

“Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light.”

— Helen Keller

APLS THAT ALL MAY READ

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA REGIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

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BPH welcomes Huntsville library patrons

Due to Covid-19, the Huntsville Madison County Public Library has undergone a number of budget cuts and will no longer be able to host the Huntsville Subregional Library for the Blind. As a result of this action, the Alabama Regional Library (BPH) in Montgomery has merged the patron accounts into their database and began direct service to Huntsville residents on Jan. 15. The measure brings 480 active patron accounts to the Montgomery operation.

With the Huntsville Subregional Library closing on Dec. 31, 2020, BPH now serves patrons in 64 Alabama counties. A subregional



BPH now serves patrons in 64 counties out of the Regional Library in Montgomery

library in Talladega works cooperatively with BPH to provide NLS materials for patrons in its local tri-county service area of Calhoun, St. Clair, and Talladega. The Huntsville Subregional library was one of four

network libraries serving the blind and visually impaired that were previously located in public libraries throughout Alabama. Other subregional libraries once operated in Anniston, Dothan, and Tuscaloosa.

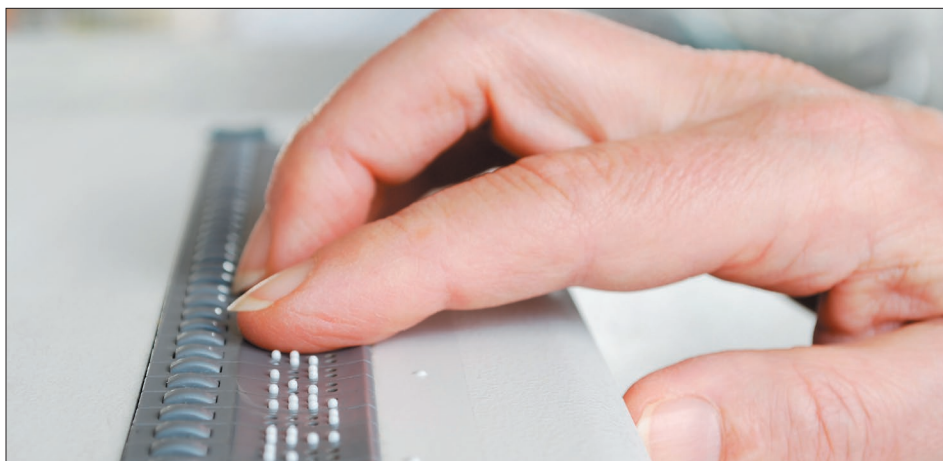
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Alabama selected for phase II of NLS braille eReader pilot

Last summer, the National Library Service (NLS) launched a pilot of two braille eReaders developed for use by NLS patrons. The two devices, one manufactured by HumanWare and one by Zoomax, will be the first devices provided by NLS to allow patrons access to electronic braille. The purpose of the braille eReader pilot is to test the functionality of both eReader devices, collect feedback from pilot patrons, and validate distribution processes at network libraries.

Alabama has been selected to participate in the second phase of the pilot. Staff will train for the program and libraries will receive eReaders for distribution to patrons. We anticipate patrons to start



The NLS braille eReader will use an electronic refreshable braille display

receiving eReaders by the end of May. Alabama's pilot eReader is manufactured by HumanWare. NLS network libraries located in Montgomery (Alabama Regional Library for the Blind) and in Talladega (Talladega Subregional Library for the Blind) have approximately 300 braille readers. Following completion of the six-month pilot, patrons will have ongoing use of the devices.

The four network libraries

selected to participate in the first phase of the pilot are located in Kentucky, New Jersey, Iowa, and Utah. Due to the pandemic and the current restrictions on travel and requirements for social distancing, staff members from these libraries will receive virtual training. These staff members will be the first line of defense to provide technical support and customer service for the patrons receiving eReaders.

