

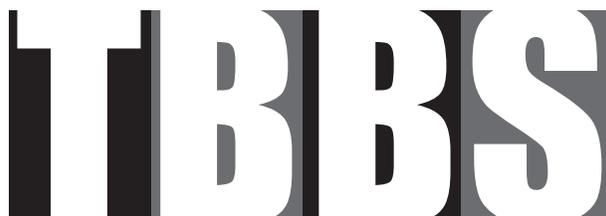
Spring 2022

Illinois State Library

TBBS

300 S. Second St.

Springfield, IL 62701-1796



NewsLink



Jesse White
Secretary of State
& State Librarian

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TBBS NewsLink is available
in braille and large print,
on NFB-NEWSLINE, via
email by contacting the
State Library or on the
Talking Book and Braille
Service (TBBS) website at
www.ilbph.org
(click TBBS NewsLink).

TBBS accomplishments and challenges

During fiscal year 2020, the National Library Service (NLS) did not conduct consultant visits to regional libraries because of the travel ban imposed by the Library of Congress due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The NLS conducted a virtual site visit on Dec. 17, 2021, with the Illinois State Library's Talking Book and Braille Service. Following is a summary report of TBBS's accomplishments and challenges:

- The Talking Book and Braille Service at the Illinois State Library is now an essential service of the Office of Secretary of State. In case of a closure, such as another pandemic outbreak, the circulation staff will report to work. Reader Advisors will report to work or work from home to maintain continuation of service. In the event Reader Advisors are working at home, the Illinois State Library will issue them cellphones and computers, as was done during the spring of 2020.
- The Chicago Public Library (CPL) began operating as an Advisory and Outreach Center (AOC) effective Oct. 1, 2021. The CPL will serve Chicago patrons of TBBS with Reader Advisory and walk-in service. The CPL AOC will provide traditional TBBS services, but will not be mailing material. The Harold Washington Library Center, the main library of CPL, is equipped with computers that feature JAWS (Job Access with Speech)

screen-reading software and ZoomText screen magnifier software. The Illinois State Library will continue to handle circulation. The CPL staff serving as Reader Advisors has helped relieve the workload for Reader Advisors at the State Library in Springfield.

- MindsEye, which broadcasts in the Metro East area, is now providing Radio Information Service (RIS), formerly provided by the University of Illinois in Springfield. The Belleville-based service started broadcasting in the Springfield area in late summer of 2021. MindsEye is adding newspapers from Springfield, Decatur, Peoria and Jacksonville. In addition to being able to access the station through a receiver, a MindsEye app is available in the Apple Store. The staff from MindsEye has met with community groups in Springfield to promote RIS and TBBS.
- Operations with COVID-19 procedures will continue through the next year. A study found the COVID-19 virus could live on surfaces such as the hard plastic of the mailing containers for up to a week. During the summer of 2021, returned items were quarantined for a week. While the quarantine has been lifted, it can be implemented again if necessary. Other ongoing mitigation efforts in TBBS include social distancing, masking and hand sanitizer stations.
- An ongoing challenge is delay in mail delivery from the U.S. Postal Service. While postal operations are out of the hands of ISL TBBS, the staff will continue to extend courteous service and reassure users that their requests are being handled expeditiously.

Talking Book Topics electronic availability

Due to supply-chain issues and worldwide paper shortages, the large-print edition of Talking Book Topics (TBT) is not being published in paper format. The U.S. Government Publishing Office has informed the National Library Service of the Library of Congress that these problems are expected to continue through the end of 2022, and likely beyond. You can access TBT in other available formats including:

Online

- HTML, www.loc.gov/nls/tbt, linking to BARD for downloading or adding books to wish lists.
- PDF, www.loc.gov/nls/tbt, containing a printable order form.
- Our local catalog, <https://isltbbs.klas.com/>.

Audio

- Audio cartridge, which comes with a print order form.
- BARD audio magazine, downloadable to cartridge or to BARD Mobile wish list.

Braille

- Braille Book Review's TBT Abridged section in hardcopy braille.
- Braille Book Review's TBT Abridged section as a BRF downloadable through BARD or at www.loc.gov/nls/bbr.

Phone

- Access TBT through the phone by subscribing to NFB Newsline. To subscribe, contact our office at 800-426-0709.

If you have any questions or want to change your TBT format, please call TBBS at 800-426-0709 or email istbbs@ilsos.gov.

TBBS Book Club

Put wisely by Mason Cooley, "Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are."

In May, our traveling adventures will continue with a journey to the Scottish Highlands with "The Turn of the Key" by Ruth Ware – DB096239, 12 hours, 15 minutes – After stumbling across the ad for a live-in nanny with a staggeringly generous salary, Rowan Caine arrives at Heatherbrae House and is smitten by the luxurious smart home and picture-perfect family; however, she is stepping into a nightmare that will lead to murder.

In June, we will explore Latin America as we delve into "Love in the Time of Cholera" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez – DB026981, 14 hours, 23 minutes – After an eminent physician dies leaving behind a bereft, but still vital widow, a man she was involved before her marriage emerges and declares his continued love for her.

The July pick will take us to Saudi Arabia with "Green Bicycle" by Haifaa Al-Mansour – DB084163, 8 hours, 48 minutes – Even though it is considered improper for girls to ride bikes in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 11-year-old Wadjda schemes to make money to buy her own bike. When she is caught selling homemade goods to her classmates at school, Wadjda explores different ways of earning money for her bike.

In August, we will experience Nepal with "Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster" by Jon Krakauer – DB044525, 8 hours, 57 minutes – A journalist's first-hand report of the ill-fated Mt. Everest expedition of May 1996, in which a freak storm claimed the lives of nine adventurers. It describes the grueling ascent of the climbers, their sense of elation at reaching the peak and the tragic events that followed.

The TBBS Book Club will share our next four selections in the summer newsletter. Happy reading!

2022 holiday closings

TBBS will be closed on the following dates:

Memorial Day, May 30

Juneteenth, June 20

Labor Day, September 5

Election Day, November 8

Thanksgiving, November 24-25

Christmas, December 26

Independence Day, July 4

Columbus Day, October 10

Veterans Day, November 11

Christmas Eve, December 23

New Year's, January 2, 2023

Please keep this schedule for future reference. Remember that holidays can create mail delays for both incoming and outgoing books. You may want to order extra books to have on hand well in advance of these dates.

Contact Information

Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service

217-785-0022 or 800-426-0709 • isttbbbs@ilsos.gov • www.ilbph.org

Chicago Public Library Assistive Resources and Talking Book Center

312-747-4001 or 800-757-4654 • arc@chipublib.org

The announcement of products and services in this newsletter should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation by the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service. Products and services are listed free of charge for the benefit of our readers. TBBS cannot be responsible for the reliability of products or services mentioned.

Free Matter for the Blind

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY TALKING BOOK AND BRAILLE SERVICE
JESSE WHITE • ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE
300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1796

The logo for TBBS (Talking Book and Braille Service) features the letters 'T', 'B', and 'S' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The letters are white and set against a black background. The 'T' and 'B' are connected at the top, and the 'S' is positioned to the right of the 'B'. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.