

SOUTH DAKOTA BRAILLE  
AND TALKING BOOK LIBRARY



# BOOKBAG

Spring 2009

Volume 3, Issue 1

## Notes from the Director

### Alternative Format Textbooks

Alternative format textbooks include: braille, large print, and audio. Today audio books can be analog cassettes, digital CD or digital flash memory. The process of producing alternative format textbooks in all formats, even with all the technology, remains very labor intensive process.

The time line for the completion of a print textbook is three to five years. There are many reviews, editing, moving materials around on the page before the final copy is approved and the printing process begins. These same processes are required for the production of an alternative format copy of the same book. In the good old days a textbook was 70% to 80% text and 20% to 30% graphics, today it is at least 40% graphics and up to 60% if you count all the little boxes of text as graphics. This causes many problems when standard print is converted to another format.

When producing a large print book, time is spent by first breaking the binding or the original book so that each page can then be enlarged individually. After the pages are enlarged, each book must be assembled in the correct order and bound in a hard cover. Soft covers are used for workbooks. A large print textbook may be contained in more than one volume and is produced in either color or black and white.

For Braille the procedures are much more complex. With Braille we not only need to work with the pagination because of the size of the braille cell but also because of the need to produce the graphics in a tactile form for use by the blind student. The development of a tactile graphic can take from a few minutes to a few hours depending on the complexity and the process used to develop the graphic. Depending on the subject and grade level there can be a few graphics to many hundreds of graphics. One braille book volume may take up as much page space as three volumes of a standard print book.

For audio books the process is much the same, with continual review of the audio recording, developing written descriptions for the graphics (as simple a description as possible). Once the master recording is complete, then the student copy is produced, labeled and shipped to the student.

I hope the very basic descriptions above will give you some idea of why we need textbook orders in January for classes that start in September.

## Questions are welcome

If you have any questions about a textbook order that has already been placed for the 2009/2010 school year, or if you want to ask if books have already been ordered, please call Karen Duenwald at 1-800-423-6665.

## Kids InfoBits

Do you know a child who wants to learn how to research, but doesn't have access to a screen reader? Well, with Kids InfoBits, a new Gale InfoTrac database, you can now access a broad range of information including geography, current events, the arts, science, health, people, government, and more.



Kids InfoBits is a database made for especially for beginning researchers in grades K-5. Kids InfoBits lets you hear a document spoken aloud by a computer-generated voice which is available using an audio player which lets you control the voice, or by downloading the entire document as an MP3 file onto your computer or other digital audio player. If you have articles picked out that you want a student to read, the download process would be a great help.

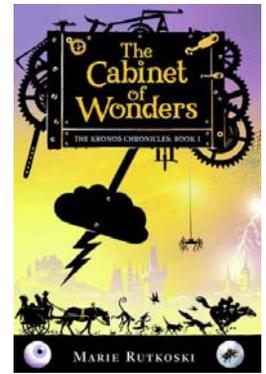
Kids InfoBits is available for your use from a computer in your school without the need the need to log-in or from any other computer using a library card issued by the South Dakota State Library or any other South Dakota Library Network (SDLN) member library.

You can now access this new database through the SD State Library website: <http://library.sd.gov> under the heading of InfoTrac found by scrolling down in the Online Resources "For remote users with library cards" or in "For Library and School Users".

Please let us know if this database would be of use to you or your students and children. We would like to hear any success stories and/or suggestions.

## Newly Added Braille Books

**SDB00294 *The Cabinet of Wonders: The Kronos Chronicles, Book 1*** by: Marie Rutkoski - Twelve-year-old Petra, accompanied by her magical tin spider, goes to Prague hoping to retrieve the enchanted eyes the prince of Bohemia took from her father and is aided in her quest by a Roma boy and his sister. For grades 4-7.

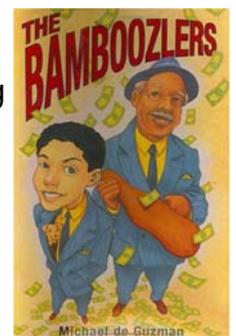


**SDB00296 *In Defiance of Hitler: The Secret Mission of Varian Fry*** by: **Carla Killough McClafferty** - On August 4, 1940, an American magazine editor named Varian Fry flew from New York City to Lisbon, Portugal. He was enroute to Marseilles, France, with \$3,000 in cash taped to his leg beneath his pants, and in his pockets the names of approximately two hundred artists, scientists, and musicians- all enemies of the new Nazi regime. Varian Fry's mission was to help the refugees flee to safety. Thin, bookish, and unassuming, Fry made an unlikely rescue. He had volunteered for the Emergency Rescue Committee's project after witnessing firsthand the horror Adolf Hitler had unleashed upon the Jewish people of Europe. For Grades 5-8.

