



NLC *Interchange*

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Borrowers Respond to Survey

Newsletter
of the
Nebraska
Library
Commission
Talking Book
& Braille
Service

A two-part survey, which appeared in the February and April editions of *Interchange*, drew scores of responses from borrowers. 64 borrowers responded to a question concerning access to the Internet for downloadable books. 61% indicated they did not have Internet access and did not anticipate having access within the next few years. 28% currently have access to the Internet; and 11% expect to have access within a few years.

76 borrowers responded to whether or not there was a lag between when they first qualified for talking books and when they actually signed up. 50.5% indicated they signed up as soon as they were ready and that no care provider failed to tell them. 14% would have signed up sooner but their eye doctor didn't tell them. 8% indicated their primary care doctor didn't tell them; and 8% indicated a librarian didn't tell them. 6.5% felt they would have signed up sooner but a rehab counselor didn't

tell them. Also, 6.5% felt some other service provider didn't tell them; and 6.5% felt another talking book borrower didn't tell them.

66 borrowers told us their reading preferences for Nebraska books. 51.5% enjoy both Nebraska fiction and nonfiction. 32% prefer nonfiction; while 12% prefer fiction. And 4.5% don't care for Nebraska books of any kind.

84 borrowers responded to a question about what they experience when they telephone the Talking Book and Braille Service during library hours. 77.5% usually talk to a staff member the first time they try. 15.5% prefer to use regular mail or email to communicate with staff. 3.5% usually leave a message on the answering machine. This includes those who typically call after-hours. Finally, 3.5% usually decline to leave a message.

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Borrowers Respond to Survey

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80 borrowers responded to a question concerning the new Library of Congress digital player. 87.5% are using the player and enjoying it. 7.5% are using the player but have some questions about its operation. 2.5% are not using the new player but want to learn more about it; and 2.5% are not

interested in having the new player.

Out of 74 responses, 98.5% indicated they would recommend the Talking Book and Braille Service without reservation; while 1.5% would recommend the Talking Book and Braille Service with some reservations. ■

BARD for Schools, Care Facilities

BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) is now open to public and private schools, retirement centers, and assisted living and other care facilities that are signed up with the Talking Book and Braille Service. Students who receive audio books and magazines through BARD will need to submit an individual application form to the Talking Book and Braille Service if they haven't done so already.

BARD offers direct access to over 22,000 audio books and 48 magazines, which can be downloaded anytime of the day or night. Schools and other facilities can sign up for their own BARD account at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/NE1A>.

Use the "Search the collection" field by entering one or several words that

relate to the author, title, or subject you are seeking. Or browse the entire catalog by author, title, or subject. You can also search for books added in the last 30 days or the most popular books in the last 90 days.

After you have found your book, download it to your computer. Unzip the files and transfer them to a blank cartridge or thumb drive in order to listen to them on your digital player.

Because some thumb drives present problems when used with BARD, check with the Talking Book and Braille Service if you plan on purchasing one. Also, contact us for more information if you plan on purchasing a blank talking book digital cartridge. ■

Downloadable Books Through OverDrive

Nearly seventy Nebraska public libraries, in conjunction with the Nebraska Library Commission, now offer library patrons access to popular downloadable audio books and eBooks directly from each library's web site. Known as OverDrive Digital Library Reserve®, this web-based platform offers access to popular fiction, romance, suspense, young adult fiction, business, self-help, and language-learning materials.

Audio books, depending on format, can be downloaded to a Windows or Macintosh PC/laptop, transferred to many WMA or MP3 players, including the iPod, and some may be burned to a CD. OverDrive audio books are returned automatically to the public library when the checkout time expires. To find out if your own public library participates, please contact your Readers Advisor. ■

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New Books from Our Studios

Reconsidering Happiness: a Novel **DB 1121**

by Sherrie Flick

read by Laura Johnson

7 hours 10 minutes

Twenty-three-year-old Vivette leaves her job behind at a hip bakery in New England and heads west in her grandfather's old Buick to start a new life in Des Moines. Before settling in, she first spends time with Margaret, an old acquaintance who left the same bakery earlier for Nebraska. Margaret shares the lessons she had learned about love and loneliness and creating a new life on the Great Plains. Contains some strong language and descriptions of sex.

