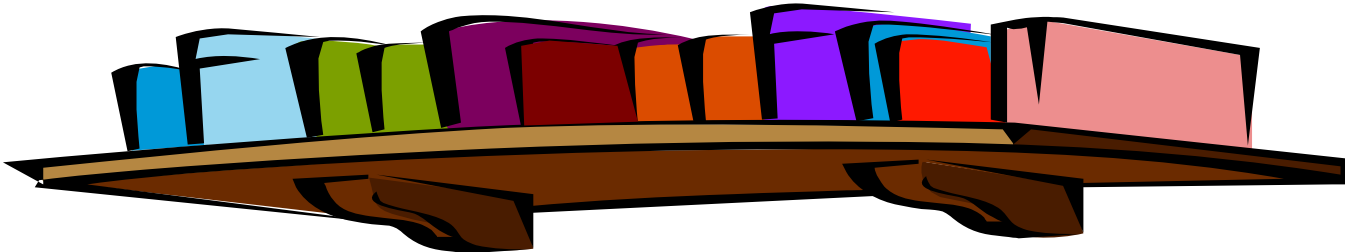


# Off the Shelf



## Welcome to Our New Newsletter

*Cindy Nugent, Editor*

Welcome to the premiere issue of the Mississippi Blind and Physically Handicapped Library Services' (BPHLS) newsletter for Children and Young Adults. This newsletter is just for YOU! We will write to you twice a year to let you know about the newest and coolest things happening at BPHLS. I would love to hear what you think of the newsletter! Do you think we should name it something else, such as **News Flash?** To help us select the name, email me at [frizsell@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:frizsell@mlc.lib.ms.us) or call me at 601-432-4093 or 1-800-446-0892 to vote for a name and to let me know what you think of the newsletter!

## Homework Help!!!

**1-800-777-8552**

Working on a report, need an encyclopedia article and you'd like it in Braille? Well, you're in luck! The Seedling Braille Books Company will send you both a print and a Braille copy of any World Encyclopedia article and it's free of charge. Call 1-800-777-8552 for your article.

# Slate Pals

Slate Pals is a pen pal program for braille reading students who want to write and receive braille letters from other students. It also finds blind pen pals for sighted children who are interested in learning the Braille code.

Students can specify the quantity, age range, and the gender preference of prospective slate pals. The program is sponsored by the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC) of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB), and is available, free of charge, to children around the world. For more information, please contact: Debbie Kent Stein 5817 North Nina Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60631. Phone: 773-631-1093; Fax: 773-792-8245; E-mail: [dkent5817@att.net](mailto:dkent5817@att.net)

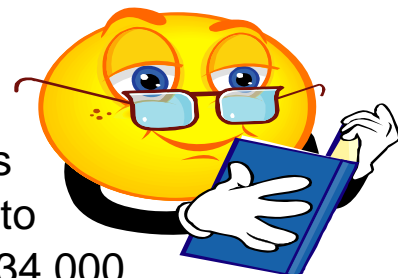
Slate Pals enables children who are blind to correspond with one another in Braille. Slate Pal requests have come from all fifty states and most of the Canadian provinces. We have also received requests for Slate Pals from many nations overseas, including Taiwan, South Africa, Denmark, Hungary, Uganda, El Salvador, Germany, Australia, and Great Britain. In matching Slate Pals the primary considerations are age range, gender, and interests. We also try to match each prospective Slate Pal with someone who lives in a distinctly different geographic locale.



# Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D)

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D), a national nonprofit volunteer organization headquartered in New Jersey, has been the leading producer of accessible educational materials for students with disabilities such as visual impairment or dyslexia. With titles available in every subject area and grade level from kindergarten through graduate studies, RFB&D currently produces textbooks only in compact disk (CD) format; it is no longer distributing books in cassette format. For more information about RFB&D, call 1-800-221-4792 or check out their website at <http://rfgd.org>.

## Calling All Students!



Bookshare.org is an online community that enables people with visual and other print disabilities to legally share books. This digital library has over 34,000 books and periodicals available for download in DAISY (Digital Audio Information System) or BRF (braille formatted file) format. The U.S. Office of Special Education awarded \$32 million for use over the next five year to Bookshare. This funding will provide students from kindergarten through college who experience disabilities reading standard print FREE access to the textbooks in Bookshare. As of October 1, 2007, all membership fees for qualifying students and their schools have been eliminated.

Visit the bookshare web page at: <http://www.bookshare.org> for more information on this service and on other changes that are planned because of this windfall.

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Remember, all books on tape and cassette players always travel as Free Matter for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. If you make your own mailing label, put this phrase where the postage would be affixed.

## Kids Zone - New NLS Web Site

NLS has introduced Kids Zone, one place on the internet for children who are blind or physically handicapped to search for books and research with reference services. Children's materials were always available through the online catalog, but getting to the material was sometimes a multistep process and not very kid-friendly. Now you have your own catalog on NLS Kids Zone at [www.loc.gov/nls/children/index.html](http://www.loc.gov/nls/children/index.html).

## Cassette Magazines for Young People

**CRICKET:** A monthly literary magazine for ages 6-12; on one cassette with National Geographic World, **HUMPTY DUMPTY'S MAGAZINE:** 8 issues a year. Stories, jokes, poems, and game activities. **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC WORLD:** A monthly about people, places, customs, animals, and plant life, on one cassette with Cricket. **SEVENTEEN:** A monthly beauty and fashion magazine for young women; careers, education, social relations, and diet. **SPIDER: THE MAGAZINE FOR CHILDREN:** Stories, poems, and informational articles geared to readers ages 6-9, published monthly. **SPORTS ILLUSTRATED FOR KIDS:** Monthly kid's version of the well-known sports magazine. **TEEN PEOPLE:** People magazine format directed to teens. 10 issues per year. **YOUNG ADULT MAGAZINE OF THE MONTH:** A different magazine each month.

