Magazine cartridge returns

After an 18-month absence, the library’s Oklahoma Recorded Magazine cartridge is back! If you don’t already know, this cartridge contains five magazine titles for your enjoyment: Bright Future, Cowboys & Indians, Guideposts, Oklahoma Today, and Reader’s Digest. It will arrive in your mailbox in a yellow container, as before.

If you want to listen to any of these magazines, sign up today by calling and letting us know. Simply dial 1-800-523-0288 or 405-521-3514 and ask to speak to a librarian. We also take email requests: olbph@okdrs.gov.

INSIDE: New Feature Returns!

Oklahoma Reads highlights books produced by our digital studio along with some classic Oklahoma titles. Which “Reads” got our attention this time? Go to Page 4 to find out!
Director’s Column

I had the opportunity to attend the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) biennial conference held in Nashville, TN, June 17-21, 2018. It was my first since we hosted the conference in 2014. Oh my, how things have changed and continue to change at warp speed! Seems just yesterday as a library employee I was helping repair the old but reliable yellow cassette machines. Now we approach the ten-year anniversary of rolling out our digital talking book machines (DTBM’s). We have really only dipped our toes in the waters of the digital world. As NLS Director Karen Keninger demonstrated in her opening address, we are approaching the technology that can allow a library patron to simply speak into a device and have direct access to a vast collection in “the Cloud.” We’re not there yet as many telecommunications infrastructure pieces, not in our control, still need to be put in place.

Some may not know this, but the cartridges that play in our DTBM’s are capable of storing a lot more than just one book. So one digital advancement we will make leading up to the “collection in the cloud” is better optimizing the capabilities of our digital storage cartridges currently in use. We at the library have much work to do on our end of this new business model before fully implementing this capability to our patron base. We’ll keep everyone apprised of progress. The whole reason for this progression is to provide the most reading material in the most efficient way to our patrons all the while ensuring accessibility.

I was further intrigued by two of NLS Director Keninger’s comments. One was “forget about a five year plan; technology
changes so much in just two years,“ then this one: “embrace ambiguity.” This idea stems from the thought “the only constant is change” and we at most times do not know exactly how we will get there, but must keep up or get left behind. We at the library plan to continue in the Oklahoma spirit of being on the frontier.

--Kevin Treese, Library Director

Find Bright Future on Oklahoma Telephone Reader

An audio version of this newsletter is available to OLBPH patrons who use our Oklahoma Telephone Reader (OTR) service. Finding it is easy!

After dialing the OTR phone number and entering your user I.D. and security code, choose option 5, which is titled “Announcements.” After that, enter the number 11 to get to Bright Future.

You must be an OLBPH patron to use OTR.

Photo at left: One highlight of the NLS conference was getting to hear guest star Ronnie Milsap speak. As well as being a country music legend, Milsap is also a longtime NLS patron. He talked about his blindness, how the library system helped him, how he survived a difficult childhood in poverty and found tremendous success in his music career.

Photo by Kevin Treese
Books with an asterisk (*) next to the title were produced by our own digital recording studio. Other titles are books produced by The National Library Service, a branch of The Library of Congress.

**DB 35647 – *Cimarron* by Edna Ferber**

This sweeping tale of the Oklahoma Land Rush, from Pulitzer Prize winner Edna Ferber, traces the challenges of settling an untamed frontier.

The novel is set in the Oklahoma of the latter nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It follows the lives of restless Yancey Cravat, newspaper editor and criminal lawyer, and his conventional and well-bred wife, Sabra. They come to Osage, a muddy town thrown together overnight when the Oklahoma territory opens in 1889. In Osage, the Cravats print their newspaper, the Oklahoma Wigwam, and build their fortune amidst land and border disputes, outlaws, and the discovery of oil.

Against all odds, Sabra develops a brilliant business sense. She makes a success of the newspaper and that success ultimately leads her to Congress. Through her eyes we see the violent frontier collide with the Indians, the sodbusters tame the prairie,
and the sudden fortune of a lucky few.

