



DISCOVERY

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 1

WINTER 2022

Expand Your Horizons with Talking Books

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Do you enjoy books and magazines but have difficulty reading? The North Dakota State Library Talking Book program offers an array of services for citizens of North Dakota who are unable to read standard print materials because of a visual, physical, or reading disability.

This past year, Rachel Sorenson was introduced to the program by her sister, Chelsea who began working as a Reader Advisor for the ND State Library in Bismarck, ND, this past April. The Talking Book program is administered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), a division of the Library of Congress. Any interested persons can apply for the program by filling out the application on the website. Talking Book machines are available at no charge to anyone with a qualifying disability.



When learning about the program, Chelsea said that she instantly thought of her twin sister who has always loved listening to books since she was little but relies on family or others to read to her. The Talking Book program allows Rachel to be in control and listen to books anytime with the push of a button. The state library has a catalog of over 100,000 books available that can be ordered by calling, emailing or mailing in the order form. A patron's profile is updated with their preferences and favorite authors and can be used for choosing books. Once chosen, books are duplicated onto a cartridge with a person able to borrow up to 5 cartridges at a time, even more if they are ND Titles. Cartridges are mailed to and returned by patrons at no cost. People can even check out sacred texts such as the Bible in different versions, Quran, Torah, etc. long term if they desire.

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The Talking Book device is easy to use and reader-friendly. Users can customize the tone of voice and adjust the reading speed for their comfort level. Rachel has even used it at night to listen to books before going to sleep and the device will turn itself off. Chelsea stated that people taking advantage of this program vary from small children to the oldest patron being 109 years old! One of the most meaningful things for her has been hearing stories of how the program has impacted people's lives. New users to the program are contacted after a couple of weeks to ensure that they don't have unanswered questions or support needed. Many say that listening to books is the best part of their day, especially if their other activities are limited due to age or disability.



If you or someone you know might be interested in utilizing this wonderful program, don't hesitate to inquire through the website listed above or by calling the State Library at 701-328-1408. You won't regret it!

Talking Book Staff Update

We'd like to take a moment of your time and introduce you to our Reader's Advisors. We have two new (or fairly new) people that have joined the Talking Books staff at the North Dakota State Library.

Chelsea (Chels) Sorenson and Jenna Peneueta-Snyder are our two Reader's Advisors. Chels joined us on April 1, 2021, and Jenna on October 25, 2021. Whether you call, e-mail, or come in, it will be one of these two friendly and helpful Reader's Advisors that will assist you with your needs.

While we are sad that Liz and Amanda have left their roles here, we wish them well. We are very pleased with what Chels and Jenna both bring to these positions. Please join us in welcoming Chels and Jenna to the North Dakota State Library's Talking Books Department!

Book Review by Jenna, Talking Book Reader Advisor **"The Last of the Moon Girls" by Barbara Davis (DB100706)**

After eight years of running away and trying to live a normal life in New York, Elizabeth "Lizzy" Moon must return to her New England hometown of Salem Creek to take care of her late grandmother's farm. Lizzy spent a lot of time trying to put the past behind her, but now she must return and decide what to do with the lavender fields that have been in the Moon family for nine generations. She only intended to stay in town long enough to fix the farm up and put it on the market. She had no desire to follow her family's legacy, but her grandmother, Althea Moon, had other plans. Althea leaves behind a journal—A Book of Remembrances—to remind Lizzy of where she came from, and to help her cultivate the special magical gift that all Moon women possess. Lizzy soon realizes there is too much unfinished business and sets out to clear Althea's name from the rumors that had swirled around Moon Farm until her death. Two young girls had been found murdered on the property, and everyone in town was sure Althea had something to do with it.

From the bestselling author Barbara Davis, "The Last of the Moon Girls" is a charming novel that details loss, legacy, mysticism, and mystery. Althea's letters help to guide Lizzy toward her destiny, but Lizzy remains a steadfast individual resistant to follow the path of the many Moon women that came before her. She must unravel a decades-old mystery surrounding the death of two young girls in order to clear Althea's name while facing pushback from the townsfolk of Salem Creek, who have long thought the Moon women to be witches. Along the way, Lizzy encounters many characters from her past, including Andrew Greyson, an old flame from her teen years and one of the only people in town who believe in Althea's innocence. Her mother, Rhanna, also comes back into town after being estranged from Lizzy and Althea for most of her life. While Lizzy juggles a blossoming romance, the return of her mother, and works to uncover the truth behind the deaths of the two girls, she struggles with her choices: put the farm and the past behind her and set off on her own or follow in the footsteps of the many generations of healers that have tended to the lavender fields of Moon Farm.

