



TALKING BOOK AND BRAILLE SERVICE: AN OVERVIEW

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SERVICE

LEGISLATION

- Pratt-Smoot Act of 1931

- <https://www.loc.gov/nls/about/organization/laws-regulations/governing-legislation-act-march-3-1931/>

- Chafee Amendment (1996)

- <https://www.loc.gov/nls/about/organization/laws-regulations/copyright-law-amendment-1996-pl-104-197/#:~:text=The%20amendment%20allows%20authorized%20entities,use%20by%20print%2Ddisabled%20persons.>

NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE (NLS)

- Is a division of the Library of Congress (LOC)
- Free program
- Collection includes:
 - Books in both audio and braille
 - Music scores in braille and large-print
 - Specially designed playback equipment
 - Digital Talking Book Machine & Braille E-Reader

TALKING BOOK AND BRAILLE SERVICE (TBBS)

- Nebraska's NLS network library
- Provides for free:
 - Audio books and magazines on cartridge; audio books and magazines via BARD
 - Braille books; braille books and magazines via BARD; musical scores
 - Digital Talking Book Machines (DTBM)
- Must meet NLS requirements to qualify for service

HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY

- Specialized Formats:

- Talking Books started on 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ RPM records, which became 8 $\frac{1}{3}$ RPM to get more audio on each record and to be a proprietary “protected” format
- Cassette format: 4-track, 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ IPS (half-speed), 88 minutes per side, became another specialized format that could hold almost six hours per cassette
- Digital Talking Book: a set of audio files and navigation files, encrypted for copyright protection, and limited in size only by storage capacity

NLS RECORD PLAYER



Pictured: A-77 machine (1977).

NLS C-1 CASSETTE PLAYER

FIRST DEVELOPED IN 1981.



RECORDING PROCESS

- Roughly 25 volunteer narrators
 - They donate 1.5-2 hours/week
- We record about 25 unique magazines
 - Magazines are of local and regional interest
 - Magazines feature multiple narrators/issue
- Books take more time
 - One voice/book
 - Books go through an extra review process
- After recording:
 - Review & Fixes (books only)
 - Assembly
 - Post-production
 - Markup
 - Encryption
 - Duplication

CIRCULATION MODELS

PHYSICAL MATERIALS

- Analog or Digital materials stored on physical media
- Stored on shelves
- Circulated to patrons, inspected and re-shelved

BOOKS AS DIGITAL FILES

- Can be circulated through traditional means
- Additional methods become possible; can respond to evolving technology
- Consideration of distribution approaches for the future

DISTRIBUTION APPROACHES: DTB CARTRIDGES

- Digital Talking Books were initially made to circulate on specially-shape flash memory “cartridges”
- Each cartridge held one book or magazine, with labels identifying its “stable” contents
- Better sound, better storage capacity, enhanced navigational ease and depth
- Two models of Digital Talking Book players available to patrons, Standard and Advanced

Digital Talking Book Player

Standard Player



Advanced Player



DISTRIBUTION APPROACHES: BARD

- BARD is a National Library Service download website: “Braille and Audio Reading Download”
- Books and magazines produced by NLS can be downloaded to a computer, unzipped, copied to a blank DTB cartridge, and used on a Standard or Advanced player
- “Bookshelf” feature added to DTB player software to accommodate storing multiple books/magazines on a single cartridge

BARD DOWNLOAD WEBSITE



BARD main page

Recently added books and magazines - a list of books and magazines added in the last thirty days.

Most popular books - a list of the most downloaded books in the last thirty days.

FIND BOOKS

Display only books produced by or specially acquired by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Search the collection:

Enter any search terms and then select the Go button.

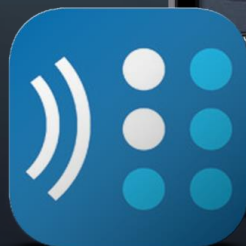
Browse by author's last name:

Lists books alphabetically by author's last name

DISTRIBUTION APPROACHES: MOBILE APPS

- BARD apps are available for iOS and droid devices
- Borrowers can find and download their books to play directly on these devices, using their BARD login and password
- For those who have their own mobile devices or gadgets like the Kindle Fire or iPads, these allow for using the service without needing to lug multiple machines around

