



325 West State Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

p. 208.334.2150 | 800.458.3271
f. 208.334.4016

NEWS RELEASE

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Information Contacts:

Sue Walker, Idaho Commission for Libraries, 208-334-2150 or sue.walker@libraries.idaho.gov
Teresa Lipus, Idaho Commission for Libraries, 208-334-2150 or teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov

March 3 is Talking Book Service Awareness Day

BOISE, ID – On March 3, 2011, the Idaho Commission for Libraries will host an open house to increase public awareness of Idaho's Talking Book Service (TBS). The open house will also celebrate over 40 years of ensuring that Idahoans who require print alternatives due to visual or other physical disabilities have access to books and magazines. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the Talking Book Service recording booths at the Commission, view displays of Talking Book Service history, tour the book collection, see a demonstration of downloading materials from Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD), and meet members of the Talking Book Advisory Committee. The open house is scheduled from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Commission at 325 West State Street in Boise.

Idaho's Talking Book Service is part of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) network of libraries loaning audio and Braille materials to those unable to read standard print due to a physical disability. The NLS, celebrating 80 years of service on March 3, provides books, magazines, and audio book players to TBS, which then identifies and serves eligible users, from preschoolers to centenarians. Reading materials are mailed directly to users' homes at no cost to them. Currently, TBS serves more than 2700 users statewide and circulates more than 190,000 items each year.

"Since 1973, the Talking Book Service has been one of the statewide services offered by the Idaho Commission for Libraries," says State Librarian Ann Joslin. "We appreciate the many public libraries that extend the reach and impact of the Talking Book Service to Idaho residents across the state." Many libraries will host Talking Book Service displays during the week of February 28 to March 4.

For more information about the Idaho Talking Book Service visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs>. To learn more about the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) visit <http://www.loc.gov/nls/>.

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ABOUT IDAHO COMMISSION FOR LIBRARIES

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele. To learn more about ICfL, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/>.