

Loud & Clear

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New Web Site Launch: disAbilityNavigator

A first of its kind Web site for adults with disabilities, disAbilityNavigator (www.disAbilityNavigator.org), launched in early January. The site is a "one-stop-shop" for those with cognitive, physical or sensory disabilities and their families. The database features a number of local programs and services, as well as hundreds of articles which focus on the disabled community. Topics of interest include health and wellness, housing, community resources, benefits and money management, legal and civil rights and transportation.

The site is credentialed by "Health on the Net." This seal of approval protects the privacy of the consumer and indicates that all of the information is current and reliable. SeniorNavigator, a resource in Virginia for health and aging, served as the lead for the project and will operate the site.

The disAbilityNavigator Web site is made possible through public and private partnerships with the Fairfax County Long Term Care Coordinating Council, SeniorNavigator, The Arc of Northern Virginia, the Helen A. Keller Institute for Human Disabilities of George Mason University, the Fairfax Area Disability Services Board and the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia.

**Fairfax
County
Public
Library**

Access Services

Fairfax County Public Library • 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Suite 123 • Fairfax, VA 22035-0012 703-324-8380 • TTY 703-324-8365
FAX 703-324-8386 • e-mail: access@fairfaxcounty.gov

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

Latest Digital News – Players and Cartridges

According to a recent memorandum posted on the National Library Service for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (NLS) Web site, the NLS anticipates that the manufacturer of the digital players will produce an initial prelaunch of 5,000 test players within the coming months. These machines will be sent to a small percentage of customers at eight selected libraries throughout the country. These customers will test the machines in “real life” circumstances. After this initial testing is completed, it is hoped that 20,000 players a month will be produced. The manufacturer of the book cartridges will also be producing samples of its product, sending them to the test libraries and then sending them to all network libraries. The NLS reminds us that veterans will receive the digital players first and that with 500,000 customers in the country the transitional process will take several years.

Redesigned Access Services Web Site

Have you ever wanted to tell a friend or relative about Access Services and did not know where to begin? The answer may be as close as your computer keyboard and the Internet. Our redesigned Web site is an informative and easy to use resource. Go to **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/**. Click on the first library listed, Access Services.

There you will discover details on many of our services. Who is eligible to receive books through the Talking Book Program? How do I get library materials delivered to my home? What will it cost me? Are there applications for both the Talking Book Program and the Home Delivery service online? (Yes). When do the local, library- sponsored,

vision-support groups meet?

The section entitled "Useful Links for People with Disabilities" connects you to the Web sites of other local agencies. There also is an opportunity to contact the Access Services management team members with compliments, complaints, ideas or suggestions by clicking on their names. You can also reach us by phone at 703-324-8380.

Visit the Web site. Tell a friend about our services. We are here to "Keep You Reading."

Sign Up Online for Library Programs and Meeting Rooms

Reserve a meeting room or sign up for a library program online by clicking on "book a meeting room" or "register for a library event" under the "how to" section on the library's Web site at **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library**. The library offers more than 2,000 programs every year from book discussion groups and children's story times to author programs and many other educational, informational and recreational programs. To see the programs in the coming weeks, visit the library's Web page or pick up a copy of *This Month* at any library branch and other locations throughout Fairfax County.

For reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-324-8380 (TTY 703-324-8365).

**Go three days without reading
and your speech will become
tasteless.**

– Chinese Proverb

Enhance Your Library

Please consider the Access Services library 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 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.

Reading Roundup

ADULT NON-FICTION

Public Radio: Behind the Voices

by Lisa A. Phillips **RC 63611**

Some 40 profiles of popular public-radio personalities heard on a variety of programs. Features founding mother Susan Stamberg, Bob Edwards, Cokie Roberts, Ira Glass, Nina Totenberg, Garrison Keillor, and the "Car Talk" Magliozzi brothers. Presented in three sections: news and information, talk and entertainment and music.

Too Soon to Say Goodbye

by Art Buchwald **RC 63829**

Octogenarian humorist Art Buchwald recounts his days in a Washington, D.C., hospice after refusing kidney dialysis and having his leg amputated. Describes entertaining his many friends, including Tom Brokaw, Ben Bradlee and Ken Starr, and reminisces about his life and the American way of death.

Battlefield of the Mind: Winning the Battle in Your Mind

by Joyce Meyer **RC 65323**

Minister and author of **How to Hear from God (RC 58704)** offers advice on recognizing and overcoming negative thoughts to find inner peace. Uses scripture and personal experiences to illustrate her beliefs. Available through the FCPL catalogue in an eAudio format.

What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America

by Tavis Smiley **RC 65017**

African-American talk-show host, radio commentator and author of **How to Make Black America Better (RC 53011)** candidly shares his life experiences. Recounts his Mississippi childhood, stint in foster care, Indiana University education, career in government and media and the influence of church, race, family, class, culture and politics.

