



# Texas Talking Book News

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Winter 2016

## Director's Report

Greetings! Here is the latest news:

**Death of a narrator:** Sadly, one of the great narrators of NLS books recently passed away. Roy Avers died at his home in Indiana on November 13, 2015 at the age of 83. Mr. Avers began his narration career with the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) in 1971 and eventually narrated over 1,750 books for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). He became APH's first winner of the Alexander Scourby Award in 1990. For a more complete write-up on Mr. Avers, including a list of some of the books he has narrated, see Laura Jean's blog post at

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/texastalkingbooks/?p=2055>.

**Update on the new automation system:** The project continues to move forward. User interface frames are being developed by the vendor; staff preview and give comments on how these frames will make the new system look and operate. Work is going forward on the new online catalog that patrons will use to search and order books. Staff is considering bid proposals for new printers that will produce the mailing cards for books and equipment. Work is going forward on setting up the servers in the state's remote consolidated data center. Discussions have begun on the bibliographic data that will be moved from the old system to the new and how that data will be sorted and then indexed for use. The project is still on schedule to begin some staff testing as early as April 2016.

**Spring cleaning:** We periodically have to reconcile our inventory records. The time to do this with our machines is coming up in the spring. If you have an older machine—especially the yellow cassette player or one of the record players—that you are no longer using, please return it to us so that we can mark it off the inventory. These older machines are still federal property, and we are still held accountable for them on our inventories. Please be sure that you are using the correct address when returning a machine. The address is **4400B Shoal Creek Blvd., Austin, TX 78756**;

if you still have the original box that the machine was shipped in, this address is on that box. If you no longer have the original shipping box or otherwise need help returning your machine to TBP, please call **1-800-252-9605** and ask a reader consultant for assistance.

**Book club news:** The next book club event will be a discussion of *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr on **March 24, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.** To make a reservation, please call **1-800-252-9605** or send an email to **tbp.ral@tsl.texas.gov**.

**Helpful contact information for the Talking Book Program:**

To order books or report a problem with your machine:

**1-800-252-9605**

To request an application or ask about enrollment: **1-800-252-9605**

To access the toll-free information line: **1-866-388-6397**

To contact the Disability Information and Referral Center:

**1-800-252-9605**

To contact the Public Awareness Office: **1-512-463-5452** or

**1-800-252-9605**

To send email to anyone in the Talking Book Program:

**tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov**

To ask for assistance using BARD: **1-800-252-9605** or

**tbp.bard@tsl.texas.gov**

To ask a librarian for reading advice or reference assistance:

**1-800-252-9605** or **tbp.ral@tsl.texas.gov**

To access the TBP blog:

**<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/texastalkingbooks/>**

To see the TBP book club schedule:

**<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/tbpbookclub/index.html>**

Until next time,  
Ava Smith, Director,  
Talking Book Program

**The Talking Book Program will be closed on the following holidays.**

Monday, February 15, 2016 ~ Presidents' Day

Monday, May 30, 2016 ~ Memorial Day

Of course, you can leave a voicemail message or send e-mail on a holiday.

## Update for BARD Mobile app for Android and Kindle Fire

BARD Mobile app, version 1.0.2 has arrived! The new updated version of BARD Mobile is now available from the **Google Play store**. This version of the BARD Mobile app has fixed bugs found in the initial version of the app. BARD Mobile enables NLS patrons to download and listen to audiobooks and magazines directly from their Android devices. Registered Texas Talking Book patrons will need a **BARD** account at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/nlsbardprod/login/TX1A> and devices running Android OS 4.1 or later to use this app.

Now you can also use the BARD Mobile app for Android to read BARD books on your Kindle Fire! BARD Mobile is now available in the **Amazon Appstore**. BARD Mobile enables NLS patrons to download and listen to audiobooks and magazines directly from their Kindle Fire in addition to Android devices. Registered Texas Talking Book patrons will need a **BARD** account and at least a second-generation Kindle or later in order to use this app.

## Disability News

The National Library Service has recently updated several of its in-house created reference guides. If you need information on assistive technology, magnifiers, mobile apps, Braille devices and literacy, sources for digital players, and reading materials in large print, contact the Texas Talking Book Program's Disability Information & Referral Center for copies of these reference guides in large print. You can also access the guides online at <http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/guides/index.html>.

The new edition of *Magazines in Special Media* is now available. Please contact the Talking Book Program's Disability Information & Referral Center and request a copy of the publication in large print, Braille, or on cassette. This directory includes magazines provided by the National Library Service for free as well as free and paid magazines from other sources. Please call 1-800-252-9605, or e-mail [tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov) for more information.

Call the Disability Information and Referral Center toll-free at  
**1-800-252-9605**  
for information about disabilities and health conditions.

Talking Book Program  
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PO Box 12927  
Austin TX 78711-2927

Free Matter for the  
Blind or Physically  
Handicapped



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PO Box 12927 Austin TX 78711-2927

**1-800-252-9605 (in Texas)**

512-463-5458 (in Austin) 512-936-0685 (fax)

You can contact TBP by email **[tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov)**.

Also, visit our new blog at **[www.tsl.texas.gov/texastalkingbooks/](http://www.tsl.texas.gov/texastalkingbooks/)**  
for up-to-date information.

Comments or complaints regarding programs and services of the Texas  
State Library and Archives Commission may be made to:  
Director and Librarian. PO Box 12927, Austin, TX 78711-2927.

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