



Talking Book Library
 Annual Report to the Antrim county Board of Commissioners
 July 2018

TADL’s Talking Book Library provides people with temporary or permanent low vision, blindness, or a physical disability that prevents them from reading or holding the printed page in eight northwestern Michigan counties with audio players, audiobooks, audio magazines, sheet music, and braille materials through a federally mandated program, the National Library Service, overseen by the Library of Congress.

The service is completely free, and materials are shipped directly to our patrons and are returned via the U.S. Postal Service’s “Free Matter for the Blind” program. Nearly 80 percent of our patrons are those who have lost their vision due to age-related issues such as macular degeneration and diabetes; they often have few or no other options for education and entertainment aside from television and radio. Talking Book Library services provide them with an engaging and informative alternative through the convenience of their mailbox.

Finances - Calendar and fiscal year 2018:

Projected revenue	
Local funds (TADL millage, county contributions, donations)	\$36,857
State Aid	\$39,087
Total	\$80,160
Projected expenses	
Personnel	\$75,085
Services	\$3,575
Supplies and capital expense	\$1,500
Total	\$80,160

Programs:

The Talking Book Library is open Monday-Friday from 9:00am - 5:00pm, excluding holidays and staff training days. In 2017, the library circulated over 36,000 titles, visited at least one venue in each of the eight counties we serve, and offered a monthly book discussion, a holiday open house, a World Sight Day program, and ongoing one-on-one technology tutorials.

During 2017, TBL staff visited the following facilities in Antrim County:

Antrim County Commission on Aging Summer Picnic
Meadowbrook Medical Care Facility
Bellaire Public Library
Mancelona Township Library

Circulation:

The Talking Book Library circulated 3,483 items to our 41 Antrim County patrons during the past 12 months. Patrons in Antrim County continue to increase their use of the BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) digital service, which allows patrons to download titles on demand, providing great freedom and flexibility to meet their reading needs. Over 100,000 books, magazines, and musical scores are available for immediate download.

Respectfully submitted,

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