



NLC *Interchange*

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Newsletter
of the
Nebraska
Library
Commission
Talking Book
& Braille
Service

Advisory Committee Seeks Nominees

Two vacancies currently exist on the Advisory Committee to the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service. The purpose of the committee is to represent the needs of talking book and Braille borrowers and to make recommendations concerning library policies, services, and programs. Membership consists primarily of library users but may include librarians, educators, health care

providers, and others who understand the needs of individuals with disabilities. The committee normally meets twice a year.

Interested persons should contact Talking Book and Braille Service, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023 by March 1, 2007. Phone: 402-471-4038 or 800-742-7691, fax: 402-471-6244, e-mail: talkingbook@nlc.state.ne.us.

Coming Digital Player Easy to Use

National Library Service has recently unveiled a prototype of the digital talking book player, scheduled to be available beginning in 2008. Here are some main features.

It will be approximately one third the size of the current cassette player and weigh less than half as much. Its size will be approximately 6 x 9 x 2 inches.

Its sound quality will resemble that of a CD or MP3.

It will feature simple controls. Rewind, play, and fast forward will be centered and close to the front edge of the player. Just behind these will be the power, sleep, and volume buttons. Still further up on the face of the player, on either side of the speaker, will be the tone and speed controls.

Coming Digital Player Easy to Use

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If you choose to use this, the speed control will change the speed of narration from as slow as 30 percent to as fast as 300 percent of normal, without changing the pitch.

If you choose to press the sleep control, it will turn the player off in thirty minutes. The purpose is to help readers find their place after having fallen asleep.

The player case will probably be dark charcoal gray, with the controls in contrasting colors.

The battery should operate twice as long between charges.

The front of the player will feature a pull-out handle. On the side of the player will be a headphone jack. A power cord will be stored in a compartment on the back of the player, similar to now.

The book cartridge will be slightly smaller than a cassette, with a large finger grip for handling and a large-print label with Braille. There will be no need for rewinding since the cartridge has no moving parts. It is designed to be durable, and will be reusable by the Library of Congress. Ninety-five percent of the time, an entire book will fit onto one cartridge. The cartridge will insert into the front of the player just above the handle. The cartridge mailing container will be slightly longer and wider than the cassette mailing box but only half as thick.

Digital audio books will be narrated with human voices, just as they are now; and they will be sent to and from borrowers postage free. The Talking Book and Braille Service will continue to circulate cassette books during and after the transition.

Questions & Answers

Question: What is the difference between two-track and four-track books and magazines?

Answer: Most cassette books and magazines from the Talking Book and Braille Service are recorded on four

tracks. This means you would play all of side one, then turn the cassette over to play all of side two. You would then turn the cassette over again to side one, but this time you would change the side selector switch

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Questions & Answers

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from the 1-2 position to the 3-4 position. This switch is located on the face of your Library of Congress cassette player three controls from the bottom as well as three from the top.

Once you change the switch from the 1-2 to the 3-4 position, side one of the cassette becomes side three, and side two becomes side four. If there is more than one cassette for your book or magazine, you would need to change the side selector switch back to the 1-2 position before you begin the next cassette.

Occasionally a book or magazine is recorded on two tracks. Most of these are identified by their recorded opening announcements and also by a large-print notice taped inside the mailing container. For these cassettes, you would play all of side one, then turn the cassette over to play all of side two. If there are additional cassettes, you would leave

the side selector switch alone, in its 1-2 position, and move on to the next cassette.

Some of these two-track cassettes play at 1 and 7/8 inches per second instead of the usual 15/16. If your two-track cassette sounds extremely slow, try changing the play speed. This is the rocker switch located second from the top on the face of your player. To review all of your cassette player's controls, you might want to listen to the instruction cassette that came with your player.

Once in a while a borrower will notify us that a book or magazine is incomplete; however, when we examine the item, we discover it is all there. Perhaps the problem arises from the difference between two-track and four-track cassettes. We are always happy to talk with borrowers who have questions about this distinction.

