



**WISCONSIN TALKING BOOK  
AND BRAILLE LIBRARY**

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**What's New at the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library**

*Formerly known as the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped*

MILWAUKEE – The Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is now the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (the Library). Located in the Milwaukee Public Library's Central Library in downtown Milwaukee, all other contact information remains the same:

Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library  
813 W. Wells St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
414.286.3045 (Milwaukee)  
800.242.8822 (Wisconsin toll free number)  
414.286.3548 (TDD)  
414.286.3102 (FAX)  
lbph@milwaukee.gov  
[regionallibrary.wi.gov](http://regionallibrary.wi.gov)

The Library also has new free digital talking book players and free digital book cartridges for its customers. The digital player and cartridges replace the cassette players and tapes, which have been in use since 1969. One distinct advantage of the new digital format is that an entire book fits onto just one cartridge, instead of a book being separated into numerous cassette tapes. Another improvement is the digital sound quality of each talking book program.

“We at the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library are thrilled to be offering this new technology and products to our users, all at no cost to them,” said librarian-in-charge Meredith Wittmann. “Our Library staff has been busy preparing the new players for distribution and adding new books on cartridges from the National Library Service to share with our patrons statewide”.

The Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library is part of the Talking Book Program of the Library of Congress, and provides FREE Braille and recorded books and playback equipment to Wisconsin residents who for any physical reason cannot read normal print. Circulating materials include recorded items with the digital players, materials in Braille, and audio-described DVDs and videotapes.

At present, the Library serves 5,244 active readers throughout the State of Wisconsin, including 232 children. Service is provided directly to the customer and through 492 schools, libraries, hospitals, nursing homes and other institutions. The Library mails an average of 1000 items per day, and handles an average of 1600 telephone and email inquiries monthly

The Library is funded by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Division for Libraries and Community Learning, and is administered by the Milwaukee Public Library with a staff of 14 full-time employees and 1 part-time.

For more information on the services that the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library provides and who is eligible for these FREE services, go to [www.regionallibrary.wi.gov](http://www.regionallibrary.wi.gov). Librarian Meredith Wittmann is available for interviews about the Library and its many services and products. Please contact Sandy Rusch Walton at 414.286.3032 or [slrusch@milwaukee.gov](mailto:slrusch@milwaukee.gov) to schedule interviews.

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Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities. Make requests to the Library Director's Office at (414)286-3021, 286-2794 (FAX), 286-3062 (TDD), [ADA@mpl.org](mailto:ADA@mpl.org) or Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233 Attn: Accommodation Request.