Land of Their Own: from Russia to South Dakota: a Historical Novel **DB 1134**

by Ruth Richert Jones

read by Marilee McPherson

7 hours 50 minutes

Troublesome times in Russia prompt a young Mennonite family to migrate to America, drawn by the promise of free land and freedom of religion. The harrowing trip takes much longer than anticipated, thanks to a robbery, a collision at sea, and a severe storm that disables the vessel. A young Hollander named Toby and a young Russian, Sophia, also plan to migrate, though Sophia's father opposes the risky venture.

Nosy in Nebraska DB 1136

by Mary Connealy

read by Judy Hanefeldt

17 hours 50 minutes

Three romance mysteries are all set in rural Melnik, Nebraska, home of the world's largest field mouse.

In *Of Mice . . . and Murder*, Carrie Evans, who hates mice and loves big cities, returns to her small hometown to live in a mouse-infested house where a human body is found in the pantry. A local carpenter helps her trap the rodents and tries to solve the murder.

In *Pride and Pestilence*, Bonnie Simpson, an insomniac museum curator, is attacked in the Melnik Historical Society Museum. The assailant, while charming, is chief suspect in the murder of Sven Gunderson, whom nobody liked.

In *The Mice Man Cometh*, attorney Tyler Simpson is thrilled to open a law office in Melnik until a body falls out of his cupboard and he angers the locals after being appointed public defender for the town's nemesis.



Great Books for Dog-Days of Summer

Here are wonderful books for summertime reading that deal with the enduring bond between people and dogs:

RC 57155 *Dog Is My Co-Pilot: Great Writers on the World's Oldest Friendship*, by the Editors of *The Bark*

Anthology of essays, short stories, and expert commentaries celebrating the unique bond between humans and their dogs. Over forty selections chosen by the editors of a California-based dog magazine pay tribute to the very first meeting between man and animal, pack dynamics, canine wisdom, and the poignancy of friendship and loss.

RC 59082 *The Last Frontier: Incredible Tales of Survival, Exploration, and Adventure from Alaska* magazine, edited by Jill Shepherd and the editors of Alaska magazine

Fifty-eight of Alaska magazine's most compelling tales of survival, exploration, and adventure published between 1935 and 2002. Articles about diverse topics from wildlife management issues to heroic sled dogs depict the fantastic landscape and its inhabitants as well as record the ever-changing face of America's largest state.

DB/RC 59106 *Sixteen in Nome*, by Max Brand

Sixteen-year-old Joe May arrives in Nome, Alaska, hoping to claim some land. He is down on his luck until he rescues Alexander the Great, a husky belonging to Hugh Massey. Expecting a reward, Joe instead becomes the bait Massey needs to lure foe Arnold Calmont into a deadly trap.

RC 59718 *Best in Show: a Melanie Travis Mystery*, by Laurien Berenson

At the Poodle Club of America's National Specialty dog show, Melanie Travis's formidable Aunt Peg volunteers Melanie to help two elderly sisters with the raffle. When one is murdered, Melanie investigates an assortment of suspects including rival dog owners, a nasty handler, and a dubious pet psychic.

DB 68414 *Woof! Writers on Dogs*, edited by Lee Montgomery

Essays exploring the bond between people and pets. Selections range from light-hearted—Abigail Thomas's "Sleeping with Dogs on a King-Size Bed"—to emotional, such as Rick Bass's "Sick Dog." Features National Book Award winner Denis Johnson, whose essay is written from the perspective of his military-minded bullmastiff, Colonel. ■

Magazines for Summer Reading

Here is a selection of magazines that help us appreciate life on the Great Plains. The following four magazines are offered on both cartridge and cassette: *Grit* and *Capper's*, two bimonthly publications that focus on small-town and rural living, include humorous and inspiring articles, gardening and cooking advice, and do-it-yourself projects. *Country*, published bimonthly, offers feature stories and columns for those who live in or long for the country. It includes country diaries, travel, features, and recipes. *Great Plains Game and Fish*, published monthly, describes fishing and hunting hot spots in Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota.

