

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)

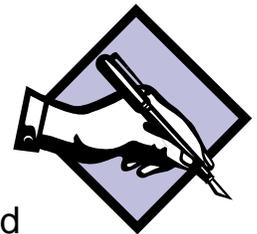
Volume 110, Number 1

Summer 2010

LIBRARIAN'S LOG- Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian.

Staff Changes

Martin Landry started April 26th as a new Reader Advisor. He brings over fourteen years of library and customer service experience to the Montana Talking Book Library. Martin formerly had worked at the Mansfield Library at the University of Montana in Missoula and has an avid interest in geology and history. He is also in charge of the magazine services. Martin will assist patrons with names beginning A-C and P-Z.



Lee Madison, Machine Lending Agent and Reader Advisor, retired on May 14th after thirty-one years of service to the State of Montana, including sixteen in the Montana Talking Book Library. His absence has been felt by all. The staff of the Montana Talking Book Library hosted an Ice Cream Social on May 13th at MSL to celebrate his many years of service.

Due to current budget cuts we will not replace Lee's open position in the near future. We have reassigned patrons to our two remaining Readers' Advisors. Martin Landry will serve patrons with last names beginning "A-C" & "P-Z" while Sandy Stanton will serve patrons "D" through "O". Diane Gunderson is now Acting Machine Lending Agent in addition to directing the recording program and coordinating volunteers. Carolyn Meier, Circulation Manager, will keep our database updated weekly in addition to her circulation, weeding and recycling responsibilities.

The Montana Association for the Blind's Convention "Building Blocks to Independence" will be held Sept. 17-19th at the Billings Hotel & Convention Center. Contact Marge Moberly mtmarj77@gmail.com or 406-245-0353.



DIGITAL UPDATE

The digital players and books have been a welcome change to the way everyone can access audio books. If you have not been contacted to receive a player, be sure to get in touch with the Montana Talking Book Library. As of this printing we have sent out about 1,145 players. We currently have over 2,500 digital titles in our collection. We receive new digital books every few days, so our collection is rapidly growing. We already have increased the number of books each digital patron can receive to a maximum of 6. HOWEVER the digital book loan period is 21 days. This will be relaxed as our collection increases. The circulation period for cassettes (RC's) is still 60 days (two months).

If you return a digital book container without the cartridge, we will contact you and then send the empty container back so you can return the book in the proper box. Do not try to force two cartridges into one blue box! If you should happen to notice you have mixed up titles before we have checked it in and contacted you, return the blue box and mismatched cartridge with a note or with the cartridge rubber-banded. We will match things up here.

PATRON SUGGESTIONS:

We always appreciate suggestions from patrons. Here are ways to carry your digital player without placing it in a customized carrier: field glasses strap, camera shoulder strap (any camera manufacturer) or the Upstrap (<http://www.upstrap-pro.com> 1-877-872-7639).

BARD: BRAILLE AND AUDIO READING DOWNLOAD

An online application and e-mail approval by NLS are currently required in order to use BARD services. Fill out the online application at this website: <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/MT1A/ApplicationInstructions.html> . You must have a high speed internet connection, an active e-mail address, moderate computer knowledge including how to search the Internet and fill out online forms, how to download, unzip, and save files, and how to transfer files from one place to another. Technical support is available from the NLS by emailing NLSDownload@loc.gov until October 1st when the Montana Talking Book Library takes over Montana patron BARD administration.

DESCRIPTIVE VIDEOS

MTBL still has about 300 Descriptive Videos in VHS format available for our patrons who still have VCRs. These are movies in which a narrator describes the action when there is no dialog. Call your reader advisor if you are interested.

WEBOPAC USERS

We have made some changes to our WebOpac title listings to include information on each title from the Library of Congress. In addition, some titles show “digital download only” in their annotation. Since that was written, the NLS has picked up some RC titles to put into the DB format. Be sure to search the book number adding a DB prefix in the event that a title has been added.

TRAINING OF PATRON GROUPS

- MT Health Care Association’s Activity Directors attended a workshop in June at MTBL and were instructed on the new digital service.
- Nearly 30 Montana Association for the Blind’s Summer Orientation Program students received library digital training and toured MTBL the first week of July.
- Montana School for the Deaf and Blind’s Blind Camp students toured MTBL in mid-July and learned how to download books from BARD.

SURVEY COMING IN NEXT NEWSLETTER

The NLS requires all Talking Book Libraries to survey their patrons every two years to assess current services and to find out if library services can be improved or increased. Montana has had some of the highest rates of participation in such surveys. We hope you will participate in the 2010 survey.

EQUIPMENT AUDIT

In October, an Internal Machine Audit will be sent to 100 random patrons with Cassette machines and 100 random patrons with Digital machines throughout the State. This audit will allow the library to maintain accurate machine files and in turn help us respond to your machine needs. If you are one of the lucky ones to get the Internal Machine Audit letter, please return this as soon as possible.

LIBRARY CLOSINGS- We will be closed the following days:

Labor Day, September 6, 2010

Columbus Day, October 11, 2010

Election Day, November 2, 2010

RECEIVING BITS OF GOLD NEWSLETTER

We currently offer the newsletter in large print and cassette. Contact us if you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail.



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:
**COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS/
RECORDING PROGRAM DIRECTOR/
ACTING MACHINE LENDING AGENT:**
COLLECTION MANAGER:
READERS' ADVISORS:

Christie Briggs, cbriggs@mt.gov
Diane Gunderson, dgunderson@mt.gov

Patrons with last names A, B, C and P-
Z contact:

Carolyn Meier, cameier@mt.gov

Patrons with last names D-O contact:

Martin Landry, mlandry@mt.gov

BITS OF GOLD EDITOR:

Sandy Stanton, sstanton@mt.gov
Sandy Stanton

For patron requests or contact information, e-mail us at: mtbl@mt.gov

DISCLAIMER: The products and services mentioned in this newsletter are for your information only and do not imply endorsement by MTBL. Thank you for your comments and suggestions.