Minnesota Department of Education

Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library

A State Library Services Program

Profile at a Glance:
2012

Prepared January 2013

Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library (MBTBL)
Minnesota Department of Education
A State Library Services Program

Purpose:
To provide a specialized statewide public library service to Minnesotans of all ages with visual, physical, and reading disabilities.

Background:
Since 1933, the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library (MBTBL), located in Faribault, has provided a specialized public library service statewide to Minnesotans of all ages with visual, physical, and reading disabilities. Library materials are sent to over 10,000 Minnesotans. Caregivers, educators, school districts, and students receive information and support from the Library.

MBTBL works in partnership with the National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). NLS administers a free national library program for visually and physically disabled persons who cannot read standard print library materials. The program was established by an act of Congress in 1931. Over time federal mandates have expanded the definition of people eligible for service. The current federal regulations for this program are outlined in the *Federal Register* for June 7, 1974, as amended October 2, 1981.

NLS selects and produces full-length books and magazines in audio and in braille. Library materials are distributed to a network of designated libraries throughout the United States. These materials are circulated to eligible disabled patrons. There are no age restrictions. Pre-school through adult-level materials are available. All services are free of charge including postage costs to mail materials to patrons and return them to the Library.

The library's collection is similar to what is available in a medium-sized public library. The library partners with other state agencies to provide this specialized public library service. The Communication Center, State Services for the Blind, inventories, distributes and repairs the specialized talking book

players provided by the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) and loaned to MBTBL patrons throughout the state.

Because the MBTBL is located on the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind campus, MBTBL also provides school library services to the Academy's students and the staff and to the deaf-blind students of both State Academies.

Accountability:
The MBTBL is responsible for meeting National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped's standards set forth in the *Revised Standards and Guidelines of Services for the Library of Congress Network of Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped*. The MBTBL reports to State Library Services in the Office of Educator Excellence at the Minnesota Department of Education. It is the only public library in the state that reports to a state agency.

Profile at a Glance
2012

Staff:

Number of MBTBL employees: 9.5 FTE

Individuals served:

10,281

Institutions served:

918

Patron distribution:

Top 10 counties based on number of patrons

Hennepin County, MN	2,194 patrons
Ramsey County, MN	1,076 patrons
Dakota County, MN	579 patrons
St. Louis County, MN	426 patrons
Anoka County, MN	337 patrons
Washington County, MN	301 patrons
Olmsted County, MN	231 patrons
Rice County, MN	178 patrons
Stearns County, MN	181 patrons
Crow Wing County, MN	151 patrons

Age distribution:

Age Range	Females	Males
0-14	79	78
15-24	226	297
25-64	1,336	1,231
65-99	3,480	1,452
100+	61	24

Disability distribution:

- Blind and visually impaired = 87%
- Reading disability = 8%
- Physical disability = 5%
- Deaf/Blind = less than 1%

Book Circulation:

FFY 2012 (October 1, 2011-September 30, 2012)

- Digital books:
  - 236,184 items circulated to 5,467 readers
    - 43.2 items per reader
- Braille books:
  - 4,223 volumes circulated to 543 readers
    - 7.7 items per reader
- Cassette books:
  - 62,187 items circulated to 3,737 readers
    - 16.6 items per reader
- Large print books:
  - 2,855 items circulated to 185 readers
    - 15.4 items per reader
- Large print catalogs:
  - 4,210 items circulated to 1,852 readers
    - 2.3 items per reader
- Described videos:
  - 158 items circulated to 33 readers
    - 4.8 items per reader
- Playaway digital books:
  - 50 items circulated to 14 readers
    - 3.5 items per reader

Total items circulated: 309,877

Minnesota Braille and Audio Reading Download (MN BARD):

Audio Books downloaded by readers:	41,230
Magazines downloaded by readers:	1,452

Interlibrary Loans (ILLs) to other NLS network libraries:
92 books

Volume:
On average more than 1,240 books are mailed each business day and 1,200 books are returned.

Equipment (provided at no cost to Library patrons):
2012 figures (from State Services for the Blind, Communication Center):

- 6,134 digital talking book players out to readers
- 6,513 cassette talking book players out to readers
- 536 digital talking book players inspected or repaired by State Services for the Blind volunteers at an in-kind cost of $35.80 per machine = $19,188
- 1,574 digital talking book players inspected or repaired by State Services for the Blind staff
- 454 cassette talking book players inspected or repaired by State Services for the Blind volunteers at an in-kind cost of $35.80 per machine = $16,253
- 1,790 cassette talking book players inspected or repaired by State Services for the Blind staff

Items in Circulating Collection:

- Digital books: 84,233
- Cassette books: 283,334
- Braille books: 30,214
- Large-print books: 5,853
- Described videos: 407
- Playaway digital books: 365

Value of Collection (based on 2010 figures):

NLS-produced Materials:	$4,223,705
NLS equipment out to patrons:	$3,100,146
Other:	+ $170,935
Total:	$7,494,786

Assistive Technology Available at MBTBL:

- Braille embossers
- JAWS (screen reader)
- ZoomText (screen magnifier)
- Refreshable braille display
- Kurzweil 1000 (text to speech software)
- CDesk (BARD download manager)
- Duxbury Braille Translator (text to braille)

Volunteers:

- Work site for Minnesota State Academy students:
    - 4 hours/week during school year
- Work site Faribault High School Students:
    - 4-6 hours/week during school year
- Other:
    - 9-10 hours/week