

TAR HEEL TALK

**See what's new in
Seasonal Reading!**

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DIGITAL ADVANCED PLAYER 2

The [National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled](#) (NLS) has officially announced the release of the next generation talking book player, the **Digital Advanced Talking Book Player 2, or DA2**. This updated device will bring new features and improved accessibility to eligible readers across the country.

The DA2 offers several exciting upgrades:

- **Wi-Fi Capabilities:** Download books from the Braille & Audio Reading Download service (BARD) over Wi-Fi with the DA2, just like you can with the mobile app for Apple and Android devices.
- **Bluetooth Connectivity:** Use Bluetooth headphones or speakers for a wireless listening experience. (ABLS does not supply Bluetooth headphones or speakers.)

- **Keyboard Connectivity:** Connect your own USB keyboard with the DA2 to input your BARD login and search for titles on BARD.
- **28 gigabytes of internal storage:** Store books on the player. NLS books are an average of 120 megabytes, so the DA2 can store approximately 200 titles.

We will get a limited number of the DA2s, and we'll send them to those who have Wi-Fi access, so that they can use these new capabilities.

We are thrilled to offer this next-generation device that will enhance the reading experience for our patrons. Stay tuned for more updates.

“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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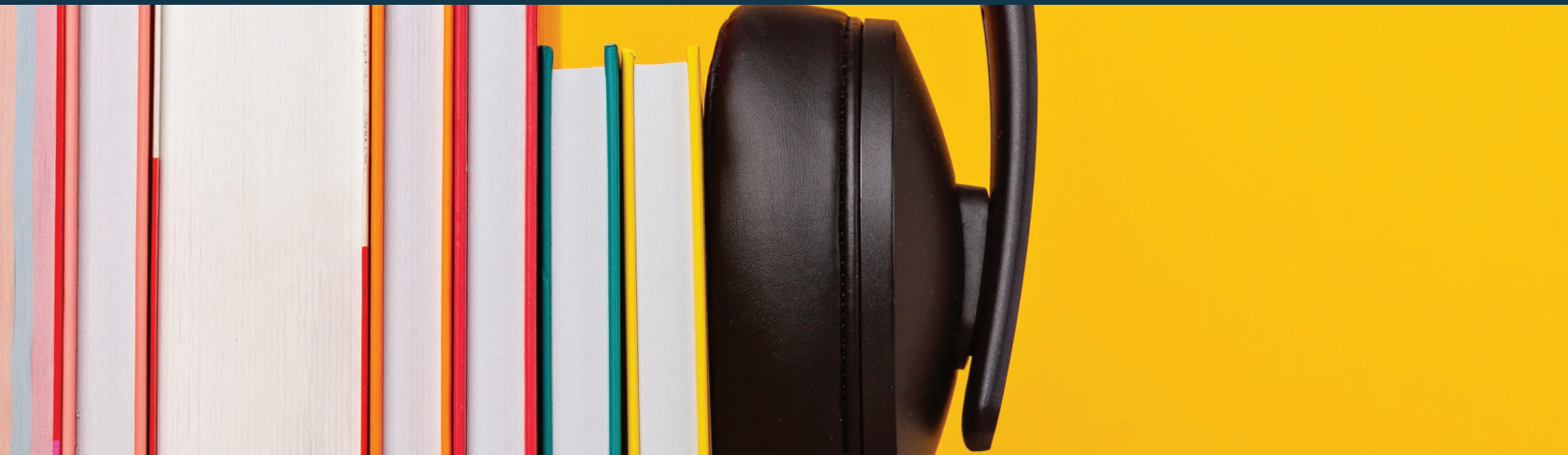
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Internet Catalog, Ordering Site: ncabls.klas.com

SEASONAL READING



WINTER READING WINNERS

Each winter, our patrons are invited to participate in our Winter Reading Program. During this program, patrons are encouraged to read as many books from our collection as they can in a three-month period. Readers are split into two groups: those who read downloadable books (including talking books and digital braille) and those who read physical formats (large print and hardcopy braille).

Everyone who reads at least five books during the program will receive a prize! And for our most dedicated readers, we're excited to award Amazon gift cards to the top three readers in each format group. Friends of NCABLS provide the prizes.

As in the past, we encourage participants to rate and review the books they have read to earn extra points!

Each book had the potential to earn up to 10 points, giving readers a chance to boost their score and share what they thought about their picks.

Thank you to all our Winter Readers for participating! Whether you read one book or over 200 books, we hope you enjoyed your selections from our collection!

