

Loud & Clear

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Assistive Technology and Resource Fair 2010

Access Services will be hosting the 2010 Assistive Technology and Resource Fair on Friday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, in Annandale.

Vickie Collins, a network consultant from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will demonstrate the new Talking Book digital player. She will also provide attendees the opportunity to learn how to download the titles available from the BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) Web site. The BARD service offers more than 17,000 digital titles. Ms. Collins is one of the designers of the BARD training materials and well versed in many aspects of this service.

Attendees will also be able to view the latest in assistive technology devices from vendors such as Freedom Scientific and Humanware. They will get helpful information from well-known local organizations such as the Northern Virginia Resource Center and the Fairfax Area Disability Services Board. At this time we are still finalizing our list of participants so please call us at 703-324-8380 for more information.



Access Services

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

Be Counted. The 2010 Census

Please complete and return your census form. Why? Because you can help bring millions of dollars in federal funds for schools, roads and health care in Fairfax County. When you respond to the census, you're helping to fund local services that make a difference to the community.

Some basic facts about the census include:

What? The census is a count of everyone living in the United States.

Who? Everyone must be counted – both citizens and noncitizens.

Why? The U.S. Constitution requires it.

How? Households should complete and mail back their census form after they receive it. Census takers will visit households that do not return their forms to take a count in person.

NOTE: When you fill out the census form, your personal information will only be used for statistical purposes. The law protects your information from being shared with anyone, including government agencies.

More information on the census can be found at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/census.

Web Corner: Two to Explore

Newspapersfortheblind.org This site audibly reads each day's significant news stories from a wide list of international newspapers.

WebAnywhere **<http://webanywhere.cs.washington.edu/>**
WebAnywhere is a FREE Web-based screen reader for the Web. It requires no special software to install on the client machine and, therefore, enables blind people to access the Internet from any computer with a sound card.

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.

The Friends of Access Services

The Friends of Access Services is a group of volunteers whose mission includes encouraging and supporting accessible library services, as well as communicating with Talking Book users. To find out more about how you can join please contact Access Services at 703-324-8380 or email us access@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Reading Roundup

NOTE: These titles may be available as Digital Books (DB) with the same order number. Please call for more information.

Loud & Clear invited the Friends of Access Services to recommend a few of their favorite non-fiction reads.

Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln

by Doris Kearns Goodwin **RC 61162**

An award-winning historian recounts President Lincoln's journey to the White House and his practice of appointing cabinet positions to his key rivals for the presidency. Available through FCPL branches in CD and eAudiobook format.

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Forever Blue

by Michael D'Antonio **RC 69035**

Baseball fans and other readers will enjoy this biography of Walter O'Malley, the legendary owner of the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers.

The House of Medici: Its Rise and Fall

by Christopher Hibbert **RC 09156**

A history of the longtime rulers of Florence, Italy and the surrounding region, filled with plot twists and intrigue.

The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales

by Oliver Sacks **RC 23901**

An M.D. and novelist entertains with unusual stories from his clinical practice.

Home

by Julie Andrews **RC 66539**

This memoir describes the childhood and early (pre-Hollywood) career of the British actress. Available through FCPL branches in eBook format.

Man's Search for Meaning

by Victor Frankl **RC 66557**

A survivor of Nazi concentration camps during World War II describes his experiences and the philosophy he developed as a result of his imprisonment. Available through FCPL branches in CD and eAudiobook format

FICTION

These titles offer hints of warmth and snow-free times.

Hot Rock: The First Dortmunder Novel

by Donald Westlake **RC 67667**

An African diplomat, intent on possessing an emerald sacred to his country, hires parolee John Dortmunder to steal it from the New York Coliseum. Dortmunder and his motley crew pursue the errant jewel to the Utopia Park prison, an insane asylum and a Fifth Avenue bank vault. Available through FCPL branches in cassette format.

Hot Ice

by Nora Roberts **RC 54810**

Doug Lord needs cash for his quest of a treasure dating back to the French Revolution. Ice-cream heiress Whitney MacAllister is bored and needs a diversion. These two become unlikely partners and head for Madagascar – with a gang of cunning criminals in hot pursuit. Available through FCPL branches in CD, eAudiobook and large print format.

Spring Cleaning Murders: An Ellie Haskell Mystery

by Dorothy Cannell **RC 65823**

Ellie Haskell, housewife extraordinaire, seeks a new maid after her beloved Roxie quits. But when Gertrude Large, a member of Roxie's local charwomen's association, is murdered, Ellie turns to sleuthing. Aided by her husband and various cleaning products, Ellie tackles Gertrude's former clients to tidy up – and snoop around – their homes.

Hot Mahogany: A Stone Barrington Mystery

by Stuart Woods **RC 67542**

CIA employee Lance Cabot asks Stone Barrington to help Lance's brother Barton, who suffers from amnesia after being robbed. Antiques restorer Barton has a checkered past dating from his service in the Vietnam War – and also may own a desk worth millions. Available through FCPL branches in CD, eAudiobook and large print format.

