



# BITS OF GOLD

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)  
A Department of the Montana State Library  
Regional Library of the National Library Service  
for the Blind and Physically Handicapped  
(NLS/LBPH)

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**Pictured above and viewed clockwise: the light yellow C-1 cassette player; a cassette and its green container; the new digital flash cartridge and its royal blue container; the charcoal standard digital player.**

## Montana Veterans & Centenarians Receive First Digital Players!

After much anticipation, the distribution of the new digital players has begun. The players currently are being issued to veterans and centenarians on our waiting list of over 200. Patrons will be issued a player and one to two digital books (DB's).

Once this list has been exhausted we will start issuing digital players and books to those on the non-veteran waiting list.

When this part of the launch has been completed, all other patrons will be offered the digital player. Some items to note:

- Although you may receive a digital player, you will need to keep your cassette machine for the next few years as most of the older titles have not been recorded in the new format. Also, many magazines will continue to be recorded on cassettes.
- There are two digital models available. The standard player provides all the operations of the old C-1 only more easily. The advanced player is similar but offers the ability to navigate the book more quickly, locating specific chapters and indices, or mark a place to return to later. Both models offer a timed “sleep” button.
- Our inventory of digital books is growing but our policy for now is to limit patrons to two DB’s at a time. We suggest returning each DB when finished in order to keep one “in the mail” at all times.
- In 2009, the National Library Service’s newly produced titles were in both RC (cassette) and DB format. In 2010, 25% of the new titles produced will be in RC (cassette) format and 75% will be in DB format.
- If you have not asked to be on either waiting list and would like to be included in the first rounds of receiving a player, contact your reader advisor.

The changeover from recorded cassettes to the digital program will not be completed for a few years. Nevertheless, the enhanced quality of digital audio books and the ease of using the new equipment will make the acquisition of the new player a delight. We have had many favorable comments from those who have started using the program. The new player offers many improvements to the listening experience including

- It is lighter and a smaller size player, yet with easy to use buttons.
- The operating instructions are built into each button on the player.
- An individual book is available on a single cartridge which does not require flipping from side to side.
- The player has improved audio quality.
- The user can listen while the player is plugged in or on its battery; the battery will last about 30 hours and can be recharged within one-two hours.

The player will announce the amount of time left on the current charge by pressing the power button twice.

**Regarding Circulation of Books:** As noted above, we are limiting the maximum checkout to two DB's at a time, because we have a limited number of Digital Books available. Because we are receiving fewer books in RC format you may be waiting longer for a specific title. Please return **any** items as soon as you have finished listening as others are waiting.



**BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download):** Another way to add books to your collection is through BARD. This is a process in which audio books are downloaded to your personal computer and then to a handheld device. To qualify for BARD, a patron needs a high speed internet connection and must purchase an NLS approved digital device such as a Victor Reader Stream, BookSense, Plectalk, or others. For more information, consult this website which includes an application. <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/>. We will certify that you are a patron and as such, you can download books from the National Library Service's site without further cost.

**LIBRARY CLOSINGS:** We will be closed January 18 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) and February 15 (Presidents' Day).

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*Christie Diane*  
*Sandy Lee Carolyn*

From the staff at the Montana  
Talking Book Library

**Montana Talking Book Library  
1515 East Sixth Avenue  
PO Box 201800  
Helena, MT 59620-1800**

**Free Matter  
for the Blind**

**Address Service Requested**

**This newsletter is available on cassette, e-mail and large print upon request or visit our website: <http://msl.mt.gov/tbl>**

**LIBRARY HOURS:** Mon-Fri 8am-5pm  
**PHONE NUMBERS:** 1-800-332-3400  
**WEBOPAC:** <http://klasweb.msl.mt.gov>

**PHONE HOURS:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm  
(in Helena) 406-444-2064  
**WEBBRAILLE:** <http://loc.gov/nls/braille>

**REGIONAL LIBRARIAN:**  
**COORD. VOL /DIR RECORDING SVC:**  
**COLLECTION MANAGER:**  
**MACHINE LENDING AGENT:**  
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