NLS celebrates 90 years

March 3 marked the 90th anniversary of the National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Print Disabled. NLS will be celebrating throughout 2021 by sharing historical tidbits, interviews, and congratulations from the

NLS NATIONAL
LIBRARY SERVICE
**FOR THE BLIND
AND PRINT DISABLED**
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

NLS marked 90 years of service for the blind and print disabled in March 2021

Library of Congress and others. To follow along as we commemorate our history or share your own

experiences with NLS, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/thatalldmayread.

THAT ALL MAY READ



Advisor's Corner

Each quarter, BPH Reader Advisors share NLS annotations from titles they think may be of interest to our readers. This quarter, Librarian Amanda Trawick has a number of older titles she wants to share. Give these a read:

DB 86884

Narrated by Robert Sams

Asim, Jabari

Juv F 13 minutes

Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis

Portrait of civil rights leader John Lewis during his childhood. Young John tended the family farm's flock of chickens and regularly practiced his sermons on his new hen congregation. For grades K-3. 2016.

DB 47543

Narrated by Jake Williams

Lewis, John

BIO 24 hours, 42 minutes

Walking with the Wind

African American Congressman discusses the civil rights movement of the 1960s, its struggles, triumphs, leadership, and champions. Lewis, an advocate of nonviolence, acknowledges his devotion to Martin Luther King Jr., and credits the success of the movement to the thousands of working-class blacks who risked their lives confronting southern tyranny. 1998.

DB 52275

Narrated by Gary Telles

McCullough, David G.

BIO 33 hours, 4 minutes

John Adams

Award-winning author chronicles the life and times of America's second president, New Englander John Adams (1735-1826). Examines his pivotal role as revolutionary, diplomat, and politician as well as his friendship—and rivalry—with Thomas Jefferson. Primary sources detail his relationship with his wife, Abigail, four children, and notable contemporaries. 2001.

DB 29021

Narrated by Yvonne Fair Tessler

Tan, Amy

F 11 hours, 6 minutes

The Joy Luck Club

In 1949, four Chinese women living in San Francisco founded the Joy Luck Club where they met to play Mahjong, tell stories, and “feast” on scraps. Forty years later one of the women dies, her daughter takes her place at the club, and a secret is revealed that unleashes in each person the need to reach back and remember. A sensitive look into the deep, complex love between mothers and daughters trying to overcome generational gaps and cultural conflicts. 1989.

DB 87441

Narrated by Emily Ellet

Thomas, Angie

F 11 hours, 21 minutes

The Hate U Give

When sixteen-year-old Starr Carter witnesses the fatal shooting by a police officer of her childhood best friend, Khalil, she is afraid to speak out. But remaining quiet and safe is difficult with rising tensions between the police and the community. Violence and strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2017.

DB 86830

Narrated by Kristin Allison

Thorne, Sally

F 10 hours, 54 minutes

The Hating Game

Lucy Hutton is an assistant at a publishing house where she is locked in daily battle with her officemate and nemesis, Joshua Templeman. As the two trade insults and passive-aggressive maneuvers for power, they can't deny a growing attraction. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2016.

If you are interested in receiving the titles listed above and need assistance, please call BPH at 334-213-3906 or toll-free at 1-800-392-5671.

When you need our help, please call!



Call BPH at 334-213-3906 whenever you need assistance

Recently, a local BPH client called and indicated that sometimes, “other” library patrons are afraid to call and ask questions. They may have received only one audio book in the last six months, and rather than appear to complain, they listen to the same book over and over again. Well, if you need more books in Braille or audio, please call BPH at 334-213-3906.

Additionally, if you are not receiving the kind of quality reading material you expect, let us know. BPH staff are always searching for new ways to get patrons what they need. The software used by BPH staff can often find titles that exclude violence and profanity for example. If you need a change—and if you need more books—call us. Remember, we are here to help!

