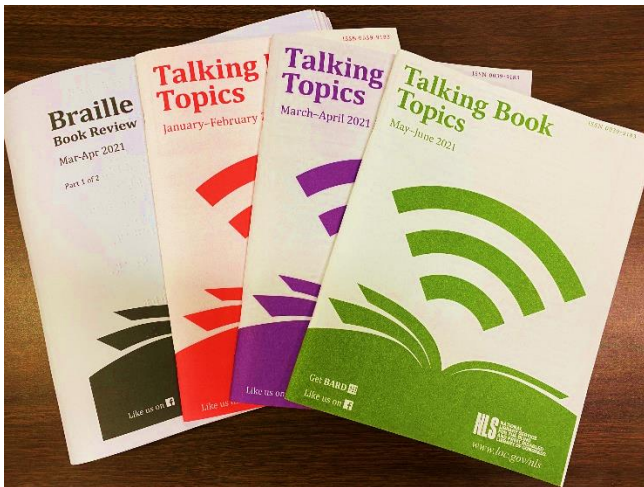


Kentucky Talking Book Library Newsletter March 2022



Talking Book Topics Catalog

The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) provides **Talking Book Topics (TBT)** for patrons to use in selecting books. It is produced every two months in large print and audio formats. Many of you who subscribe to *Talking Book Topics* in large print may have noticed you did not receive an issue for January-February. Due to significant and worsening supply-chain issues and worldwide paper shortages, the large-print edition of *Talking Book Topics* for January–February 2022 was not printed. The US Government Publishing Office (GPO) has informed NLS that these problems are expected to continue through the end of 2022, and likely into 2023.

NLS is extremely concerned about the impact the large print TBT shortage will have on patrons who depend on it to select books. (It should not affect patrons who already receive *Talking Book Topics* as an audio magazine or those who receive *Braille Book Review*.) We cannot simply switch all large print users to the audio version because the producer would not be able to handle such a large increase. Here are the options currently available for accessing *Talking Book Topics*. We realize these may not be ideal, but we will all work together to make the best of a bad situation.

1. Online—if you have internet access, or have family members who do, *Talking Book Topics* is available online at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/latest-books-in-braille-and-audio/talking-book-topics-bimonthly-magazine/>.
2. *Talking Book Topics* on audio cartridge—NLS has created the January-February 2022 issue as DB 106440. It is a Talking Book loaded onto on a cartridge along with your regular books. Call or email KTBL to request it.
3. BARD—those of you who use BARD to download books can also download the audio version of *Talking Book Topics*. On the BARD Main page, go to Find Magazines and Other Materials. In the box labeled Magazines by Titles, select *Talking Book Topics* from the drop-down menu and click Go.
4. *Braille Book Review*—if you can read braille, you may subscribe to *Braille Book Review*. It lists both braille and Talking Books but has shorter descriptions than TBT. It is also available online and on BARD.
5. NFB Newsline®--*Talking Book Topics* is available to Newsline users. Newsline uses synthesized speech to read a variety of newspapers and periodicals. It is accessible by telephone, online, mobile app, and other methods. Contact KTBL to sign up.
6. Autoselect—Most of you already have KTBL select books for you using our Autoselect program, so you may be content with that until *Talking Book Topics* is available in a format you can use. You may contact your librarian to update your favorite authors and reading interests and you are always welcome to request specific titles, authors, or subjects. Your requests will be sent to you before Autoselected titles.

No matter which method you use, you are welcome to mail, phone, or email your requests to us. You may list your requests on any piece of paper or contact us to get a KTBL order form—just be sure to include your name on it. Meanwhile, NLS is working on more alternatives and we will share them as they become available.

On a Related Note...

Also related to the paper shortage is our ability to produce large print copies of our newsletter. We already load the most recent issue onto every Talking Book cartridge, and we email it to every patron with an email address. Therefore, we may explore reducing or eliminating the large print version in the future. There are questions about this on the enclosed survey, so please respond—your feedback on this subject is important to us. We will continue to provide braille newsletters for as long as we can get braille paper.

