

Be a Talking Book Ambassador

Learn how talking books can
benefit your community!



**Rose Chenoweth, Director
Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center**





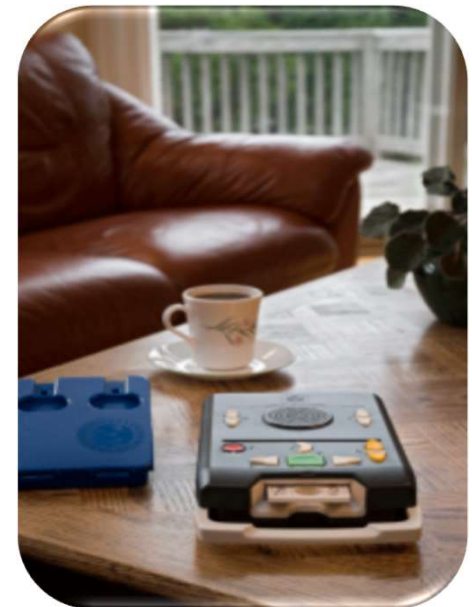
Illinois Talking Book
Outreach Center

1-800-426-0709

www.illinoistalkingbooks.org

Mission

The Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) supports the activities of the Illinois Network of Libraries Serving the Blind and Physically Handicapped in providing excellent public library service to any Illinois resident who is unable to read standard print material due to a permanent or temporary visual or physical disability.

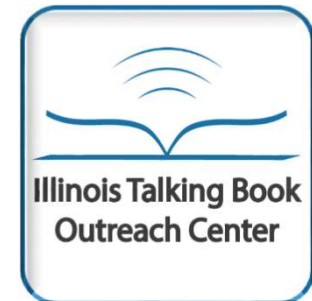




Illinois Talking Book
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Talking Books Libraries

- National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
- Regional Libraries
- Subregionals



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Illinois Network

- **1975 All 18 library systems funded talking book sub-regionals**
- **1994-1995 System Mergers**
- **2000-2010 More consolidations to 1 machine center and 3 sub-regionals**
- **2013 Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center formed**
- **2016 Down to ISLTBBS and ITBOC**



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Illinois Network

Two organizations working together:

Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service

- Serves as the Regional Library and NLS liaison
- Circulates and stores our expansive collection
- Serves residents of the city of Chicago
- Circulates and repairs the digital players

Available until September 1, 2017

Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center

- Provides patron services, reader advisory, and outreach for the entire state outside of Chicago





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Talking Book Basics

- Talking Book library service consists of books, magazines, and music material in digital audio and Braille formats.
- Materials are mailed directly to the patron's home and returned by mailing back to us. No postage is required (all items qualify as Free Matter for the Blind and Physically Handicapped).
- Established in 1931 and administered by the Library of Congress, the National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped serves all eligible residents of the United States.
- Talking book programs are tax supported through grants, so there is no out of pocket expense to patrons.





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Eligibility

- Service is provided to all Illinois residents who are blind, visually impaired, or have a physical disability that prevents the reading of standard print.
- Conditions may be permanent or temporary (resulting from injury or surgery).
- Some reading disabilities also qualify, such as dyslexia. (Reading disabilities must be certified by a medical doctor.)





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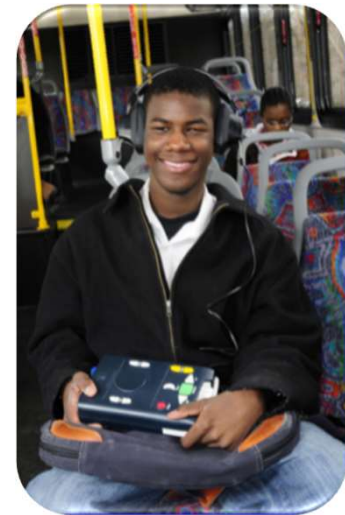
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Eligibility

Examples of qualifying visual disabilities:

- **Low vision**
- **Blindness**
- **Glaucoma**
- **Severe Cataracts**
- **Diabetic Retinopathy**
- **Macular degeneration**