The following three magazines are offered on cassette only: *National Geographic Traveler*, produced eight

times a year by the Florida Regional Library, offers six to ten travel articles, mostly about the United States. An additional section gives full data, such as cost, phone numbers, and addresses for the destinations discussed.

Sunset, a monthly publication, discusses what, when, and how to enhance your life in the West. It is produced by the Arizona Regional Library. *Cowboys & Indians*, produced eight times a year by the Oklahoma Regional Library, features articles on western lore and Native Americans, plus a listing of rodeos and other events across the United States.

To request these magazines, please use the order form on page 7 or contact your Readers Advisor. ■

Two New Magazines Now on Digital

Two new magazines, both produced by the Massachusetts Regional Library, are now offered on digital cartridge only. *Boston Magazine*, published monthly, focuses on politics, business, social issues, arts, entertainment, personalities, and film and book reviews.

Disability Issues, published quarterly, covers initiatives, concerns, and resources for individuals with disabilities and their family members. To sign up, please use the order form on page 7 or contact your Readers Advisor. ■

New on Digital

DB 506 *Complete Roadside Guide to Nebraska*, by Alan Boye
Nebraska history.

DB 602 *Nebraska Moments: New Edition*, by Donald R. Hickey, Susan A. Wunder, and John R. Wunder
Nebraska history.

DB 930 *Local Wonders*, by Ted Kooser
Natural history.

DB 995 *Man from Boot Hill*, by Marcus Galloway
Western. Contains violence and strong language.

DB 1022 *A Garden in Paris*, by Stephanie Grace Whitson
Romance. Devotional.

DB 1023 *A Hilltop in Tuscany*, by Stephanie Grace Whitson
Romance. Devotional.

DB 1030 *The Good Journey: A Novel*, by Micaela Gilchrist
Historical romance.

DB 1045 *Link across America: a Story of the Historic Lincoln Highway*, by Mary Elizabeth Anderson
U. S. history. For grades 2-5.

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Order Form and Mailing Instructions

Mark the books and magazines you wish to order, then put the page into an envelope and mail to the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book & Braille Service, 1200 N Street, Suite #120, The Atrium, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023. Borrowers currently using a Library of Congress digital player will receive Nebraska magazines on cartridge instead of cassette automatically.

Boston Magazine

Capper's

Country

Cowboys & Indians

Disability Issues

Great Plains Game & Fish

Grit

National Geographic Traveler

Sunset

DB 1121

DB 1134

DB 1136

RC 57155

RC 59082

DB/RC 59106

RC 59718

DB 68414

New on Digital

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❑ **DB 1048 *Death at the Door***, by K. C. Greenlief
Mystery.

❑ **DB 1065 *Valentines***, by Ted Kooser
Poetry. For grades 6 to 9.

❑ **DB 1108 *Breathing in the Fullness of Time***, by William Kloefkorn
Autobiography.

❑ **DB 1111 *Rob&Sara.com***, by P. J. Petersen and Ivy Ruckman
Fiction. Contains some strong language.

❑ **DB 1126 *Down to Earth: Celebrating a Blessed Life on the Land***, by Curt Arens
Farm life. Devotional.

❑ **DB 1131 *Folly in February***, by Pam Broderick
Mystery.

❑ **DB 1132 *Nebraska Farmer: Special Anniversary Edition 2009***, edited by Don McCabe
Nebraska history.

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Talking Book and Braille Service
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Free Matter
For the Blind or
Handicapped