Seeing the Whole Community

Serving Patrons with Print Disabilities

ILA/NLA/NSLA Joint Conference October 2019
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Nebraska Library Commission

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Iowa Department for the Blind
The disability community is the only minority group that anyone can join at any time.

--The Arc
Around 1 in 4 twenty-year-olds will become disabled at some point before they retire.

- US Social Security Administration
Patrons with print disabilities may be hiding in plain sight.

On the other hand…

These community members might not be coming to your library
Talking Book and Braille Service
Nebraska Library Commission

Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled
Iowa Department for the Blind
The Four Categories of Print Disability

- Blindness / Legal Blindness
- Visual Impairment
- Physical Disabilities
- Reading Disabilities
Talking Books
Assistive Technology

- CCTVs
- Screen Magnifiers
- Screen Readers
- Mobile Devices
- Fonts
You Can

- Spread the word
- Certify your patrons’ applications
- Become a demonstration site
What’s Unique About Our Libraries
Iowa
Iowa: Providing Accessible Library Services
Nebraska
DUPLICATION ON DEMAND

A NEW WAY TO CIRCULATE DIGITAL TALKING BOOKS

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HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY

• Talking Books started on 33 1/3 RPM records, which became 8 1/3 RPM to get more audio on each record and to be a proprietary “protected” format.

• Cassette format: 4-track, 1 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

NLS C-1 CASSETTE PLAYER
FIRST DEVELOPED IN 1981.
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 specialized-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: [Go]
Enter any search terms and then select the Go button.

Browse by author's last name: [Select a Letter] [Go]
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
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 August 31, 2019, we have sent out 21,028 DOD cartridges, containing 56,430 books.
• That averages 2.64 books per cartridge sent.
• My goal, is to increase that number to 3 books/cartridge.
DISCOVERIES SO FAR (CONTINUED)

• Our traditional mail card-based delivery has dropped to almost nothing, about 1 every two weeks.

• Our Readers Advisors switched people over as they contact 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: under development by NLS now
• Marrakesh Treaty: access to foreign and foreign-language materials
• Wireless delivery, with duplication on demand as secondary method for those with connectivity issues