



Winter 2009

# CTBL News

Colorado Talking Book Library • Denver

## Highlighting the CTBL Catalog

The heart of any library is the catalog. Records of all the books and other material held by the library are in this catalog. Patrons and staff can search the catalog to find the next great read. Catalogers know that accuracy, completeness and consistency of the information in the catalog is critical to successful searching. For CTBL these catalog records also contain plot summaries, subject codes that match those in patron records and exclusion information about content that some may find objectionable. Over the years at CTBL much of this information has become inaccurate or non-existent. The result has been patrons receiving books that don't match their interests or their exclusions, and books just not circulating.

For the last six months we have been working on a catalog clean-up project. We hope that by the time you read this, all the records in the catalog will have been adjusted. I will spare you all the technical language, but we automated this process with the able assistance of Keystone, our integrated library software vendor,

*continued on page 2*

[www.myctbl.org](http://www.myctbl.org)

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## CTBL Catalog continued from page 1

and catalog records from the NLS catalog. Now, going forward, the process of including subject codes is automatic. This eliminates the hand coding that we were inconsistently doing due to time constraints.

Some patrons may need to call the library and have their subject codes adjusted since some homegrown codes are not available as we have moved to the library standard of the Dewey classification. If you find that your books don't match your taste, please call the library and work with a reader advisor.

## From the Director

In the last year we started to send out notices to patrons who have not checked out a book in over a year. By NLS standards this makes them an inactive patron and their account should reflect this. So the library is contacting the patron via these letters to check in and determine the status of their accounts. If you receive one of these letters, please call the library and speak with a reader advisor.

After rereading the letter, I must say that the tone is not one I usually take. For that I apologize. The letter has now been rewritten and I hope will foster better communication with you.

Debbi

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## Reader Advisors— Attention Students and Teachers

In the past we were able to provide both a home and school account for students. However, with the shortage of machines that we are experiencing, we need to modify this policy. CTBL will provide service to the student at school under the school's organizational account. We also encourage the parents to establish an account for the student at their home address. This will enable the student to continue receiving library service during holidays and after they have graduated. As a friendly reminder to teachers and organizations who may have a machine or machines that they are not using, we would appreciate you returning unused equipment so we can refurbish the machines and send them out to patrons who are actively reading books.

## 9Health Fair—April 21st 7:00 am to Noon

Once again CTBL will be hosting the 9Health Fair on Tuesday April 21st. Please remember and pass the word that CTBL provides special assistance to people who are blind or have low vision. We help with filling out the application and have Braille and large print versions that can be used to follow the questions; escort people through the building and have worked out with 9Health how you can hear your test results. Hope to see you in April.

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## Tech Talk—Tips for Ordering Books on the CTBL Website

To order from [www.myctbl.org](http://www.myctbl.org), you need to click on the Order Books Online link and the CTBL WEB OPAC link. Then you will need to log on with your patron ID number and a password that you set up by talking to a reader advisor. Once you have logged on, the first screen that you see has a window in which you can enter the numbers of books that you want to order or add to your request list, e.g. RC64509, BR1943, etc. Be sure to press the <Enter> key after each number; otherwise, your numbers will be put into one long, continuous string that the software cannot recognize. After adding the books to your bookbasket, click the box next to "Rush This Item" for each book that you want us to send you right away. Any book for which you do not click this box will be added to your request list.

If you do not know the numbers of the books you want to order, you can do either a basic search or an advanced search by using words from the title, the author's name, or a subject term. If you do not get any results when searching by subject, try searching All indexes instead of just Subject. Click on each title in the list to see a complete description including the narrator's name, annotation, and how many copies are available. After selecting the

**CTBL will be closed on the following days in 2008 and 2009:  
January 1st and 19th, February 16th, and May 25th**

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titles that you want to order, click "Rush This Item" for each book that you want sent right away.

Please note that the system will not let you order any materials in a medium for which you are not signed up. If you get a note to this effect, call the library and ask to have your account adjusted. For other information about searching online, click on "Helpful Hints" on the main ordering menu, click on "Help" while performing a search, or talk to a reader advisor.

## Outreach

Outreach continues at a busy clip with many staff pitching in to cover events. We continue to visit with many vision support groups. CTBL was represented at the Low Vision Fair in Durango in September and on that trip Debbi visited the public libraries in Alamosa, Monte Vista, Durango, and Pagosa Springs. We participated in the Low Vision Fair in Greeley, Auraria's Disability Day in Denver and the Possibilities Fair in Denver. Debbi met with the Commission for the Blind and represented CTBL at the Colorado Association of Libraries Annual Conference. In November she also traveled to Colorado Springs to attend the Adult Blind Association's meeting. If you would like Debbi to visit a support group, meet with a group or know of an event that CTBL should attend, please contact her.