TOP WINTER READING WINNERS



First Place:
Jessica Smith (1199 points)



Second Place:
Sharon Pressley (870 points)



Third Place:
Guy Bobbit (500 points)



SUMMER READING

We're excited to invite you to participate in the SLNC ABLS **2025 Summer Reading Program**, running from **June 1st** through **August 31st**! This program is open to all of our patrons and encourages reading in a way that works best for you.



Participants who read at least five books will win a prize provided by the **Friends of NC Accessible Books and Library Services**.

Patrons registering for Summer Reading will be assigned in their appropriate age group: Adults 21 and older or Youths 20 and younger. Your base score will be determined only by the book medium in which you read the most books during the program.

Book mediums for Summer Reading include the following:

- **Digital and Downloadable Books** (Books on Demand and BARD)
- **Physical Books** (Large Print and Hardcopy Braille)

DETAILS

HOW TO REGISTER:

To ensure everyone has a chance to participate, **registration is open from May 15th through July 15th**, allowing extra time for those who may experience delays in receiving this message.

To sign up, please use the link below and follow the steps provided:

Sign up online at slnc.info/NCSR.

Sign up by calling us at 1-888-388-2460.





RATE AND REVIEW YOUR READING PICKS!

If you'd like to earn extra points for the books you read during our Summer Reading Program, you can submit your ratings and reviews. These extra points will go towards your base reading score! Each book you read could potentially be worth up to 10 points!

- Rate one of the books you have read, and you earn 1 extra point for each book you rate.
- Write an original book review of at least 50 words to earn 8 additional points.
- You can only enter each book you read once.
- Use the [online form](#) to Rate and Review Your Reading Picks!
- You may also request a pack of 10 Rate and Review forms mailed to you by calling 984-236-1118.

FRIENDS CORNER



“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass. It’s about learning how to dance in the rain...”

-Vivian Greene

Dear Friends,

I have noticed when I listen to the radio, television, or read on the computer that there is a national recognition day, week, or month announced everyday. These days are not National Holidays, but they are days set aside for awareness, for education, or to honor certain occasions, people, products, or events. I hear that today is national recognition day for ... For example, March 4 is Hug a G.I. Day. Some other examples are National Hot Chocolate Day, National Oreo Day, Na-

tional Diabetes month, and one of my favorite ones is National Doughnut Day (Yummy!) There was a very interesting National Week recently that I thought you would be interested to learn about. **April 6 through April 12, 2025 was National Library Week!** As I learned from the American Library Association website, “This week is a celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.” All of our communities have public libraries, and for us patrons of the NC Accessible Books and Library Services, we are very fortunate to have this library

with their wonderful staff as our public library for the blind and disabled community even though it may not be physically located in our community. As I read further, “In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions and musical instruments. Concerned that Americans were reading less, the ALA and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizens organization called the National Book Committee in 1954. The committee’s goals were ambitious. They ranged from “encouraging people to read in their increasing leisure time” to “improving incomes and health” and “developing strong and happy family life.” The first National Library Week was observed in 1958 with the theme

“Wake Up and Read!” The 2025 celebration marks the 67th anniversary of the first event. At the end of that week, April 12, that day is designated as Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) Day. I look forward to that day for sure and encourage you to celebrate “DEAR” Day! Let’s all thank everyone who works at the Library for all they do to keep reading material available to us, and for all of the other programs and services they offer and provide. Thank you Library Staff! You folks are terrific!

On another note, we would like to give a big thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership and for donations you have given the Friends of the NC Accessible Books and Library Services. Earlier this year, we sent out renewal notice emails and letters reminding

you to renew your membership. If for some reason you have not renewed, it is not too late! You can renew online at www.fnca-bls.org under the Membership link, or send us a check to FN-CABLS, 1841 Capital Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27635. An individual membership is only \$10, and your membership helps us to provide funding to the library for programs and services not funded by the State. Tell your family and friends that they can support this organization as well. You do not need to be a patron of the Library in order to support the Friends.

One of the programs your membership dollars are used to support is the **Large Print Book service**. There are thousands of book titles available that you can select a book from and enjoy reading. This service is to-

tally funded by the Friends, and we have sponsored this service for many years. The Friends purchase multiple new titles to add to the Library's collection every year. If you know of anyone who could benefit from this service, have them contact the Library for further information and an application.

Until next time, remember - be a friend, hug a friend, and join the Friends if you are not a member. Happy Spring and enjoy "DEAR" Day!

Eddie Weaver, President

COLLECTIONS COMMUNIQUE



A QUARTERLY COLLECTIONS UPDATE:

- **Braille-on-Demand:** You can request up to five books a month in hardcopy braille to keep indefinitely for your personal use. Choose from any of the tens of thousands of braille titles available on BARD. Some of the most popular titles requested by patrons include:
 - * *175 Essential Slow Cooker Classics* (BR18220)
 - * *American School of Needlework Presents the Great Granny Crochet Book* (BR04584)
 - * *Braille Music Reading* (BRM37002)
 - * *Joy of Cooking* (BR17462)

* *Where the Sidewalk Ends: The Poems of Shel Silverstein*
(BR11502)

* For more information and to order titles, please visit
<https://slnc.info/NLS-BOD>.

- **Coming soon to the Large Print Collection: Spanish language titles!** We've been adding large print titles in Spanish to the collection as they become available. A list of these titles will be made available when they are ready to borrow.
- Since January 2024, we have added 49 new DVD titles to the DVS Club Collection. You can access a full listing of titles available by visiting our Online Public Accessible Catalog. You can also call our readers advisors to learn about the most recent titles added to this collection.

STAFF FEATURE

In this issue we are featuring three members of the ABLS team: our new Patron Processing Supervisor **Carleôn**, our newest Reader Advisor **Molly**, and our Patron Engagement Intern **Olivia**.

First up, we have Carleôn!

As the Patron Processing Supervisor, Carleôn manages our library's patron records. He supervises a staff of three, and his unit's responsibilities include approving new patron accounts and updating account statuses as needed; for instance, when patrons move to another state or become inactive or suspended. He and his staff also prepare welcome packets for new pa-

trons and assist callers with library inquiries.

Molly is next! As one of our Reader Advisors, Molly, our newest Reader Advisor answers phone calls and chat messages from patrons, assigns books to patrons based on their preferences and reading history, maintains patrons' reading profiles, and assists with library programming as needed.

Last but not least is Oliv-

ia! Olivia recently served as our Patron Engagement Intern while completing her master's degree in library and information science. Before her internship, Olivia volunteered with us as a Studio Monitor, operating the recording software as another volunteer narrated a book or magazine. As the Patron Engagement Intern, she helped with outreach activities and worked on our collection's cataloging records. This internship was her required Capstone before graduating from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. We wish Olivia much success now that she has graduated and is beginning the next chapter of her librarianship journey.

We asked several questions of Carleon, Molly, and Olivia and

let them know they could answer all, or choose to answer just some of the questions. Their responses are below.

Q: What led you to join this library team?

Carleôn: I was drawn to this team because of my passion for accessibility and ensuring that everyone has the resources they need to engage with books and information. The mission of ABLS aligns with my values, and I saw an opportunity to contribute my skills in organization, communication, and process improvement to make a meaningful impact.

Molly: I joined this library team because I wanted to work in an environment that directly helped to benefit the lives of

my fellow North Carolinians.

Olivia: I am currently in a master's program studying Library and Information Science. I was looking for opportunities to volunteer in a library last summer and I ended up at ABLS! When I shared that I needed to complete an internship as part of my program, the team was happy to welcome me aboard.

Q: What do you enjoy most about working here?

Carleôn: I enjoy the sense of purpose that comes with helping people access books and resources that enrich their lives. The collaborative environment and the opportunity to solve challenges that improve our services make every day rewarding.

Molly: The chance to speak

to our patrons on the phone about their favorite books and authors always puts a smile on my face.

Olivia: I like that I get a chance to be creative, whether I'm putting together a reading list or helping write one of our newsletters.

Q: Who is your favorite author and why?

Carleôn: My favorite author is Dr. Seuss. Although he's primarily known as a children's author, his books offer valuable life lessons that resonate with all ages. His stories tackle important themes like perseverance, kindness, and embracing differences in a way that's both entertaining and thought-provoking. Books like *Oh, the Places*

You'll Go! inspire readers to navigate life's challenges with resilience, while *The Lorax* teaches the importance of caring for our environment. His playful rhymes and whimsical illustrations make complex ideas feel accessible, and I admire how he uses storytelling to encourage imagination, problem-solving, and hope.

Molly: While I don't have a singular favorite author, I find myself drawn to writers who can make you laugh and cry in the same paragraph. (Jenny Lawson, Raphael Bob-Waksberg, Samantha Irby)

Olivia: There are too many good authors to pick just one! I do really enjoy Sarah Grunder Ruiz, who is an author local to Raleigh. She writes these witty romances that are so fun to

read.

