



# Kentucky Talking Book Library Newsletter July 2021

## **Back to a New Normal**

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, including the Kentucky Talking Book Library, is now open to the public as state Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed. You may now drop off or pick up materials at the security desk, but please call first to make sure a librarian is available to meet you and take care of your needs. Some staff will continue to work from home 1-2 days a week to focus on patron account maintenance, collection maintenance, and other duties we have found are best worked on at home. Many of you have spoken to Brian while he temporarily worked as a librarian. He is making arrangements to safely reopen the recording studio to our volunteers, and will resume his duties as Studio Manager. We hope you have all weathered the pandemic and will remain healthy and safe while you return to your new normal.

## **Reminders**

**Stay Active**—You must receive and return, or download, at least one book every 6 months in order to keep your Kentucky Talking Book Library account active. Regular use indicates your address is current. Extended inactivity may result in dead equipment batteries and cancellation of your account, including your BARD or audio magazine service. Let us know if you have an issue affecting your use; we can put your account on hold for up to 6 months. We will send you a letter or email asking you to return overdue books and the player if we find your account has been inactive for over 6 months. We can restart your service and send you a player when you are ready.

**Return unused players**—We lose hundreds of players a year because patrons lose interest in reading, become incapacitated, or pass away. It is a good idea to let family members know to return equipment to us in the event you are no longer able to use it. Maybe you are using BARD Mobile and no longer need an NLS player; maybe you tried the eReader and found it is not for you; perhaps you don't have time to read. The longer this equipment sits unused, the more likely the battery will no longer charge.

Unused players may also be missing software upgrades that allow them to function better. If you are not using a Talking Book player or a braille eReader, please return it so someone else can enjoy it. We can always send you another player if your situation changes.

**Magazines**—NLS produces about 80 audio and braille magazines available by mail subscription or by download from BARD. Contact KTBL to subscribe to a magazine or to request a listing. NLS depends on returned cartridges to reuse for future issues, so remember to read and return audio magazines promptly. Your account will automatically be marked delinquent if you have 2 or more overdue magazines. You will not receive any more issues until at least one cartridge has been returned. It will not affect your KTBL book circulation.

**Catalogs**—the most popular NLS magazine subscription is the ***Talking Book Topics*** catalog. If you would like to choose your own books from a list of new releases, contact us to subscribe to *Talking Books Topics* in large print or audio, or ***Braille Book Review*** in braille. Both contain a brief description of new books, including whether it is unrated or has any language, violence, or sexual content. You can use the included order forms, call, email, or mail a written list of the books you would like to read.

**NFB Newsline®**— a free audio news service that offers access to more than 500 national and local newspapers and magazines, emergency weather alerts, job listings, TV listings, and more. Includes 10 Kentucky papers accessible by phone, the NFB website, email, the Newsline® Mobile app, or by Amazon Alexa. Contact KTBL to apply.

**NLS Music Service**—The NLS music collection includes braille and large-print musical scores, recorded instructional materials, and recorded materials about music and musicians. All materials are circulated postage free, and some digital audio and eBraille materials are available for download over the Internet. Anyone with a KTBL account is automatically eligible for NLS Music Services. This service is available directly from NLS; call 1-800-424-8567 or email [nlsm@loc.gov](mailto:nlsm@loc.gov) to start.

**Radio Eye**—airs a locally-produced broadcast in which volunteers read state, regional, and local newspapers, public service information, and general interest programming. Listen with a special radio, smartphone app, Amazon Alexa, toll-free telephone number, or on the Radio Eye website. KTBL can send you an application for free service, or you can contact Radio Eye directly at 800-238-5193, ext. 1010, or download an application at <https://www.radioeye.org/become-a-listener> .

## 2021 Kentucky Talking Book Library Patron Survey

Please take a few moments to complete the survey below. Your feedback helps us make decisions about reading materials, services, and procedures to help us better serve you. When finished, fold the survey so our address shows, and tape it closed. No postage is necessary.

You may take the survey over the phone by calling 1-800-372-2968 or 1-502-564-5791. This survey is anonymous; however, we will need your name if you include requests or issues regarding your account.

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. Government agency, such as Blind Services or Veterans Administration
  - d. Social worker or therapist
  - e. Public library
  - f. School
  - g. Internet, TV, or radio ad
  - h. Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. 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 3-6 hours per week
  - d. Between 1 and 2 hours per day
  - e. Between 3-6 hours per day
  - f. More than 6 hours per day
  
4. Which of the following devices do you use? (Select all that apply.)
  - a. Smart phone
  - b. Tablet (like iPad, Samsung Galaxy, Surface Pro)
  - c. E-Reader (like Kindle, Nook)
  - d. Voice activated smart speaker (like Amazon Echo, Google Home/Nest)
  - e. Computer
  - f. None of the above

5. Which of these technologies might interest you? (Select all that apply.)
  - a. A voice-activated player—just tell it what you want to do
  - b. A talking book player that can connect directly to BARD for downloading
  - c. A player with the option to translate text files into synthesized speech
  - d. The ability for librarians to add titles to your BARD Wish List
  - e. None of the above
  