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Exploring New Authors

Have you read everything available by your favorite author? Maybe it is time to shop around. Here are some authors whose works follow similar themes:

If you like romances by Danielle Steel, you might like Barbara Delinsky, Barbara Taylor Bradford, Eileen Goudge, Fern Michaels, LaVyrle Spencer, Iris Rainer Dart, Cynthia Victor, Luanne Rice, Jacqueline Susann, or Patti Berg.

If you like westerns by Louis L'Amour, you might like Ralph Compton, Lauran Paine, Max Brand, Gary McCarthy, Ray Hogan, Wayne D. Overholser, Elmer Kelton, William W. Johnstone, or Doug Bowman.

If you like inspirational fiction by Janette Oke, you might like Judith Pella, Lauraine Snelling, Tracie Peterson, Lori Wick, Deborah Raney, Stephanie Grace Whitson, Stephen A. Bly, Dee Henderson, or Francine Rivers.

If you like mysteries by Lilian Jackson Braun, you might like Rita Mae Brown, Marian Babson, Carole Nelson Douglas, Corinne Holt Sawyer, Charlotte MacLeod, Jeffrey Deaver, Lisa Scottoline, Steve Martini, Donald Bain, Richard North Patterson, J.F. Freedman, or Kate Wilhelm.

Cassette Magazines for History Buffs

If you enjoy history and believe there are lessons to be learned from the past, you might be interested in the following free cassette magazines from the Talking Book and Braille Service:

American History covers personalities, as well as social, political, military, and artistic themes that played a role in the development of our country. This bimonthly publica-

tion is produced by Recorded Recreational Reading for the Blind.

Smithsonian, a monthly publication, offers a wide variety of articles about science, history, art, archaeology, and ecology. It also covers events at America's foremost museum, the Smithsonian Institution. It is produced by the Florida Regional Library.

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Cassette Magazines for History Buffs

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If you would like to learn about your own state, you would enjoy *Nebraska History*, a quarterly publication of the Nebraska State Historical Society. This publication is recorded in the studios of the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service.

If you enjoy a fond flashback to the good ol' days, you would enjoy *Reminisce* and its companion magazine, *Reminisce Extra*. Published in alternating months, these two magazines are both recorded in our own studios.

To keep in touch with current events, you should try *Time Magazine Monthly*. Produced by Associated Services for the Blind, this monthly publication consists of selected articles from each weekly issue of *Time*.

To sign up for any of these new cassette magazines, please use the order form on page 7 or contact your Readers Advisor.

Books for Reading “Under the Northern Lights”

Alaska, known as the last frontier, is famous for its majestic mountains and beautiful scenery. Attaining statehood on January 3, 1959, it is by far our largest state, with 587,878 square miles, but ranks 48th in population, with approximately 664,000 residents. Alaska has long captured the imagination of writers. Here is a sample of fiction and nonfiction about our fascinating 49th state:

RC 43280 *Winterdance: the Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod*, by Gary Paulsen

Recounts the author's survival adventure: running the 1,180-mile Iditarod dogsled race across the Arctic wilderness. Enduring frostbite, sleeplessness, moose attacks, and countless trail hazards, he finishes the race eager to run another.

RC 46207 *The Reader's Companion to Alaska*, edited by Alan Ryan

Twenty-eight mostly autobiographical essays by various authors describe Alaska. Beginning with John Muir's

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“Under the Northern Lights”

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first sighting of Glacier Bay in 1879, the stories move chronologically to the 1990s. They provide glimpses of the threat civilization poses to the forty-ninth state. For senior high and older readers.

RC 47856 *Outside Passage: a Memoir of an Alaskan Childhood*, by Julia Scully

A woman’s coming-of-age memoir recalls the two years she and her sister spent in an orphanage, her impoverished youth in a remote Alaskan town, and her teenage years during World War II, working in her widowed mother’s roadhouse that served a rough trade of gold miners.

