

Idaho Talking Book Service Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

10am – 11:30am (virtual)

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting Purpose: To remain current with Talking Book Service items

Meeting Guidelines:

- We take a statewide view on topics
- We listen as allies
- We follow the agenda
- We come away with next steps

Desired Outcomes:

Meeting Leader: LeAnn Gelskey

Facilitator: Stephanie Bailey White

Recorder: Candace Reynolds

Time	Agenda Item	Action	Time
10:00	Meeting set-up: agenda, guidelines, additional topics	Review Agree	5 min
10:05	Icebreaker activity – Stephanie Introduction of Allison Maier, Management Assistant	Share	5 min
10:10	Workplan 2023 Proposed meeting dates 2023: March 15 th in person May 31 st virtual meeting Sept. 6 th virtual meeting Dec. 6 th virtual meeting	Review Clarify Collaborate	20 min
10:20	Beta-test results of new NLS player	Share Plus/delta	15 min
10:30	Studio Update – Rachel Welker	Share	10 min

10:45	Term expiration – Cathy Stanton	Approve	5 min
11:00	TBS updates	Share	5 min
11:05	Committee Member Updates	Share	15 min
11:25	Next steps	Discuss List	5 min
11:30	Adjourn Next meeting:		

Attendees: Steve Achabal, Dana Ard, Stephanie Bailey-White, LeAnn Gelskey, Allison Maier, Quincie Mattick, Erin Rainey, Candace Reynolds, Catherine Stanton, Alison Steven, Rachael Welker, Travis Wilson,

Next meeting: March 15th in person

Agenda items: TBD (possible ideas listed)

- Patron Survey
- Legislative Updates

Notes:

Meeting set-up: agenda, guidelines, additional topics

Icebreaker activity – Stephanie

Introduction of Allison Maier, Management Assistant

TBS Workplan 2023, 4 focused areas:

1. Collections:
2. Use of TBS by Patrons:
3. Outreach to Institutions
4. Outreach to Libraries

Meeting dates 2023:

March 15th in person

May 31st virtual meeting

Sept. 6th virtual meeting

Dec. 6th virtual meeting

Beta-test results of new NLS player

Comments on the player regarding the following areas:

Listening: Reviews on the DS2 were mixed. Comments were that people didn't like the sound of the voice and the interruption of "new location" each time the forward button is used. They also disliked that the buttons are not distinct in shape like they are on the DS1 player. They did like the bookshelf button and the announcement of how much percentage of the book was remaining.

Downloading: Testers had trouble navigating from BARD to the cartridge and adding a password was challenging. They had no idea how to access BARD and it was too complicated. The text to speech was difficult to use or they could not access it at all.

Improvements suggested: More instructions, simplifying the requirements to log into BARD, voice activation, additional verbal instruction, adding Braille to the keys, improving the enter key, and making it easier to delete a bookmark.

Meeting Comments on the new DS2 player:

- The player is an improvement because many senior citizens don't understand intricacies of mobile technology and/or don't have devices, so the player could give them another option.
- The size is an improvement because it's not as bulky
- Older, visually impaired clients are the ones who will likely struggle the most with the new player buttons because they are all the same size and color, unlike the older player, which had a variety of colors and shapes.
- The number of extra buttons could be overwhelming and confusing to seniors.
- Overall, the player is more difficult for patrons who aren't good with technology.

Questions regarding the new player

1. Are these the actual players they will be sending out?
2. Will patrons be able to continue to use their old players?
3. What is the objective in making the new unit when the trend is towards more patrons using mobile devices?

Regarding question #3, LeAnn said that NLS is trying to keep up with technology advancements and so they added the option to download directly to the new player since not everyone owns a mobile device. The current players are not being manufactured anymore, but NLS has a contract with GE to keep the older players operable so she believes patrons will be able to keep their old players. LeAnn will confirm if these are the final design for the new DS2 players.

Studio Update: Rachel Welker

Rachel started in the studio six months ago. She created and built a book to submit to NLS as a test before she could start uploading books. Currently, we have books that have been recorded and just need to be built so they can be put in our collection and sent to BARD. Building a book takes about ½ a day. One or two people are in the studio recording each day. Rachel monitors and records. She does need volunteers for narrators and monitors.

