

TAR HEEL TALK



SLNC-ABLS & Braille Literacy Grants

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STAFF FEATURE

Learn more about Craig Hayward, our tech librarian!

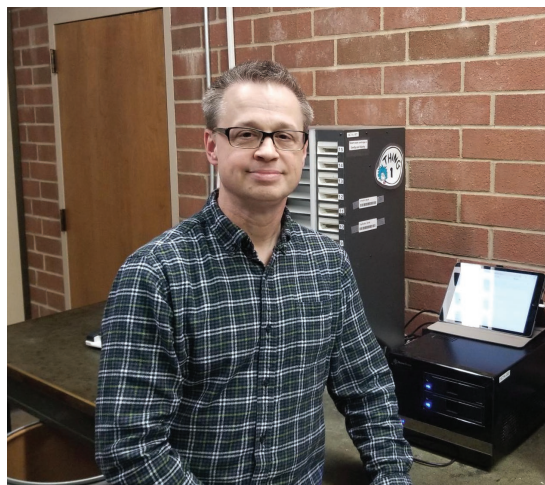
Q: How long have you been at the library?

A: 15 years. I'm now in my 16th year at the library.

Q: What brought you to this library?

A: My wife and I relocated to North Carolina from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for her work. I needed a job, and I was looking for a library. I knew about libraries like this one before as part of my Library Science degree, but this was honestly my 4th choice of libraries. I was only planning to be here for 2 years at the start. Figuring I'd move on at that point. That didn't happen once I got to know all of the wonderful patrons and staff here at the library.

Q: What have been some of the greatest accomplishments in



Systems & Digital Services Librarian Craig Hayward

your position here?

A: Lots of things have gotten accomplished over the last 15 years. Here are some highlights:

- Creating Podcasts, like **Craig's Desk** and **Heard Any Good Books Lately?**
- Creating **NOBLE** so that readers can download locally recorded books and magazines.
- Being one of the first accessible books libraries on social media many years ago.

- Getting our website to be more accessible to our readers. For that matter learning so much about online accessibility so I can be a go-to person with the State Library.
- Getting the library technology grant money to do more things for staff and patrons.

Q: What would you like to accomplish next?

A: Conquer the world. Do more to grow my own department and hire more staff to help me do it.

Q: What have you found about this position to be enjoyable?

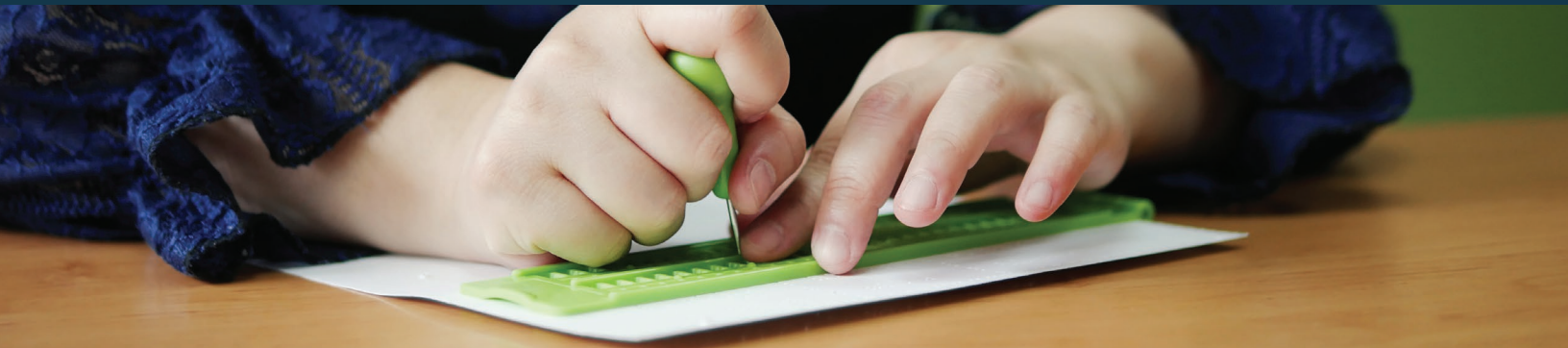
A: I'm a librarian, so the most enjoyable part of my position is meeting and helping patrons every day. When someone learns a new skill or I show them how they can download their favorite books themselves, that makes my day. Also learning from them and seeing things from their perspective and what our service means in their lives.

It is so cool to get to help people every day. It's what keeps me coming back and why two years have turned into 15 years here.