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## Resource of Interest— Google's Accessible Search

"Google Accessible Search is designed to help the visually impaired find the most relevant, useful and comprehensive information, as quickly as possible. Accessible Search is an early Google Labs product designed to identify and prioritize search results that are more easily usable by blind and visually impaired users. Accessible Search goes one step further by helping you find the most accessible pages in that result set."

"In its current version, Google Accessible Search looks at a number of signals by examining the HTML markup found on a web page. It tends to favor pages that degrade gracefully—pages with few visual distractions and pages that are likely to render well with images turned off. Accessible Search is a natural and important extension of Google's overall mission to better organize the world's information and make it universally accessible."

<http://labs.google.com/accessible/>

## Event of Interest—Attention Pueblo Patrons

Several CTBL patrons in Pueblo have started a Talking Books Discussion Group. The group meets at the Rawlings Public Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., at 2:00 pm on Wednesdays. Upcoming meetings are January 7th, February 4th, and March 4th. For more information contact Jim Fredregill at [jfredregill@comcast.net](mailto:jfredregill@comcast.net) or 719-544-6907.

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## Unabridged Update

As many of you know, we have offered the Unabridged digital book download program to our patrons for several years. Until now the service only worked with Windows computers. Finally, the software used to download audio books is available for Mac computers. We are also in the process of adding audio books to the collection that are in an MP3 format. These audio books will work on any MP3 device including iPods and other Apple devices. The MP3 portion of the Unabridged website is currently in the testing phase and will be available to the public soon. If you are interested in using the Unabridged service, contact the library.

For more information on the software for the Mac:

<http://www.overdrive.com/software/omc/>

For more information on the Unabridged program:

<http://unabridged.lib.overdrive.com/>

## Mail Room News

We have received calls concerning defective or incomplete tapes in a mail container when they arrive at your home. CTBL inspects all the books mailed back to us. However, you may occasionally receive a damaged or incomplete book. Here are the suggested guidelines when you receive a box that has a missing or wrong tape in it:

If you receive a **defective** book, place a rubber band around any

[continued on page 8](#)

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## Mail Room News continued from page 7

damaged cassette. Place the item on top in the mailing container, turn the mailing label over so the address in red shows, check the box marked DAMAGED and return the book.

If you receive an **incomplete** book, place all the tapes and a note in the mailing container, turn the mailing label over so the address in red shows and return the book.

Please do not put any strings or rubber bands, etc. on the outside of the mailing containers. This practice causes problems for the postal sorting equipment. Finally, call a Reader Advisor right away if you receive any defective or incomplete books, to make sure you get a replacement.

## Volunteer News—Recognition Brunch

Celebrate! On December 6th, the Friends of the Colorado Talking Book Library celebrated the outstanding dedication of our volunteers with a holiday brunch at the Lakewood Country Club. Steve Denny set the tone for the event with his lovely piano selections of classical and holiday favorites.

Letters of Recognition were read by Susan Liddle, Colorado Legislative Council, Russ Ragsdale, Broomfield City and County Clerk, and Karen Long, Adams County Clerk and Recorder, to honor the volunteers who put in many extra hours recording the Legislative Council's "Blue Book" and all the ballot items for audio

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ballots in Adams, Broomfield, and Teller counties. The volunteers who were honored for their participation in that project were: Timothy Englert, Jim Foster, Sharon Huckins, Visvaldis Jaunarajs, Ellen Ranson, Laverne Rios, Joanne Rudoff, and Kate Van Wyhe.

The Friends also honored many volunteers for their years of service at CTBL with certificates and gifts presented by Debbi MacLeod.

