





# Reading in the Dark

De-mystifying Oregon's free library for the print disabled.



# First, a couple of questions...

- 1. Does your library have outreach services to homebound patrons?
- 2. How many patrons in outreach/homebound can you serve at one time?
- 3. How many of these patrons do you serve per day?
- 4. How many materials do you loan to outreach/homebound each day?
- 5. Do you hand select materials or does your ILS do it automatically?



## Talking Books: Who We Are

- Free audio and Braille book library service for any and all printdisabled residents of the state of Oregon.
- Part of a nation-wide network of libraries partnering with the National Library Service, a division of the Library of Congress.
- This library has been in Oregon since 1932, and at the State Library since 1969.



## Who We Serve (5,200/1,000 per day)

#### Print-Disabled

- People who cannot read standard-sized print (read 12pt font) for long periods of time comfortably.
  - Legally Blind
  - Visually Impaired
  - Physically Handicapped
  - Reading Disabled

### Any Age

- We have users from 1-104.
- Anywhere in Oregon
  - Portland to Ashland, and Coos Bay to Baker City.



## How We Do It (by mail)

#### Free Matter

- All circulating items can be mailed to our users for free, and our users can mail them back to us for free.
- There is no limit to the number of items we can send Free Matter, so there are no limits to the number of people we can serve and the number of books we can send out.



### What We Have

- Audio
  - ○80,000 titles
  - 60 magazines
- Braille
  - 24,000 titles
  - ○49 magazines
- Download on Demand
  - Audio books, magazines, Braille books
- Descriptive videos, news by phone, voter's guide



## Digital Player on Extended Loan





### How We Select Books

#### Preferences

- Our ILS automatically selects books for our users based on their subject and author preferences.
- Users tell us what types of books they like, what they don't like, and how many books they want at one time.

#### Requests

 Users, family members, care givers, and others can submit requests via phone, mail, email, and through our online catalog.

#### Limits

- Each user's account has a set number of book slots determined by their reading habits.
- Once all the slots are filled, our ILS will halt shipments of new books until a slot opens up when a book is returned.



## Download on Demand

## BARD: Braille and Audio Reading Download

- Gives users FREE access to download any book or magazine in the collection
- Simultaneous loans
  - every patron could have every book checked out at the same time
- There are no download limits
  - o some users really test this...

### **BARD Mobile**

- Android
  - Phones
  - tablets
- Kindle Fire
- iOS
  - o iPad
  - o iPhone
  - o iPod touch





## How to Register

- Fill out an application
  - We can mail out a copy.
  - You can download and print off a copy from our website.
- Submit the application
  - Mail
  - Fax
  - OScan/Email



## Application for Library Service

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### Points to Remember

- Talking Books is not just for totally blind people.
- It really is free. No joke. No catch. No risk.
- 80,000 audio titles, with new titles being added every month.
- Every audio book can be downloaded via BARD or BARD Mobile.



## Oregon Talking Book and Braille Library

State Library of Oregon 250 Winter Street NE Salem, OR 97301

1-800-452-0292 or 503-378-5389

TalkingsBooks.org talkingbooks.info@state.or.us