



Vol. 9 No. 2 Summer 2009

A Newsletter of the State Library of Louisiana, Office of Lt. Governor, Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism

Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Library Services

Recorded Books &
Magazines

Braille Books & Magazines

Large Print Books

Descriptive Videos

Online Catalog

Eligibility

Any Louisiana resident who is unable to read or use standard print materials as a result of a temporary or permanent visual or physical limitation is eligible to receive free library services.

Digital Players in 2009!

We have all been waiting anxiously for the first digital players to arrive for our readers. The National Library Service took a huge step forward when the first batch of digital players was delivered for pre-launch testing in May 2009. These players will be tested by readers at eight selected libraries. If everything goes well and no serious design flaws are detected, the Shinano Company will swing into full manufacturing mode and the first digital players for Louisiana readers will reach the State Library of Louisiana in late 2009.

SBPH will be receiving monthly shipments of digital players to distribute to readers. It will take some time before every patron who wants a new player will be able to get one. By law, veterans of the United States Armed Services will receive preference in getting the digital players. If you are a veteran and you have not yet talked to your Reader Advisor, call the library to place your name on the veteran's list.

SBPH will start a waiting list for the new players on July 1, 2009. To place your name on this list, please call, write, fax or email your Reader Advisor on or after July 1, 2009.

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As soon as every veteran who wants a digital player has one, the library will begin lending the new players in the order they are requested.

Please keep your cassette players! It will take several years for a sizeable collection of digital books to build up. The cassette

player will still allow you to listen to a large collection of books and magazines. If your cassette player stops working properly, send it back to the library for repairs. We have a supply of cassette players and our volunteer repairmen are still fixing machines.

Questions & Answers about Digital Books and Players

Q: I don't like new gadgets and technology. I hate thingamajigs like cell phones that have small buttons that are hard to see. Why would I want a digital player?

A: The new digital player is easy to use. The buttons are large and color coded, you can feel the difference between the keys, and when you press a button, the player announces what the function is. The player is smaller and lighter than the cassette player and the sound quality is better. The books are easy to insert, and you won't have to rewind tapes or turn them over. There is even a sleep button on the new player; if you get tired, hit the sleep button and the player will stop after 15 minutes.

Q: I am afraid that if I get a digital player, I will only be able to have



Dylan Wade from Louisiana Voices demonstrates how the new digital cartridge fits into the player.

one book at a time. I read a lot of books, and I get unhappy if I do not have a stack of books to keep me busy.

A: It is true that SBPH will limit the number of digital books to two per reader when we first start loaning out the digital books. Once we have built up a larger collection of digital books, we will review the loan

policy. The best thing to do is to read a book and then return it to the library so that someone else can borrow it. As soon as it is returned, we will send you another one. You will still have a second book to read while the first one is in the mail. We can also adjust the limits on cassettes so that you are busy and happy with plenty of books on cassette.

Q: Do I have to give up my cassette player to get a digital player?

A: No, we are encouraging readers to hold on to their cassette players. Although SBPH will have several thousand digital books on the shelves soon, we already have more than 50,000 books on cassette tape. Magazines and *Louisiana Hotlines* will be distributed on cassette tape. To take advantage of the whole collection, you will need your cassette player for the next several years.

Q: Do I have to own a computer to use the digital player?

A: No, you do not have to own a computer or know how to use one to use the digital books and the new player.

Q: If my old cassette player breaks, can I get a replacement?

A: Yes, the library has a supply of cassette players and the volunteer repairmen will still be fixing machines.

Q: I am a student, and I love technology and new gadgets. What kind of player is best for me?

A: The digital player comes in two types: the standard player and the advanced player. People who read a lot of non-fiction and people who love technology may want to start out with the advanced player. It has more features than the standard player. For example, you can set bookmarks and go back and forth from one passage to another in a book.

Q: What about downloads? I hear that some people are getting books from a web site. How does that work?

A: There is an NLS program called BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) that lets readers download their own books. Readers who have a computer, email, a fast Internet connection and a digital player can sign up for BARD and learn to download their own books. For more information, please call your Reader Advisor at 1-800-543-4702 or 225-342-4944, or email SBPH at sbph@state.lib.la.us

LYRC: Your Vote Counts!

The Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award is a reading program designed to let kids and teens in grades 3-5 and in grades 6-8 participate in the selection and recognition of outstanding books.

Even if your school is not participating in the LYRC program, you can still participate individually through SBPH now! If you read at least three of the 15 books below you can vote on your favorite title by telling Miss Emma, the Children and Teen Services Librarian, by February 1, 2010. Please call Miss Emma to place an order, if you need to know the titles for grades 6-8, or if you are interested in learning more about the LYRC program.

Books For Grades 3-5

Casey Back at Bat
by Dan Gutman, RCL 458

Comets, Stars, the Moon and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings
by Douglas Florian, RCL 478

Dolley Madison Saves George Washington
by Don Brown, RCL 464

Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat
by Lynne Jonell
RCL 465, LP 21845

The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School
by Candace Fleming, RCL 461

Hairy Hezekiah
by Dick King-Smith, RCL 460

Henry's Freedom Box
by Ellen Levine
BR 17047 In-Process

How to Steal a Dog
by Barbara O'Connor, RCL 463

Jim Limber Davis: A Black Orphan in the Confederate White House
by Rickey Pittman, RCL 471

Lawn Boy
by Gary Paulsen
RC 65342, BR 17582, DB 65342

The Lemonade Club
by Patricia Polacco, RCL 462

Marley: A Dog Like No Other
by John Grogan
RC 65296, DB 65296

Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale
by Carmen Agra Deedy
RCL 470, LP 22178

Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little
by Peggy Gifford
RC 65011, DB 65011

Satchel Paige: Don't Look Back
by David A. Adlet, RCL 459

Louis on Tour!