Q: If you could only read one book for the rest of your life, what would you choose and why?

Molly: For years, I have been fascinated by *Modelland*, the only novel written by Tyra Banks. Past attempts to read it have left me equally confused and concerned. But if it was the only book I could read for the rest of life, maybe I would become the only person to finally understand Ms. Banks' vision.

Olivia: *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio, which is one of my favorite books of all time. The story is all about kindness, compassion, and navigating a world where people can be quick to judge those who are differ-

ent from them. It's available in our catalog in braille and as a talking book, as well as descriptive video.

Q: Do you have a favorite quote or word? Why is it your favorite?

Carleôn: My favorite quote is "Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations." – Dr. Mae Jemison. I love this quote because it encourages limitless thinking and the courage to push beyond societal expectations. It's a reminder that just because someone else can't see the vision doesn't mean it's impossible. Dr. Jemison, as the first Black woman in space, embodies what it means to defy limitations, and her words inspire me to approach challenges with confidence and creativity.

Olivia: A quote I enjoy is "A room without books is like a body without a soul." -Marcus Tullius Cicero. I like how this quote expresses that books not only offer information and new things to learn, but also the opportunity to explore our own humanity through the words and experiences of others.

Can you share a fun or interesting fact about yourself?

Carleôn: I'm currently working on a sci-fi novel that I hope to publish this year! Writing has always been a passion of mine, and I'm excited to bring my story to life. When I'm not working on my book, I enjoy baking—whether it's sweets or savory dishes, I love experimenting in the kitchen.

Molly: I like to sew and my favorite things to make are clothes for my dog, and giant stuffed animals I make at the request of my friends for their children.

Olivia: I can spell supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! But I have to sing it when I do or I'll spell it wrong.

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 slnc.info/ABLS-NOBLE.



DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE NLS SERVICES?

Did you know that our library is part of the **National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS)** network?

The NLS Network has at least one library in every state of the United States and in some territories. While each of the network libraries offers the same core services of providing accessible books in braille and audio formats, the individual network libraries may provide additional services. As examples, our library provides Descriptive Video Service DVDs and the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library has a Multisensory Storytime.

NLS also provides unique services at the national level that any NLS Network Library patron may benefit from. These services can supplement the services you receive from our library.

We have listed some of them here for your convenience and consideration:

Braille Education - <https://slnc.info/NLS-BE>

Join NLS-approved programs led by experts like Jennifer Dunnam for a transformative journey into braille literacy and accessible reading solutions.

Patron Announce

Stay in the loop with NLS! Sign up for Patron Announce, a patron email listserv service, to receive regular updates on upcoming events, projects, and the latest NLS news straight to your inbox. Simply send your name and email address to NLSPES@loc.gov to join and unsubscribe anytime hassle-free.

The Many Faces of BARD - <https://slnc.info/NLS-TMFB>

The Patron Engagement Section offers The Many Faces of BARD online event the second Thursday of every month, at 7:00 p.m. eastern time. Each monthly event covers one aspect of BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download service) and is open to all. From this page, you can also listen to previous Many Faces of BARD recordings!

Quarterly Patron Corner - <https://slnc.info/NLS-PC>

Quarterly Patron Corner, presented the second Monday of the third month of the quarter, shares specific information of interest to patrons regarding an announced topic. From this page you can listen to the previous recordings of the Quarterly Patron Corner!

International Language Materials - <https://slnc.info/NLS-ILM>

Discover a world of literary treasures with NLS! From audio to braille, they offer a diverse array of titles in languages beyond English, facilitated by the Marrakesh Treaty. Explore their expanding international collections, including Spanish, French, German, and many more, all available through our accessible platforms like BARD. Join us in embracing the richness of global literature today!

Music Service and Materials - <https://slnc.info/NLS-MSM>

Discover the world's largest music collection for the blind and print disabled at NLS! With over 25,000 titles including braille and large-print scores, instructional materials, and music-related magazines available via postage-free mail or digital download, accessing enriching musical experiences has never been easier. Eligible individuals can request this exceptional service directly from NLS headquarters in Washington, DC,

ensuring seamless access to a diverse array of musical resources.

Overseas Services - <https://slnc.info/NLS-OSS>

Experience the world of literature without boundaries! NLS's overseas program, designed for American citizens living abroad or eligible non-US citizens dependent on active-duty military or diplomatic personnel, offers free access to a vast collection of books and magazines in audio or braille formats. Whether through mail delivery, electronic access via BARD, or loaned digital talking-book machines, this service ensures that reading knows no borders.