued by the implacable constable, and find a lone protector in a fiercely libertarian logger who befriends them.

Suggestions from the Colorado Collection:

CC8181

A Woman's Place: Yesterday's Women in Rural America

Compiled by: Norton Juster ** Narrator: Sharon Huckins

A broad sampling of contemporary articles, letters, poems, and essays brings to life the period between the U.S. Civil War and the turn of the twentieth century, a time of great social upheaval in the United States. Women were torn between the urban battle for women's rights and the traditional role of homemaker, mother, and helper that was still the norm in rural areas. The source materials recognize the hardships that characterized the lives of women of the time while idealizing the vision of the farmer's wife.

CC8194

Going Together

Author: Arnold Grossman ** Narrator: Norm Jones

Los Angeles. Paul, the author of a romantic advice column for men, has been thinking up creative ways to end his life, such as purposely stocking his freezer with artery-clogging food. Helen, the owner of the Helen of Troy beauty salon who "talks like a Jane Austen novel," has been harboring equally dark thoughts. They meet by chance on a subway platform and again on the pier, and begin a quirky, yet endearing romance.

Resources of Interest— Disaster Preparedness

As a member of the Assistive Technology Coalition, I have spent several meetings talking about disaster readiness for people with disabilities from both the personal and governmental perspectives. I thought this would be a good topic for our patrons to consider. Are you ready for an emergency? If you had to evacuate your housing, do you have a plan in place? In a joint publication from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and the American Red Cross, there are four steps that are outlined to get you prepared.

1. Get informed
2. Make a plan
3. Assemble a kit
4. Maintain your plan and kit

The steps are quite detailed and you can choose to do none, some or all of it. But at least being aware of issues to consider is probably a good idea. CTBL is recording several brochures and publications on this topic. They are available on our website in MP3 or patrons can request a copy on either cassette or cartridge.

These websites also have lots of information that could be useful:

- <http://www.redcross.org>
Click the "Preparing and Getting Trained" tab

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- <http://www.disabilitypreparedness.gov/>
Includes information for users of service animals
 - <http://www.readycolorado.com/>

Contributions 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 and helps to secure the future.



Free Matter for the
Blind & Handicapped

How to Reach Us:

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

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

- Dwight D. Jones, Commissioner
- Eugene Hainer, State Librarian
- Debbi MacLeod, Director, CTBL

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