



Beyond the Stacks:

Making Maryland Accessible

New Series No. 2, Issue 1 (January thru March 2017)

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[From the Director's Desk:](#)

It is my distinct pleasure to share that LBPH now has a working VoIP phone system. With any new technology, there are some challenges to work out, but the team is excited that we can now have confidence that we are receiving any calls or messages from our patrons!

It is also a pleasure to provide a list of the library branches across that state that have opted in to having and setting up a computer with JAWS and Magic, a MAGic keyboard, a 27 inch display, as well as an electronically driven adjustable height table as well as a CCTV with an optical character reader. These workstations were funded by the Institute for Museum and



Library Services through a Library Services and Technology Act grant. The LBPH staff has offered training to all librarians, and many across that state have already taken us up on that offer. As always, the team here is standing by ready to help.

We all hope you enjoy learning more about what we are doing here. Even though it is Library Lover's Month, know that the LBPH staff love our patrons and celebrate your successes along with our own.

-Leslie Bowman, Director, LBPH

[Met the LBPH Staff:](#)

Mary Ramos

Mary Ramos is the Collection Development Librarian for the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. She received her Master's in Library Science from the University of Maryland College Park and comes to the Maryland LBPH with twelve years of library experience in a variety of settings. She began her library career as an Information Specialist in the medical library at Kennedy Krieger Institute, serving families of children with physical and behavioral disabilities. She later returned to the University of Maryland to complete her school library certification and accepted a position as the first Library Media Specialist at Kennedy Krieger High School where she developed the initial library collection and program. In 2004, she joined the research team for the International Children's Digital Library, working primarily on collection development and copyright management. Her most recent experience includes managing grants, contracts, budgets and finances for the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland College Park.

As Collection Development Librarian, Mary assesses collection needs and updates bibliographic records. Mary also oversees the Maryland LBPH Recording Studio, which produces our Marylandia collection, a unique



collection of books about Maryland and by Maryland authors.

National Library News & Updates:

[Karen Keninger Visits NFB, Baltimore:](#)

In October, National Library Service's Director Karen Keninger visited with the National Federation of the Blind's DAISY Consortium. The DAISY Consortium is a global organization committed to the common vision of providing equal access to information and knowledge regardless of disability. The National Library Service is a member of the DAISY Consortium, thus helping to ensure that materials are accessible to those with visual impairments.

Mrs. Keninger states of her visit:

"The meeting gave me more insight into the workings of the consortium, including its priorities. Equally important was the opportunity to meet members of the board and learn what they are doing in their organizations. For example, Vision Australia is moving away from CDs to a download-only service. They are providing small commercial digital players and offers several options for getting books on them. England's Royal National Institute of Blind People is testing 300 locked-down smartphones with voice control to determine whether they could be a viable path for playing talking books.

We heard reports on the significant growth in the audiobook industry and the various ways publishers are implementing accessibility features in their products. The ultimate goal is for all books to be "born accessible." We're still a long way from that, but the DAISY Consortium and others are working hard to make it a reality."

—Karen Keninger, NLS director

[New Technology for Digital Talking Book Machines:](#)

In November 2017, the National Library Service introduced two new accessories for the Digital Talking Book Machines (DTBM).

Remote Control Unit:



The NLS DTBM Remote Control Unit is a handheld remote control that is about five inches long and two and a half inches wide with rounded ends. The remote's top sports a smooth texture, almost lens like and is distinctly different from the rest of the remote. The top of the remote should be aimed at the DTBM when attempting to control it. The remote has fifteen buttons that are identical to the shape and function of the buttons on the DTBM advanced model. The only button NOT available is the power button. The remote will only work the accompanying receiver, which is a small USB device that can be plugged directly into the machine's USB port. The receiver is two inches square by one inch thick, with the USB connector near the bottom of the device.

USB Breath Switch:





NLS has introduced a USB Breath Switch for the Digital Talking Book Machine (DTBM). The device, which uses Sip-and-Puff Technology to allow for hands-free operation, is only available by application. The breath switch is programmed to mimic twenty-one pre-defined DTBM functions. The device responds to both sips and puffs from the user and accepts up to two combinations at once; it can differentiate between long, short, and extended durations of sips and puffs, and is therefore very sensitive.