Barbara Davis paints a hauntingly beautiful story about family and what it means to forge your own traditions in life while honoring your past. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys magical realism, mystery, family drama, and romance. I hope you find "The Last of the Moon Girls" as satisfying as I did.

Unused Digital Players

Do you have an unused digital talking book player taking up space in your home? Maybe you received a replacement player and have not gotten around to returning the old one. Maybe you have begun to use BARD Mobile and no longer use a digital player. Please help us get that extra machine to someone who needs it! NLS is designing a new generation player, but it is still several years away. In the meantime, we need your help to keep machines available for those who need them.

Please return any unused digital talking book players to us, even if it does not work. Most can be fixed or used for parts. If you do not have the box it came in, you can pack it in any box. Write "Free Matter for the Blind" in place of postage and address it to **Talking Book Library, North Dakota State Library, 604 East Boulevard Avenue – Dept. 250, Bismarck, ND 58505-0800**. You can even call us at 800-843-9948.

Suspending Unused Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) Accounts

Patron accounts that have not been used for 180 days will be moved to an Inactive/Suspended status. This means the account will be temporarily suspended and the account holder will not be able to log into BARD. This is a security measure put into place by the Library of Congress as accounts that remain inactive for an extended period of time pose a security risk.

Book Announcement Feature

One of the most overlooked features of a book is the one at the very beginning — the book announcement! At the beginning of the recording, you automatically hear the standard information like the title and author, but did you know you can also hear what was printed on the book jacket? This is an important browsing feature that can help you decide whether the book is right for you or not. If you decide the book isn't for you, you can easily skip over the book or return the cartridge, which would allow you to get another cartridge. This is especially helpful if you are on auto-select service, so try listening to the book announcements you are getting today!

Moving? Don't Forget to Tell Your Library

There's a lot to worry about when moving, but when you've settled into your new location please remember to update your current mailing address with ND Talking Book Library. When we receive returned mail (books, letters, catalogs, etc.) that cannot be delivered and we are unable to contact the recipient, the account is temporarily placed on hold. To keep your books arriving smoothly, let us know your new mailing address as soon as possible. Even if you primarily download your books, we need your current address on file. Even if you have put in a forwarding address with the post office, that information is not consistently transferred to us. Thus, it is always a good idea to double-check with us to make sure we received your updated information.

If you are permanently moving out of our service area, we will transfer your braille and talking book service to your new library. You may keep your equipment with you — no need to return it to us.

Never Pay Postage to Return Library Materials

Many patrons of the library already know that they can send their books back to the library without paying for postage by just removing the handy address card on each book cartridge. But Free Matter for the Blind applies to just about anything you are sending to the library, including digital book machines or accessories like headphones. Any order forms, braille letters, or large-print typed requests can be sent through Free Matter for the Blind, but remember to leave them unsealed to comply with Free Matter for the Blind regulations. To send something to the library postage free, just write "Free Matter for the Blind" in the upper right-hand corner of the envelope.

The Free Matter for the Blind program is funded by the U.S. Government, and each year, Congress appropriates funds to the United States Postal Service (USPS) to subsidize the Free Matter for the Blind program. It's important to remember that only the U.S. Postal Service participates in the Free Matter for the Blind program; attempting to send your library materials back through UPS or FedEx will result in paying for postage. If you have questions or are having trouble with your postal service, your Reader's Advisor is here to assist you.