Published in 1929, and twice made into a motion picture, Cimarron was a sensation in America and came to epitomize the settling of the American West. The character of Yancey Cravat is based on Temple Lea Houston, last child of Texas icon Sam Houston. Temple Houston was a brilliant trial lawyer known for his flamboyant courtroom theatrics. He was also a competent gunfighter who killed at least one man in a stand-up shootout.

--Sammie Willis, Librarian

* DBC 1827 – *Weird Oklahoma* by Wesley Treat
Are you looking to hear about the unconventional side of Oklahoma? Well, this title is for you. Oklahoma has a history that's both notorious and peculiar, from legendary natives like Giggling Granny, a jovial woman responsible for as many as eleven murders, to Shaman's Portal, a gateway said to have swallowed handfuls of unsuspecting travelers over the last few centuries. On this tour of the Sooner State, you'll encounter the eccentric, exceptional, and bizarre.

* DBC 1830 – *Right Down the Middle: The Ralph Terry Story* by Ralph Terry and John Wooley
The top right-handed pitcher on the fabled New York Yankees teams of the early 1960s, Ralph Terry remembers his remarkable life in baseball and professional golf. It's an inspiring story of a rookie from small town Oklahoma taking the field with the likes of Roger Maris, Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Billy Martin, and Whitey Ford while playing on the biggest baseball stage on earth: Yankee Stadium.

--Andrew Shockley, Librarian
Summer Outreach highlights

A great example of local library cooperation, a trip to what used to be called “No Man’s Land,” and the unmistakable smells of pond fish and bug spray highlighted summer outreach activities for OLBPH.

Our friends at the Mabel C. Fry Public Library in Yukon invited us to use their most prominent display case near the main entrance. Examples of the equipment we use and information we share were on display from late June through late July. We plan to use it again for another month next summer!

We made a bunch of new friends in the Panhandle during a road trip to Guymon in mid-July. Thankfully, the weather wasn’t as hot as it can be that time of year! Big thanks to the Guymon Lions Club, Bill Mathews at KGYN Radio, Rachel at the Guymon Public Library, and the Texas County Health Coalition for helping us spread the word about our services. The journey also included stops in Beaver, Woodward and Seiling.
Early June brought Hooks, Oars, & S’mores, a terrific event put on by the MLV Foundation at Lake Arcadia. It was a lot of fun helping participants with visual impairments experience fishing by putting worms on their hooks, letting them know when they were getting a bite, removing successful catches from the hooks, and returning the fish to the pond for someone else to catch later.

Other highlights were exhibits at the huge Senior Safety and Lifestyle Fair in Tulsa, plus the Oklahoma Parents Center Conference, Caregiver Survivor Skills Conference, and a Parkinson’s Education Forum. There were also memorable visits to Eufaula, Henryetta, Guthrie, Chickasha, Tuttle, Atoka, Tishomingo, Waurika, Rush Springs, Prague and Edmond.

We’re always looking for more opportunities to tell people about our free services. If you have suggestions for groups, events, or venues in your area, please contact me at (405) 521-3699 or by email: bking@okdrs.gov.

--Brian King, OLBPH Public Information Officer
Former AIM Center student finds professional success

As many of you know, the AIM (Accessible Instructional Materials) Center serves children birth to 12th grade throughout the state of Oklahoma. Because of the specialized services we provide, sometimes we see the names of these students for years but never get to personally meet them. We are thrilled when parents come by with their students and we can put a face to a name. The icing on the cake is when we get to see a former student’s successful integration into the workplace.

Such is the case for Alex Taussig, a current employee with DRS in the ESS (Employment Support Services) unit. The AIM Center began serving Alex at Deer Creek Public Schools when she was in second grade. Her TVI (Teacher of the Visually Impaired) secured large print textbooks, a CCTV and other adaptive equipment to aid Alex in the classroom. Alex says that these items were “tools of empowerment and let me know it was ok to be different and have different needs.”