LBPH News & Updates:

Social Media:

The library has launched two social media pages: www.facebook.com/mdlbph and www.twitter.com/md_lbph. It is here where the library will share library stories, updates, news, and more! Make sure you invite others to like and share our pages so they can keep up to date on all the latest library news.

Tell Us Your Library Story:

Please take the time to share your library story with us; tell us about your favorite book; your favorite librarian; or how the library has made a difference in your life. The library will accept letters between December and January.

The library will promote the messages all through February by sharing copies of the letters on social media, with local newspapers, with local and state funding authorities, and more!

If you are interested in sending a Library Story to the library, please send them to:

Maryland State Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped



Maryland
State Library

LBPH

c/o Ashley Biggs, Outreach Librarian
415 Park Ave.,
Baltimore, MD 2101

Alternatively, they can be E-mailed to Ashley.biggs1@maryland.gov

All submitted stories should be approximately 500 to 800 words, legibly written (typed, Braille, or handwritten).

Super Bowl of Reading for Youth and Families:

From January 14th – February 3rd, The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) hosted a “Super Bowl of Reading” competition. Patrons and staff will compete in two teams to see which team reads the most!

Participating library staff and patrons were divided into two teams, the Braille Wales, and the Reading Raiders. The library kept weekly scores, announcing the weekly winners on the LBPH Youth Listserve and social media. The Braille Wales read a total of 48, 223 minutes, while the Reading Raiders read an impressive 42, 163 minutes. The Reading Super Bowl MVP was Ms. Lynelle Toulson, who read a staggering 12, 187 minutes...a total of 203 hours!

Ms. Myles, LBPH’s Youth Services Librarian, plans on hosting the game again next year.

Choose Civility:

The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is proud to announce that it has become an affiliate in the *Choose Civility Movement*.

<http://choosecivility.org/partners-sponsors/chapters-affiliates-2/>



What is *Choose Civility*? It is a grassroots initiative to value diversity while choosing respect, compassion, empathy, and inclusiveness. *Civility* is a core value of a well-functioning community and one of its defining components. The level of civility in a community underscores its general health and wellness. With fast-paced lifestyles weakening the underpinnings of civility, Johns Hopkins University professor Dr. P.M. Forni wrote *Choosing Civility: the 25 Rules of Considerate Conduct* to remind people that quality of life depends in great part on how community members treat each other.

Choose Civility promotes the following Principles of Civility:

- Pay attention
- Listen
- Speak kindly
- Assume the best
- Respect others' opinions
- Respect other people's time and space
- Be inclusive
- Acknowledge others
- Accept and give praise
- Apologize earnestly
- Assert yourself
- Take responsibility
- Accept and give constructive criticism
- Refrain from idle complaints
- Be a considerate guest

Choose Civility offers program components and tools to organizations and individuals eager to embrace principles of civil behavior that enhance our quality of life. (Quoted from <http://choosecivility.org/>)

LBPH would like to participate in *Choose Civility* by promoting three particular activities.

First, LBPH will be sending out a *Choose Civility* monthly activity calendar with ideas to promote civility. The calendar will be published on our list-serve.

Second, LBPH would like to encourage patrons to become living books for



branch libraries across the state. To become a living book, please contact us at reference.desk@maryland.gov. We will assist you in signing up and explain how to be reimbursed for your travel when you are asked to participate.

The Human Library[™] is an international initiative designed to build a positive framework for conversations that can challenge stereotypes and prejudices through dialogue. It is a place where real people are on loan to readers, and a place where difficult questions are expected, appreciated and answered. As in a traditional library, visitors to the Human Library can choose Books from a range of titles. However, at the Human Library, Books are people, and the reading is a conversation! Read a Living Book and learn about a different culture or community through questions and conversations.

Making College Accessible:

What is the Maryland Accessible Textbook Program?