**SDB00297 *Joey's Head* by: Gladys Cretan** - Mike doesn't mean it when he tells his little brother, Joey, to get lost. But when Mike mixes a homemade brew, Joey disappears- from the neck up. Mike has to find a way to get Joey back to normal before their mother gets home, or she'll have his heart! But how can he undo the brew, when he doesn't even know what was in it? For grades 2- 4.

**SDB00298 *No Dogs Allowed* by: Jane Cutler** - Five-year-old Edward Fraser thinks he's a dog and his older brother, Jason, is none too pleased. Younger brothers are bother enough, but a pet brother is intolerable. Follow along as Edward and Jason get themselves into the craziest of predicaments. For grades 2- 4.

**SDB00299 *The Bamboozlers* by: Michael de Guzman** - Nothing exciting ever happens to 12-year-old Albert Rosegarden until he meets his grandfather for the first time and the pair travel to Seattle, Washington, where Albert becomes a partner in his grandfather's elaborate scheme to "con a con man." For grades 3-6.



**SDB00300 *House of Djinn* by: Suzanne Fisher Staples** - Dismayed fifteen-year-old Californian Jameel learns that he has been designated head of the family in Lahore, Pakistan--and that a marriage with his cousin Mumtaz has been arranged. A "djinni," or spirit, helps him decide between cultures. Sequel to Haveli (RC 42984, BR 10586). For junior and senior high readers.

## New Books Have Been Added to the South Dakota Collection

These are books written by a South Dakotan, are about South Dakota, or are books our readers have requested. To order any listed books for your students, call the SD Braille and Talking Book Library at 1-800-423-6665.

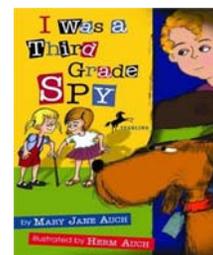
**SD04251 *Bluestem* by: Frances Arrington** - With their father away and their mother traumatized by some unknown event, eleven-year-old Poly and her younger sister are left to take care of themselves and their prairie homestead.



**SD04258 *Rats!* by: Jane Cutler** - In this sequel to *No Dogs Allowed* (SD04202) The Fraser brothers are back in this lighthearted collection of five stories. Now entering fourth grade, Jason decides it's time to find a new look in clothing. He also acquires an unwanted girlfriend whom Mrs. Fraser unwittingly invites to dinner. Edward, a first-grader, faces a pre-Halloween haunted house complete with spaghetti brains and experiences motherhood up close when his pet rat, Spike, who isn't supposed to, has babies.

**SD04259 *When Ratboy Lived Next Door* by: Chris Woodworth** - When his strange family moves into her quiet south Indiana town, sixth-grader Lydia Carson initially despises her new neighbor and classmate, who seems as wild as the raccoon that is his closest companion.

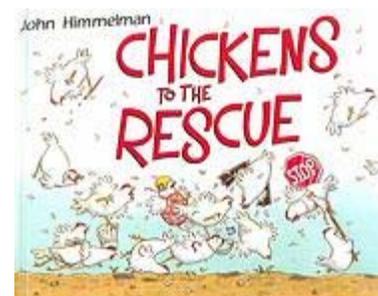
**SD04260 *I Was A Third Grade Spy* by: Mary Jane Auch** - When Brian's dog, Arful, suddenly begins talking, Brian and his two friends send the dog to find out what their classmates are planning for the school talent show.



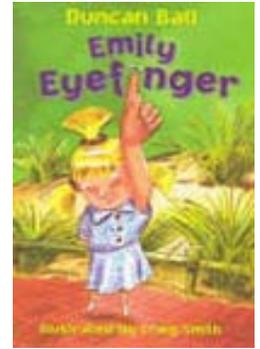
**SD04261 *Stephen Fair* by: Tim Wynne-Jones** - At the age of fifteen, Stephen begins having nightmares like the ones that drove his older brother away from home and eventually the dreams lead to a discovery that is shocking but that ultimately allows his family to come back together.

**SD04262 *Lone Hunter and the Cheyennes* by: Donald Worcester** - Captured by the Cheyenne, two Oglala Sioux boys escape through a blizzard and are saved by a grizzly bear.

**SD04263 *Chickens to the Rescue* by: John Himmelman** - Six days a week the chickens help the Greenstak family and their animals recover from mishaps that occur on the farm, but they need one day to rest.



**SD04264 *Emily Eyefinger* by: Duncan Ball** - Born with an eye on the end of her finger, Emily is--despite the initial concerns of her parents--able to use this unique quality to do good deeds, such as finding lost objects and reforming the class bully.