Patron Feedback

Many of our library patrons are older adults who have age-related vision loss. Often, not being able to read print anymore can prove to be a difficult adjustment, but listening to audiobooks can bring back the pleasure of enjoying a good book. Here are some of the comments our readers or their families have shared with us:

- Mom loved to read and Talking Books gave her the opportunity to continue enjoying books.
- Mom had macular degeneration for many years and was an avid reader. Thanks to Talking Books, she was able to continue to read.
- A very special THANK YOU for the wonderful Talking Books that you provide. My dad, so very much enjoyed the books during his almost three years at Valley Eldercare in Grand Forks. Each day during a visit we would have a conversation and a “book report” on the current book. He especially enjoyed history, westerns, WWII stories and anything about Dakota Territory. You and your team made his days and interest stay active and alive. All the best and thanks always from his family.
- I have never told you how much I appreciate you service. Talking Books have kept me sane for 30 some years. I really, really thank you!
- Talking Books were a great blessing for mom. She read the entire Bible every year until her eyesight prevented her from reading. With the player, she was able to turn it on and off by herself. She would use her headphones and listen several hours a day. What a wonderful gift this was for her. Thank you so much.
- I love the program and really appreciate the outstanding service I got with my machine and books. Thank you so much.
- Now that I can read, my life is complete again. I am so excited – so happy. I went to bed very late the first night because I was reading my first talking book. This is the best thing that has happened to me in a long time. Thank you, thank you, and thank you!
- We have been very positively impressed by the efficiency and the kindness, helpfulness and sensitivity of everyone with the North Dakota State Talking Book Library. The manner in which you have helped us help “Nettie” has also helped us maintain our faith in the fundamental goodness of humankind – the power of that gift and the appreciation we have for it, is beyond my ability to describe.

Return of Equipment

When returning digital player machines for any reason, please use the box and the repair sheet that came with the player. On the repair sheet or a piece of paper, please let us know if you need a replacement player or are suspending your service with the Talking Book program. If returning a machine for a deceased relative, please write "deceased" on the repair sheet as we do not usually know otherwise. This action will allow us to avoid unnecessary phone calls regarding the reason for the return of the equipment.

Ordering Books for the Holidays

Patrons may find that book delivery is slower during the holiday season due to the increased volume of mail the postal service handles this time of year. Please note that the Talking Book Library will be closed on December 24 and 31.

Post Office Problems? Here's what to Do!

We hope that all of our patrons know that any of the library's books, machines, or equipment sent to the library via U.S. mail should ship postage free. Simply write "Free Matter for the Blind and Physically Handicapped" in the upper right-hand corner, where postage would normally go. Any book order forms or typed large-print correspondence sent to the library through the U.S. mail also ships as Free Matter for the Blind. Handwritten letters CANNOT be sent as Free Matter for the Blind, so postage is needed.

This service is available in every city, county, state, and territory in the U.S. There is no such thing as a city or U.S. Post Office that does not participate in the program. The U.S. Postal Service is paid annually by the U.S. government to support this program. Since our patrons were certified to enroll in our service, they qualify to use the Free Matter for the Blind service.

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The following are some things you can do to expedite your post office experience:

- Make sure materials are addressed to "North Dakota Talking Book Library." Your post office should be very familiar with handling our materials.
- Remember to leave paper letters unsealed to comply with postal regulations.

Make sure you're at a U.S. Postal Service Office. FedEx and UPS DO NOT participate in the "Free Matter for the Blind" program.

It seems that no matter how well we might know the rules, individual postal employees might not. Here are some things to do if you encounter any hardships when trying to return library materials to us:

- Keep cool and explain again that you are sending back library materials for the blind and print disabled and that you are a member of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.
- Ask to speak to the Postmaster and have her/him explain specifically WHY they won't accept the material as Free Matter.

To File a Complaint with the U.S. Postal Service:

If you have a complaint about the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), need more information, or have a suggestion or compliment, you can let them know in one of several ways:

- Use the USPS website's "e-mail us" form. Select an inquiry type that closely relates to the complaint or question you have.
- Call 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777).
- Speak to the station manager/postmaster at your local post office.
- Write to the U.S. Postal Service's Consumer Advocate office at:

United States Postal Service
Office of the Consumer Advocate
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, D.C. 20260-2200

Where are my Books?

If you ever feel like you are not receiving all your books, the following are some reasons why this may happen.

- You have reached the limit of books allowed. Remember that books in transit still count as being checked out to you.
- You have read all the books written by your favorite authors.
- You are set up as “request only” and have not given us new titles to add to your account.
- Your desired reading interest preferences are too limited.
- You have exhausted your reading interest list, and there are no longer any books available to add to your request list.

Are You Active?

Individual readers are considered active in the Talking Book program if they borrow or download at least one book from our library during a twelve-month period or if they have an active subscription to a magazine. If you have not checked out a book or magazine recently, please contact us before your account becomes inactive.