Other HOT reads include the latest books by authors who write several books involving the same set of characters, like Erle Stanley Gardner's Perry Mason series. You don't have to read them in order but sometimes it is fun to see both the character and the author grow together. Contact any of our reader advisors and they will help you get started today.

Author: Robert B. Parker, Spenser for Hire, a Boston private investigator and Jesse Stone, police chief of Paradise

Author: Sue Grafton, the Alphabet Series featuring P.I. Kinsey Milhone

Author: William Bernhardt, featuring Oklahoma attorney, Ben Kincaid

Without words, without writing and without books there would be no history, there could be no concept of humanity.

– Herman Hesse

Digital Questions and Answers

As more customers receive their digital players, more questions are being asked about the players and cartridges. We reprint some of the more frequently asked questions.

Are the digital players difficult to operate?

Most customers are very happy with the digital players. In addition to large print instructions, each button on the player describes what it does. Turn the player "on" and depress a button. It will automatically describe what its function is. Cartridges can only be inserted in the player one way.

Do I have to leave the player plugged in?

The player CAN be plugged in continuously but that is not required. The player has a far greater battery capacity than the cassette machine – more than 25 hours – and is a much more mobile product. You plug players in to recharge them.

Once I get a new player, what do I do with my old machine?

Please keep your old machine. There are some titles that will be more readily available on cassette than on the digital cartridge. Older titles and some magazines may only be available on cassette.

Does Access Services have a lot of book titles in the digital format?

Our collection is growing every day. The best practice is to ask if a title is available digitally. If we have selected it for our collection and it is not in, we can place it on reserve for you. There are thousands of titles available to download at the BARD Web site.

What is the BARD Web site?

BARD stands for Braille and Audio Reading Download. It is the NLS Web site that Talking Book customers can use to download digital books. BARD features more than 17,000 books and 44 magazines. All new books and many older titles continue to be added regularly.

The books can be downloaded onto a "thumb" drive or a blank digital cartridge which can then be played in an NLS digital player or a compatible digital Talking Book player. You need a computer with high speed Internet to download digital books.

To apply for BARD or to obtain more information, go to **nl**s**bard.loc.gov**.

Can I purchase a blank digital cartridge?

At this time, AS knows of two organizations selling blank cartridges. To check the availability of the cartridges please use the phone or e-mail contacts listed.

Organization: Perkins School for the Blind

Phone: 978-462-3817

Web Site: <http://www.perkins.org>

Click on "Buy Perkins products"

Organization: American Printing House for the Blind

Phone: 1-800-223-1839

Web Site: <http://shop.aph.org>

In search field, type "cartridges."

Books are not made for furniture, but there is nothing else that so beautifully furnishes a house."

– Henry Ward Beecher

Greater Availability of Audio-Described Videos

There are more movies to enjoy for those with low vision. WGBH, a public broadcast station in Boston that pioneered the Descriptive Video Service (DVS) in 1990, has recently announced partnerships with the home entertainment divisions of both Sony Pictures and Universal Pictures that will increase the number of audio-described DVDs and Blu-rays. The descriptive narration track that is used when the movie is released theatrically will be used in DVD and Blu-ray products. The DVS track will appear as an audio option, listed alongside alternative languages. The menu selection reads "English Audio Descriptive Service."

Assistance With Preparing Income Taxes

Several branches of the Fairfax County Public Library are offering assistance with income tax preparation. Please call one of the listed libraries to see when they are offering this special program:

Branch	Phone Number
Chantilly	703-502-3883
Centreville	703-830-2223
Kingstowne	703-339-4610
Sherwood	703-765-3645
Tysons-Pimmit	703-790-8088

**Books are hindrances
to persisting stupidity.
– *Spanish Proverb***

Customer Feedback

Are you receiving the books you want to read? Are you receiving enough reading material or is it time for a change? Is your machine working properly? AS staff is here to help.

Sometimes books are selected for you based on subjects or authors that you suggested when you joined the Talking

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Book program. If these suggestions need to be updated it is easy for the AS staff help you change your preferences. Contact us via e-mail at **access@fairfaxcounty.gov** or via telephone at 703-324-8380.

FY 2011 Budget Information

In the budget proposed to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011) the budget of the Fairfax County Public Library shows a reduction of \$3.4 million. If this reduction is approved in April, the current patterns of service at all of the library's branches will change. For further information on the ongoing budget process see **<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget>**.

Recording For the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D)

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic is a national nonprofit organization that provides the largest audio textbook library to students with print and learning disabilities. There are more than 57,900 titles. The books are narrated by volunteers and feature descriptions of images, tables and graphs. RFB&D also has 24/7 online member services and phone support.

Currently individual memberships are FREE to those who have proper certification. For more information visit the RFB&D Web site at **www.rfbd.org**.

Thank You

Meena Gupta from the Fairfax Public Access Training Department appreciated the feedback she received concerning the non-visual radio production class. Further comments can be made to Fairfax Public Access at 571-749-1116 or send an e-mail to **mgupta@fcac.org**.

Staff News

Myrna Mouchon, an Access Services assistant, retired in mid-December. We miss Myrna and wish her well.

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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FREE MATTER for the
Blind and Physically
Handicapped Manual PT.138

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