Did you know Harry Potter weighs 12 pounds in Braille? The National Braille Press has produced a 20-panel traveling display, in print and Braille, that takes a viewer through the highlights of Louis Braille's life, the Braille production process, and why Braille remains important today. The Louis Braille Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit is booked in cities across the country, including Middleton Library at Louisiana State University from June 15 – July 12, 2009.



A visually impaired visitor reads the Brailled version of the exhibit.

It's time to Be Creative @ Your Library with the **2009 Summer Reading Club**



Books! Fun! Thrills! Dazzling Prizes!
Running Time: June 22—August 17, 2009

Coming to a Mailbox Near You:
Your Invitation!

For more information, please call
Emma K. Schroth at 1-800-543-4702

This program is free of charge and is for
kids and teens ages 4-18.





From Louisiana Voices

Return of the Sequel

If you liked the first title in Laura Childs' scrapbooking mystery series, *Keepsake Crimes* (RCL 408), ask your Reader Advisor for New Orleans shop owner Carmela Bertrands' latest caper, *Motif for Murder* (RCL 431). Contains some strong language.

Readers of Mary Manhein's *The Bone Lady: Life as a Forensic Anthropologist* (RCL 331) will appreciate the poignant accounts in her second title, *Trail of Bones: More Cases from the Files of a Forensic Anthropologist* (RCL 230). The book details her fieldwork including recovery and identification from the Columbia space shuttle disaster and the women murdered during Louisiana's recent serial killings.

It Never Rains...

If April showers bring May flowers, then June brings readers *It Never Rains in Tiger Stadium* (RCL 466). Journalist John Ed Bradley remembers his time as an LSU English major/Tiger Football Player and explores what lies beyond those famed college years. Contains some strong language. Read more about

the Fighting Tigers in *Tales from the LSU Sidelines: A Captivating Collection of Tiger Football Stories* (RCL 229) by Lee Feinswog.

Chatting with an Old Friend

In *After Thoughts* by Dr. Charles S. Prosser (RCL 186) Louise Peterman Prosser compiles the final excerpts from her late husband's popular Baton Rouge Advocate medical column, *A Doctor's Journal*.

Fatherly Advice

Remember Father's Day on June 21 and enjoy these stories written by dads for their sons:

Hoop Daddy, Fathers, Sons and Basketball (RCL 402)
by Lee Feinswog

Raising Cole: Developing Life's Greatest Relationship, Embracing Life's Greatest Tragedy: A Father's Story (RCL 386) by Marc Pittman

Coach: Lessons on the Game of Life (RCL 420) by Michael Lewis

Ahead of Storm Season

Prepare yourself this hurricane season by listening to the thirty-minute guide at the end of this recording, *Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities* (RCL 457). On side two, we have compiled several shorter, hurricane specific articles to assist you in the event of hurricane landfall.

Louisiana Book Festival 2009

Mark your calendars for the seventh annual Louisiana Book Festival, Saturday, October 17, 2009, 10 AM—5:30 PM at the State Library of Louisiana, Louisiana State Capitol, Louisiana State Museum and nearby locations. Over 150 authors will be at book talks, special “wordshops” and book signings. SBPH booklovers can start reading titles from a sampling of these authors. Louisiana Book Festival information is updated as it becomes available on the website at:

www.LouisianaBookFestival.org

Citizen Coors: An American Dynasty
by Dan Baum, RC 53687

Martha Washington: An American Life
by Patricia Brady
RC 61531, DB 61531, BR 16431
(A featured Book Festival title)

Lead Us Not into Temptation: Catholic Priests and the Sexual Abuse of Children
by Jason Berry
RC 37246

All Over but the Shoutin'
by Rick Bragg
RC 46142, DB 46142

*Floating Off the Page:
the Best Stories from the Wall Street Journal's "Middle Column"*
edited by Ken Wells
RC 57335, DB 57335

Gentle's Holler: A Novel
by Kerry Madden
RC 61144, DB 61144

Ava's Man
by Rick Bragg
RC 53019

Twilight of the Dawn
by Elizabeth Nell Dubus
RC 30467
(Historical Fiction, Romance)

Carville: Remembering Leprosy in America
by Marcia Gaudet
RCL 217

The Next Step in the Dance
by Tim Gautreaux
RC 47773

The Clearing
by Tim Gautreaux
RC 63223, DB 63223

*New Stories from the South:
The Year's Best, 2006*
edited by Allan Gurganus
with Kathy Pories
(A featured Book Festival title)
RC 63256, DB 63256 and
RC 65120, DB 65120

The Widow of the South
by Robert Hicks
RC 60662, BR 16286, DB
60662 (Historical Fiction)

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BLIND OR HANDICAPPED**

Special format library materials
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State Library of Louisiana

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

Supported in part by funding from the
Institute of Museum and Library Services



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