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Eligibility

Examples of qualifying physical disabilities:

- Muscular dystrophy
- Parkinson's Disease
- Cerebral Palsy
- Paraplegics
- Arthritis
- Stroke or brain injury





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How to Apply

- Call to request an application or download one from our or the TBBS website <http://www.ilbph.org/>.
- Complete application by providing contact info, secondary contact, and reading preferences.
- Ask a doctor, nurse, social worker, or librarian to verify the disability by signing the application.
- Mail the completed application to the ISL TBBS in Springfield:

300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1796
- A Reader Advisor will call to set up the account and help the patron select books.





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Digital Players

- Once the account is set up, patrons will receive a free digital player in the mail.
- The machines are easy to use, sturdy, and portable.
- The rechargeable battery lasts approximately 29 hours.
- The large navigation buttons have built-in audio instructions.
- Additional features include a headphone jack, a USB port, tone and speed controls, sleep and bookmark functions, and more!
- High Volume Players are now available for patrons who are also hearing impaired.





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Materials Available

Over 84,000 digital audio books available:

- All genres: mysteries, romance, bestsellers, nonfiction, travel and adventure, religion, biographies, literature, westerns, history, cooking, science fiction, and more!
- Foreign language materials: Spanish, Polish, Chinese, etc.
- Children's and YA books: Dr. Seuss, Captain Underpants, Frozen, Harry Potter, non fiction, classics, and much more.

70 digital magazines including:

- Consumer Reports, People, The Nation, Time, Sports Illustrated, Rolling Stone, Ebony, Martha Stewart Living, Wired, and National Geographic.
- Children's magazines: Cricket, Odyssey, Muse, National Geographic Kids, and Sports Illustrated Kids.





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Materials Available

Braille books and magazines:

- Over 15,000 adult and juvenile titles available from the Utah State Library Program for the Blind and Disabled

Descriptive DVDs:

- 200 movies with added narrative description for low vision viewers

Old Time Radio Shows:

- Westerns, drama, comedies, and variety shows from radio's golden era available on cassette

Newsletters and Booklists:

- Talking Book Topics, Braille Book Review, and state newsletters as well as monthly book lists

***If we don't have it in our collection, it may be available through interlibrary loan from the NLS collection of over 200,000 titles.**





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BARD

- **Braille Audio Reading Download is an online digital collection maintained by NLS.**
- **Talking book patrons may download audio and braille books and magazines to a USB flash drive or book cartridge.**
- **BARD gives patrons free, immediate access to thousands of titles. Books can be downloaded 24/7, with no due dates, wait lists, or download limits.**
- **BARD contains over 70,000 books and 100 magazines, with new titles added weekly.**





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BARD Mobile

- The BARD Mobile app allows patrons to download BARD books and magazines directly to your iOS, Android, or Kindle Fire devices.
- The free app is available for download from the iTunes, Google Play, or Amazon stores and transforms your device into a personal, portable library.
- BARD Mobile is easy to use:
 - Compatible with Voice Over and TalkBack
 - Controls are similar to the talking book digital player





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BARD Express

- **A new way to download for Windows computers!
(Not compatible with Apple operating systems)**
- **No more unzipping files to access BARD!**
- **Simplifies searching, downloading, and transferring BARD books and magazines to a cartridge or USB flashdrive to play on the digital player.**
- **The free BARD Express app is available for download from a link on the BARD Main Page under "Additional Links." www.nlsbard.loc.gov**





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How to Order Books

- Call 1-800-426-0705 to find or request books.
- Email book requests to info@talkingbooks.org or to ISLTBBS isltbbs@ilsos.net.
- Online catalog: <https://webopac.klas.com/il1aopac/>
 - From our website, browse our entire collection or search by author, title, or subject.
 - Place an order for books to be mailed to your home by logging in and using the “Quick Request” tab.
 - The catalog also directly connects with the BARD catalog for immediate downloads.
- “Talking Book Topics”
 - Patrons receive a large print bimonthly catalog listing the most recent additions to the collection.
 - Request books by completing the order form and mailing to our Burr Ridge location.