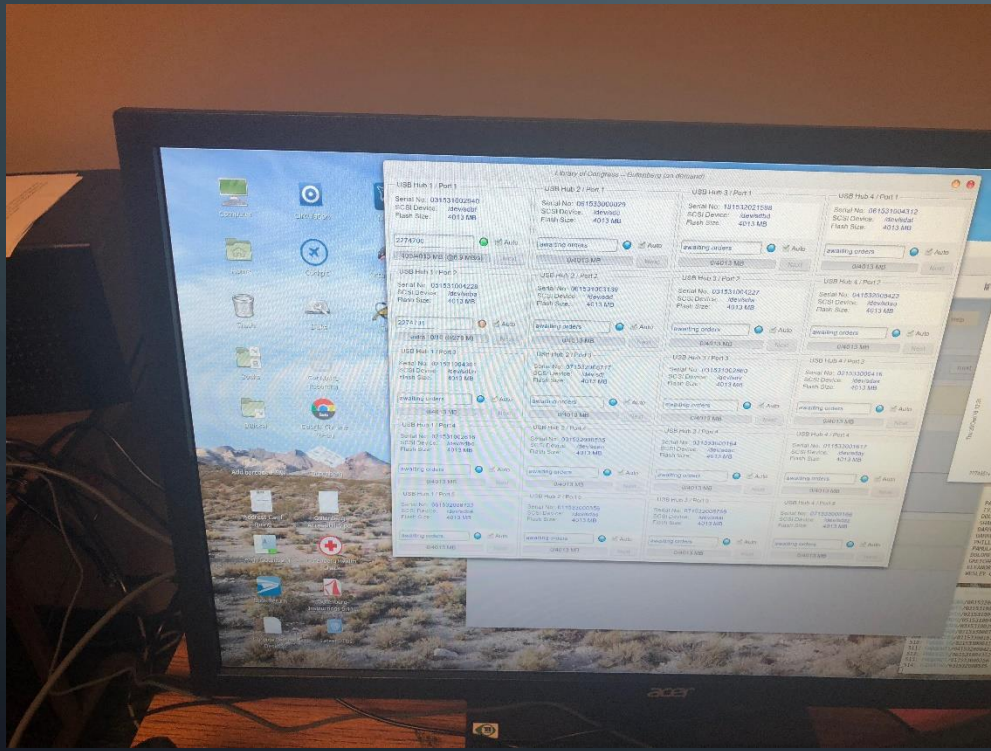
BARD MOBILE APP



WHAT IS DUPLICATION ON DEMAND?

- Duplication on Demand essentially functions as a modified version of the DTB cartridge distribution model, but incorporates some of the advantages of the downloadable models as well.
- Cartridges are still delivered to patrons mostly via mail or local pickup
- Cartridges still play on the Standard and Advanced players provided to patrons, but can support multiple books/mags on cartridge
- Integrated with our WebREADS circulation software to improve our own ability to select and deliver books

DUPLICATION ON DEMAND “GUTENBERG” SYSTEM



DOD: ADVANTAGES FOR PATRONS

- Patrons can receive multiple books on cartridge if they prefer
- Less fussing with mail delivery and return
- No waiting for books whose copies are all checked out to other patrons
- Reading books in series in actual series order on a single cartridge
- Fewer cartridges to keep track of around the house
- Should help to make sure new books to read are always on hand
- New titles produced by NLS can be borrowed immediately

CREATING A SERIES CARTRIDGE

Current Patron: SCOTT SCHOLZ (NE1AADMIN8)

Book Cart | Pending Orders | Submitted Orders | Returned Orders | Available Addresses

SCOTT SCHOLZ's book cart is empty.

Order Id 4638 was submitted to Gutenberg.

Quick Add

Search By: Series

HARRY P

Book Id	Title	Position	Size	up	down	remove
DB 47260	HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE: HARRY POTTER, BOOK 1 (DB 47260)	1	98 MB	up	down	remove
DB 48437	HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS: HARRY POTTER, BOOK 2 (DB 48437)	2	112 MB	up	down	remove
DB 48772	HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN: HARRY POTTER, BOOK 3 (DB 48772)	3	142 MB	up	down	remove
DB 50228	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE: HARRY POTTER, BOOK 4 (DB 50228)	4	241 MB	up	down	remove
DB 56062	HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX: HARRY POTTER, BOOK 5 (DB 56062)	5	357 MB	up	down	remove
DB 60262	HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE: HARRY POTTER, BOOK 6 (DB 60262)	6	251 MB	up	down	remove
DB 64495	HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: HARRY POTTER, BOOK 7 (DB 64495)	7	277 MB	up	down	remove

Place Order: Empty Cart | Save Positions

Quick Add: Place a duplicate on demand book order for the books in your book cart.

Search By: Patron Name | SCHOLZ, SCOTT | Search

Current Patron: SCOTT SCHOLZ (NE1AADMIN8)

Book Cart | Pending Orders | Submitted Orders | Returned Orders | Available Addresses

Books in Book Cart: 7 (1.48 GB)

Book Id	Title	Position	Size	up	down	remove
DB 47260	HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE: HARRY POTTER, BOOK 1	1	98 MB	up	down	remove
DB 48437	HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS: HARRY POTTER, BOOK 2	2	112 MB	up	down	remove
DB 48772	HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN: HARRY POTTER, BOOK 3	3	142 MB	up	down	remove
DB 50228	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE: HARRY POTTER, BOOK 4	4	241 MB	up	down	remove
DB 56062	HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX: HARRY POTTER, BOOK 5	5	357 MB	up	down	remove
DB 60262	HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE: HARRY POTTER, BOOK 6	6	251 MB	up	down	remove
DB 64495	HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: HARRY POTTER, BOOK 7	7	277 MB	up	down	remove

Place Order: Empty Cart | Save Positions

Quick Add: Place a duplicate on demand book order for the books in your book cart.

