



A New IDEA

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) recently launched its Idaho Digital E-Book Alliance (IDEA), through which high-quality e-books and e-audio titles are made available at no cost to public and school libraries throughout Idaho.



If you have a child or grandchild who is a student, you may know how underfunded Idaho school libraries are. Approximately 28% of Idaho's public elementary school libraries receive \$100 or less per year to purchase new books. In addition, 62% have an annual book budget of \$1,000 or less.

And when it comes to e-books, more than 90% of Idaho's school libraries lack access to e-books, and 23% of small and/or rural public libraries are not currently able to offer e-books.

The ICfL is working with the vendor OverDrive to help fill this void. And as another way to continue its strong support of student learning, the ICfL designed the IDEA collection so that approximately 75% of the content is comprised of children's, juvenile, and teen titles.

E-books can be conveniently accessed 24/7, allowing learning to occur any time, any place. The IDEA collection is also available to the estimated 280,000 Idahoans living outside of a public library service area.

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A New IDEA

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To establish the IDEA collection, the ICfL utilized nearly \$200,000 in federal funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Library Services and Technology Act.

The pandemic illuminated the gap in e-book service that left a high percentage of Idahoans with few options for educational and recreational materials. The IDEA collection helps fill that void.

For more about IDEA, please visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/idea/>.

TBS Patrons Have Electronic Access to Materials through BARD

Through the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD), patrons of the Talking Book Service (TBS) can download books and magazines to a computer or device. Or if you're not particularly computer savvy, a relative or caregiver can do it for you. For more information, visit: <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/login>.

Title Cards for Scribe Cartridges

The Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) has been providing multiple books on one cartridge (we call it Scribe) to our patrons since last spring, but we haven't yet had a way to include a list, or title card, of all the titles on these high-capacity Scribe cartridges.

We have heard from many of you that you would like this title card, and we have been working on it. By this summer, we anticipate the addition of a second card in your cartridge case that will have a list of up to eight book titles. As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or comments about the forthcoming title cards, the Scribe cartridges, and/or anything else TBS-related, please call us at 800-458-3271.

Will the TBS Book Club Be for You?

The Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) will be starting a book club later this year.



It will be an opportunity for you to discuss books and connect with other TBS patrons and volunteers. And the only technology you will need to join is a telephone (an 800 number will be utilized).

Are you interested? Let us know by contacting your TBS representative at 800-458-3271 or by emailing talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov.

Talking Book Service

10² Club



Our centenarians joining the Ten-Squared Club are:

Cleora Taylor

who has read 1,619 books since joining the TBS program in 2004.

Gloy Wride

who has read 26 books since joining the TBS program last year.

Welcome, Gloy!

Recent Donations to the Idaho Talking Book Service

(September 15 - December 24, 2020)

General Donations:

Lucy Bean	Mary Later
Leta Carlson	John Lewellen
Renee Carter	Carina Martin
Wanetta Cooke	Richard Moore
Trudy Derosa	Margaret Mortensen
Pat Feeney	Edith Schwartz
Theresa Gross	Mary Jane Smedley
Betty & Darlo Hansen	James Sutterfield
LaRue Humphries	Nancy Symms
Rosemary Kunkel	

Memorial Donations:

Carol Eschliman in memory of Francis Eschliman
John and Maxine Freeman in memory of Dene Brock
Christina Graff in memory of Dene Brock
Christine Haggerty in memory of Dr. Vickie Simmons
Mike and Mary Jo Kee in memory of Louise Sweeney
Susan Kozlowski in memory of Martin Krupitsky
Karen Lockwood in memory of Louise Sweeney
Ruth Peabody and the Ontario Saint Alphonsus Medical Center
volunteers in memory of Louise Sweeney
Carla Soppe in memory of Iva Edmunson
Karen True and Marie Scovel in memory of Dene Brock

Donations are fully tax deductible, as allowed by law.

Make checks payable to the Idaho Commission for Libraries and mail to:
Idaho Talking Book Service
325 W. State Street / Boise, ID 83702

Credit card donations may be made online from the Idaho Commission
for Libraries' website: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/donations/>.

Or, from the homepage, click on the "Support Your Library" button.

Our sincere thanks to all who give so generously.

TBS Order Form

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

To order any of the books from this newsletter, write your name and address in the space indicated above and mark on the line(s) next to the identification number of the title(s) you want. Then, mail the form (pages 5 through 8). Postage is not required.

These titles are also available for download from BARD.

To register for BARD, call the Talking Book Service at 1-800-458-3271 or visit: <http://NLSbard.loc.gov>.

