



## Services for Persons with Print Impairments

Special library services funded by the Illinois State Library makes accessing vital information easier for persons with print impairments.

## Talking Book Program

- The Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) provides a free audio and braille library service via mail or digital download to any Illinois resident who cannot read standard print material due to a permanent or temporary visual, physical, or reading disability.
- The Library of Congress provides free braille books and audiobooks and playback equipment.
- More than 150,000 digital titles — many in foreign languages — are available, including bestsellers, popular fiction, westerns, classics, and nonfiction.
- Over 100 magazine titles are also available, with new titles continually added to the collection.
- More than 16,000 patrons in Illinois will read nearly 700,000 books this year. Anyone who is permanently or temporarily unable to hold or read regular print material comfortably due to a physical visual, or reading disability is eligible for the service, regardless of age. Registered patrons also may borrow descriptive videos. Contact TBBS for additional information.

## Illinois Radio Information Service

- Radio Reading Services in Illinois are partly supported by grants from the Illinois State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.
- In Illinois, 9 stations provide current information from local newspapers. This service allows patrons to listen to broadcasts of local news, grocery ads and other information not available through the Talking Book Program. For more information, contact TBBS or visit [ilbph.org](http://ilbph.org) for a list of stations.

## NFB-Newsline®

- The Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service, in cooperation with the National Federation for the Blind, sponsors NFB-NEWSLINE®. This service provides subscribers toll-free access to audio versions of more than 500 newspapers, including the “Chicago Tribune,” the “Sun-Times” and the “Daily Herald” by telephone, mobile app, or via the internet.
- Free and available 24/7, NFB-NEWSLINE® allows readers to select the newspapers, news sources, publications, and articles they want to hear.

## BARD

- BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download Service) enables NLS patrons to download audio and braille books, magazines, and music scores directly to their iOS, Android, and Kindle Fire devices. Use of BARD requires an account and is restricted to eligible NLS patrons.

**For more information or to register, please call  
the Talking Book & Braille Service at 800-426-0709  
[www.ilbph.org](http://www.ilbph.org) [isl.tbbs@ilsos.gov](mailto:isl.tbbs@ilsos.gov)**

## **Tips for New Talking Book and Braille Service Patrons**

### **Hours of operation:**

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Closed all state and federal holidays.

**Ordering books:** TBBS will accept a book order of a maximum of 10 titles over the phone. Please have the book request list ready when calling.

**Returning material:** Return each book cartridge as soon as you finish it. Do not hold and return all book cartridges together. This may cause a delay in receiving new books possibly leaving you without books. To return talking books, remove the address card with the list of books, our mailing address is on the case. Follow the normal USPS mail process to return all items postage-free.

**Voicemail:** The Reader Advisors are often busy helping more than 16,000 patrons. If you reach our voicemail, please leave a detailed message. Be assured that we will receive your message. To request books, leave an order of 10 or fewer items. After hours we will process your book requests the next business day. We will ONLY return your call if we have questions.

**Charging the machine:** Plug the machine into a wall outlet that is not controlled by a light switch. The machine should be fully charged within two hours. It does not need to stay in the outlet for additional time.

**The Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service,  
Radio Information Service, and NFB-NEWSLINE®  
are free to eligible Illinois patrons.**

**Illinois State Library**  
**Talking Book and Braille Service**  
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