**Audio Resources for the Blind and Print-Disabled**                              **November 13, 2012**

If any of your patrons have difficulty reading print materials, they may be eligible to participate in these programs that provide free audio services:
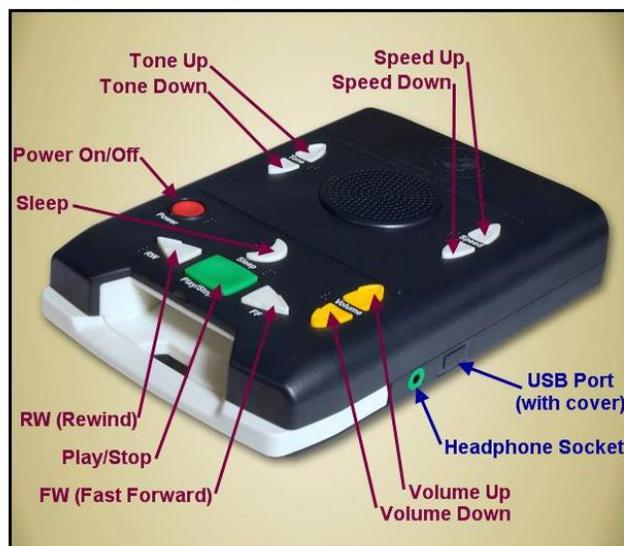- New York State Talking Book and Braille Library (TBBL)
- WMHT-RISE

## New York State Talking Book and Braille Library (TBBL)

TBBL lends free recorded books and players to persons who cannot read conventional print materials because of visual impairment, physical limitations, or physically-based reading disability. Highlights of the TBBL service include:
- Digital books on a single cartridge – no need to manage multiple cassettes or CDs
- Over 27,000 digital books and over 50 magazines available
- Cartridges sent to the member by mail, and member returns cartridges by mail, for free
- Digital books can be downloaded to a blank cartridge (preferred method) or to a USB flash drive
- Easy-to-use player keeps track of where one stopped listening: just turn the player back on to continue where one left off
- Braille materials and materials in an older cassette format are also available

### Standard Digital Talking Book Player



Controls - Standard Digital Player

## Digital Book Cartridge



A digital book cartridge.

Members can obtain books in any or all of these ways:
- Direct download from the BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) web site (separate application required, in additional to TBBL)
- Select their own books via TBBL
- Have TBBL select books based on the member's reading interests

Note that many titles are rated for strong language, explicit sex, and violence (ratings are yes/some/no), and reading preferences can include these ratings. This is the reading interests section from the TBBL application:

## Reading Interests Selections

**Fiction:**
- Adventure novels
- Animal stories
- Bestsellers (fiction)
- Fantasy
- Historical novels
- Horror
- Mystery/detective novels
- Romance novels
- Science fiction
- Short stories
- Thrillers/suspense
- War novels
- Westerns

**Nonfiction:**
- Animals/zoology
- Bestsellers (nonfiction)
- Biography: _____
- Chemistry
- Cooking/homemaking/crafts
- Crime (true)
- Current events
- Arts: _____
- Health: _____
- History: _____
- History, USA
- Life Science
- Physics
- Poetry
- Politics/government
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Religion: _____
- Sports: _____
- Technology _____
- Travel: _____

Other Reading Interests: _____

Will you accept:

| | Yes | Some | No |
|---|---|---|---|
| Books containing strong language? | Yes | Some | No |
| Books containing explicit sex? | Yes | Some | No |
| Books containing violence? | Yes | Some | No |

Details of the TBBL service, including eligibility requirements and an application, can be found at:
http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/tbbl/

# WMHT – RISE (Radio Information Service)

The following description is taken from the RISE web site at:

http://www.wmht.org/page/rise-6.html

- "RISE is WMHT's 24-hour radio information service for the blind and print disabled in New York's Capital Region and the Hudson Valley.
- Each week, our dedicated team of volunteers reads articles from local and national newspapers, popular periodicals and books to audiences who would otherwise be unable to access such information.
- Applicants must be registered with the New York State Commission for the Visually Handicapped or the Library of Congress Talking Books Program OR have a visual or physical condition which impedes access to printed material, as certified by a medical professional, social worker, librarian or rehabilitation counselor."

WMHT-RISE reads from such publications as the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *People* magazine, *National Geographic* magazine, *Reminisce* magazine, and others.

WMHT-RISE supplies a free, specially-tuned receiver to access these broadcasts, and is available in much of the MHLS service area, as shown in this map:

**Map of WMHT's Broadcast Coverage Area**