A Collection of Bestsellers from 2020

"28 Summers"

Adult Fiction

Author: Elin Hilderbrand

Read By: Erin Bennett

When Mallory Blessing is dying, she tells her son to contact Jake McCloud. Jake and Mallory have been keeping a secret for 28 years. Since they were both in their 20s, Jake has spent every Labor Day weekend with Mallory at her Nantucket home. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. Romance.

_____ **DB099851**

2020

15 hours, 28 minutes

"All the Devils Are Here"

Adult Fiction

Author: Louise Penny

Read By: Robert Bathurst

On their first night in Paris, the Gamache family gathers for a bistro dinner with Armand's godfather, the billionaire Stephen Horowitz. Walking home together after the meal, they watch in horror as Stephen is knocked down and critically injured in what Gamache knows is a deliberate attempt on the elderly man's life. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. Mystery.

_____ **DB100484**

2020

14 hours, 1 minute

(Continued on page 6.)

TBS Order Form

(Continued from page 5.)

"The Art of Her Deal: the Untold Story of Melania Trump"

Author: Mary Jordan**Adult Nonfiction**
Read By: Mary Jordan

A Pulitzer Prize-winning "Washington Post" journalist examines the life of First Lady Melania Trump, particularly her time in the White House. The author traces Melania's journey from Slovenia, her modeling work, her relationship with President Trump, and her role in Trump's political career. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller.

_____ **DB099597****2020****9 hours, 22 minutes**

"Jack"

Author: Marilynne Robinson**Adult Fiction**
Read By: Adam Verner

John Ames Boughton -- Jack to his friends -- is the prodigal son of Gilead's Presbyterian minister. He has fallen for Della Miles, a high school teacher and fellow preacher's kid. Jack's past and their interracial romance cause them heartache and more. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Religious fiction, historical fiction & romance.

_____ **DB100592****2020****10 hours, 22 minutes**

"The Undocumented Americans"

Author: Karla Cornejo Villavicencio**Read By:** Karla Cornejo Villavicencio**Adult Nonfiction**

One of the first undocumented immigrants to graduate from Harvard, the author embarked on a trip across the country to interview and learn about her fellow undocumented Americans. Combines reporting with personal narratives to tell their stories and her own. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

_____ **DB099860****2020****4 hours, 55 minutes**

(Continued on page 7.)

TBS Order Form

(Continued from page 6.)

"The Glass Hotel"

Adult Fiction

Author: Emily St. John Mandel

Read By: Dylan Moore

Vincent Smith is a bartender at an upscale hotel on Vancouver Island when she meets Jonathan Alkaitis, a man running an international Ponzi scheme. She poses as his wife but walks away after Alkaitis is exposed. Years later, she disappears at sea. Strong language. Commercial audiobook. Psychological fiction, mystery, & detective stories.

_____ **DB098955**

2020

10 hours, 30 minutes

"Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family"

Adult Nonfiction

Author: Robert Kolker

Read By: Sean Pratt

A journalist looks at the case of the Galvin family and their 12 children, six of whom were diagnosed with schizophrenia in the 1970s. Using scientific research and interviews with family members, the author shows the personal devastation of the disease and the shadowy history of its study. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller.

_____ **DB099192**

2020

13 hours, 10 minutes

"Journey of the Pharaohs"

Adult Fiction

Authors: Graham Brown and Clive Cussler

Read By: Scott Brick

In 1074 B.C., vast treasures disappear from the tombs of Egyptian Pharaohs. In 1927, a daredevil American aviator vanishes on a transcontinental flight. And now, a fishing trawler -- along with its mysterious cargo -- sinks off the coast of Scotland. What do these three events mean for the NUMA team? Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller.

_____ **DB099166**

2020

9 hours, 57 minutes

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Idaho Talking Book Service
Idaho Commission for Libraries
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Boise, ID 83702-6055

**FREE MATTER for the
BLIND or HANDICAPPED**



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325 W. State Street
Boise, ID 83702-6055**

For assistance, or to comment about the Idaho Talking Book Service, please call **1-800-458-3271**, weekdays, from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., MT.

To order this newsletter on cartridge:

_____ "Connections: Idaho Talking Book Service News" on cartridge

To order this newsletter in braille:

_____ "Connections: Idaho Talking Book Service News" in braille

For a podcast, PDF, or to subscribe to this newsletter via email, visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs>. To download this newsletter via the online catalog, search: "Connections, Idaho Talking Book Service News."

Rachel Recommends Relationship Fiction:

"The Hypnotist's Love Story"

_____ **DB082335**

"The Vanishing Half"

_____ **DB099791**

"The Confession Club"

_____ **DB097554**

More info on page 11.

Rating Audiobooks and RUB Volunteers

Typically, the audiobooks you enjoy through the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) are produced by the National Library Service (NLS) in Washington, D.C. or by a state's NLS network library, like the Idaho TBS.