ADVANTAGES FOR TBBS STAFF

- Every book is always available for anyone, delivered “just in time”
- Less storage space needed for book copies
- Less staff time: pulling shelved books for outgoing mail, inspecting returned books, testing old cartridges for potential errors, re-shelving
- Less overall mail volume because multiple books can be delivered on a single cartridge

TALKING BOOK STORAGE AND MAIL CARDS



MAKING THE TRANSITION!



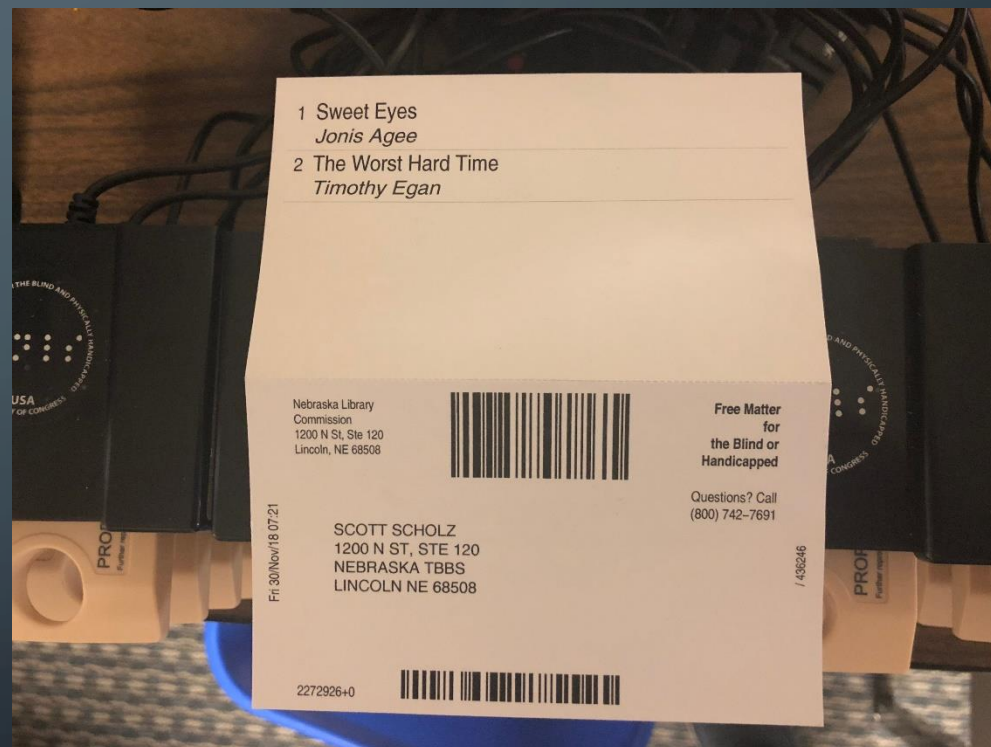
DISCOVERIES SO FAR

- We began transitioning patrons to Duplication on Demand on October 25th, 2018.
- All of our patrons have been switched to Duplication on Demand.
- As of September 30, 2023, we have sent out 132,262 DOD cartridges, containing 406,430 books.
- That averages 3.1 books per cartridge sent.

DISCOVERIES SO FAR (CONTINUED)

- Our traditional mail card-based delivery has dropped to almost nothing
- Our Readers Advisors switched people over as they contacted us, so it turns out that roughly 50 percent of our patrons are responsible for over 95 percent of our actual circulation activity
- Almost all patron response to the change has been positive—people love having more books handy on a single cartridge

NEW CARTRIDGES AND MAIL CARDS



FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- Integration with magazine materials
- Braille e-readers: now available to Nebraska patrons as of February 2022
- Marrakesh Treaty: access to foreign and foreign-language materials. 197,000 titles have been added to the NLS collection via Marrakesh
- Wireless delivery, with duplication on demand as secondary method for those with connectivity issues

HOW TO SIGN UP?

- Paper applications.
 - gabe.kramer@nebraska.gov
- On-line: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/TBBS/applyforservice.aspx?menu>
 - Individual
 - Facility
 - School

The image features a dark blue background with white, stylized circuit board traces in the corners. These traces consist of straight lines and right-angle turns, ending in small circles that represent components or nodes. The traces are located in the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners, framing the central text.

QUESTIONS?