Overdue Magazine Cartridges

Here at the North Dakota Talking Books, a large number of our magazine subscribers have overdue accounts. Most of our magazines are shipped from the National Audio Company in Springfield, Missouri, and those cartridges must be returned to that location.

Unlike the audio and braille titles mailed to patrons from us, which can be kept for 90 days, magazines must be read and returned soon after they are received. These magazine cartridges for the digital player come in red containers and have light blue cartridges inside. Please listen to your magazines right away and send them back. If you misplaced the magazine cartridge's mailing card, do not worry. The return address label is already affixed to the container. All magazines should be returned promptly to prevent your account from being suspended.

Please call us at 800-843-9948 if you have questions or concerns.

Christmas Reads

Romance

DB 104198

"Christmas Roses" by Amanda Cabot

Western

DB 97969

"Jensen Family Christmas" (Christmas, #9) by William W. Johnstone

Mystery/Detective

DB 102636

"Murder in Season" (Murder, She Wrote, #52) by Jessica Fletcher

Science/Math

DB 48443

"The Physics of Christmas: From the Aerodynamics of Reindeer to the Thermodynamics of Turkey" by Roger Highfield

Biography

DB 89600

"Christmas: A Biography" by Judith Flanders

Classic

DB 43546

"Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens

Based on a Movie

DB 12986

"Miracle on 34th Street" by Valentine Davies

Written by a North Dakota Author

LD 00424

"Christmas Dream" by Janet Elaine Smith

LD 00751

"Once Upon a Christmas" by Lauraine Snelling

ON THE SHELF: WINTER 2022

CALL 1-800-843-9948 TO ORDER

LD 00842**Emilie: The Girl from Bessarabia**

By Angela Rommeiss

[translated by James T. Gessele in collaboration with Alex Herzog and Dr. Nancy Herzog] Growing up along the black sea coast is Emilie, a child of German settlers-- cared for and protected but under deprived conditions. Upon the father's death, the family is brought back to the ancestral village by former neighbors. This village is in Bessarabia, a barren steppe landscape that ranges across today's Moldova and Ukraine to the Danube delta. Upon homecoming, the mother had to release her children to adoption, and eleven-year-old Emilie was placed in the childless household of a carpenter. Their budding prosperity is abruptly destroyed by the onset of World War II. What may have seemed far off in the future suddenly becomes a bitter reality: The Bessarabia Germans are compelled to return "home to the Reich." 2019.

LD 00848**Warrior Words**

By ND Humanities Council

This collection of interviews is the work of members in the workshops held in four locations around the state of North Dakota and sponsored by the Walmart Foundation and the ND Humanities Council. The stories include those written by a U.S. Navy man who served in World War II all the way up to a young marine who served in the Second Gulf War. 2014.

LD 00849**Innovative Entrepreneurs of North Dakota and Northwest Minnesota**

By Hiram Drache

[.../Dr. Hiram Drache, Bruce Gjovig] The authors are experts on agriculture history, innovation and entrepreneurs. This book is about the impact of innovative entrepreneurs in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota during the past 150 years. Seventy-six regional entrepreneurs are profiled. 2019.

LD 00850**Truth Hurts (True North, #3)**

By Marilyn Gregoire

Laura has a dead-end relationship with Jack, who is caught up in alcoholism, and ignores any and all good sense. Trish is too protective of one brother and has had years of confusion after being molested in her youth. Keeping her secret silent has been working for her, but what happens when that silence is broken? In this third installment of "The Truth North series: Truth Hurts," we meet new neighbors who each have their own brand of emotional baggage. There are faces you've seen in prior "Sisters in Silence collection" books who finally share their hopes, fears, love disasters and triumphs. Those who turn to God and get His help will face their truths and failures, then be able to set love straight, even taking life by the horns! 2018.

LD 00855**Spring for Susannah (a Novel)**

By Catherine Richmond

When Susannah goes to Dakota Territory as a mail-order bride, she finds something she never dreamed she would – true love. With no prospects for marriage and her parents recently deceased, Susannah agrees to go west to the Dakota Territory to marry her minister's homesteading brother, Jesse. But Susannah is painfully shy and doesn't see herself as worthy of love from either a husband or from God. Yet, in her wildest dreams, she couldn't predict all that awaits her. 2011.