6. Have you ever had to reset your BARD password because you could not remember it or otherwise could not log in? **Skip to #9 if you do not use BARD.**
  - a. No, I have not had to reset my password. (Skip to question 8)
  - b. Yes, I was able to reset my password with no problems
  - c. Yes, I was able to reset my password, but had problems
  - d. Yes, I had to contact my library to reset my password for me
  
7. What specific issues related to BARD passwords have you found the most frustrating? (Select all that apply.)
  - a. Remembering the answers to my secret questions to reset my password.
  - b. Too many rules for new passwords: 16 characters, including numbers & letters, case sensitive, no repeated characters, no common words, etc.
  - c. Cannot reuse the previous 11 passwords.
  - d. Passwords can only be changed once per day.
  - e. The old password keeps automatically filling in.
  - f. The temporary password expired too quickly.
  - g. Other password problems (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_.
  
8. How often do you download books from BARD, BARD Express, or BARD Mobile:
  - a. Daily
  - b. Weekly
  - c. 1-2 times a month
  - d. Every 1-6 months
  - e. Only when I run out of books
  - f. Only when I think of something I want to read
  
9. How do you find new books or authors to read? (Select all that apply.)
  - a. From books the library selects for me
  - b. Talking Book Topics or Braille Book Review catalog
  - c. The NLS online Catalog
  - d. BARD
  - e. Internet sites like Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Goodreads, etc.
  - f. Recommendations from friends or family
  - g. Public library
  - h. TV or Radio
  - i. Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

10. Would you have access to braille or audio books if you did not get them from the Kentucky Talking Book Library and/or BARD?
- Yes
  - No
  - I'm not sure
11. In what areas do you benefit from using Talking Book Library service? (Select all that apply.)
- Pleasure reading or entertainment
  - Companionship
  - Education
  - Work
  - Religion
  - Health
  - Staying informed and connected with others
  - Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you feel that braille or talking books are important to your mental health?
- Yes, very important
  - Yes, somewhat important
  - No, not important
  - I don't know
13. In what areas has using braille or talking books benefitted your mental health? (Select all that apply.)
- Provides mental stimulation
  - Improves concentration or memory
  - Eases loneliness or boredom
  - Lessens depression or anxiety
  - Distracts from problems or pain
  - Increases confidence or independence
  - Helps me come to terms with vision loss or physical disability
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
14. Please rate the overall quality of service you have received from KTBL.
- Excellent
  - Very good
  - Fair
  - Poor

Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey. Fold it so our address shows, tape closed, and mail. No postage is necessary. Call KTBL at 800-372-2968 or 502-564-5791, or email [KTBL.Mail@ky.gov](mailto:KTBL.Mail@ky.gov) if you have specific issues about your service.

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Free Matter for the Blind/  
Physically Handicapped  
DMM 703.5

**KENTUCKY TALKING BOOK LIBRARY**

**PO BOX 537**

**FRANKFORT, KY 40602**

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## **Staff Picks**

### **Barbara—Branch Manager**

#### **DB 101078 The Wonder Boy of Whistle Stop by Fannie Flagg**

Light and cozy sequel to Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café (DB 26698). Bud Threadgoode decides to return to Whistle Stop one last time with his daughter, Ruthie. There, he finds new friends and discovers surprises about his Aunt Idgie and others from the town. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

### **Janet—Librarian**

#### **DB 91941 The Calculating Stars: Lady Astronaut, book 1 by Mary Robinette**

**Kowal** In 1952 a large meteor strike on Earth causes massive cataclysm. To survive, humanity must accelerate the effort to colonize space. Elma York's experience as a WASP pilot and mathematician earns her a spot in the International Aerospace Coalition. She fights to become the first female astronaut. Unrated. 2018

### **Gary—Administrative Specialist, Circulation**

#### **DB 73931 11/22/63 by Stephen King**

The dying owner of Al's Diner has a shocking request for his friend, English teacher Jake Epping: go back in time through a portal in Al's storeroom and stop JFK's assassination. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2011.

### **Michael—Electronic Technician**

#### **DB 90188 Educated: a Memoir by Tara Westover**

The author was raised in a fundamentalist, paranoid Mormon family where she was homeschooled, but eventually worked her way to graduate degrees at Cambridge and Harvard. Discusses hardships faced by the family, abuse at the hands of a sibling, and more. Some violence, strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

### **Susan—Librarian**

#### **DB 52917 American Gods by Neil Gaiman**

On his way to his wife's funeral, ex-convict Shadow meets the mysterious Mr. Wednesday, who has an uncanny knowledge of Shadow's life. Accepting Wednesday's job offer throws Shadow into a supernatural world where ancient gods abound. Explicit descriptions of sex, violence, and strong language. 2001.

### **Tracey—Librarian**

#### **DB 82742 You're Never Too Weird on the Internet (Almost): A Memoir by Felicia**

**Day** Memoir of an actress who made her name with the web series she created about gamers called The Guild. She shares stories of her awkward childhood, her experiences as an actress, and how she turned her love of video gaming into a successful career. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2015.



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Kentucky Talking Book Library.

Kentucky Talking Book Library  
PO Box 537  
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Free Matter for the Blind  
and Physically Handicapped  
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