Q: Who are some of your favorite authors?

A: Reading is a long and winding road. It's been quite a reading journey so far. Near and dear to me are the science fiction and fantasy authors from my days building a collection. So, Stephen King, Robert Heinlein, Orson Scott Card, Arthur C. Clarke, JRR Tolkien, CS Lewis, Michael Crichton, William Tenn (I became a fan after he came into the library in Pittsburgh I used to work at) wonderful short stories he wrote. More recently, I have come to enjoy books by Nelson DeMille, his *Treasure Coast* series, and Lee Child, for the *Jack Reacher* series. I'm on book 13 in that series. I have a goal to read all of them over the next couple of years. □

BRAILLE LITERACY GRANTS



The Friends of the SLNC Accessible Books and Library Services seek to award two separate grants, up to \$1,000, to address braille literacy among children and adults in North Carolina.

Proposals are expected to address the needs of children and/or adults who are visually impaired in braille literacy efforts such as, but not limited to, training, services, education, and outreach. The Braille Literacy Grant has been established to fill a gap in funding for braille training, programs, and services. Financial need is a priority.

The individual and organization grant applications are available online and as print download documents to be submitted by

mail. The grant portal is now open! The application deadline for proposals submitted online or by mail is May 1, 2023. The Braille Literacy grant applications, along with additional information, can be found at: friendsncblbph.org/braille_literacy_grant_informa.php.

Email questions about the Braille Literacy Grant and/or the application process to:

info@fncabls.org □



COLLECTIONS COMMUNIQUE

A Quarterly Collections Update

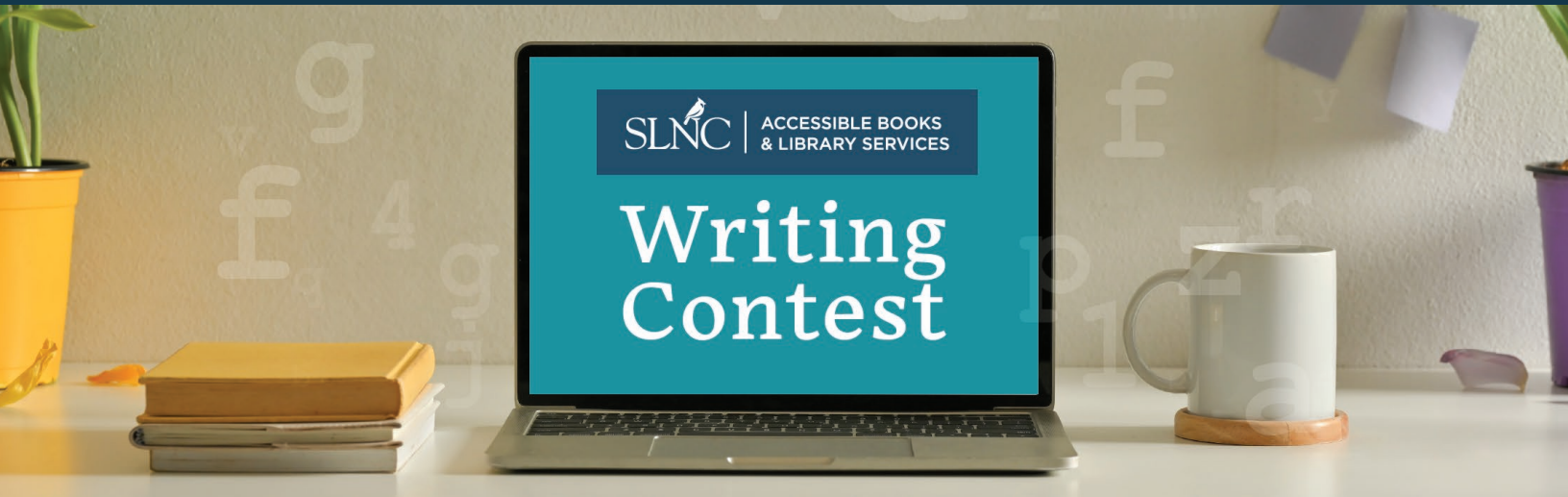
- North Carolina Reads is North Carolina Humanities' state-wide book club! North Carolina Reads annually features five books that explore issues of racial, social, and gender equality and the history and culture of North Carolina. All five books pose critical questions about how North Carolinians view their role in helping to form a more just and inclusive society. SLNC ABLIS is working diligently to produce accessible versions of the books to be included in 2023. For more information about the five book selections for 2023 and to register for the virtual monthly meetings, please visit <https://nchumanities.org/program/north-carolina-reads>.
- NLS has added a new Book Recommendation online form that you can use to send requests for titles to be added to the NLS collection. This form can be used for books that you would like to see in audio and/or Braille formats. You will need the title, author, and publication year. In addition, you will need to select "State Library of North Carolina, Accessible Books

and Library Services” from the dropdown menu at the beginning of the form. To access the form, please go to the following webpage and click the “Book Recommendation” form listed at the beginning of the first paragraph of text: <https://www.loc.gov/nls/about/organization/standards-guidelines/collection-building-policy>

- **An Update to the NLS Braille-On-Demand service:** The service now allows patrons to receive up to five hard-copy Braille titles per month to keep permanently for personal use. Previously, patrons were allowed only a single title per month. This service is particularly useful for titles you will re-read many times, like a cookbook or your child’s favorite bedtime story. These copies arrive in soft-cover for-

mat. NLS must have an electronic version of a title to emboss it, so requested titles will be limited to braille books that are currently available on BARD. The request form is located at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NLSbrailleondemand>. You will need the book number and the title before you can submit a request. NC ABLIS can help you locate this information. □

2022 WRITING CONTEST



We were so pleased to have another Writing Contest for 2022 and that so many of our patrons were able to participate. Each entry was judged based on its clarity, spelling and grammar, creativity, and impact. We received a lot of fantastic entries, and the judging process was difficult. We have finally chosen our winners!



1st Place

Becoming Benign by Kimberly Miller



2nd Place

Talking Old Crow '22 by Edward Rizzuto



3rd Place

Moonlight by Diana Soto



Honorable Mentions

Box of Rocks by Kristine Gupta

Acts of Love by Morris Dean

As we did for our 2020 and 2021 Writing Contests, our winners' entries will be made available to our patrons in a talking book format in the near future. If you would like to receive a copy on your cartridge, please contact us, and we will include them for you. If you have not had a chance to listen to our winners from 2020 and 2021, you may listen to them here: <https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/blog/2022/07/11/writing-contest-winners> or request it as a talking book.

To receive it as a talking book or download it from BARD, contact the library and request book number DBC06123 to be added to your list or use that book number in the BARD catalog.

Thank you to all who participated. If you would like to participate in a future writing contest, we will begin accepting entries from September 2023 through December 2023! □

BRAILLE READING CHALLENGE



This past January was **National Braille Literacy Month!** To encourage and celebrate Braille Literacy, we encouraged our patrons participating in our Winter Reading Contest to read more braille books in the month of January!

Patrons who read these braille books during January would earn extra points to their overall Winter Reading score, and the patrons in the Adults and Youth groups who read the most books would win a prize!

Challenge Winners:



Adults 1st Place

Karen Reynolds



Youth 1st Place

Anthony James Stasio

We plan to continue celebrating Braille Literacy moving forward, and we will have a Braille Reading Challenge for our next Winter Reading Program as well! □

“Tar Heel Talk” is a quarterly publication of the State Library of North Carolina **Accessible Books & Library Services** section (SLNC-ABLS) and the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

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FRIENDS CORNER



Dear Friends,

It's a busy year for the Friends. The library changed its name to Accessible Books and Library Services (ABLS). As you can guess we must follow suit. Your Friends organization is now the Friends of NCABLS (FNCABLS). Look for updates coming to our materials and our website.

We are delighted to announce hiring a new assistant to our treasurer. Her name is Nellie Taylor. She has learned our ways from outgoing assistant Winnie Webb. Winnie has been an exemplary part of the Friends' organization for years, and we will miss her greatly. Welcome, Nellie, and best wishes to Winnie.

At our Annual General Meeting in June, we elected new board members. Please welcome

Jeremiah Rogers,
Brice Smith,
and Ginny Lou
Laughlin. Each of
them are excellent advocates
for our vision community, and
we are so pleased to have them
join us.

Food for thought: Each year we elect new members to replace the ones whose terms are ending. If you feel the library and the Friends serve an important purpose, please consider joining the Friends and serving on our Board. We need you!

You can join and support the Friends for as little as \$10 a year! We are a nonprofit membership-based organization, and your \$10 annually goes a long way.

The Friends is comprised of citizens, volunteers, and patrons who wish to support the library, its services, and

programs. The library provides accessible materials (i.e., large print, Braille, audiobooks, and descriptive videos) to North Carolinians with visual and/or print disabilities. Friends enthusiastically support the mission of the Library by providing financial support to augment state and federal funding. In addition to supporting the library, we provide the James Benton Braille Writer Program, Literacy Grants, and more. Please explore our website for more details about our library support, programs, and membership. For example, we will have a vendor table at the upcoming NCVIP Fishing Tournament in October on the Outer Banks. Please stop by and say hello if you are there. Donations are always greatly appreciated! You may also donate to sponsor new materials and support library programs.

Memorials and Honorariums are a meaningful way to show your appreciation for a friend, colleague, or loved one while making a lasting contribution to support literacy.

Literacy for ALL is our passion!

Susan L. King

President FNCABLS ☐

FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Melaney Stein

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Yvonne Kea

H (910) 283-3981

Jeremiah Rogers

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Catherine Rubin

ABLS Director

W (984) 236-1100

CRAIG'S DESK PODCAST



From Craig's Desk to you... some content intended for people who are blind or print impaired by Craig Hayward, Systems and Digital Services Librarian (aka The Tech Librarian).

Hello again from Craig's Desk, with some highlights from the mostly monthly podcast where I, Craig Hayward the technology librarian, answer your reading and library technology questions and let you know about some happenings at NLS and offerings on the library's website. You ask the questions, and I'll look for the answers. A kind of listen-and-learn program.

On a recent show we talked a little bit about using an Android device with BARD Mobile, some accessible pod catchers so you can listen to podcasts on your computer, and a brief bit about the NLS Music section. It was a good show.

I'd love to hear from you and help answer your questions. Without your questions, comments, and feedback, I don't have much of a show. Please send me your questions big or small to craigskdesknc@gmail.com.

Beyond your questions, I'll showcase some of the great reader resources on the library's website and take an inside look at some things that you and other library patrons have asked about coming in NLS's future, like the braille e-reader, the future of BARD and just how to find more books to read.

If you are a regular podcast listener, Craig's Desk is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google, and our podcast platform called PodBean. To find the show use your favorite podcatching app and search for Craig's Desk, with an apostrophe S. If you don't regularly listen to podcasts it just so happens that on our first episode of Craig's Desk, we introduced you to how to listen to Podcasts. After you listen to that one, I recommend going back for more episodes from our podcast website, provided for us generously by the State Library of North Carolina, at <https://nccraigsdesk.podbean.com>.



medicare

MEDICARE INFORMATION IN ACCESSIBLE FORMATS

Medicare provides free auxiliary aids and services, including information in accessible formats like braille, large print, data or audio files, relay services and TTY communications. If you request information in an accessible format, you won't be disadvantaged by any additional time necessary to provide it. This means you'll get extra time to take any action if there's a delay in fulfilling your request.

To request Medicare or Marketplace information in an accessible format you can:

1. Call us

- For Medicare: **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**
- TTY: **1-877-486-2048**

2. Send us a fax: 1-844-530-3676

3. Send us a letter:

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Offices of Hearings and Inquiries (OHI)
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S1-13-25
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850
Attn: Customer Accessibility Resource Staff**

- Your request should include your name, phone number, type of information you need (if known), and the mailing address where we should send the materials. We may contact you for additional information.
- Note: If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan or Medicare drug plan, contact your plan to request its information in an accessible format.
- For Medicaid, contact your State Medicaid office.

DOWNLOAD SOMETHING NOBLE

One of the many services we offer our patrons is access to our version of BARD we call NOBLE (North Carolina BARD Local). NOBLE features digital braille books and digital talking books and magazines which are published in North Carolina and produced by our library. While there is no patron application necessary to use NOBLE, all media downloaded from NOBLE can only be played on a digital book player approved by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. You may visit NOBLE to see if there is anything you would like to download by going to bit.ly/LBPH-NOBLE.



NEW TIPS FOR BETTER SERVICE

- You may return material now. We are checking in and checking out material.
- If you receive cartridges, please return the cartridges one at a time.
- If you leave a phone message, please spell your last name, state the city you live in, and leave us a phone number to respond to your call if necessary. Also, due to possible phone connection problems it always helps to repeat the phone number if possible.
- If you are calling for someone else please leave their name and city, so we can pull up their record in our computers and would have another contact number if we can't reach you.
- In order to avoid a delay in your service, notify us immediately of any change of address.
- If you email the library, please include your name, phone number, and mailing address in the email.

LIBRARY CLOSING DATES

Memorial Day..... Monday, May 29, 2023