The Maryland Accessible Textbook Program (MAT) is a division of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped that specializes in providing college textbooks to print-impaired students enrolled in an accredited Maryland post-secondary school. Through the program, students can access their textbooks in a variety of formats: MP3, DAISY, Large Print, PDF, and Brailnote.

Who is Eligible?

All students who are enrolled in a two-or-four year Maryland College or University and who meet the following criteria:

- Individuals with print impairments
- Blind individuals whose visual acuity is less than 20/200
- Low-vision individuals
- Individuals with learning disabilities
- Individuals with physical impairments



How Do I Sign-up?

To enroll in this program, you must complete an application. Applications are available by emailing: accessible.textbook@maryland.gov. Be sure to have one of the following also available when you submit your application:

- A letter from a certifying medical authority
- A letter from the DSS school official from the school you are attending
- A letter from the Division of Rehabilitation Services
- A letter from a social worker or librarian
- Proof of LBPH Membership

Getting By With a Little Help From My Friends:

Have you always wanted to support the library, its mission, and promote accessibility? Do you want to have fun with a great group of people who truly care about the services the library provides? Then you should join the Friends of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped!

Established in 1988, the Friends of MSL-LBPH as the primary function of supplementing funding for the library by providing resources, materials, equipment, training, and volunteer services. This support helps to provide a solid foundation of service that is core to the library's mission.

The Friends group accomplishes its mission by doing the following:

- Maintaining a volunteer Friends organization to assist the Library in identifying its needs
- Publicizing the services of the Library
- Encouraging Marylanders to utilize the Library's services
- Coordinating individuals, civic associations, businesses, organizations, institutions and education groups in providing suggestions and a focus for Library services



- Providing grant and materials support beyond the state and federal funding for program success.

For more information on the Friends or to find out how you can help, please visit www.friendsmdlbp.org.

Special Announcements & Closings:

New Catalog for Library Patrons

We want you, our patrons to help us test a new version of our online catalog. You can visit it here:

<https://webopac.klas.com/md1aopac/index.jsf>

From our online catalog, you can search and request books. The catalog will also direct you to BARD to download books as well.

If you have feedback on the new version of the catalog including questions, successes, challenges or password access, send them to reference.desk@maryland.gov or call us at 410-230-2443.

The current version of our catalog is still available and will remain so until March 5, 2018, when we'll switch over to the new version.

Library Closings

The Library will be closed on February 19, in honor of President's Day.

LBPH F.A.Q.:

Where are books recorded?

NLS talking books are recorded by professional narrators in the studios



of contractors who bid each year on book production. These contractors are usually nonprofit organizations that also provide other products and services for people who are blind, visually impaired, or have a physical disability. NLS maintains a recording studio in its Washington, D.C., office to keep abreast of current recording technology. This studio records approximately one hundred titles per year.

[Are books recorded by volunteers?](#)

Most of the talking books produced for the national collection are recorded by contractors in commercial studios. However, a wide variety of volunteer-produced books and magazines are also available.

[Does your program offer music?](#)

NLS does not offer music for listening, but offers musical scores and books in braille, braille, and large print (sometimes known as a bold note), and recorded instructional materials for learning to play various musical instruments. Music appreciation materials are also available.

[News You Can Use:](#)

[The Newseum to Host Interactive Program:](#)

“On the 50th anniversary of the Tet Offensive, “The Marines and Tet: The Battle That Changed the Vietnam War” will showcase the work of John Olson, a young photographer with Stars and Stripes who spent three days with the Marines at the 1968 Battle of Huê’ (pronounced way), the bloodiest single battle of the Vietnam War. Huê’ was one of more than 100 cities and villages that North Vietnamese forces struck with a surprise attack on the holiday known as Tet.

This innovative exhibit will feature 20 large-format photographs and ten tactile versions of those photographs with touch-activated sensors that provide audio interviews, allowing blind and low-vision visitors to experience the images through touch and sound. The Newseum is the first museum in the United States to host a major tactile exhibit



designed to include blind and low-vision visitors.

