

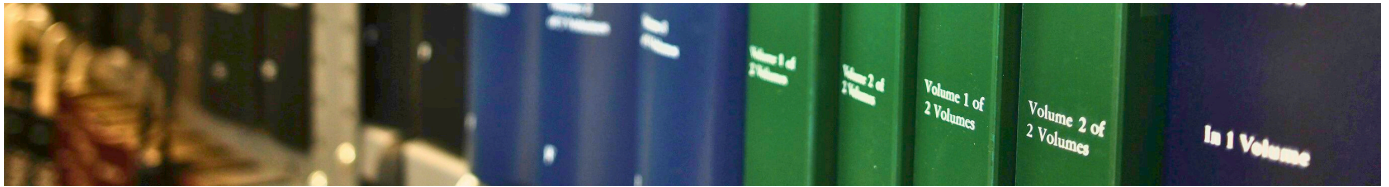


KENTUCKY TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

KTBL.KY.GOV • 800-372-2968 • 502-564-5791 • KTBL.MAIL@KY.GOV



KTBL FAST FACTS



INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES

Photo Caption: This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services

We've had many questions about the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and how its funding impacts our services.

KTBL is a member library of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, part of the Library of Congress. We are grateful for the materials, support, and BARD access they provide. Operations at KTBL, including staff salaries, select studio services, and funding for

some outreach activities are provided by grants from IMLS through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

More than 20% of KTBL's funding comes via LSTA grants from IMLS. This is in addition to state match funds and the generous donations of our users throughout Kentucky. This funding helps KTBL serve our more than 3,800 Kentuckians, 87% of which say they would not have access to audio or braille materials without us. In 2024 alone, we circulated more than 240,000 items in audio and braille formats.

In the past ten years, KTBL has uploaded more than 600 books recorded at our in-house studio about the people, places, and history of Kentucky to BARD Mobile, allowing people from across the country to share in the rich tapestry of Kentucky life.

For information on how you can support KTBL, call us at 800-372-2968 or 502-564-5791. You can also email us at KTBL.Mail@ky.gov.

KTBL TESTING LATEST TALKING BOOK MACHINE



We've been prepping for it for awhile now, and the wait is almost over!

NLS has begun rolling out small numbers of their new digital talking book machine, the DA-2, to libraries across the country. That includes us here at KTBL!

We have received our demonstration unit and will be testing it out over the next few weeks as we prepare to receive our first shipment of approximately 200 machines.

Photo Caption: Jenny Smith holds a new DA-2 talking book machine. She is smiling at the camera.

Other than the shape of the machine and the buttons, the biggest difference is the addition of wifi capability to the machine.

However, please be aware that the DA-2s will not immediately replace the talking book machines that you have now, and NLS plans to continue supplying parts to repair those machines for years to come.

If you would like to be placed on our interest list to possibly receive a DA-2, please call us at 800-372-2968, or 502-564-5791. You can also send us an email at KTBL.Mail@ky.gov. We are currently preferencing those who have wi-fi accessibility and military veterans for consideration at this time.

2025 KENTUCKY TALKING BOOK LIBRARY PATRON SURVEY

Please take a few moments to complete our annual survey. Your feedback helps us make decisions about materials, services, and procedures to help us better serve you. We also use these results in state and federal reports to help support our funding requests. When finished, fold the survey up so that the address shows, and tape it closed. No postage is necessary.

You may also take the survey over the phone by calling 800-372-2968 or 502-564-5791. You can also take it online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025ktblsurvey>.

This survey is anonymous; however, if you include requests or issues regarding your account, we must have your name in order to help you.

#1 Approximately how long have you received service from the Kentucky Talking Book Library?

- a. One year or less
- b. 2-5 years
- c. 6-10 years
- d. 11-20 years
- e. More than 20 years

#2 How did you learn about the Kentucky Talking Book Library? (choose one)

- a. Friend or family member
 - b. Doctor's office
 - c. Division of Blind Services
 - d. Veterans Administration
 - e. Social worker or therapist
 - f. Public Library
 - g. School
 - h. Internet, TV, or radio ad
 - i. Other (please describe):
-

#3 Are you a veteran?

