



Talking Book Library  
 Annual Report to the Antrim County Board of Commissioners  
 April 29, 2014

TADL's Talking Book Library provides certified visually and physically disabled individuals in eight northwestern Michigan counties with audio players, audiobooks, audio magazines, sheet music and braille materials through a federally mandated program overseen by the Library of Congress. The service is completely free to our library's 465+ patrons, and materials are shipped to them and are returned via the US Postal Service's "Free Matter for the Blind" program. An increasing number of books and magazines are also available through the free National Library Service's BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) service, which allows patrons and caregivers to download titles to their computer or iOS device. Nearly 80 percent of our patrons being those who have lost their vision due to age-related issues such as macular degeneration and diabetes, and they often have few or no other options for education and entertainment besides television and radio. Talking Book Library services provide them with an engaging and informative alternative.

The revenue and expense information provided below is derived from the FY 2013/2014 Regional/Subregional Library Annual Report and State Aid Application submitted to the Library of Michigan on January 27, 2014 as required by Act 89, Public Acts of 1977, as amended and the 2014 Traverse Area District Library Budget as approved December 19, 2013.

<b>REVENUES</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
State Aid	\$ 41,073	Personnel	\$ 81,190
Local funds	\$ 77,866	Supplies	\$ 2,050
		Services and Other Charges	\$ 2,430
		Capital Outlay	\$ 0
		Facilities and Administrative Support	\$ 33,269
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$118,939</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$118,939</b>

PROGRAMS:

The Talking Book Library is open Monday-Friday from 9:00am - 5:00pm, excluding holidays. The library was visited by over 1,000 patrons during the past year, circulated over 36,000 items and offered over 100 programs.

During the past year, the Talking Book Library staff devoted much of their time to increased outreach efforts aimed at enrolling more eligible residents in our service. As a result, the number of Talking Book Library patrons in Antrim County increased by nine for a total of 41 active patrons. Mary Orth, our Talking Book Library outreach assistant, visited the following facilities during the year:

- Eastport Village Care Home
- Cherry Suite Inn
- Rivershore Assisted Living
- Elk Rapids Public Library
- Meadow Brook Medical Care Facility
- Bellaire Public Library

The Talking Book Library circulated 2,928 items (books, magazines or sheet music) to Antrim County patrons during the past 12 months. Five Antrim County TBL patrons are utilizing the BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) service in addition to the regular mail service. During the past year, these five patrons downloaded over 250 titles. We expect the popularity of BARD to increase as more patrons become familiar with this service.

In addition, Mary "Lue" Moran, our Talking Book Library technology assistant, developed a series of programs that guides TBL patrons and their caregivers through the use of different assistive technology devices. She also offered a technology "petting zoo" that allowed patrons to explore the different devices in a friendly and supportive environment. She continues technology training through one-on-one tutorials on our enhanced PC and Mac and on iOS devices and is currently mentoring two Antrim County residents. The TBL plans on bringing these programs to Antrim County libraries this fall.

We have also worked to increase communication with our patrons. In addition to our quarterly print newsletter, we have created both audio and speech-enabled versions of the newsletters for patrons who are more comfortable with those formats. Our newsletters highlight National Library Service program enhancements, new titles, event information (including our monthly book club meeting), technology tips and other items of interest. Recent issues can be accessed at [www.tadl.org/TBL](http://www.tadl.org/TBL).

Talking Book Library staff have two upcoming projects of note. In conjunction with the Antrim County Commission on Aging, Mary Orth will be taking her outreach program to the senior centers in Bellaire, Central Lake, Elk Rapids and Mancelona in May to talk to attendees about the TBL program and demonstrate just how easy the digital player is to use for those with physical

and visual impairments. Second, the TBL will be investing donated funds to purchase software that will enable us to record digital audiobooks for TBL patrons and others in the National Library Service network. Previously, the equipment needed to meet the NLS's rigorous requirements were out of the reach of smaller libraries like ours, but with advancements in technology, we will soon be able to provide our patrons with audio recordings of titles of local interest, including local histories and authors.

We look forward to another year of success and appreciate the support of the communities we serve and our wonderful patrons.

Respectfully submitted,

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