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Talking Book Websites

- Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS)
<http://www.ilbph.org/>
- Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center
<https://www.illinoistalkingbooks.org/>





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Contact ISL TBBS

- **Phone and Fax Numbers**
 - Sharon Ruda, Director: 217-782-9435
 - Toll free: 800-665-5576, ext. 1
800-426-0709 (ITBOC #)
 - General information: 217-785-0022
 - Fax: 217-782-6062
- **E-mail Addresses**
 - Sharon Ruda: [sruda at ilsos.net](mailto:sruda@ilsos.net)
 - General information: [isltbbs at ilsos.net](mailto:isltbbs@ilsos.net)
- **Mailing Address**

Illinois State Library
Talking Book and Braille Service
300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701





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Veterans

Service to our nation's veterans has been a cornerstone of the NLS program since it began, and all talking book programs offer priority service to veterans.

“The talking book program provides a much-needed way for veterans to continue to learn and connect with others and their communities through reading. Without question, the NLS program enhances the quality of our lives.”



**-Thomas H. Miller
Blinded Veterans Association**





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Patron Testimonials

“Talking Books have been a great asset to my daughter’s education – without it she would not be able to keep up with her classmates.”

“I rely on Talking Books for my reading now that I have macular degeneration.”

“Talking Books help me keep a semblance of independence.”

“Talking Books are a gift to those who are impaired by physical disabilities.”

“Thank you so much for your service. You don’t know how much my husband appreciates your listening material and how much it has filled his days and lifted his depression.”





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WE NEED YOUR HELP

- **To reach citizens in your community who need and qualify for talking book services**
- **To educate organizations who serve these citizens**





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Be an Ambassador!

ADVOCATE

- **Sign up for an institutional account for your organization. Receive a digital player and sample books to demonstrate the program to eligible patrons.**
- **Make sure all of your staff know about talking book services! Contact ITBOC if you'd like a training presentation or use the PowerPoint on our website which should be on the TBBS website soon.**
- **Create a small display of the equipment, posters, brochures, and applications. Contact ITBOC or TBBS to receive new materials.**
- **Understand the eligibility requirements. Individuals with visual, physical, and reading disabilities may qualify.**
- **Speak to low vision groups and service organizations about talking books.**





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ASSIST PATRONS

- **Help eligible patrons fill out and send in applications. Librarians, teachers, and medical professionals can certify their eligibility!**
- **Order books for patrons: call, email, or request their books via mail to their home.**
- **Assist patrons with downloading books from BARD.**
- **Reach out to patrons who may be home bound or reside in nursing homes/assisted living facilities.**
- **Check in with patrons to make sure they are getting books they enjoy. If not, let us know and we can adjust their account!**
- **Add assistive technology that would help patrons better use your services and sign them up for your library card.**





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CONNECT ONLINE

- Add the Illinois State Library TBBS widget to your website so patrons can connect directly with talking books! http://www.ilbph.org/widget_code.html
- Check out the resources on our and the TBBS website! The *Partner Resources* tab contains handouts, applications, tutorials, and more. The site also features book lists, tips, and community resources.
- Update the talking book information on your website at least once a year to ensure it's accurate.





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Other Resources

Illinois Radio Information Services

- Eleven radio stations broadcast current information from local newspapers and magazines.

www.ilbph.org

NFB Newslines

- Over 300 national newspapers, including 6 from IL. Audio readings available 24/7 via touch tone phone or online.

www.nfb.org/audio-newspaper-service

Illinois Assistive Technology Program

- Promotes independence through assistive technology services and programs. www.iltech.org





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Contact Talking Books

Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service

300 S Second Street

Springfield, IL 62701

Phone: 1-800-665-5576 Option 1

Website: www.ilbph.org

Available until September 1, 2017

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125 Tower Drive

Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Phone: 1-800-426-0709

Email: info@illinoistalkingbooks.org

Website: www.illinoistalkingbooks.org