Olson's photographs were featured in Life magazine, and he won the Robert Capa Gold Medal for his work. His image of a tank carrying wounded Marines at the Battle of Huê' became one of the most iconic images of the Vietnam War.

The exhibit will also include unique artifacts, including Nikon cameras that Olson used in Vietnam and personal items from the Marines, as well as newspapers and magazines that published Olson's photography. Ten Marines were interviewed for the exhibit, including the battalion and company commanders, some of them revealing their stories publicly for the first time.

Some of the Marines in Olson's photographs have been identified, but others remain nameless. As part of his mission to identify all the men in the photos, Olson has set up www.tet1968.com, a website that allows the public to assist with his research and share their stories of Tet."

- Taken from Newseum.org

[AARP Reports on Macular Degeneration:](#)

"Medicine just gained some critical insight into macular degeneration, the leading cause of vision loss in people 65 and older and a public health problem so common that if you created a country for all the people who have it, that nation would be the world's eighth largest, notes University of Virginia researcher Jayakrishna Ambati, M.D., who just published his team's game-changing findings in Nature Medicine.

While scientists have known for about a decade that inflammation is the driving force in the vision-robbing disease that affects 196 million people worldwide, what triggered the cellular overactivity in the eye and why it grew into a retina-destroying "inflammatory cascade" was unknown, says Ambati, director of U-Va.'s Center for Advanced Vision Science. (He also clarifies that we're talking about "dry" macular



degeneration, which accounts for about 90 percent of all cases.)

The culprit has now been identified as a single enzyme, one known to science for only a few years, which Ambati says acts like a kind of “amateur immune cell” to warn and activate other cells in the eye. This so-called “viral sensor” triggers the inflammatory response that leads to the death of cells in the retina, causing dry macular degeneration.

Going forward, Ambati believes ophthalmologists will be able to improve imaging tools to measure levels of this enzyme in the eye, both to better chart the progression of the age-related disease and to test the efficacy of treatments as they are designed.

But drugs are the real hope; one put much closer in reach now that scientists have a specific target for them. Since it’s an enzyme, researchers say they should be able to develop small molecules to block it, in a way similar to how statins, in drugs already on the market, inhibit other enzymes to lower cholesterol.

Ambati says that, in the shorter term, existing drugs used to fight HIV might be repurposed to fight dry macular degeneration. But even if that stopgap treatment doesn’t happen, the longer-term picture is much brighter for a disease without any approved treatment options currently available. “I think it is eminently reasonable to expect very good treatments available for dry macular degeneration within a decade,” Ambati says.”

- Taken from AARP.com, *New Discovery Could Save Eyesight for Millions* (29 Nov. 17)

Post-Holiday Assistive Technology Help:

Did you get a new iPhone or iPad over the winter holidays? Check out this list of voice-over, accessible apps that you can download to your new phone: <https://appadvice.com/applists/show/apps-for-the-visually-impaired>

Do you need a tutorial on how to use the voiceover feature on your new



iPhone X? Check out this great link: <https://youtu.be/q5ltMjfvNm8>

Do you want to learn some tricks for your new Echo Dot? Check out YouTuber, The Blind Life, and this tutorial video:

<https://youtu.be/KDtP6AnYkao>

And don't forget that the Technology User Group, which is the library's in-house technology discussion group, meets every month between March and November. For more information, contact Jerry Price: 410-230-2446

[Branches that have ADA compliant workstations](#)

The list is attached to the email.



Maryland
State Library

LBPH

Contact Us:

Library Telephone: Main: 410-230-2424 | Reference: 410-230-2443

Email: Reference.desk@maryland.gov

Address: 415 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201

Current Hours:

Monday 8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
Tuesday 8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
Wednesday 8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
Thursday 8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
Friday 8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
2nd Sat. 10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Reference Help Hours:

Monday thru Friday 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
2nd Saturday 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Website: www.lbph.maryland.gov

Social Media:

 www.facebook.com/mdlbph

 www.twitter.com/md_lbph

The library's newsletter is written by the Library for the Maryland State Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped staff. It is currently only available in large print. The information contained in the newsletter is meant to be entertainment and informational only.