As Alex progressed through school, there was never any question that she would have the large print textbooks she needed; they simply appeared from the AIM Center when requested by her TVI. Alex said the message she received from having these accommodations was, “your needs are valid and your education is important.” This is what it looks like to be fully integrated into the classroom setting and Alex indicated that the
“AIM Center’s existence gave me a positive association with my disability because I was being accommodated. I felt safe knowing my needs were being met in the classroom.”

Alex continued her education at East Central University in Ada, OK. During this time her accommodations were met through DRS by a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and the Office of Disabilities at ECU. Alex graduated with a B.A. in English.

After college, Alex secured a GALT position that later became a SWIP (State Worker Incentive Program) position as receptionist at the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. In August 2015, Alex was hired as a full-time Rehabilitation Technician II with the ESS unit where she is currently employed. Alex has thrived in this position. Coworkers Melinda Bunch and Janie Fugitt had the following to say: “As the Rehabilitation Technician for the ESS Unit, Alex provides critical support to help keep our team moving forward. Her flair for the verbal and written word is paramount in helping us maintain positive communication with our Contractors and DRS staff. Alex’s humor and wit add an upbeat element to our team. Her desire to grow both professionally and personally has uncovered a new found confidence that has been invaluable in setting and achieving the goals of our unit.”

Providing a strong foundation for education is the goal of the AIM Center. We strive to meet the needs of all our blind and visually impaired students. Alex is a shining example of an AIM student reaching success in the workplace.

For more information about the AIM Center, please call 1-800-523-0288.

--Pepper Watson, Director, AIM Center
Mysterious returns

Occasionally, we receive talking book players that have been checked out to patrons with no explanation for why the player is being returned. That often leads to time-consuming “detective work” on our part. You can help us handle this task more efficiently.

**Please let us know why the player was returned.** You can include a brief note with the player or give us a quick call. If a player is returned to the library in person, simply tell a staff member what is going on. Does it need a new battery or some other kind of maintenance? Perhaps the patron is now using BARD all the time on a personal device and no longer uses the machine. One of the most common reasons is a loved one or resident who used the machine has passed away. If so, we need to know so we can cancel the account and stop sending books in the mail.

If a patron moves to another state, he or she can take the machine with them as long as we know about the change. We will arrange for the account to be transferred to the regional library for that area. Thank you!
Oxford University Press has published a series called Very Short Introductions. The books are concise introductions to a vast array of particular topics. They are intended for a general audience but written by experts in each particular field. We have well over 400 titles in this series and the following are a selection from this massive collection.

**DB 85583 – African American Religion: A Very Short Introduction by Eddie Glaude.** This title discusses the role of religious faith and practice in the lives of African Americans, from the time of slavery through the civil rights movement and to the present. It explores the influence of African traditions, the rise of urban megachurches, and the relationship of African American Muslims to global Islam.

**DB 85624 – Crime Fiction: A Very Short Introduction by Richard Bradford.** This title examines the genre's characteristics, origins, and development in Britain, the United States, France, and elsewhere, discussing categories of hard-boiled, espionage, thriller, and legal drama, among others. It investigates women's roles as authors and characters. Questions crime fiction's relegation to inferior status compared to the mainstream literary novel.


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and recounts the war's battles, the United States' entry into the conflict in 1917, and Germany's surrender and its consequences.

**DB 85557 – *The Bible: A Very Short Introduction* by John Riches.** Religious scholar considers the continuing influence of the Bible in the modern world. Topics include the Bible's history, why some books are part of the canon but not others, interpretations by believers and non-believers, and the Bible's influence on culture and politics.

**DB 85556 – *Anxiety: A Very Short Introduction* by Daniel Freeman.** The author analyzes complex emotion that becomes disorder in severe forms and assesses treatment options. He presents psychoanalytic, behavioral, cognitive, and neurobiological theories, and investigates experiential and genetic factors. Explored are six main disorders: phobias, social phobia, panic disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Self-assessment questionnaires are also included.

**DB 85844 – *Climate: A Very Short Introduction* by Mark Maslin.** In this title, a geographer explains what controls and affects the Earth's climate system. He discusses atmosphere and oceans, plate tectonics, the greenhouse effect, and the distinction between weather and climate. He explores human activity's role in climate change, why it matters, and possible solutions.
DB 86390 – *Hollywood: A Very Short Introduction* by Peter Decherney. The author explores a century of entertainment industry success, adjusting to and absorbing its competition. It examines the evolution of the studio system, censorship, movie stars’ and studio directors' contributions to war efforts, television, and independent film movements.

