Behind the Scenes with ABLS: Circulation Edition

(Transcript)

**Teresa Stallings:** Hello, I’m Teresa with the library of North Carolina, my library division is called ABLS, Accessible Books and Library Services since 1958. My library has been serving every county in the State of North Carolina sending braille books, large print books, these audio cassettes, and some movies out to the patrons of our library free of charge.

The audio books are loaded on a cartridge like this, this is 4 gigabytes. We load eight books on it the books are selected by the patrons preferences. When they sign up for our service they list what type of books they'd like to receive, the authors they'd like to receive, and we keep a staff of reader advisors. You can call in on an 800 number and they will be happy to change a database or put in a specific book you'd love to hear.

Our library provides players for these cartridges headphones if you like and it's all free of charge. It comes into the U.S. mail free of charge, and you send it back free of charge through the U.S. mail. We have our own truck and we even have our own zip code for the back door, because we have so much going out and any given day.

We will print out the new days worth of cards. Up to 600 of the patrons to receive the audio books and the other books. We will burst them in the burster so that cards are individual, not in a strip. Then we take them to the scribes. Our scribes, once we scan it in with a scanner gun, that slot will light up say "I'm ready to receive."

You get a white light, shove in a cartridge, right next to it we have a slot for the mailing box. When it's loading we have a blue light. It turns into a green light, when it's done we take it out put the cartridge in the mailing box, which is about the size of a sandwich, and we put it in the postal cart.

Then it goes out to the post office. Every day we drive our box truck out to the Raleigh post office, unload the outgoing load on the carts of incoming mail, and we bring it back, and every day we check in with the same scanner guns and check-in with the same scribes, all the returned BOD's (Books-on-Demand) so that patron will get credit that they returned it. Overnight the computer system will assign them a new set of books. Then we check it all in, shelf it, and the next morning we do it all again. We make, take good care of our patrons.

**Voiceover:** For more information about our services and how to apply visit statelibrary.ncdcr.gov and select "For Blind and Print Disabled."