

# Loud & Clear

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## Digital Progress---One Year In

### Distribution of the Digital Players & Cartridges

The staff of Access Services has been pleased with the distribution of the digital talking book players and the digital cartridges in the year plus that they have been available. The reaction from customers continues to be one of excitement with the sound quality and with the ease of operation of the players. People love their digital players!

Daniel Ramos, Talking Book Manager, says that 65% of Access customers have received the digital players. He notes that new digital titles arrive every week and that there are often multiple copies of those titles. Mr. Ramos is pleased to report that the distribution of the digital machines has proceeded at a slightly faster rate than the National Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) originally anticipated. He urges those customers who are interested in receiving a digital player to contact

Access Services either by telephone at 703-324-8380 or via e-mail at [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## BARD Downloads---Frequently Asked Questions

### **What exactly do I need to begin downloading titles?**

- High-speed Internet service
- E-mail address
- NLS Digital Talking Book Player or another player capable of playing NLS-produced digital talking books.
- Ability to download and unzip files

### **What is the best way to find out everything that is available digitally?**

The best way is to explore the BARD database. If you, a friend or someone in your family has a high-speed computer and an email address you will be able to get started.

### **How can I register to download books from the BARD database?**

To submit an application please follow these steps:

Go to [www.nlsbard.loc.gov](http://www.nlsbard.loc.gov).

Click on 'BARD application instructions'

Click on 'Link to BARD application'

Using the drop down menu, select 'Fairfax County Public Library Access Services VA'

Submit.

You will then receive a confirmation email and a PASSWORD.

You now have the tools you need to search the BARD database.

### **Is it easy to find books on the BARD database?**

Books can be searched by author, title, subject, narrator and keyword. Links to **Recently added books** and **Most popular books** are also posted on this page.

### **Are magazines available on BARD?**

Yes, there are 44 magazine titles available to download. The titles include: The Nation, People, Sports Illustrated, Consumer Reports and Good Housekeeping and many more. Each issue of every magazine can be downloaded separately.

### **Is there more specific information available?**

Yes. Please contact Access Services if you need further information or instructions.

### **Recorded Cassettes**

We are sometimes asked, 'How long will I be able to use my cassette player?' And the answer is more involved than one might think. NLS believes that they will have parts available through at least 2012 so the ability to use the cassette player and to replace cassette players will be possible for some time. However, NLS will not produce any more titles in the recorded cassette format after this year. Once the last selected titles have completed the recording process and been distributed (probably in the spring of 2011) there will be NO OTHER NEW titles recorded as cassettes. Customers will be able to order recorded cassettes (RCs), just like now, at any time, but new titles won't be available.

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## **Picture This! National Gallery of Art**

The National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. conducts tours every month that endeavor to make their collections more accessible to adult visitors with vision impairments. The basic teaching methodologies used are intensive verbal description and interaction with the audience. The tours take place the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. and alternate between the East and West wings.

Wednesday, November 17, East Building (Third Wednesday because of Thanksgiving).

Wednesday, December 22, West Building.

For further information call (202) 842-6185.

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# National Federation of the Blind of Virginia Convention

Where: Fairview Park Marriott, in Falls Church, VA. The hotel offers a free shuttle to the Dunn Loring Metro Station on Metro's Orange Line.

When: Friday, November 12 through Sunday, November 14

Cost: Convention registration is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door.

What: The convention will feature resources, presentations and discussions for adults, students and parents that will cover such topics as employment, living independently and recreational opportunities. There will be exhibitors with high and low tech solutions to aid with vision loss.

For more information, contact Tracy Soforenko at:

[PotomacNFB@verizon.net](mailto:PotomacNFB@verizon.net) or 703-635-2085.

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## Reading Roundup

### FALL(ing) for Titles or Annotations

**Long Fall: A Leonid McGill Mystery** Walter Mosley **RC/DB 68919**

New York boxer-turned-PI Leonid McGill tries to go straight after a life of shady dealings. When three of the four men that he located for a client turn up dead, McGill decides to dig a little deeper into the case while coping with family problems. Violence and strong language. 2009.

**Empire Falls** Richard Russo **RC 52601**

Empire Falls, Maine, was once a thriving town with three mills. But the owners, the Whitings, have allowed their vast holdings to become decrepit real estate. Miles Roby, who runs the Empire Grill for Mrs. Whiting, recounts the tale of this dying town with bemused regret.

**Bananas: How the United Fruit Company Shaped the World**

Peter Chapman **RC/DB 67714**

Journalist examines the rise and **fall** of United Fruit, a multinational corporation founded in 1899. Chronicles the company's alleged history of bribery, political strong-arming, and economic mismanagement throughout Central America. Examines United Fruit's links to U.S. politicians and the CIA and involvement in regional coups.

**A Colossal Failure of Common Sense: The Inside Story of the Collapse of Lehman Brothers** Lawrence McDonald **RC 69643**

Former Lehman Brothers Vice President explains the 2008 failure of the nation's oldest investment bank. Faults the company's Chairman Richard Fuld and President Joe Gregory for ignoring the advice of financial experts. Highlights the **fall** of other major companies during the mortgage crisis.

**Wicked Game** Lisa Jackson **RC/DB 68507**

When a skeleton is excavated at her old high school, Becca Sutcliff is again haunted by visions of her friend Jessie, who disappeared two decades ago. Former classmates **fall** under suspicion, Becca falls for Jessie's old boyfriend, and a stalker targets victims among them.

**An Incomplete Revenge: A Maisie Dobbs Novel** Jacqueline Winspear **RC/DB 67909**

Investigator Maisie Dobbs is hired by developer James Compton to examine the Sandermere estate in Kent. Suspicious fires occur each **fall** at harvest time. Maisie and her assistant Billy Beale learn that somehow a 1916 attack by a German zeppelin is linked to the annual inferno.

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## **Enhance Your Library**

Please consider the Access Services branch as part of your charitable giving. Private donations are critically needed to maintain high-quality library services. Contributions in any amount are welcome and are tax deductible.

Checks may be sent to Access Services, made payable to the Fairfax Library Foundation with "for Access Services" specified in the

memo line or cover letter. For more information, contact Access Services or call the foundation at 703-324-8300

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## Library Holidays

Please note that the Fairfax County Public Library will be closed four days (Thursday through Sunday ) for both the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>DATES CLOSED</b>
Veteran's Day	Thursday, November 11
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 25
	Friday, November 26
Christmas	Thursday, December 23
	Friday, December 24
	Saturday, December 25
	Sunday December 26
New Year's	Thursday, December 30
	Friday, December 31
	Saturday, January 1
	Sunday, January 2
Martin Luther King	Monday, January 17

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## Staff News

Carol Jones has joined the staff of Access Services as an Administrative Assistant. Welcome Carol.

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## American Council of the Blind Mid-Atlantic Affiliates 2010 Convention

Learn new skills, participate in hands-on workshops, and try new technologies.

When: November 5-7, 2010  
Where: BWI Marriott Conference Center  
1743 West Nursery Road  
Baltimore, MD 21099  
Cost: \$95 after October 10, 2010

For more information please contact the following resources  
<http://www.regonline.com/MARConvention2010>  
or phone Rebecca Bridges 703-655-2474 or  
Charlie Crawford 301-562-2057

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## Contact Us

If you have questions, comments or suggestions concerning the *Loud & Clear* newsletter, please call Ken Plummer at 703-324-8389. You may also e-mail him at [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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