RC 48298 *Chinook: a North-Western Story*, by Max Brand

Joe Harney is a greenhorn, heading for the Alaskan goldfields. On the way he joins up with Andrew Steen and his great husky dog, Chinook. Together they come to the aid of a young woman, Kate Winslow. Joe falls for Kate and helps her out of many jams.

RC 49095 *Jewel: Pieces of a Dream*, by Kristen Kemp

Biography of songwriter-singer Jewel, who grew up in Alaska with no running water, electricity, or heat. De-

scribes her early singing career, her struggles with dyslexia, and her parents’ divorce. Jewel’s determination to succeed led her to a famous boarding school for the arts and then to California. For junior and senior high readers.

RC 53095 *Touching Spirit Bear*, by Ben Mikaelson

To avoid prison after viciously attacking a classmate, fifteen-year-old Cole agrees to a Native American tradition of healing—one year alone on a remote Alaskan island. There Cole confronts a huge white Spirit Bear that changes his life. Some violence. For junior and senior high readers.

RC 58694 *The Wilderness of Denali: Explorations of a Hunter-Naturalist in Northern Alaska*, by Charles Sheldon with an introduction by C. Hart Merriam

Relates hunter’s 1906-1908 adventures in the territory surrounding Denali, the Native American name for Mt. McKinley. Personal notes and diary entries record observations about sheep, grizzlies, and other native wildlife. This 2000 edition includes biographical introduction.

Golden Oldies From Our Studios

Here are more books recorded in our own studios in past years that are still wonderful to read. To order, please check the box next to the RC number and return this page to Talking Book and Braille Service, or contact your Readers Advisor.

RC 675 *Nebraskaland Magazine Wildlife Viewing Guide*, by Joseph Knue

1 cassette Natural history

RC 677 *A Life*, by Wright Morris

1 cassette Nebraska fiction

RC 678 *The Battle of the Little Bighorn*, by Mari Sandoz

2 cassettes American history

RC 679 *The Cattlemen*, by Mari Sandoz

4 cassettes American history

RC 681 *From This Dark*

Stairway, by Mignon Good Eberhart

1 cassette Mystery

RC 682 *Death in the Fog*, by Mignon Good Eberhart

2 cassettes Mystery

RC 683 *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*, by Ron Hansen

3 cassettes Historical fiction

RC 684 *One Final Pass: The Brook Berringer Story*, by Arthur L. Lindsey with Jan Berringer

1 cassette Biography

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Order Form and Mailing Instructions

Use pages 7 and 8 to mark the books and magazines you wish to order, then put the page into an envelope and mail it to the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book & Braille Service, 1200 N Street, Suite #120, The Atrium, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023.

American History

Nebraska History

Reminisce

Reminisce Extra

Smithsonian

Time Magazine Monthly

RC 43280

RC 46207

RC 47856

RC 48298

RC 49095

RC 53095

RC 58694

RC 685 *Second Helpings: More Eating Nebraska*, by Richard and Katherine Endacott
2 cassettes Nebraska restaurant
guide

RC 687 *Of Myths and Chicken Feet: a Polio Survivor Looks at Survival*, by Nancy Baldwin Carter
1 cassette Autobiography

RC 688 *Sharpie: The Life Story of Evelyn Sharp*, by Diane Ruth Armour Bartels
2 cassettes Biography

RC 689 *Old Tractors and the Men Who Love Them*, by Roger Welsch
2 cassettes Humor

RC 690 *Diggin' In and Piggin' Out: The Truth About Food and Men*, by Roger Welsch
2 cassettes Humor

RC 692 *Walks the Fire: Book One in the Prairie Wind Series*, by Stephanie Grace Whitson
2 cassettes Pioneer story

RC 699 *Moral-Spiritual-Religious Unity through Reincarnation and the Universal Moral Law of Karma: A Dialogue*, by Don Darnell
4 cassettes Philosophy