LD 00856**My Impossible Dream: You can do it too: German from Russian Immigrant Grandparents Ethnic Life Style**

By Florence Dockter Scherbenske

From learning to cook on a cookstove (a stove with black lids that burned coal and mischt), snaring gophers in the prairie pasture on a Sunday afternoon, and bucking the northwest wind in North Dakota while riding a two-wheeled cart hitched to a non-stop pony in January of 1938 - to flying in an eastern airlines jet that served gourmet meals and endless champagne in 1968, traveling in 747 jet airliner, and enjoying ocean and river cruises in my life as a world traveler. My life story. 2020.

LD 00857**Bring Out Your Dead: The Literature and History of Epidemics**

By Clay Jenkinson

The literature of pandemics is rich and revealing. The virus in question may change, but human nature remains the same, whether it is in response to the black plague of 1348 or the covid-19 virus of 2020. The history and literature of pandemics teach us that 1) we are not alone--our responses have been the same, as all people at all times, when an epidemic visits seemingly out of nowhere; 2) we will get through this--however apocalyptic this crisis seems at the moment, the day will come when we look back on this serenely as one of the defining moments of our lives; 3) we are extremely fortunate to live when we do because we understand viruses, know how they spread, and have the capacity to develop vaccines to overcome them; 4) the humanities help us cope by 'placing' our concerns in a much larger context of history and literature. Strong language. 2020.

LD 00858**Silver Shooter: A Rose Gallagher Mystery**

By Erin Lindsey

It's the spring of 1887, and Rose Gallagher is finally coming into her own as a detective, working alongside her partner, Thomas, as an agent of the special paranormal branch of the Pinkerton agency. Things are going almost too well, so Rose is hardly surprised when Theodore Roosevelt descends on them like a storm cloud, hiring them for a mysterious job out west. It began with livestock being torn apart by an unknown predator. Now people are being attacked too. A local prosecutor has gone missing, and his lost stash of gold is drawing treasure hunters from far and wide - only for them to disappear as well... it's up to Rose and Thomas to get to the bottom of it. Strong language and violence. 2020.

LD 00859**Falling in Love with Her Husband**

By Ruth Ann Nordin

Todd Brothers loves Ann Statesman with a love that is tender and passionate. He would do anything for her, so when she asks him to take her with him to Jamestown, North Dakota, his heart cannot refuse her, though he knows she marries him to get out of Virginia where the memory of Kent Ashton and Rebecca Johnson's engagement will finally escape her mind. Todd hopes that given time, she will learn to love him, so he determines to be the kind of husband God wants him to be. Contains violence and explicit descriptions of sex. 2009.

LD 00863**Secrets of the Dark Closet**

By Gayle Larson Schuck

Webster County, Iowa, 1899. Bessie Kloubec wants to be seen as more grown-up. However, she's not prepared for the calamity that begins in the predawn hours of her birthday. Calamity that unravels her formerly happy family and indeed forces her into an adult role. For the next year, Bessie navigates through a series of family disasters caused by her father's pain-induced alcoholism. Bewildered but brave, she struggles with her own fear and anger while trying to fix her broken family. No exclusions. Historical fiction. 2017.

LD 00865**Stringing Rosaries: The History, the Unforgivable, and the Healing of Northern Plains American Indian Boarding School Survivors**

By Denise Lajimodiere

Education professor Denise Lajimodiere's interest in American Indian boarding school survivors' stories evolved from recording her father and other family members speaking of their experiences. The journey to record survivors' stories led her through the Dakotas and Minnesota and into the personal and private space of boarding school survivors. Stringing rosaries presents a brief history of the boarding school programs for indigenous Americans. 2019.

LD 00868

Alabaster

By Nancy Pietsch

This volume of poetry contains poems about love, loss, and other topics. 2020.

Staying at a Temporary Address

If you are spending time at another address, let us know to send your materials to that temporary address. We can also send items to other states.

The Talking Book Library does not endorse any particular product, but we're encouraged by new technologies which are created with accessibility in mind, and which may be useful for our patrons.

1-800-843-9948 • 701-328-1408 • tbooks@nd.gov

**FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND**

**North Dakota State Library
Talking Books
604 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0800**

DISCOVERY

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WINTER 2022

TALKING BOOK CLOSURE DATES

December 24

December 31

January 17

February 21

April 15

May 30

July 4

September 5