A Star Is Found: Our Adventures Casting Some of Hollywood's Biggest Movies

by Janet Hirshenson and Jane Jenkins **RC 64671**

Two long-time casting directors describe the behind-the-scenes work of movie-making and discuss how a part is filled. The authors recall anecdotes about actors they have discovered, including Julia Roberts, Tom Cruise and Scarlett Johansson, and blockbusters they helped develop, such as "Harry Potter" and "The Da Vinci Code." Strong language.

ADULT FICTION

Cowboys, spies, artists and lovers.

New England White

by Stephen L. Carter **RC 64453**

Black university head Lemaster Carlyle, former roommate of the U.S. president, and Lemaster's wife Julia, the divinity school dean, are embroiled in scandal after a professor at their New England college is murdered. The couple deals with racial tension and political intrigue. Available through FCPL branches in CD and eAudio formats.

Valley of Wild Horses

by Zane Grey **RC 64488**

Cowboy Panhandle Smith returns home from the range to discover his father has lost everything – herds and land – to the Hardman clan. Pan travels to Marco, New Mexico, where he learns the Hardmans have not only destroyed his family, but have taken over the town and coerced his sweetheart into marriage. Available through FCPL branches in large print.

Luncheon of the Boating Party

by Susan Vreeland **RC 64509**

Artist Auguste Renoir responds to writer Emile Zola's criticism of Impressionist art by painting a leisurely outdoor scene of friends and acquaintances. Their lives unfold and connect as they gather at a restaurant along the Seine and enjoy la vie moderne. Some descriptions of sex. Available through FCPL branches in CD and eAudio formats.

The Elusive Mrs. Pollifax

by Dorothy Gilman **RC 64819**

At the request of the CIA, grandmotherly spy Emily Pollifax smuggles eight forged passports to the Bulgarian underground. She also tries to arrange a young man's escape from prison with the aid of fireworks, a rope, a bow and arrow, stocking masks and a gaggle of geese. Available through FCPL branches in CD and cassette formats.

Up in Honey's Room

by Elmore Leonard **RC 64867**

Federal Marshal Carl Webster from **Hot Kid (RC 60336)** travels to Detroit in 1944 to search for escaped German POWs. Webster interviews beautiful Honey Deal, the divorced wife of Nazi meatcutter Walter Schoen, and investigates Ukrainian spy Vera Mezwa. Strong language and some violence. Available through FCPL branches in CD format.

Dear John

by Nicholas Sparks **RC 65315**

After years of drifting, John Tyree, who was raised by a father with Asperger's syndrome, joins the army. While on leave he meets Savannah Curtis, a special-education major. The two fall in love, but their relationship changes when John reenlists after 9/11. Available through FCPL branches in CD, large print, eAudio and eBook formats.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

Who Lives in an Alligator Hole?

by Anne Rockwell **RC 65006**

Explains the origins, habitats and roles of alligators, which scientists call a "keystone species" because these reptiles change the environment for their own use in ways that also help other animals and plants. For grades 2-4.

Ghost Ship: A Cape Cod Story

by Mary Higgins Clark **RC 64900**

When Thomas finds an old belt buckle on the beach after a storm, the ghost of Silas, a cabin boy from colonial times, appears. He tells Thomas how he prevented a shipwreck in 1761 and was rewarded with the ship captain's buckle. For grades 2-4.

Edwardo: The Horriblest Boy in the Whole Wide World

by John Burningham **RC 64989**

Edwardo is an ordinary boy who sometimes does bad things. When adults comment negatively, Edwardo becomes worse. But when he accidentally does something good and is complimented, he becomes much nicer. For grades K-3.

**Outside of a dog, a book is
man's best friend. Inside of
a dog it's too dark to read.**

– Groucho Marx

Digital Questions & Answers

Max Bassett, a former president of the Friends of Access Services, and an initial user/tester of the digital prototype player has kindly agreed to answer basic questions about the upcoming conversion to the digital format.

Q. What is a digital talking book (DTB)?

A. It is an audiobook made in a digital format. "Digital" refers to the process used in recording, storing the information and playing the audiobook. Digital cartridges will be used instead of cassette tapes. Each book will be recorded onto a single digital cartridge. With digital recordings you will no longer need to turn over cassette tapes or change a side selector switch. In addition, if you have a computer, NLS digital books may be downloaded for immediate listening on an NLS digital talking books player.

Q. Will the books be narrated by real people rather than a computer voice?

A. Yes. Many of the same narrators will be used as those who recorded cassette tape recordings. In addition the quality of the sound will be better than that of a cassette tape.

Q. Will I need a new playback machine in order to listen to the new digital books?

A. Yes. You will listen to the digital books on a specially designed NLS digital player. The yellow cassette playback machine you have been using will not work with the digital books.

