



Colorado Talking Book Library

How to Talk About Talking Books

The Colorado Talking Book Library (CTBL) is a FREE library service that loans audio and braille books and magazines; and books in large print format to people, who cannot see standard print, cannot hold a book, have a physically based reading disability or learning disability.

But what does that really mean? Here is a handy guide to help you talk about Talking Books!

About the Library

- Talking Books are not JUST for blind people. The service is available to people who experience physical disabilities or illnesses that prevent them from holding a book, sitting up for periods of time, or turning the pages of a book for example or have a learning disability.
- Our library serves people of ALL ages. Our youngest user is 3 years old and our oldest is 104...and we have books for all tastes and interest levels!
- Talking Books are completely **FREE**. There is no charge for the books, the talking book player, or the postage to mail the books back to the library.
- CTBL is located in Denver and is part of the Colorado State Library. The library serves all eligible Coloradans by shipping books through the US Postal Service postage paid.

Books and Equipment

- **What kind of books does CTBL have?** All kinds! Our library has the same books that are found in public libraries.
- All NLS audio books in the library are narrated by professional narrators.
- The library has over 35,000 audio books, 7,000 Braille and 22,000 large print books with new books added each month.
- **When books go out in the mail how do you know what to send?** The main way our users get books is by telling us what subjects and authors they like. They can even tell us subjects they don't want. We call it "auto-selection." Users can also get books by giving us lists of requests. Any time a request is available, it will go out ahead of an "auto-selected" book.
- The audio books require special playback equipment, but that is provided by the library for free on "extended loan."
- **What happens if the books get lost in the mail?** If the books are lost or damaged just call the library, there is no charge for lost or damaged materials.

- What about the player? Same thing applies, call the library and they will replace the player right away.
- By the way, all books have a 4 week loan period and there are no fines for overdue books.
- In addition to audio and Braille books, audio and braille magazines are available.
- CTBL also provides access to downloadable books (BARD), NFB-NEWSLINE (newspapers by phone), and an audio version of the "Blue Book", the voters' guide during statewide elections.

Registration

- **How does a person get signed up for Talking Books?** The process is very easy. Just fill out an application for service and have the first page signed by nurse, doctor, librarian, therapist, activity director, social worker, or teacher. In the case of a learning disability, a doctor must sign the application.
- If you are not sure who qualifies to sign an application for somebody, call us and ask! **800-685-2136**.
- Return the signed application to CTBL. We process the application, send a welcome packet and a player and a couple of audio books to get you started.

Downloadable Books (BARD)

- BARD stands for the **B**raille and **A**udio **R**eadin**G** **D**ownload.
- All of the audio books and most Braille books provided by our library are available for on-demand download, which is also FREE.
- Download the books to a cartridge or flash drive for use with the player provided, or use the BARD Mobile app on your iOS mobile device (iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch).

Local Recording Program

- CTBL has an in house studio that records books by local authors, about Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Region and patron requests.
- Narrators are volunteers many of whom are actors or do voice over work.
- The locally recorded books are shared with our national network through download or ILL.

History

- The Library of Congress created a division known as the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) in 1931 after the Pratt-Smoot Act was passed.
- CTBL has existed in Colorado since 1932; one year after the NLS began creating regional libraries across the country and is a joint partnership with NLS.