

WHAT'S Line

Alabama Public Library Service

Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

www.statelibrary.alabama.gov



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Download Alabama

With the arrival of the new year, BPH is offering a new program to patrons without computers and/or high-speed internet access and to patrons unable to understand the BARD download process. The program, Download Alabama, allows qualifying patrons to obtain customized downloads of requested books.

A patron submits a list of books they would like to read and BPH staff then downloads up to 10 (ten) of these books onto a blank digital cartridge, which has the patron's name and patron number on it. It is mailed to the patron in a gray container. BPH checks out the cartridge and container to the patron to use for

a 3-month period. The patron reads the books and returns the cartridge in the container. Staff then uses the returned cartridge to download more books from the patron's request list.

Download Alabama is made possible through the BPH Consumer Advisory Committee. The committee purchased blank cartridges, computer cables, and mailing containers for the program. A special thank-you goes to APLS Director, Rebecca Mitchell, for her support of the program.

Please contact your reader advisor if you are interested in becoming a Download Alabama patron!

Closing of Dothan Subregional

Due to budget shortfalls, the Houston-Love Memorial Library board made a decision to close its BPH Subregional Library. BPH staff in Montgomery worked with the Dothan Subregional Library on the transfer of patrons and materials to Montgomery. On December 31st, BPH completed the transition. BPH appreciates Dothan's Emily Myers and Bettye Forbus for the service they provided to their patrons. Please call Montgomery if you are a Houston County patron and have questions.

Descriptive Videos

Thanks to an agreement with the Mississippi Library Commission's Blind and Physically Handicapped Services Division, our patrons can borrow descriptive videos and DVDs from the Commission. Descriptive media have an additional audio track

that is used to recount the visual elements of the program without interfering with the program's narration, dialogue, or sound effects. The loan period is 14 days and there is no cost to use the service unless the material is lost or damaged. Staff in Montgomery can provide patrons with application forms to fax to Mississippi. Give your Reader Advisor a call if you would like to apply.

FY2011 Circulation

From October 2010 through September 2011, BPH circulated 144,206 special format volumes to 6,345 patrons and 226 institutions—93,052 recorded cassettes, 50,145 digital books, and 1,009 Braille items were sent, averaging over 12,000 volumes mailed per month. In addition, 858 interlibrary loans were provided to subregional library patrons. There were 1,952 cassette book machines and 2,412 digital books machines shipped to patrons.

BPH/Rehabilitation Services Presentation

On November 18th, Timothy Emmons, a BPH Reader Advisor, and Bill Boules, Technology Specialist for the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, gave a presentation on the use of Apple's iDevices for the blind and visually impaired at the Alabama Public Library Service.

They informed the audience about several iPhone and iPad applications for reading, entertainment, music, and general use that can be beneficial for those with visual impairments. They also discussed VoiceOver, a screen reader built into most Mac operating systems. VoiceOver allows users with low or no vision to run their finger over their screen as an electronic voice informs them of what applications they are touching.

Because of the positive feedback they received, Emmons and Boules plan to host another presentation in the near future. For more information, contact Emmons via email: temmons@apls.state.al.us or phone: 334-213-3908.



Tim Emmons (left) and Bill Boules (right) tell the audience about iPhone application that can benefit the visually impaired.



**Regional Library for the
Blind and Physically
Handicapped**
6030 Monticello Drive
Montgomery, AL 36130

Free Material
for the Blind
and Physically
Handicapped

Address Service Requested

WhAT's Line

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