BPH Holiday Closing Dates

The Alabama Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is opened Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and closed on weekends. Our holidays through September 2021 are as follows:

April 26 – Confederate Memorial Day (Monday)

May 31 – Memorial Day (Monday)

June 7 – Jefferson Davis’ Birthday (Monday)

July 4 & 5 – Independence Day (Sunday and Monday)

Sept. 6 – Labor Day (Monday)

Weather resources for individuals with disabilities

Did you know that April is the peak tornado month in our state? The state encourages its citizens to become aware and make a plan for severe weather. Here are some resources for individuals with disabilities to help get you ready:

1. Preparedness Resources for Individuals with Disabilities,

<https://www.ready.gov/disability>

Provides helpful instructions and resources for individuals to:

- **Get Informed**
- **Make a Plan**
- **Build a Kit**

2. Six Ways to Receive Weather Alerts,

<https://alabamane.wscenter.com/2021/02/26/severe-weather-awareness-week-2021-receiving-weather-alerts/>



Damage in Fultondale, Ala. from a January 2021 EF3 tornado

Obtain local hazardous weather outlooks from the NWS Birmingham Office,

<https://www.weather.gov/bmx/>

3. Understanding Severe Weather Messaging,

<https://www.alabamane.wscenter.com/2021/02/27/severe-weather-awareness-week-2021-severe-weather-messaging/>

This valuable information was provided to the Governor's Office on Disabilities (GOOD) by Brian F. Geiger, EdD, FAAHE, CGSP, Executive Director, The Horizons School, bgeiger@horizonsschool.org.

Be prepared and please stay safe!



BPH thanks its donors

Donations made to BPH go a long way in providing promotional materials about library services, as well as new products for library patrons. Staff use the promotional products to share as take-away items at various outreach events. Thanks to the following who donated during the period of Oct. 16 through March 31:

- Lenora and Robert Fuller
- William B. Gilbert
In Honor of Mr. Mike and all of the personnel that have made my days better with the audiobooks
- Kenneth Hammond
- Ruth P. Hardaker
- E.O. Lewis
In Memory of Sherwood Woody Cohen
- Mrs. John Littlepage (Vickie)
- Rebecca Lott and Family
In Memory of Carol A. Wilkinson
- Phyllis H. Neff
- Scott Sanderson
- Allison Scott
In Memory of My Aunt Ann Wilkinson
- Peggy C. Schlemmer
- Sojourners' Literary Club
In loving Memory of Mrs. Thomas Nolan (Marion)

For information about how BPH uses donations, please contact the BPH regional librarian at 334-213-3906.



Audio description is a new accessibility option available to Spectrum customers

Audio description app available

Charter Communications recently released Spectrum Access, a free app that enables customers to play audio descriptions directly from their phone or tablet. The app uses the device's microphone to identify where the user is in a movie or TV show and then plays the corresponding file in parallel. It is currently compatible with more than 400 movies and shows. The audio description app is now available for iOS devices and will soon be available on Android. For more information, visit the Charter Communications website at www.spectrum.com/apps/spectrum-access-app.

Freedom Scientific offers accessibility seminars

Patrons who use JAWS, Fusion, or ZoomText may find the free webinars offered by creator Freedom Scientific useful. Webinars are generally held on the third Thursday of the month at noon ET (11 a.m. Central) and can be accessed by visiting the Freedom Scientific website at www.freedomscientific.com/training/freewebinars. Recent topics have included using JAWS to access Microsoft Teams, using JAWS to host a Zoom meeting, and braille literacy. Recordings of all previous webinars are available from the Freedom Scientific website as streaming audio or video.

New phone feature detects people nearby

Patrons using iOS devices may benefit from a recent update to the built-in Magnifier app, which uses audible or haptic feedback to inform users of nearby people. The new People Detection feature also measures how far away people are, allowing users to maintain social distance—or simply to navigate crowded surroundings. The feature works on iPhone 12 Pro, iPhone 12 Pro Max, 12.9-inch iPad Pro (4th generation), and 11-inch iPad Pro (2nd generation) when running iOS 14.2 or later. For more information visit <https://support.apple.com/guide/iphone/people-detection-iph41bdf6c7/ios>. The recently released NLS guide to GPS and Wayfinding Apps, available at www.loc.gov/nls/resources/general-resources-on-disabilities/gps-and-wayfinding-apps, offers other software suggestions for navigating your environment.



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Physically Handicapped**
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Free Matter
for the
Blind or
Handicapped

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