



indow to the World

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Newsletter of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville TN 37243-0313

Phone: (615) 741-3915 or (800) 342-3308 **Fax:** (615) 532-8856

E-mail (note new address!): tlbph.tsla@state.tn.us

National Library Service Director Visits Tennessee

On October 26, 2004, the staff of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped (LBPH) was honored with a visit by Frank Kurt Cylke, Director of the National Library Service for the Blind & Physically Handicapped (NLS), the division of the Library of Congress that oversees LBPH services in all 50 states. Mr. Cylke was accompanied by Jean Moss, NLS's new Digital Project Coordinator. Mr. Cylke & Ms. Moss shared with the LBPH staff and the Tennessee State Library & Archives administration the latest information on the anticipated transition to books on flash memory, currently scheduled to begin in 2008.

Flash memory is the industry standard for handheld devices such as cell phones, digital cameras and palmtop computers. Flash cartridges will be about the size of a credit card and are extremely durable. Most adult titles will fit onto one flash memory cartridge. All of these aspects make flash memory a "perfect fit" for audio books provided by the NLS program.

In preparation for the change in format, NLS conducted a nationwide 82-question survey of 447 patrons to

assess demographic characteristics of users of the LBPH service; current patterns of technology use; self-rating of current equipment and services; physical and cognitive functioning of LBPH users; and benefits of new technology that are most/least important to patrons. Among the results:

- 60% of responding users are over the age of 65;
- 61% are blind or visually impaired;
- 52% have a high school education;
- 29% have used the service for less than two years, while 12% have used the service more than 20 years;
- 56% read daily;
- 90% use players independently and find it very easy to return books, although 49% needed help at first.
- 92% reported no difficulty handling cassettes.

Requested improvements included smaller, lighter players, improved sound quality, and the ability to find one's place after having fallen asleep.

Be Alert for Two-Track Tapes

Many years ago, NLS produced almost 900 titles on two sides instead of four. Some of these titles are still in circulation. They start with RC 06010 and continue through RC 09430.

Often, patrons who receive these older books return them as bad copies. When listening to our older NLS titles, be sure to follow the directions at the end of each tape. The narrator will let you know whether to change the tape or switch the side selector. (Reprinted from: **What's Line**, Alabama Public Library Service, Regional Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, Volume 26, No. 3, 2004)

Former President Narrates Autobiography

The 42nd president of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton, has narrated an abridged version of his autobiography, **My Life**. This version is available from the library as RC 58101. The library also has the complete, unabridged version of **My Life**, RC 58100, narrated by Michael Beck. Both of these recordings will be the commercially produced editions, not recorded by an NLS contractor. Be sure to specify which version you want to read when you order this popular title. The unabridged version is also available in Spanish, **Mi Vida**, RC 58960.

NLS Produces 9/11 Commission Report

The events of September 11, 2001, remain vivid in American hearts and minds. NLS has recently produced *The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Against the United States* as RC 58238 or BR 15396. In the report the nonpartisan commission analyzes facts and circumstances surrounding Al-Qaeda's fatal September 11 attacks on the United States homeland. The report summarizes failures of intelligence and other U.S. agencies before and after that date, and recommends government reorganization to provide a safer, more prepared nation.

National Federation of the Blind Announces Student Division

The NFB has requested that we include the following announcement:

The Tennessee Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind, a consumer support group for persons with visual impairments, is forming a student division focusing on issues faced by blind students and giving them opportunities to make friends. Issues to be focused on include transition from high school to college, getting adaptive technology needed for academic success, and outreach programs for blind children of Tennessee. For more information, please contact Domonique Lawless, phone # (615) 460-2205; April Jones, phone # (423) 240-2203, e-mail: April-jones@utc.edu; or Amanda Jones, phone # (423) 240-2201, e-mail Amanda-jones@utc.edu

Window to the World Available in Audio and Braille Formats

LBPH staff in welcoming Ed to LBPH services.

How Long Can You Keep Books?

Window to the World, the newsletter of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, is available free-of-charge to all registered users of the library service, as well as other interested parties. All subscribers to **Window to the World** receive a copy in large print. If you would like a copy recorded by volunteers on audio cassette, or a braille copy, please contact the library at (800) 342-3308 or (615) 741-3915 (Nashville area) to request an alternate format.

Do you have large print, braille or recorded books checked out that you've been planning to read, but just haven't gotten around to doing it? Are you storing a favorite descriptive video from the library because it was so good you want to watch it again...someday? If you want to read, or re-read that book, there's a good chance someone else wants to read it, too.

Staff Profile

We have decided to profile one staff member in each issue of **Window to the World**, so our patrons can get to know our staff a little better. We are starting with the newest member of the library staff, **Ed Byrne**. Ed started with the library on 1/03/05 as a reader advisor for patrons whose last name starts with the letters A-D. A Nashville native whose childhood neighborhood is buried under I-440, he has a varied background with degrees in English Literature from Harvard and Emory Universities and a Biology degree from Middle Tennessee State University. A former reservist with the U.S. Navy, Ed has also had various employment experiences from being a teacher in Tennessee to a supervisor of public relations in Saudi Arabia to his previous job with the Tennessee State Library & Archives as a security receptionist. Ed's hobbies include "birding" (bird-watching to those of us less-familiar with the activity) and writing. Please join the

The loan period for books borrowed from the library is six weeks. The loan period for videos is two weeks. These loan periods include mailing time. If you can read the date on the side of the mailcard that is addressed to you, the loan period **starts** with that date. It is the date the item was checked out and placed in the mail to you. We can always put that favorite book or video back in your request file and send it to you again. Just call and tell us to do this.

The cassette players are on extended loan to you. This means that you may keep them as long as you actively borrow recorded books and/or magazines from the library. If you are just borrowing large print and/or descriptive videos, you should return any player that may have been loaned to you.

This Month in History

February 11, 1847—Birthday of Thomas Alva Edison, inventor of the record player.

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Window to the World is published quarterly by the Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State. It is also available on cassette, in braille, in the Library's website at

www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/LBPH.

Please call the Library at (800) 342-3308 to request alternate formats.

Administration and Staff

The Honorable Riley Darnell, Secretary of State; Dr. Edwin Gleaves, State Librarian & Archivist; Ruth Hemphill,

Director; Janie Murphree, Assistant Director; Wanda Shepard, Bibliographic Coordinator & Equipment Control; Carmelita Esaw, Computer Specialist; Ann Jones, Administrative Assistant.

Circulation and Repair Staff: Larry Conner, Materials Manager; Jerry Clinard, Dwight Davis, Terry Corn, Ron Gross, Billy Kirby, Ron Peaks II, and Kenneth Rainey. **Reader Advisors:** Ed Byrne, Annette Hadley, Clara Ledbetter, and Francine Sharpe.

In providing information to readers, the announcement of products and services should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation by the Library.

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