In an effort to protect both its staff and volunteers, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL), home of the Idaho TBS, chose to temporarily shut down its TBS production studio in response to the uptick in COVID-19 cases in the Boise area. But staff and volunteers are still working hard to ensure you have access to a broad collection of audio books.

In order to increase the number of audiobooks it produces each year and to lower the cost, the NLS has been procuring commercially produced audiobooks and converting them to the NLS formats. In 2015, the NLS obtained approximately 1,000 commercial audiobooks. In 2019, slightly more than 3,000 commercial audiobooks were obtained by the NLS. This is exciting news! More audiobooks, including bestsellers, are being made available to you more quickly than ever before.

Here's the rub (pun intended). Since these audiobooks were not produced by the NLS or a network library, like the Idaho TBS, the audiobooks were not reviewed and rated under the NLS standards. They are listed as "unrated" in our system. If you have any exclusions for certain content, such as violence, you do not receive any unrated books, including these newly available titles.

More good news, though. There is a rating process in place for the review of unrated NLS books for potentially objectionable content. In 2015, Idaho joined with Colorado, Texas, Illinois, and New Mexico to form a group to carry out a pilot project called Rating Unrated Books (RUB). There are now 24 states participating.

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Rating Audiobooks and RUB Volunteers

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RUB volunteers read and rate commercially produced audiobooks for violence, strong language, and descriptions of sex -- helping to ensure that TBS patrons do not receive types of content they have chosen to exclude.

The Idaho TBS has 10 RUB volunteers who all have library, rating, and/or collection management experience.

One of Idaho's dedicated RUB volunteers is Cathy Stanton, who is the adult services librarian at the Madison District Library in Rexburg. Cathy has volunteered more than 1,200 hours to the RUB program since she began volunteering for it in 2018. She is also a member of Idaho's TBS Advisory Committee.

Cathy said, "I'm often a little embarrassed when someone mentions my volunteer work rating titles because I'm not really making any sacrifices to help out. All I'm doing is jotting down a few quick notes as I read a lot of interesting books -- something I want to do anyway. I'm just grateful that I'm given an excuse to do it so regularly."

So far, through the RUB project, more than 5,000 unrated, commercially produced audiobooks have been rated and made available to TBS patrons who have exclusions on their account.

Here's to even more great reads in 2021.



Cathy Stanton

Rachel Recommends Relationship Fiction

By TBS Customer Service Representative Rachel Welker

You know when you are reading a book and it doesn't quite fit into any category? It's a little bit romance, but not entirely. Maybe there is a pinch of suspense, but it's not really a mystery. Here are some great examples of "relationship fiction" that might appeal to a reader with varied tastes. Enjoy! (Request any of these books on page 8 of this newsletter.)

"The Hypnotist's Love Story"

Adult Fiction

Author: Liane Moriarty

Read By: Tamara Lovatt-Smith

Hypnotherapist Ellen O'Farrell runs a successful practice and recently met a great guy named Patrick. The only snag comes when Patrick tells Ellen that he is being stalked by his ex-girlfriend. Ellen is intrigued until she realizes his stalker is one of her patients. Some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. **2012** **13 hours, 7 minutes**

"The Vanishing Half"

Adult Fiction

Author: Brit Bennett

Read By: Shayna Small

Desiree Vignes and her daughter return home to Louisiana in 1968, 14 years after Desiree and her identical twin sister Stella ran away. The sisters ended up on different paths, and as Desiree struggles with the racial tensions of her hometown, Stella lives her life passing as white. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. **2020** **11 hours, 36 minutes**

"The Confession Club"

Adult Fiction

Author: Elizabeth Berg

Read By: Elizabeth Berg

When a group of friends in Mason, Missouri, decide to start a monthly supper club, they get more than they bargained for. The plan for congenial evenings abruptly changes course one night when one of the women reveals something startlingly intimate. The supper club then becomes a confession club. No exclusions. Commercial audiobook.

2019

7 hours, 58 minutes

Order on page 8.



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This project was made possible, in part, by the
Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Customer service representatives (CSRs) are available to assist TBS patrons, **Monday through Friday**, from **8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., MT**, except State of Idaho holidays.

208-334-2150 / 800-458-3271

TBS Talk **by TBS Program Supervisor LeAnn Gelskey**

“I think the more unexpected something is, the more there is to learn from it.” —Michael J. Fox, actor

2020 had a lot of unexpected events for all of us. What did I learn from all of it? I learned to be patient. I also learned to ask for help when I needed it. And, I learned to accept and be grateful for all that I was fortunate enough to receive.

May 2021 bring joy and peace to us all. We are honored to serve you. Cheers!



Michael J. Fox

Photo:
<https://michaeljfox.org>