**5 Year Awards (2003):**

Jean Price, Bill Urbanowski,  
and Rich Urbanowski

**10 Year Awards (1998):**

Don Bennallack, Gerald Brown,  
Jerry Campe, Dean Cook, Bette  
Kamlet, Mike McAviney, Jack  
Regan, and Jackie Rodeman

**15 Year Awards (1993):**

Bill Turner

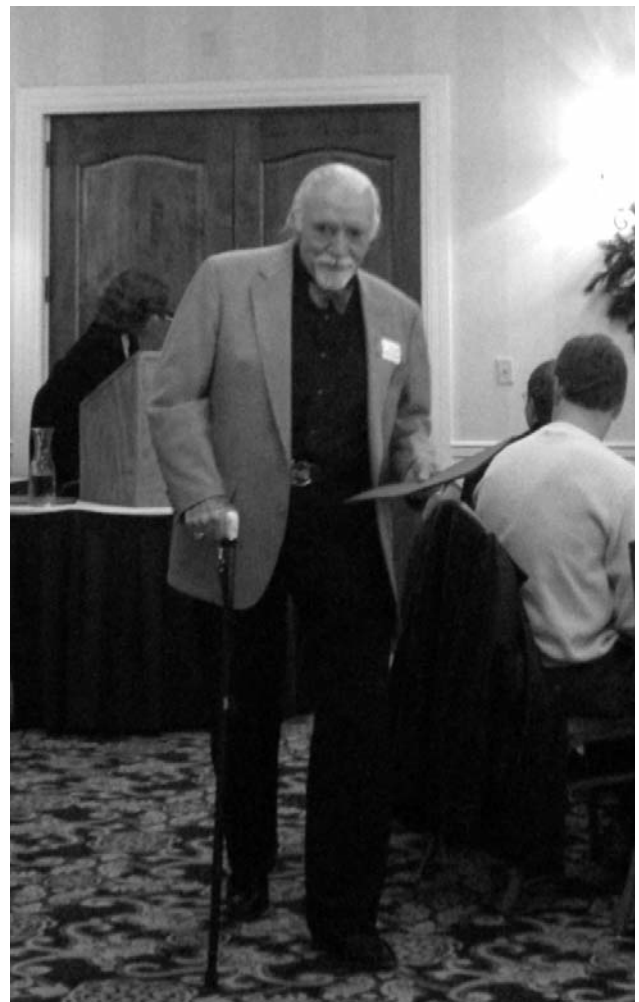
**20 Year Awards (1988):**

Jack Schuh

**25 Year Awards (1983):**

Louise Hausburg and Nelson  
Grabenstetter

Dr. Don Bennallack accepts  
award for 10 years of service.



continued on page 10

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## Volunteer Recognition Brunch continued from page 9



(Left to right)  
Russ Ragsdale,  
Karen Long,  
Susan Liddle,  
and Norma  
Burkhart

Steve Denny  
at the piano



Volunteers  
enjoying  
brunch

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## Collection News—New Additions

Suggestions from the hundreds of Large Print books:

**PR17085**

**Final Theory** Author: Mark Alpert

David Swift, a professor at Columbia University, is called to the hospital to comfort his mentor, a physicist who's been brutally tortured. Before dying, the old man wheezes *Einheitliche Feldtheorie*. The Theory of Everything, The Destroyer of Worlds. Could this be Einstein's proposed Unified Theory? Einstein died without discovering it. Or did he? Within hours of hearing his mentor's last words, David is running for his life.

**PR17108**

**Healing Touch: True Stories of Life, Death, and Hospice**

Author: Richard Russo

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Richard Russo and five other authors prove the close of life need not be filled with darkness, when hospice help is at hand. This big-hearted book is full of profound faith and hope.

**PR17101**

**I Lost My Love in Baghdad** Author: Michael Hastings

At age twenty-five, Michael Hastings arrived in Baghdad as *Newsweek's* youngest war correspondent with a little Hemingway romanticism and all the apparatus of a twenty-first-century reporter at his disposal. Andi Parhamovich, a young idealist he had met in New York, followed Michael to Iraq to work for the

[continued on page 12](#)

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## Collection News continued from page 11

National Democratic Institute. Here is Michael's raw, brave, brilliantly observed account of the war and heartbreaking story of one life lost to it.

### **PR17090**

**Many a River** Author: Elmer Kelton

1855. Comanche's attack the Barfield's, killing both parents and taking Todd captive. Todd is sold to a trader, and his brother Jeffrey, who was hiding, is brought to a homesteading family that has lost a son. The boys survive separately until the Civil War brings a change of fate. 2008.

### **Suggestions from the Colorado Collection:**

#### **CC008160**

**Bellwether** Author: Connie Willis \*\* Narrator: Laverne Rios

Sandra Foster studies fads and their meanings for the HiTek Corporation. Bennet O'Reilly works with primate group behavior and chaos theory for the same company. When the two are thrust together due to a misdelivered package and a run of seemingly bad luck, they find a joint project in a flock of sheep. But a series of setbacks and disappointments arise before they are able to find answers to their questions.

