Minnesota Department of Education

Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library

A State Library Services Program

Profile at a Glance
2013

Prepared January 2014

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 people 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 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 at the Minnesota Department of Education. It is the only public library in the state that reports to a state agency.

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Staff:

Number of MBTBL employees: 8.5 FTE

Individuals served:

10,058

Institutions served:

923

Patron distribution:

Top 10 counties based on number of patrons

Hennepin County, MN	2,217 patrons
Ramsey County, MN	1,100 patrons
Dakota County, MN	585 patrons
St. Louis County, MN	421 patrons
Anoka County, MN	353 patrons
Washington County, MN	307 patrons
Olmsted County, MN	231 patrons
Rice County, MN	195 patrons
Stearns County, MN	184 patrons
Crow Wing County, MN	149 patrons

Age distribution:

Age Range	Females	Males
0-14	79	78
15-24	208	271
25-64	1,376	1,195
65-99	3,509	1,482
100+	69	24

Disability distribution:

- Blind and visually impaired = 87.6%
- Reading disability = 7.3%
- Physical disability = 4.8%
- Deaf/Blind = less than 1%

Book Circulation:

FFY 2013 (October 1, 2012-September 30, 2013)

- Digital books:
  - 269,891 items circulated to 5,908 patrons
    - 45.7 items per patron
- Braille books:
  - 4,691 volumes circulated to 532 patrons
    - 8.8 items per patron
- Cassette books:
  - 22,736 items circulated to 1,434 patrons
    - 16.8 items per patron
- Large print books:
  - 2,888 items circulated to 164 patrons
    - 17.6 items per patron
- Large print catalogs:
  - 5,217 items circulated to 1,261 patrons
    - 4 items per patron
- Described videos:
  - 216 items circulated to 23 patrons
    - 9.4 items per patron
- Playaway digital books:
  - 64 items circulated to 14 patrons
    - 4.6 items per patron

Total items circulated: 304,461

Minnesota Braille and Audio Reading Download (MN BARD):

Audio materials downloaded by patrons: 60,788
Braille materials downloaded by patrons: 8,114

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

Volume:
On average more than 1,192 books are mailed each business day and 1,174 books are returned for processing.

Equipment (provided at no cost):
2013 figures (from State Services for the Blind, Communication Center):

- 6,534 digital talking book players out to patrons
- 5,726 cassette talking book players out to patrons
- 1,682 digital talking book players inspected or repaired by State Services for the Blind staff or volunteers at an in-kind cost of $35.80 per machine = $60,216
- 940 cassette talking book players repaired by State Services for the Blind staff or volunteers at an in-kind cost of $35.80 per machine = $33,652

Items in Circulating Collection:

- Digital books: 115,454
- Cassette books: 236,683
- Braille books: 30,447
- Large-print books: 6,089
- Described videos: 372
- Playaway digital books: 353

Value of Collection (based on 2010 NLS cost figures):

NLS-produced Materials:	$6,379,863
NLS equipment out to patrons:	$3,215,823
Other:	+ $179,650
Total:	$9,775,336

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 Faribault High School Students:
    - 4-6 hours/week during school year
- Other:
    - 9-10 hours/week