Q. When will the new NLS digital players be available?

A. Access Services will begin receiving a few of the new NLS digital players in late spring or summer of 2009. However, the initial supply will be very limited. More are expected later in 2009 and 2010.

Q. How do I get a new NLS Digital Talking Books player?

A. The new NLS digital talking books players will be distributed by Access Services.

Q. I have been receiving talking books from Access Services on cassette tapes and they are mailed to my home in green boxes. Will that continue?

A. You may continue to receive the cassette tapes at home and play them on your cassette playback machine. NLS will continue to produce all titles in both digital cartridges and cassette tapes. Eventually, NLS will no longer be recording new books on cassette tape.

Q. How will the NLS digital talking books be distributed?

A. You may order and receive them in the mail just as you have been receiving the cassette tapes. In addition, for those Access Services users who have access to computers, NLS digital books will be available for downloading and playing on NLS-compatible digital players.

Q. What about magazines? Will I continue to receive them on cassette tape?

A. For the near future, magazines will continue in the cassette tape format for those who receive them in the mail. For those who have a computer they may download available magazines from the NLS web site and listen to them on the NLS digital players.

If you have other questions about the upcoming digital transition, please call Access Services at 703-324-8380

Staff News

Sol Hernandez, an AS page is participating in the Circulation Mentoring Program this winter. She is working with **Sandy Japikse**, her mentor.

Access Services will honor our volunteer staff with a luncheon on Tuesday, April 28. If you are a volunteer please plan on attending. If you are interested in learning more about the volunteer program call **Beena Pandey** at 703-324-8388.

Reader Advisor, **Susan O'Boyle** represented Access Services at the '50 and Fabulous' EXPO that was held at the Waterford at Fair Oaks Mall on March 24.

Downloadable Audio Textbooks Available

The Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D) now has the ability to download audiobooks using Audio Access. RFB&D is a national organization that houses an accessible audiobook library, including textbooks, for students with disabilities such as visual impairment or dyslexia. The titles are available in every subject area and grade level.

To join RFB&D there is a registration fee of \$65 and an annual fee of \$35. The use of Audio Access is included with the membership. For further information on the RFB&D programs please call 866-732-3585 or visit their Web site at **www.rfbd.org**.

National Gallery of Art PICTURE THIS!

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 fourth Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. and alternate between the East and West wings. The tour on April 22 will visit the East wing of the museum which features more modern and contemporary art. On May 27 the West wing with its collection of "Old Masters," Impressionism and Post-Impression will be highlighted. For more information call Mr. Wilford Scott at 202-842-6185.

**That is a good book which is
opened with expectation and
closed with profit.**

– Amos Bronson Alcott

Web Corner: Four to Explore

www.MusicfortheBlind.com

Learn to play more than a dozen instruments "by ear" through courses or individual songs or lessons. Lessons are in an audio format and may be purchased. (NOTE: **The Guitar by Ear** and **Piano by Ear** lessons are available in tape format in the Music Section of the NLS catalog).

http://www.governing.com/

Published by *Congressional Quarterly*, *Governing* magazine is billed as "the resource for states and localities." For the most recent news from the world of public affairs, visitors will want to browse the "Today's News" section on the homepage. The sections offered here include "In the States," "The Local Scene," and "Politics." Another resource is the "Governing Sourcebook," which contains topical data for counties, cities and states which covers economic development, management, public safety and so on. – From The Scout Report, Copyright Internet Scout 1994-2008. **http://scout.wisc.edu/**

www.rfbd.org

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D). RFB&D is a national organization that houses an accessible audiobook library for students with disabilities such as visual impairment or dyslexia. They help students challenged by the printed page.

www.vipsight.org

Parents of blind children can utilize the resources, seminars and bibliography on this site.

Program of Interest

There will be a program entitled "Navigating the Medicaid Maze: Waivers, Eligibility and Documentation" on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the

Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library
7584 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22043

Learn about Medicaid's eligibility criteria, screening process, documentation; and how to access Medicaid to help fund home-based and nursing home services. Call 703-324-5205, TTY 703-449-1186 or visit **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa**. To request reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-324-5205 or email **caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov**. The program is sponsored by the Department of Family Services' Fairfax Area Agency on Aging and partners.

Did You Know...?

The NLS has a list of actor and actress biographies that have been added to the NLS collection since 2001. Who's your favorite actor and have you listened to all the stories? To discover the list, call AS at 703-324-8380 or go online and enter the url:

<http://www.loc.gov/nls/bibliographies/minibibs/actors.html>.

There are also bibliographies about the "Best of American Fiction – Early Period and "the Best" of "American Fiction 1900-1945". For further information, please call AS or visit the NLS Web site.

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 us at **access@fairfaxcounty.gov**.

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

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