DB 86467 – *Forensic Psychology: A Very Short Introduction* by David Canter. An expert in the field describes the tools forensic psychologists use to try to understand criminals and their behavior. He considers the mix of biological, psychological, and social factors underlying criminality. Techniques for working with offenders are explored and topics such as the insanity defense and false confessions are touched upon.

DB 85709 – *Fascism: A Very Short Introduction* by Kevin Passmore. The concept of fascism defies decisive definition. A history professor examines the transnational phenomenon and highlights similarities and differences with Nazism and today's extreme right. Without claiming a single origin for such movements, he studies the eclectic and contradictory ideologies.

--Andrew Shockley, Librarian
How do you turn three weeks into more than twenty years? Ask Mable Stripling. She has had a career working for the patrons of the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH) for over twenty years, having started as a three-week temporary assignment.

In December of 1996, Mable was at a staffing office seeking employment. She heard the person at the front desk ask some other job seekers whether they would be interested in a three-week temporary assignment at the OLBPH. They all declined, wanting longer-term assignments. Mable spoke up and said “I’ll take it!” Thus started Mable’s journey, serving the patrons of the Library, her fellow workers, and ultimately all who are the recipients of her generous and diligent efforts.

If you don’t know Mable, you should take the time to do so. She has a quick, warm smile like a Spring day. Mable doesn’t have the word “no” in her vocabulary. She sees her life’s mission as serving others, which she performs daily, sometimes for very long days. When Mable isn’t working at the Library, she is visiting the sick, taking someone to a doctor’s appointment, taking food to someone who is hungry, or performing some other act of kindness. All of this without announcement, fanfare, or any desire for acknowledgement.

(Continued on next page)
During her tenure at the OLBPH, Mable has seen a lot of progress and the many changes that progress brings. From vinyl records to cassette tapes to digital cartridges, the talking books have stayed current with contemporary technology. Mable has pulled the talking books in all forms, has pulled Braille books and shipped them literally all over the world. She has found her job to be exciting all along the way. She says that when she first started she went about her work so energetically that her co-workers encouraged her to slow down a bit, but she never has, even when she provided outreach to our state on behalf of the Library. Throughout her career, Mable’s motto has been “Serve our patrons with world-class service.”

Mable says that she has worked with and for the best people here at the Library. She has worked in circulation, outreach, as stand-in receptionist, and many other roles during her time here. But, she says, maybe the best part of her job has been the joy and fulfillment that the services of the Library bring to the patrons. The thank-you notes, the phone calls, and the looks on their faces have meant more to Mable than any pay she could have ever received. As she contemplates retirement in the not-too-distant future, Mable says that is what she will miss the most.

Mable says “it’s time to move over and let some younger person have a nice career.” This, after receiving awards and recognition (which she accepts with modesty and grace) for her Customer Service, Quality Teamwork, Employee of the Year, and an Einstein Award for innovation. She has never stopped loving her work here, but her generosity dictates that at some point she will make a place for someone else. That’s pure “Mable”.

--Jim Kettler, VS Contract Monitor

Did you know?...

The OLBPH has over 170,000 talking book cartridges in its collection.
Tax Deductible Donations

Every gift to Oklahomans for Special Library Services (OSLS) benefits thousands. Contributions enable OSLS to provide activities not funded by the annual Library budget. Make checks payable to OSLS and mail to Oklahomans for Special Library Services, P.O. Box 53593, Oklahoma City, OK 73152.

Donations are accepted in memory of a loved one, family member or to honor an individual. When a gift is made, it should include the name of the person being honored and the name and address of the family or family member to be notified of the gift. Please consider naming OSLS as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or in other estate planning bequests. With the assistance of an estate-planning attorney, significant tax benefits may be possible from this gift.

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
300 N.E. 18th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND