

TAR HEEL TALK

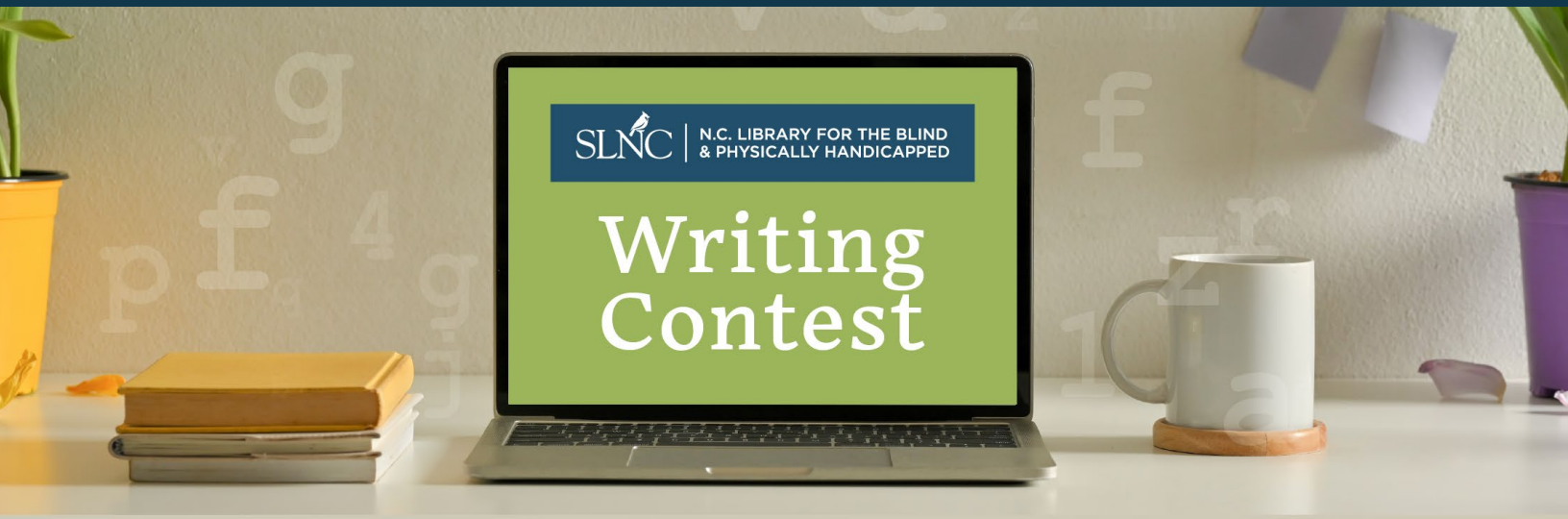


FOREIGN LANGUAGE
**ACCESSIBLE
BOOKS**

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NCLBPH WRITING CONTEST



To our creative patrons, Tell us Your Story!

The North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will host our second Writing Contest! We are accepting entries from NCLBPH patrons starting **September 1st** until **December 15th**.

Contestants' entries can be the following: short stories, novel excerpts, poems, songs, fiction/nonfiction, auto/biographies, or something entirely different; be creative!

All submissions will be judged by the following criteria: Clarity, Spelling, Grammar, and Creativity.

Each contestant's entry has the potential to be added to our collection. If we select your entry to be added to the collection, we will notify you before it is published. Before a contestant's submission is added to the library's collection, it will be subject to proofreading.

The contest will be divided into four separate age groups: ages 8 and younger, ages 9 to 12, ages 13 to 17, and 18 and older. Your submission will automatically be entered to your age group.

Writing Contest Rules

- Your entry must be an original work.

- Contestants must be a patron of NCLBPH.
- Only one entry per contestant will be allowed.
- All mail-in entries must be typewritten, at least 14-point font, double-spaced with numbered pages, and include a cover page with a title and the author's name.
- There is a 5,000-word count limit for all submissions.
- If your entry is in Braille, a word file will be required.
- If you enter a song, please include the lyrics as a word file.
- If your entry contains images, please include the alt text.
- If your submission is in a different language, an English translation will be required.

Acceptable Submission Formats

All writing contest submissions should be in one of the following formats: Word File, Audio File, Braille File, Mail-In Type-written.

Prizes

The following prizes will be available to each age group:

1st Place - Submission will be added to the library's collection and made available for download. In addition, the contestant will receive a certificate and the first-place prize.

2nd Place - Submission will be added to the library's collection and made available for download. In addition, the contestant will receive a certificate and the second-place prize.

3rd Place - Submission will be added to the library's collection and made available for download. In addition, the contestant will receive a certificate and the third-place prize.

Honorable Mentions - Submission will be added to the library's collection and made available for download. In addition, the contestant will receive a certificate. All other contestants will receive a certificate for their entry.

Visit our Writing Contest page to turn in your entries: slnc.info/WC21. □

FOREIGN LANGUAGE QUARTERLY



You may have heard patrons of our library are now capable of receiving books from foreign countries participating in the Marrakesh Treaty. For those unfamiliar with the Marrakesh Treaty, it allows exchange of accessible-format books across international borders between organizations that serve people with a print disability.

For example, if a patron of our library desired a book published in a different country participating in the treaty, they could borrow that book by asking us to request it from the institution in a different country. This benefits patrons

who speak other languages and wish to read books in their preferred language while we have a limited number of foreign language books in our collection.

Foreign Language Quarterly is a publication of the **National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled** which lists popular foreign language books recently added to their library and books that are available through a network of cooperating libraries. This NLS publication will be posted to their website every three months, and books listed in the publication are available to all eligible patrons and those who qual-

ify for our library's services. In the first volume of *Foreign Language Quarterly*, you will find books in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Ukrainian.

The books you see in *Foreign Language Quarterly* will be available for download through BARD immediately. To browse for foreign language books on BARD or Voyager there are instructions on the NLS webpage: slnc.info/NLS-FLB.

For our patrons who prefer to receive their books by mail, they may order them from NCLBPH and they will be loaded on your Books on Demand cartridge. You can contact us by phone, email, or chat! □

“Tar Heel Talk” is a quarterly publication of the N.C. Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NCLBPH), State Library of North Carolina, and N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

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2021 BRAILLE LITERACY GRANTS

- In June, 2021, the Friends board approved the recipients of the first Braille Literacy Grants. The children's grant was awarded to the **Governor Morehead School** for the purchase of new UEB books to expand their library services. **Hope Clontz** received the adult grant for the purchase of a braille display. The Friends board is excited to play a part in the advancement of braille literacy throughout North Carolina.
- The 2022 Braille Literacy Grant process will open in **January, 2022**. The Friends 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, braille access, and outreach.
- The Braille Literacy grant applications, along with updated information on the application process, eligibility, and deadlines, can be found at slnc.info/BL-GRANT.
- Email questions about the Braille Literacy Grant and/or the application process to info@friendsnclbph.org. □

FRIENDS CORNER



Friends of the

North Carolina Library for the
Blind and Physically Handicapped



Dear Friends,

Thank you for being a patron of our library. It is critical these days to use these marvelous resources that we have, and among the Friends literacy is our passion. Especially now with so many people so isolated, the fact that we can visit with each other, with new worlds and new stories, just by contacting our library is wonderful.

We recently received a donation and a lovely letter from a gentleman whose mother had passed recently. He wrote to us that as she lost her sight later in life, she discovered our

library. The reader advisors at the library helped her discover new interests. She developed an appetite for history and politics. Her son says she became quite the US historian in these years due to her new passion for non-fiction from our library. It is stories like these that fuel our zeal for literacy for ALL.

Good news! We awarded our first literacy grants this summer. Hope C. of Charlotte received the adults grant. She applied with the intent to purchase a refreshable Braille display for personal and professional use. The **Gov-**

ernor Morehead School Library received the Childrens grant for the purchase of more UEB Braille materials. We, the Friends, were delighted to make these awards. For more information about our literacy grants please visit our webpage at friendsn-clbph.org.

We are happy to announce we were one of the sponsors of the EYE Retreat this summer. The EYE Retreat is a nonprofit that provides "*...an opportunity for youth with visual impairments to experience a glimpse of post-secondary outcomes (employment, college, etc.) through development of mentoring relationships, real world applications, and identification of available resources.*" The "EYE" in EYE Retreat stands for "Envisioning Youth Empowerment".

This annual event is attended by students from all over North Carolina. This valuable opportunity is priceless for our youth with a visual impairment. For more information on the EYE Retreat, please visit their website at eyeretreat.org.

Update: We had to suspend the Benton Braille Writer Program due to the COVID19 Pandemic. Thankfully some restrictions have been modified at this time and we are able to resume this program. If you need a Braille writer, please visit our [website](#), and submit an application.

We are delighted to welcome new board members Latiesha Adams, Jennifer Gray, Patricia Tessnear, and Jim Turner. We are grateful and thankful for the service of the mem-

bers whose terms ended in June, **JoAnn Wood, Karen Broderick, Donnie Best, and Angelo Sonneso.**

Do you have news related to literacy and vision? Send it to us at info@friendsnclbph.org so that we can share it here and on our Facebook page.

Would you like to be a guest columnist in the Friend's Corner of the Tar Heel Talk? Send your submission to info@friendsnclbph.org, and your

contribution may be in the next edition.

Be a Friend with us! It's only \$10.00 a year for an individual. Your membership contribution goes a long way and means so much to so many people in our community. Join us online at friendsnclbph.org, or call the library so that we may send you an application. Thinking of you with regard and best wishes!

Susan L. King
President FOLBPH □

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COLLECTIONS COMMUNIQUE

A Quarterly Collections Update

- The Library has acquired a set of tactile map atlases from **National Braille Press**, originally produced by the Princeton Braillists. These atlases cover nearly every major region in the world. If you are interested in borrowing any of these, please contact a readers advisor to order them.
- An update on the newly implemented Marrakesh Treaty. This treaty allows participating countries to circulate accessible books across borders. We now have over seven hundred of these titles in our collection in both audio and e-braille format. The audio book numbers begin with the prefix DBG, and the e-braille books begin with the prefix BRG. The audiobooks are available on BARD and via Books on Demand. The e-braille books are available via BARD only.
- The Library has been able to process all new Braille titles into our physical collection, going back to the start of the pandemic. A big thanks to our circulation department for making this happen!

- Locally produced magazines such as *Wildlife in North Carolina*, *Our State*, and the *North Carolina Historical Review* will resume production once we are able to welcome our recording volunteers back on site. Our volunteers will start recording the most recent issues and will not be going backwards to catch the issues that were released earlier on in the pandemic. We apologize for this gap in magazine coverage, but it is necessary to ensure that we don't fall behind on future issues.
- Over the past year and a half, we have added 65 new DVD titles to the DVS Club collection. We have not been able to update the large-print or Braille catalogs due to the pandemic. You can access a full listing of titles available by visiting our [Online Public Accessible Catalog](#) for now, and we will release a new catalog in the coming months. You can also call our readers advisors to learn about the most recent titles added to this collection. □



NCLBPH CAN HELP YOU DECLUTTER YOUR HOME

Are you an avid BARD Mobile user on your iPhone, iPad, or Android device? If you are, then your Digital Talking Book Machine that you received from our library is probably collecting dust on a shelf somewhere. Or, perhaps you're using it as a doorstop or a paperweight since you have no earthly idea what else you could possibly do with it.

Not to worry! We can help you! We have a **Digital Talking Book Machine recycling program**. We will take your no-longer needed player, recondition it, and send it out to another patron in need.

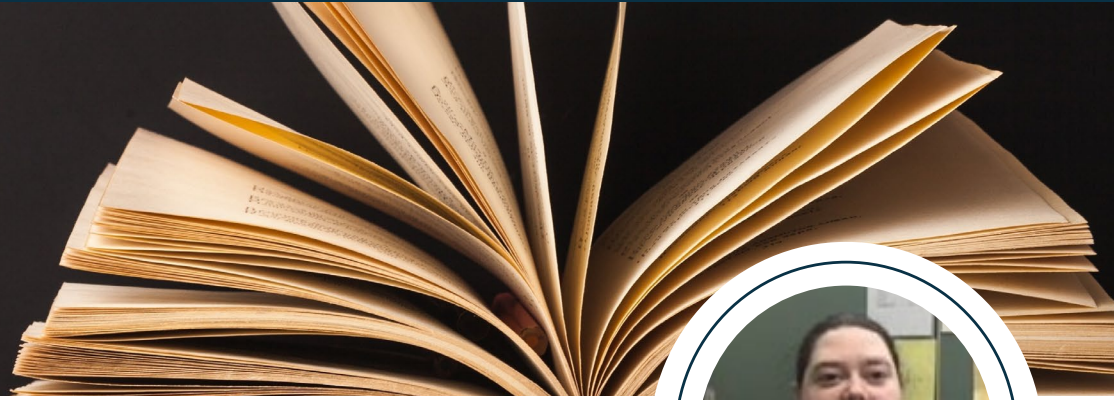
If you would like to send us back your Digital Talking Book Machine, we will gladly accept it into our recycling and reconditioning program. You can send it back in the box it came in. Please include a note in the box stating that the player is no longer needed.

Please also make sure to take out the mailing card on the top of the box, flip the card over, and reinsert it so that our name and address is visible, rather than yours.

If you don't have the box that your player came in, please call us at **1-888-388-2460**, and we can send you an empty box.

Once your player is boxed up, simply hand the box to your mail carrier or take it to your local post office. No postage is required for sending your player back to us. □

CHARLOTTE PHONE-IT-IN BOOK CLUB



As many of our patrons may already know, we have a book club that meets at our library on the first Friday of each month. It is known as our Very Important Patron (VIP) Book Club and it has met for several years.

Even though we serve all of North Carolina and would enjoy having more patrons join our VIP Book Club, we are located in Raleigh and the drive from one of the many fine areas in North Carolina, like Monroe, might not be worth the enticing hour and a half discussion as well as the delicious snacks. So, we began efforts to create a distance book club in the Char-

lotte area. On one of our Reader Advisors, **Sarah Brackett**, has taken on this great task and I was able to ask her a few questions about this new Charlotte Phone-It-In Book Club.

Q: What made you want to spear head the Charlotte book club?

A: I was new to this library and was looking for a niche to fill. This book club is something that had been discussed before my arrival and lacked staffing. I was happy to volunteer.

Q: What is your goal in starting this book club?

A: My goal is to create a space for patrons in Charlotte to get together for a book discussion from the comfort of home. My long-term goal is for this program to be extended to other areas outside of Charlotte.

Q: When will this book club congregate?

A: The book club will meet every third Thursday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Q: How will you select what books you'll read?

A: The first five or six books will be chosen by myself (with a possible survey taken at the end of every session). After the initial books, book club members will be encouraged to propose books for the club to read and discuss.

Q: What kind of bumps in the road did you experience developing this book club?

A: This process has been re-

markably easy. The hardest part is scheduling a time to meet with the other members of the book club planning committee. I'm sure there will be hiccups in the first few months, but I have read about similar pilot programs in other libraries and will attempt to minimize the bumps from their experiences.

Q: How can one participate in the book club?

A: Simply call the library at (888)-388-2460 and ask to be added to the waitlist for the book club. Once on the list for the club simply call the number given to you at the appointed time. It is as easy as a phone call. □

HISTORY PROGRAM



HISTORY'S MYSTERIES: THE AMERICAS BEFORE EUROPEANS

Coming up November 17, the library will be hosting a virtual history program conducted by patron and former history teacher, Bill Stepien, entitled "The Americas Before Europeans" which explores what the First People in the Americas were like.

Join us online or by phone to enjoy this look back in history. We've included a handy list of library books that Bill used to research the topics.

Before Europeans Arrived - 11/17/2021, 1:00-2:30 PM

Register via slnc.info/HM11-17 or call 1-888-388-2460

Program Description: Were the Cultures of Native Americans really without cities, science, religion, or innovation? This month's mystery will help dispel misconceptions about the Americas before Europeans arrived.

Companion reading from BARD:

1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus

DB61198 Mann, Charles C. Reading time: 16 hours, 28 minutes.



NLS MUSIC COLLECTION

- Have you heard about our music materials? Our patrons are capable of borrowing over 25,000 audio, braille, and large print musical scores, texts, and instructional materials, and recorded materials about music and musicians. Just as the other items in our collection, our music scores and books can be circulated postage free of charge!
- The braille portion of the collection makes up the largest portion of the collection. Patrons will find transcriptions for most instruments dating back to the eighteenth century. The braille collection also consists of classical and popular music, musical textbooks, librettos, and music instruction books.
- Music is also available in large print for voice, piano, and other instruments. The digital collection consists of music theory and appreciation, interviews and master classes, opera lectures, and history. There is also recorded instructional material available that has subjects such as instrument tutorials with songs for guitar, piano, organ, and more.
- For our BARD patrons, downloading musical materials is an option for them as well! With BARD, our patrons can download music scores from the National Library Service for the Blind and

Print Disabled. The materials are available as recorded instructions and digital braille which requires the use of a refreshable braille display.

- All patrons are eligible to receive items from our music collection, but they must make the request through the National Library Service headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Eligible patrons may make the request using the following methods:

- **Email:** nlsm@loc.gov
- **Phone:** 1-800-424-8567 ext. 2
- **Fax:** 202-707-0712

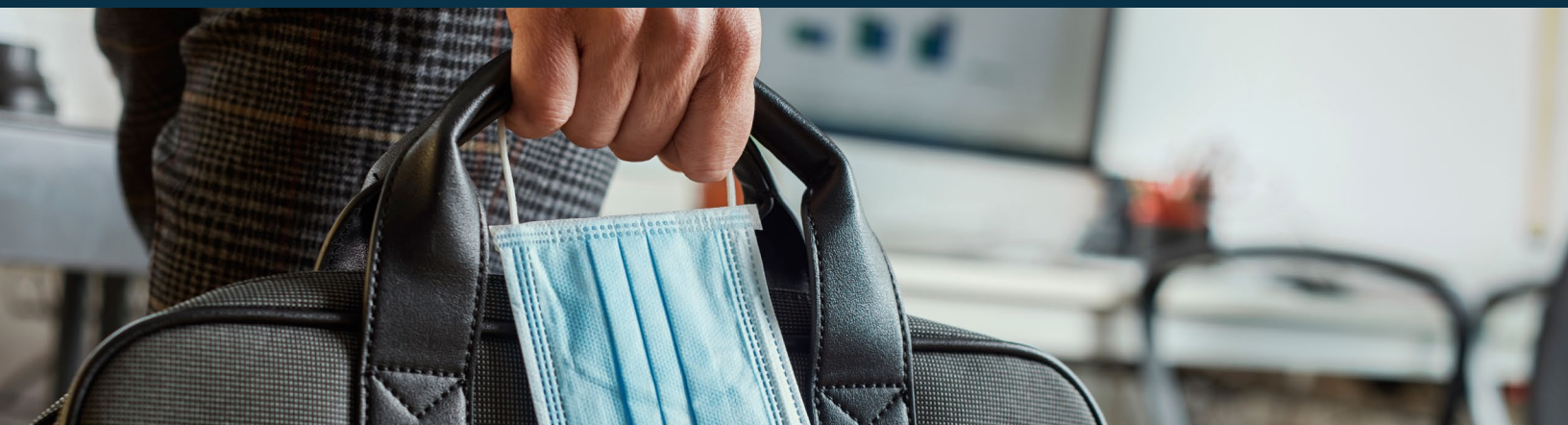
Or mail them at the following address:

Music Section
The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20542

To learn more about NLS's music materials visit:

<https://slnc.info/NLS-music>

STAFF FEATURE



Pandemic Staff

As we have more staff returning to the library, we must acknowledge the library's staff that made services possible for existing and new patrons.

March of 2020, our staff were to begin remote working to protect the staff, volunteers, and patrons from a virus we knew little about. This was an unexpected turn for the staff and everyone that makes our library operate. It is possible for some library services to be provided to patrons remotely, but there are ser-

vices that require staff to be onsite. Not being able to enter the library meant we could not receive applications from new patrons or send various materials to existing patrons.

Not being able to deliver books to patrons was the halted service which received the most attention. It is thanks to our patron comments, that we were able to build a case to have a few staff members return to the library.

In June of 2020, we were allowed to have four of our staff members work on Mondays, Wednesdays, and

Fridays onsite; the staff did this while following strict COVID-19 guidelines. Our circulation staff who volunteered to work onsite during a pandemic were **David Vick, Kent Bass, and Teresa Stallings**. Thanks to their willingness to get books to our patrons, the library was able to start shipping and receiving books for our patrons again.

It should also be noted our Books on Demand service, which all our patrons are using as of November 2020, made it possible for fewer staff members to keep up with pre-pandemic circulation numbers.

Our circulation staff was not the only library staff to return to work. **Paul Luckham**, Machine Unit, also volunteered to work onsite. While the circulation department was fulfilling book requests, Paul was receiv-

ing digital talking book machines that needed servicing. Whether a patron needed a new battery for their book player, or just needed a new player, Paul was there to assist any patron in need. In February 2021, **Deborah Jernigan** volunteered to work on site to help Paul with the workload.

A couple other employees who deserve recognition are **Dennis Jimenez** and **Christine Molesky**. They both work for the State Library of North Carolina and work very closely with NCLBPH. While other onsite employees were performing their duties, Dennis made sure our Patron Processing department were receiving new patron applications and delivered approximately 1,060 patron applications and other mail items to that department,

as well as mail out new patron information packets as needed. He also helped staff get the equipment they needed to work from home, helped NCLBPH with hiring new employees, and made it possible for our staff to answer voicemails from home.

Christine's contribution to NCLBPH consisted of scanning well over 2,000 patron notes and mails cards so our reader advisors could update patron information and fill specific book requests. In addition, Dennis and Christine assisted with entering book requests at a time when we were short staffed, helped with mailing projects to notify patrons about our Books-On-Demand service as well as prepared hundreds of Tar Heel Talk newsletters for delivery from home.

The two helped us in count-

less ways, all while having a helpful attitude and good humor over the last year.

Maintaining our services to the public at the capacity we delivered over the past several months would have been nearly impossible without key staff members willing to assist beyond what was required of them.

□

STAFF INTERVIEW

Staff Interview: Allen Wight, Reader Advisor

Allen Wight is one of NCLBPH's longest working staff members. He has retired from the library after 35 years of working for the State Library of North Carolina, and 25 years of working with NCLBPH. In his time with NCLBPH he has seen staff come and go, changes to the way service is provided to the patrons, and spoke with so many of our library patrons.

He has even worked with some of our patrons from childhood to adulthood. Those patrons will surely miss being able to call the library and request to speak to Allen. If you've ever had the chance to speak with Allen over the phone, you may have had the chance to get to know him a little. If you've never had the chance to speak with Allen,

here is your chance to learn a little about him.



Q: When did you start working for the State Library? When did you start working for LBPH?

A: I started working for the State Library in June 1986. I started working for the LBPH in July 1996.

Q: What led you to the state?

A: I was born here and have lived here all my life.

Q: What different buildings have you worked in? How long have you been in the current building?

A: At first, I worked in what was called The Archives and History Building on East Jones Street in Raleigh. I have worked in the NCLBPH building for over 25 years.

Q: Have you had the same title for the time you've been with the state? If no, what have been some of your titles?

A: No. My current title is Reader Advisor. Before that I was a Library Circulation Assistant and before that a Circulation Clerk.

Q: How have you seen the library environment change in your time here?

A: The biggest change has been in the new technologies which have been developed and have been utilized by the library. In 1996, the library was putting the last books on flexible records. Then it was exclusively cassette tapes, then digital cartridges and for the last several years patrons have been able to download books to smart devices.

Also, because of the changes in technology the job can be done remotely. Since the outbreak of the covid

pandemic we have worked remote either fulltime or parttime. This would not have been an option in 1996.

Q: How have you seen the library's services change?

A: The basic purpose which is to provide people with reading material has not changed. The methods in which we provide the library service have changed. Our patrons may take greater control of their library service. When I started if a patron wanted to request specific titles the patron could phone in or mail in the request. Now they have the option of using our online catalog to place the order or download the book.

Books are available much sooner in audio form after publication in print form. When I started it often took a year to get a book from print to cassette. Now it is often a matter of a few weeks to a few months to get it from

print to digital.

Q: What is your job like? What do you think you'll miss most about it?

A: The main part of my job is assigning books to patrons, responding to mail, and answering the phone. Also, over the last year and a half I have been compiling "Reading Lists" of books on different subjects. I will miss my co-workers and talking with many of the patrons.

Q: What do you have planned for your retirement?

A: Traveling, gardening, volunteering in my community. My wife and I will be able to spend more time with our grandchildren. Also, just being able to walk to a local coffee shop in the middle of the day will be a real pleasure. Finally, read many of the books I have been assigning to people over the last several years.

Q: What advice would you

give your replacement?

A: Ask questions.

Q: For the patrons that have known you for so long, do you have a message you would like to give to them?

A: It has been an honor and a pleasure. □



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

Veterans Day.....Thursday, November 11, 2021

**Thanksgiving.....Thursday, November 25 and
Friday, November 26, 2021**

**Christmas.....Thursday, December 23, Friday,
December 24, and Monday, December 27, 2021**

New Years Day.....Friday, December 31

CHOICE MAGAZINE LISTENING

Choice Magazine Listening (CML) is a free audio magazine for adults with impaired vision or other disability. Four times a year, listeners can download or receive by mail 12 hours of great stories and articles chosen from 100 of the finest magazines, absolutely free of charge. All CML's selections are wonderfully read by some of America's top audiobook narrators. CML subscribers include those with conditions such as low vision, macular degeneration, blindness, MS, diabetes, cerebral palsy, ALS, dyslexia, and Parkinson's. If someone you know would enjoy this free service, please call 1-888-724-6423 or visit www.choicemagazinelistening.org.

DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO CATALOG

The library has produced an all audio version of the Descriptive Video Catalog. The catalog is a collection of all of the DVD's available today from the library. It is available from NOBLE as a downloadable digital talking book so you can listen to it on your Digital Talking Book Player and from our Descriptive Video page on the website as a now playable MP3. Listen Now - bit.ly/LBPH-DV

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.