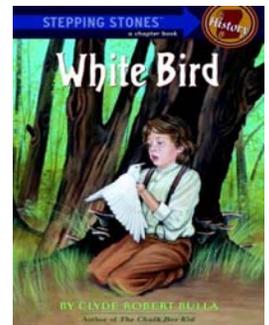
**SD04265 *Best Enemies* by: Kathleen Leverich** - After Felicity trades her nasty tricks for friendship, Priscilla decides she'd rather have Felicity as an enemy.

**SD04269 *The Ghost Witch* by: Betty Wren Wright** - Jenny and her mother are all set to move into old Mrs. Nagle's mansion when Jenny discovers the house is haunted.

**SD004271 *Hilary and the Troublemakers* by: Kathleen Leverich** - A homework-eating owl, an angry piggy bank, several talking sheep, and some snow people help Hilary to make the right decisions at home and at school.

**SD04273 *The Dinosaur Mystery* by: Gertrude Chandler Warner** - When the Aldens go to the Pickering National History Museum to assist with the opening of a dinosaur exhibit, their work is hampered by a series of mysterious happenings.

**SD04277 *Pocahontas and the Strangers* by: Clyde Robert Bulla** - This award-winning biography tells the story of the Indian princess, Pocahontas, who risked her life to save Captain John Smith and to bring peace between the Indians and the English.

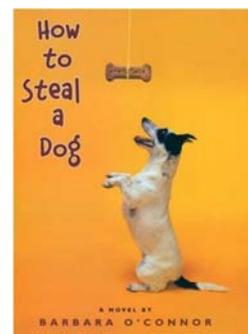


**SD04280 *White Bird* by: Clyde Robert Bulla** - Set in 19th-century rural Virginia, this moving novel follows a backwoods boy as he runs away from home and his harsh guardian in search of a precious pet: a white crow. After many adventures, he returns home to take his first steps into adulthood.

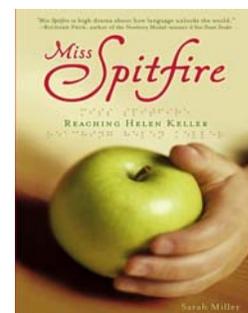
**SD04283 *The Jumping Off Place* by: Marian Hurd McNeely** - In the early 1900s, as four young homesteaders in Tripp County, South Dakota, work hard to prepare for the coming winter, they face drought, discomfort, and sabotaging squatters but find new friends and inner strength to carry on. A Newbery Honor Book.

**SD04302 *Cyrus the Persian* by: Sherman A. Nagel** - an absorbing account of the history of the Jewish people up to the time of their deliverance back to their kingdom, as Cyrus the Persian king came under Divine direction for His own people's sake. In recreating this captivating story, Nagel takes us into the charm of ancient Babylon and the unique cultures of the far east. A story also of heroism and faith on the part of God's people.

**SD04333 *How to Steal a Dog* by: Barbara O'Connor** - Living in the family car in the small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina, desperate to improve their situation and unwilling to accept her overworked mother's calls for patience, persuades her younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward that the owners are bound to offer.



**SD04334 *Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller* by: Sarah Miller** - At age twenty, partially-blind, lonely but spirited Annie Sullivan travels from Massachusetts to Alabama to try and teach six-year-old Helen Keller, deaf and blind since age two, self-discipline and communication skills. Includes historical notes and timeline. Prairie Pasque 2009-2010.



**SD04353 *The Eyes of Darkness* by: Jamake Highwater** - A Santee Sioux Indian named Yesa, after being taken at age sixteen to live among white men, becomes a doctor and then returns to the reservation to live as an Indian.

## Reusable Eye Patches

Reusable Eye Patches from DrPatch is a new product on the market for treating amblyopia or "lazy eye." Children's patches are available with animal and insect illustrations for a set of six at \$19.99. For more information, contact: DrPatch at phone: 877-919-0722 or 450-919-0722; web site: [www.eye-patch-info.com](http://www.eye-patch-info.com).

## APH Tactile Graphic Image Library (TGIL)

There are now free template images available for your use in creating custom tactile graphics! You can register for the APH Tactile Graphic Image Library at: [www.aph.org/tgil/](http://www.aph.org/tgil/)

Hundreds of images in all subject areas are available and more are added every month. The images are great for teachers, transcribers, parents and students. For more details contact Chris Graham at [tgfeedback@aph.org](mailto:tgfeedback@aph.org) or call 800-223-1839.

## Speakaboos - classic stories for children

Looking for a great way to incorporate technology with reading stories while building speaking and listening abilities? Well, look no further. <http://www.speakaboos.com/> is an accessible website where children can go to listen to classic fables, nursery rhymes, etc. that are narrated by several talented celebrities; play games; write in a diary; and, soon will even be able to record their own voices reading or singing.