## Off the Shelf Newsletter

The Off the Shelf newsletter is also available on cassette, in braille, and via email. Everyone will receive a large print copy to share with parents or teachers. Contact the Library to change to the format you wish to receive.

# Tips For Good Service



## **Telephone Number**

Our telephone number is 1-800-446-0892. Please call if you have any questions, comments, or requests. **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!!**

If you or your parents are ever in Jackson, **Come Visit Us!** We are open to the public Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Central Standard Time. Blind and Physically Handicapped Library Services is located in the Mississippi Library Commission Building at 3881 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, MS 39211.

## **Need More Books?**

If you need more books, are not getting titles you like, or have other questions, please call.

## **Return Books - PLEASE!!!**

Take a moment to look and see if you have cassette books that you are no longer using. These titles may have been requested by other patrons. Please return your books so that others may read them!

## **Request Lists?**

We can better serve you if you provide us with long lists of book numbers that you would like to receive. The more requests we have on file, the better able we are to serve you. Let us know if there are specific authors, titles or subjects you would like to receive.

## **Change of Home Address/Telephone Number/Email Address?**

Notify us of any changes in your home address, telephone number, or email address as soon as possible. If you change schools, we need that information also.

**This publication is funded by a grant under the federal Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Mississippi Library Commission for the Institute of Museum and Library Services.**

## **Machine Not Working?**

If you notice a problem with your machine, call us and we will send a replacement. Do not attempt to make any repairs yourself. When you return a machine to the library for replacement, it's important that you call and tell us of your need. Call toll-free 1-800-446-0892. If you put a note with the returned equipment, please follow-up with a phone call indicating you need a replacement. If equipment is returned without notification, it will not automatically be replaced.

## **Message to Parents and Teachers**

As many of you know, the Blind and Physically Handicapped Library Service has always tried to provide books-on-tape to students on a priority basis. It is our commitment to send a title in the mail to you within 24 hours, as long as it is in the library. Therefore, if it is at all possible, please give us the longest possible lead time by consulting with the classroom teacher and finding out which will be needed in advance of the assignment. Our loan period for students can be routinely extended to two months, so keeping a tape a little longer will not be a problem. However, to keep your students current with their classroom deadlines, we do need advanced notice for mailing. If you need to pick up a book, call us and we will have it waiting for you, at the library. Books used in the classroom sometimes have to be duplicated on demand, so calling in advance is important to the process. Finally, if we need to order a book from another state on interlibrary loan, this involves an added delay and, while we order the book immediately, we can't control other states' loan policies. Please discuss the potential delay with your student's classroom teacher so that your student is not penalized. Thanks for your help, and have a great school year! We are here to help with all of your child's support reading needs in tape, large print, or Braille formats. Remember, also, that we rely on your help to spread the word about the valuable free services we provide to the blind, visually impaired, physically disabled, and students with reading disabilities.

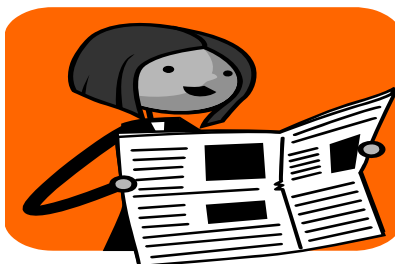
# Why Talking Books Have Made Me a Successful Student

The Blind and Physically Handicapped Library Services provides a tool for success for Learning Disabled students. With books on tape, the barriers of learning and perceptual problems are surmountable as students stay up with their schoolwork. They can experience, for the first time, the true joy that reading can offer when it is available to them in an easy-to-use format such as talking books. The Talking Book Library is a free service, so all students in Mississippi can make use of the program with proper medical endorsement. The glowing endorsements we receive from our clients attest, not only to the support that Talking Books provide in school and for recreational reading, but also to high levels of personal and academic success Mississippi student can achieve with the help of the Talking Book Library and books-on-tape.

## Phoning It In

Did you know you could listen to the newspaper over the telephone? **Newsline** is an electronic system that allows you to listen to over 250 newspapers and magazines through synthetic voice output via a toll-free number.

Stay up-to-date with your favorite sports teams, keep up with current events, learn about things happening halfway around the world, and check the television listings too! Contact the Library to sign up for **Newsline**.



Mississippi Library Commission  
Blind & Physically Handicapped  
Library Services  
3881 Eastwood Drive  
Jackson MS 39211-6473

Free Matter for the Blind and  
Handicapped

X

**HOW TO CONTACT US:**

email: [lbph@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:lbph@mlc.lib.ms.us)

WebOPAC: <http://bphopac.mlc.lib.ms.us/>

Toll-Free.....800-446-0892 (Nationwide)

FAX.....601-432-4476

Reader's Advisors (Local numbers):

**ADULTS, CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS**

Cindy ..... 601-432-4093

**ADULTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

Gina ..... 601-432-4116

**ADULTS**

Margaret ..... 601-432-4095

John ..... 601-432-4010

Circulation Services.....Jerry ..... 601-432-4094

Machine Lending.....Gloria ..... 601-432-4047