



Fall 2004

CTBL News

Colorado Talking Book Library • Denver

New Director Begins Tenure

Debbi MacLeod joined the Colorado Talking Book Library in June 2004 as the new Director and brings a variety of experience from the private sector.

Early in her career she taught History and remedial English to high school students in Maine and gained academic library experience at the Colby College Library. After moving to Boston she worked in 2 family businesses, a manufacturing company and an independent retail gift store.

After both businesses were sold, Debbi moved into the corporate world first working for Polaroid Corp in Cambridge, MA and then Hewlett Packard in CO & CA. Her expertise is in Market, Competitive & Trend Analysis and at Polaroid had responsibility for the business library. Her industry expertise is in the digital imaging and printing market, microprocessor design market, the commercial printing market and technology transfer.

Debbi received her MLIS from Simmons College, Graduate School of Library & Information Science in Boston, MA and her BA from Stephens College in Columbia, MO with a major in History & Social Science and received her secondary education teaching certificate.

From the Director

We were busy at CTBL this summer. The public spaces, several offices and the break room inside the building were painted. The parking lot was sealed and looks new. With the new paint on the outside of the building done last spring, CTBL is really spruced up!

I am planning to paint the remaining spaces such as the studio, duplicating, conference, repair and mail rooms during the next fiscal year when new money comes available.

I am working on a marketing campaign to expand awareness and usage of CTBL's services. One of the first steps is the new name and look of the newsletter.

Please feel free to contact me for any reason. I look forward to working for all of you.

Community Outreach Events

HealthSet Senior Fair will NOT be held in September but will be rescheduled for the Spring.

CTBL will have tables at:

Oct 2: Vision Health Expo—9:00 am to 3:00 pm
World Arena, 3185 Venetucci Blvd., Colorado Springs

Oct 23: Senior Health Fair—10:00 am to 2:00 pm
The Gardens at St. Elizabeth 2835 West 32nd St., Denver

Reader's Advisors—Questions and Answers

Q: My books are sent automatically and sometimes I receive book number three in a series but not books one and two. Why does this happen?

A: The computer selects books according to availability and patron's interest codes. The computer does not know if a book is part of a series. If this happens please call the library and we will send or reserve the other books in that series for you.

Q: Sometimes when I turn the cassette over to the other side the narrator begins talking too fast to understand. What can I do about it?

A: Usually taking the cassette out of the machine and hitting it on a flat surface two or three times will take care of the problem. This occurs because the tape is rewound too tight and this will loosen it up so that it will play at the correct speed again.

Q: What are the different ways I can order my books?

A: You can order via the phone, fax, email, online or regular mail. When you send us an order, please indicate whether you want us to send the books right away or add them to your request list. If you are using the order form from the Talking Book Topics catalog, make the note in the margins. This will help prevent any confusion or delays in sending your books. Even though the catalogs are sent from Florida, please return the order form to us at Colorado Talking Book Library. If you are ordering a school book for a student, we encourage you to call us. We will do everything we can to expedite your order.

Volunteer News

We are pleased to announce the Volunteer Recording Studio has begun to record new materials in the digital format. In July, Blake Erickson from Telex Corp. installed phase one of the new digital studio equipment.

There are four workstations, each with a specific purpose. One station is dedicated to the sound booth for recording a sound file. Another allows a volunteer to review the recording for errors. After editing the file, a third station transfers the recording to cassettes for use with the current Talking Book Machines. The last station is for overall management of the studio and for file clean-up of older recorded materials.

Later this year, the studio's other two sound booths and review stations will be converted to the digital format. Then our Volunteer Program will have the ability to create professional quality sound recordings and re-master of some of the older material in the Colorado Collection.

Many thanks to Terri Marcotte, our Volunteer Coordinator, for spearheading the project. Many thanks to Don Wiens, Rich and Bill Urbanowski, Scott Statz, and Alex Hernandez for their devotion to making the new digital recording studio a reality. Thanks also to the many Friends of CTBL who have provided the funding for the new equipment. Without your generous contributions to the library none of this would have been possible.

Tech Talk

Did you know that CTBL offers a variety of accessible devices for patron use?

There are two computers that are dedicated to the CTBL Accessibility Technology Center with Freedom Scientific Jaws or GW Micro Window Eyes screen readers. These computers have internet access, Microsoft Office and the ability to print to a Laser Printer or Braille Embosser. We also have a CCTV and various other magnifying devices to use at CTBL. So the next time you are in need of access to such devices, please know that this is just another service CTBL offers to you.

Did you know that you can order books after hours?

You can order online with CTBL's WEB OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog). Not only can you order books, but you can browse which materials you currently have out or have had in the past. Everyone can browse the collection, but if you would like to view your account or order materials from CTBL you will need your patron ID number and a password. Please contact CTBL to setup your initial password.

Mailroom News

To help the check-in process please remember to:

- Rewind your tapes
- Make sure that tapes are in their matching box
- Keep the original card with the tape box

Special Accessories for Playback Machines

Amplifier: for persons with a significant hearing loss, the sound is boosted to a level that can cause permanent hearing loss to persons with normal hearing. This requires a separate application with medical certification.

Breath Switch: for persons with little or no use of their extremities, must be used with remote control unit

Extension Levers: for persons who have difficulty manipulating the key controls on a standard cassette machine, attaches to the key controls of the cassette machine

Headphones: issued only to readers who require them for reading talking books where loudspeakers are not permitted, as in nursing homes and hospitals

Pillow Speaker: for persons who are confined to bed, is placed under the reader's pillow and is normally heard only by the reader

Remote Control Unit: for persons confined to bed or with difficulty in mobility turns playback equipment on and off but will not control other functions such as volume and speed. This requires a separate application.

Solar Panel Battery Charger: for readers who do not have access to electricity

Please contact CTBL for the procedures for obtaining these accessories.

CTBL will be closed on the following days:

September 6th, November 25th & 26th, December 24th, 27th, 31st

Collection News

In the spring we added hundreds of new books to the large-print collection thanks to a grant received from the Governor's office. We also added many new descriptive videos. Please call a Reader's Advisor for the complete list. Below are a few of the new descriptive videos we received.

Cocoon

Father of the Bride

Gone with the Wind

Minority Report

Mr. Holland's Opus

Old Yeller

Pirates of the Caribbean

Shindler's List

For Your Information

CTBL has received 50 copies of American Printing House for the Blind's catalog. If you would like a copy of this catalog sent to you, please call a Reader's Advisor and we will mail one to you.

Any mention of products and services in this newsletter is for information only and does not imply endorsement.

Finally, a Thank You

We are always grateful for the continuing & generous support from our patrons and volunteers. Your gift of time and/or money enables us to supplement our services here at CTBL. Look forward to the Friends of CTBL's annual fundraising campaign letter coming in December.

How to Reach Us:

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Free Matter for the
Blind & Handicapped

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