

We're on the Web!

www.mitbc.org

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Holiday Closings

Friday April 2– Good Friday

Monday May 31– Memorial Day

Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center
600 High Point Lane
East Peoria, IL 61611
FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND AND
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED



SPRING 2010

Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center
600 High Point Lane, East Peoria, IL 61611
1-800-426-0709

To receive this newsletter in Braille, on cassette, or by e-mail; call us at **1-800-426-0709**. This newsletter can also be heard on our website: **www.mitbc.org** The cassette and online recordings are done courtesy of WCBU public radio in Peoria.

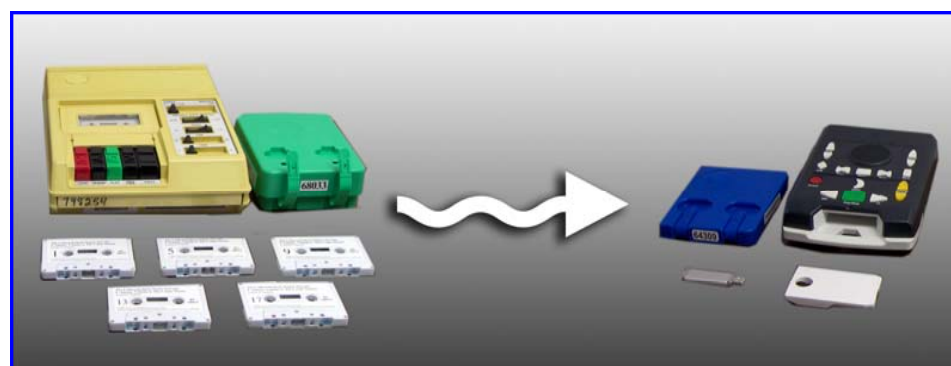
Have You Signed up for Digital Service?

The waiting list for a digital machine is growing shorter. The priority list of veterans, centenarians, and E-1 users has been filled. **If you have not yet signed up to receive a digital machine, or are not sure if you are on the waiting list, contact the Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center at 1-800-426-0709 and we will put you on the list.** Keep an eye out for updates and information about the digital service at our website; **www.mitbc.org**

Why Digital? We highly recommend signing up for the digital service because of the many advantages of this new format. One of the most notable improvements is the superior sound quality of the machine; doing away with that background “hiss” or crackle heard on the current cassette players. Another often mentioned benefit of the digital machine is the fact that one book fits on one cartridge, always. This means there is no need to stop in the middle of a book to flip the cassette and no need to keep track of multiple cassettes at once. The buttons of the digital machine are soft rubber, easy to press, and marked with Braille. Other improvements such as a battery that lasts 35 hours per charge, a 2lb. Weight vs. the 7lb. cassette player weight, and a built in sleep timer, combine to create a high quality reading experience. One of our patrons expressed her excitement by writing, “I must tell you I love! love! love it! The player is easy to use, the book so simple to insert and the instructions are always there”. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. **Call us today at 1-800-426-0709.**

Hold On To Your Cassette Player.

If you have already received a new digital machine, and will be mainly using the pre-loaded cartridges, **we recommend that you keep your old cassette player (the C-1 model)**. The titles available in the new digital cartridge format are still limited. The production of books on tape will stop in a few months. Those of you who will be using the BARD website are also encouraged to keep your old yellow machines. The BARD website doesn't offer as many magazine titles as are available on tape.



The familiar yellow player to the left required multiple cassettes for a single book. The new digital machine pictured to the right, contains the same book on one single cartridge.

Shorter Lending Period for Digital Books

Due to the limited number of digital books in our collection, the lending period for a digital title is currently two weeks. As we receive more titles, the loan period for digital books will increase.

Downloading Options For Your New Digital Machine

Your digital machine has the ability to read books downloaded from the internet. To download books, visit the National Library Service BARD website at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/ApplicationInstructions.html>. Once you have set up an account, you can either download your books onto a flash drive or a blank cartridge which is very similar to the pre-loaded cartridges we mail out. The flash drive should not have any pre-installed software such as "U-3" technology. The most simple flash drives work best. The blank cartridge can be ordered through the American Printing House website: www.aph.org. The cable needed to connect the blank cartridge to your computer can be purchased at Independentliving.com. Contact MITBC with any questions at **1-800-426-0709** and ask for Jon (ext. 2119) .

Free Digital College Textbooks!

Flat World Knowledge publishing company has partnered with **Bookshare** audio books to offer free downloads of its digital college textbooks to students with qualifying disabilities. Visit www.flatworldknowledge.com/students or call **1-877-257-9243** to see if you qualify. If you are interested in other opportunities like this, call MITBC to be put on a mailing list at **1-800-426-0709** (Ext.# 2119).

Meet A Volunteer



A surprising amount of MITBC's work is helped along by our volunteers. In this edition of Talking Book Times we honor one of our long time volunteers; Paul Pearson. Paul began volunteering for MITBC 7 1/2 years ago. Paul retired as a high school English teacher after 34 years and was looking for a way to give back to his community. He loves helping others to read as well as working with MITBC's friendly staff. Paul also volunteers at Pekin Public Library and Grace Methodist Church. In his spare time, Paul likes to take walks, read, travel, visit his grandchildren, and create stained glass art. Paul is just one of many volunteers who make talking books available to over 4,000 users in Central Illinois. We all thank him for his support and help.

Thank you for your support! MITBC appreciates the contributions of our donors and volunteers. As a non-profit organization, we highly value such gifts. Your donations allow us to enhance the Talking Book Service and are tax deductible. In respect of privacy, we do not list the names of our donors. Their gifts are nonetheless important to us. Acknowledgements are sent to donors and honorees, so please include the names and addresses of all those to be notified .

Thank You Very Much!