2022 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. It also helps us justify our funding. 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 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

4. Would you have access to braille or audio books if you did not get them from the Kentucky Talking Book Library and/or BARD?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I'm not sure

5. Do you (or someone on your behalf) use *Talking Book Topics* or *Braille Book Review* to select your books?
- No
 - Yes, I use *Talking Book Topics*
 - Yes, I use *Braille Book Review*
 - I am not sure
6. A paper shortage will prevent NLS from printing the large print version of *Talking Book Topics* (TBT). Which statement is the most accurate for you? (Select one)
- I do not use the *Talking Book Topics* catalog to select books.
 - I (or someone on my behalf) can use the online version
 - I (or someone on my behalf) can use BARD to download the audio version
 - I can read braille and am willing to switch to *Braille Book Review*
 - I am willing to try the audio version of TBT that will be loaded onto a cartridge with my other Talking Books.
 - I am content to have the library select books for me
 - None of these is a good solution for me; I need large print
7. Are you able to write down book numbers on a lined order form while you listen to an audio version of *Talking Book Topics*?
- I do not use the TBT catalog.
 - Yes, that should not be a problem for me
 - I am not sure, but will try
 - No, but I have someone who can
 - No, that would not work for me
8. Last year, KTBL began putting the audio version of our newsletter onto every Talking Book cartridge that contains two or more books, so more patrons have access to it. Which statement best describes you. (Select one)
- I am glad to be able to listen to it
 - I listen to it, but it is an inconvenience to be on every cartridge
 - I am so used to skipping it that I forget to check for new issues
 - I skip over it and do not listen to it
 - I get only 1 book per cartridge and do not receive it
9. How would you feel if KTBL stopped distributing its newsletter and survey in large print? (Select one)
- Not a problem for me; I can use audio or braille newsletters and can answer the survey online or over the phone.
 - Audio or braille is ok for news, but I prefer large print for surveys
 - I prefer large print for news and surveys

10. In what areas do you benefit from using Talking Book Library 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) _____
11. 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
12. In what areas has using braille or talking books benefitted 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 _____
13. Please rate the overall quality of service you have received from KTBL.
- a. Excellent
 - b. Very good
 - c. Fair
 - d. Poor

Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey. Call KTBL at 800-372-2968 or 502-564-5791, or email KTBL.Mail@ky.gov if you have specific issues about your service.

Free Matter for the Blind/
Physically Handicapped
DMM 703.5

KENTUCKY TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

PO BOX 537

FRANKFORT, KY 40602

Did You Know?

There are some controls on the Talking Book player that you may have forgotten about but might find useful.

- The white **speed control buttons** are on the top right side of the player. Press the arrow pointing up to speed up the narrator and read faster. Press the arrow pointing down to slow down playback; this may help if you have trouble understanding the narrator.
- The white **tone control buttons** are on the top left side of the player. Narrators have a wide variety of voices, from deep to high pitched. Adjusting the tone may allow you to better hear or understand a particular narrator. It can also help when listening to older books that were originally recorded on tape.
- The **sleep button** is shaped like a crescent moon and is located just above the large green Play/Stop button. If you press it, the player will play for 15 minutes, then automatically shut off. This comes in handy if you tend to fall asleep while listening. You can press it twice for 30 minutes, 3 times for 45 minutes, or 4 times for an hour of play.
- Don't forget the player has **built-in instructions**. Make sure there is no book cartridge in the player, press the red power button to turn it on, then press any button to hear how it works.

Thank You for Your Support

On behalf of all our Talking Book patrons, we want to thank everyone who made donations to our program in 2021. We cannot list them all individually but wish to extend a public **THANK YOU!**

We also wish to thank those who sent in **personal notes** and letters of support. Our staff really enjoy reading them and they motivate us in our daily work. We share them anonymously in our federal reports as examples of the positive impact our program has had on its users. Please keep them coming!



This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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

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