#### **CC008154**

**The Brain that Changes Itself**

Author: Norman Doidge \*\* Narrator: Louise Lederhos

A new science called neuroplasticity is overthrowing the old notion

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that the human brain is immutable. Norman Doidge traveled the country to meet both the brilliant scientists championing neuroplasticity and the people whose lives they've transformed—people whose mental limitations or brain damage were seen as unalterable. Using these stories to probe mysteries of the body, emotion, love, sex, culture, and education, Doidge offers a book that will permanently alter the way we look at our brains, human nature, and human potential.

**CC008156**

**I Am America (And So Can You!)**

Author: Stephen Colbert \*\* Narrator: Jim Foster

This book contains all of the opinions that Stephen Colbert doesn't have time to shoehorn into his nightly TV broadcast of The Colbert Report. From topics as diverse as Sex and Religion, Race and Politics, and Sports and Science, Mr. Colbert's deeply self-revered knee-jerk beliefs will have you laughing, crying, and feeling more and more patriotic by the paragraph. Strong Language.

**CC008172**

**Under the Eagle's Wing**

Author: Gary Hart \*\* Narrator: Maurice Devany

In this work, former U.S. Senator Gary Hart offers a national security strategy for the new century. From terrorism to disease to climate change, Hart proposes that global problems require global solutions. "Under the Eagle's Wing" makes a compelling plea for America's leaders to embrace a new world order, in which the U.S. and other nations draw strength from a united approach.

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# Contributors to The Friends of the Colorado Talking Book Library and The Colorado Talking Book Library

Donations (July 1, 2007–June 30, 2008):

## Mea Culpa—

Despite our best efforts names were left off the list. Our sincere apologies to the following:

Batchelor, Dave	Enger, Edith	Jacobson, Joanne
Bodemann, Virginia	Ensminger, Theda	Justis, Quinton & Jane
Bollen, Nicholas	Erdmanis, Velta	Kakalecik, Lennie
B.P.O. Does, No. 242	Eret, Dianne	Kolin, Jack & Donna
Carmain, Linda & Jon	Flint, Frances	Kompus, Larry & Berniece
Christian, Dru	Gillaspie, Catharn	Korodi, Randall & Wanda
Dickinson, Marilyn & David	Gimza, Barron & Nancy	Kosewicz, Rosemary
Distel, Lola & Walter	Ginther, Minnie	Kranda, Robert & Virginia
Ellett, Carol	Girard, Wanda	Kridle, Colleen
Ellett, Vera	Giroux, Margret	Krizmanich, June & John
Ellman, Robert & Eileen	Glazer, Mary Anne & Luke	
Elsie M. Becak Trust	Greene, Edith	
Emerick, Nancee	Hogendorf, Simone	

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Lighty, Orlan &  
Mildred

Marbach, Robert &  
Jean

McFarland, Robert &  
Mary

Miller, George

Millican, Mary

Mills, Patricia

Minnehaha #48 OES

Minzer, Rita

Mock, John

Moll, Laraine

Monroney, Robert

Montgomery, Dan &  
Sheri

Montgomery,  
Dorothy

Montoya, Mary Jane

Nalty, Patricia

Nyhus, Edward &  
Joyce

Oppenlander, Vera

Parsons, Joan

Rice, Cecelia

Robert E Law,  
Trustee

Roberts, Brown

Schaaf, Peryl

Schleif, Ferber

Schueler, Jason &  
Kim

Schultz, David &  
Sherry

Skala, Robert &  
Katherine

Skinner, John &  
Betty

Struempfer, Arthur  
& Josephine

Van Matre, Kathryne  
& William

Wiemeyer, Rosemary



An additional way to contribute to either the Friends or to CTBL is through a charitable bequest as part of a will or through life insurance. You do not have to rewrite your current document but can add a written amendment called a codicil. Such a bequest only becomes irrevocable at your death. Giving to the library helps support the programs and service we provide to our patrons.

Colorado Department of Education  
Colorado Talking Book Library  
180 Sheridan Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80226

Free Matter for the  
Blind & Handicapped

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## How to Reach Us:

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303-727-9277—metro Denver  
1-800-685-2136—outside Denver

[www.myctbl.org](http://www.myctbl.org)

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- Dwight D. Jones, Commissioner
- Eugene Hainer, State Librarian
- Debbi MacLeod, Director, CTBL



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