We discussed the best way of recruiting studio volunteers. It's been a challenge to find volunteers who not only like to narrate, but who also are willing to monitor because this involves listening carefully while following along in the book and noting corrections. The ideal person is retired or doesn't work and is someone who has the time to dedicate at least 2 hours at a time to the studio.

Questions and suggestions on the recording studio:

Dana's idea is to use people who belong to toastmasters. Perhaps partially sighted people could volunteer by using an adaptive computer program. She suggested we ask other TBS libraries if

the blind people volunteer in their recording studios and how this works. Quincy said she could talk to Colorado Talking Books to see what they do.

Erin suggested BSU students on an internship might make good volunteers. Drama, Communications, or TV/Film majors might be good contenders. She also suggested recruiting retired media or radio people.

Term expiration: Cathy Stanton's term is expired, but she enjoys working with the committee and has chosen to continue for another term. She also continues to rate unrated books.

TBS updates:

LeAnn attended the Idaho library conference in north Idaho, made good connections, and got materials out.

TBS purchased large print books for rural libraries with ARPA funds.

Sue Vap and other temp employees have concluded their work they did with ARPA funds, but Sue continues as a TBS volunteer.

TBS produced six books this year and they are working with the ICfL IT team on the Hindenburg software.

CSRs had record-breaking month in September with over 60 new applicants.

LeAnn has been appointed to the board of ICBVI filling Sue Walker's vacated seat.

The TBS book club is discontinued for now. Dana mentioned that Joe Thompson holds a monthly book club, and we could offer that to our TBS patrons who are interested in continuing the book club.

Dana asked about Braille on Demand. We will discuss this at the next meeting. Perhaps Dana could give a presentation.

Committee Member Updates:

- Dana is working on the White Cane Law regarding discrepancies. Congressional talks in January will be centered on 3 bills. These are regarding accessibility for medical devices, websites, and new way of approaching social security income. Instead of setting a threshold for benefits, they will have phase out. She is encouraging people to contact their Senators because there is fear that if people work, they will lose their SSID benefits. The last weekend of April is the National Federation for the Blind convention at the Riverside motel in Boise.
- Erin is sending out annual book order information for all teachers. If we have new TBS marketing material, she can include this in her mailings at end of February.
- Travis has over 300 veterans and five support groups with eight veterans each. They have one virtual support group. Travis has worked on events with the Northwest Association for Blind Athletes (NWABA). People are eligible to join if they have visual impairment, not only if they are legally blind. They have a Bocce Ball clinic every Saturday. There are also virtual exercises available. If people are interested, they can go through an orientation process online that is open to everyone across the United States. Their website is <https://nwaba.org/>

- Alison has been busy with virtual and in person activities. Social skills training for young people is available online as well as regional activities like the Twin Falls team building activities. For the upcoming summer programs a virtual open house will be held on Jan 11th 5:30-6:30.
- Quincie is graduating in May and has applied for her master's degree. She is participating in the RUB program for the Colorado Talking Books and recently earned her blackbelt in judo.
- Steve is working on federal reports for youth programs to find new ways to reach out to youth and assist them with life skills training. Rehab teachers are making audio files and building a library to facilitate learning. They will also provide training on technology to use the audio files to download onto phone or PC. Earl Hoover and April Mills have started doing lesson plans for use in the player.
- Catherine is working with BYU Idaho and gave them our contact information. They are mostly interested in textbooks. Catherine also mentioned that she is grateful that Quincie has joined the committee.

Next steps:

LeAnn: Ask Pam questions on the DS2, follow up with Catherine regarding education resources for BYU Idaho, send out new TBS materials to Erin Rainey to use in her yearly mailing to teachers in February.

Dana: Presentation of how Braille on Demand works for March meeting, talk to Joe Thompson regarding incorporating TBS patrons into his monthly book club.

Rachel: Reach out to other TBS libraries to see how they recruit volunteers and if they use blind volunteers in their recording studios.