- a. Yes
- b. No

#4 How do you qualify for KTBL Service? (Check all that apply)

- a. Blind
- b. Low vision
- c. Physical disability
- d. Print disability, including dyslexia

#5 How can we make our application process easier? Please explain.

#6 On average, how much time do you spend reading braille or talking books?

- a. Less than 1 hour per week
- b. Between 1 and 2 hours per week
- c. Between 3 and 6 hours per week
- d. Between 1 and 2 hours per day
- e. Between 3 and 6 hours per day
- f. More than 6 hours per day

#7 Would you have access to braille or audio books if you did not get them from the KTBL and/or BARD?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I'm not sure

#8 Have you used our... (select all that apply)

- a. Audiobooks?
- b. Locally recorded Kentucky books?
- c. Braille books?
- d. Magazines?
- e. Music instruction/scores?
- f. International language materials?

#9 Do you use the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service?

- a. Yes
- b. No

#10 If yes, how do you use BARD?

- a. Download books to listen to on my talking book player or to read on my braille eReader
- b. BARD Express/BARD Express Player
- c. BARD Mobile on an iOS, Android, or Kindle Fire device
- d. Other commercial device (please specify):

#11 Do you or a caregiver have the ability to receive text messages?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I'm not sure

#12 Do you or a caregiver use Facebook?

- a. Yes
- b. No

#13 Do you follow our Kentucky Talking Book Library Facebook page?

- a. Yes
- b. No

#14 In what areas do you benefit from using KTBL service? (Select all that apply)

- a. Pleasure reading or entertainment
- b. Companionship
- c. Education
- d. Work
- e. Religion
- f. Health
- g. Staying informed and connected with others
- h. Other (please describe):

#15 Do you feel that braille or talking books are important to your mental health?

- a. Yes, very important
- b. Yes, somewhat important
- c. No, not important
- d. I don't know

#16 In what areas has using braille or talking books benefited your mental health? (Select all that apply)

- a. Provides mental stimulation
- b. Improves concentration or memory
- c. Eases loneliness or boredom
- d. Lessens depression or anxiety
- e. Distracts from problems or pain
- f. increases confidence or independence
- g. Helps me come to terms with vision loss or physical disability
- h. Other (please specify):

#17 Please rate the overall quality of service you have received from KTBL.

- a. Excellent
- b. Very good
- c. Fair
- d. Poor

#18 What is one way we could improve our library?

#19 Which new opportunity would you be most interested in?

- a. Summer Reading Program
- b. Virtual author talks
- c. Instructional videos for using the talking book player and BARD
- d. Large print books for checkout
- e. In-person events or programs
- f. Other (please specify):

To mail your survey back: Please remove the pages containing the survey from the newsletter, fold them so that the return address is showing, and tape closed before placing in the US Mail. No postage is required.

**Free Matter for the Blind and
Physically Handicapped
DMM 703.5**

**Kentucky Talking Book Library
PO Box 537
Frankfort, KY 40602**



Photo Caption: The KTBL Book Club logo

KTBL hosts a monthly virtual book club on the third Tuesday of each month at 3:30pm Eastern Time. Books are selected by KTBL staff members and we take suggestions from regular book club attendees! Books have already been selected through most of 2025.

May 20, 2025

DB 120063 | James

by Percival Everett | Narrated by Dominic Hoffman

A retelling of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, both harrowing and ferociously funny, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view. When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan.

June 17, 2025

DB 90711 , BR 22648 | Circe

by Madeline Miller | Narrated by Perdita Weeks

Circe grows up in the court of her father, the sun god Helios. Despised by her parents and others, she falls in love with a mortal who shuns her. When she takes revenge, she is banished. Those who wish her and others harm are transformed into pigs. Contains some descriptions of sex, some strong language and violence. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

Book Club dates for the rest of 2025 are:

- July 15
- August 19
- September 16
- October 21
- November 18
- December 16

Book titles for these meetings will be provided later this year.

If you would like any of these books, or would like to join the virtual KTBL Book Club, call 800-372-2968, 502-564-5791, or email KTBL.Mail@ky.gov.

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