## Braille Institute Special Collection

Braille Institute has designed a special collection of braille books in order to increase braille literacy by offering blind and visually impaired children the opportunity to order books and create a library of their own.

Families may order up to 12 braille books per year from the catalogs listing more than 1,000 titles encompassing all reading levels. Schools and libraries may participate through the Partners in Literacy Program.

Any visually impaired or blind child who is living in the United States or Canada and is ages 3 to 18 may order from the catalogs.

You may access the seasonal catalogs on the *Braille Institute of America* website at [http://www.brailleinstitute.org/childrens\\_books](http://www.brailleinstitute.org/childrens_books).

To sign up for the Braille Special Collection call toll-free at: 1-800-BRAILLE (272-4553) Phone hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (PST) Or, e-mail at: [ums@brailleinstitute.org](mailto:ums@brailleinstitute.org) Remember to include the full name of the child and/or student, the child's age, home address, telephone number and e-mail address if one is available.

## Weekly Reader Magazine in Large Print and Braille

If you are planning to order Weekly Reader for your students for the 2009/2010 school year, please plan to order it in large print (available in color) or braille for your students who need the alternative formats.

Just call the SD Braille and Talking Book Library to subscribe to one of the following at no cost to you:

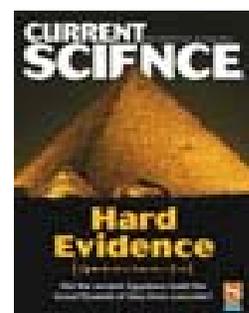
Weekly Reader - 2nd grade or 3rd grade

Senior Weekly - 4th/5th/6th grade

Current Events - 6/10th grade

Current Science - 6/10th grade

Please place your orders for this magazine by the end of June to make sure it is available when school begins.



## Online Educational Tools - Are they Accessible?

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) explored ways in which popular online educational tools can be made more accessible through a survey.

"These popular tools, such as Blackboard, can frequently pose significant barriers to students with vision loss because they do not work well, if at all, with computer programs commonly used by students who are blind or visually impaired to access content displayed on the computer screen."

The survey indicated that the most important features of online educational tools present significant problems for those using assistive technology such as screen readers or screen magnification software.

The Distance Learning Survey results may be found online at:

<http://www.afb.org/section.asp?sectionID=3&TopicID=377&DocumentID=4492>

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## Sound Safari

As seen in the *Visions* newsletter of the Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired through the SD Department of Human Services at <http://dhs.sd.gov/sbvi/>

Sound Safari is a new program offered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Huron, SD. It is designed to share enthusiasm and appreciation for nature with individuals who are blind or visually impaired. A key focus of the program will be teaching participants how to identify birds by the sound of their song. The program will consist of a field trip to Maga Ta-Hohpi Waterfowl Production Area (WPA). This natural area, which is managed by the USFWS specifically for wildlife, is alive with the songs of meadowlarks, sparrows, and many other songbirds. The trail has public restrooms and a half mile of paved trails suitable for wheelchairs, and the field trip will be led by a wildlife biologist who specializes in birding by ear.

The 1<sup>st</sup> program is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. Participants of all ages are welcome to attend (children should be accompanied by an adult). The program will begin at the Huron Area Senior Center (290 7<sup>th</sup> St. SW) in Huron, SD, at 9:00 AM. Please dress appropriately for the outdoors: dress in layers, wear a good pair of walking shoes, and bring sun protection and a water bottle. It is essential that all participants RSVP for this event to allow staff to prepare accordingly. Please RSVP with your name, address, and phone number or e-mail address (so you may be contacted in the chance of a last-minute change in plans due to weather) to Bridgette Flanders-Wanner at (605) 352-5894 Ext. 14 or [Bridgette.Flanders-Wanner@fws.gov](mailto:Bridgette.Flanders-Wanner@fws.gov). Most importantly, be prepared to have a good time!



RECORDING FOR THE BLIND & DYSLEXIC® 20 Roszel Road  
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[www.rfbd.org](http://www.rfbd.org)

## FREE AudioAccess<sup>SM</sup> individual membership for your child!

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are pleased to announce that your child may be eligible to receive one year of digitally recorded audiobooks, including textbooks and literature, **FREE**, from **RFB&D**®.

This free, one-year individual **AudioAccess**<sup>SM</sup> membership entitles your child to access to the more than 46,000 titles of accessible audiobooks in RFB&D's CV Starr Learning Through Listening<sup>®</sup> Library. **This special offer, in celebration of RFB&D's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is made possible by the generous contributions of RFB&D's donors and major funding from the U.S. Department of Education.**

As you know, your child is using RFB&D's accessible audio textbooks in school to learn and grow as a student, developing the confidence he or she will carry through school and beyond. For over 60 years, RFB&D has provided high-quality audiobooks for students with learning and print disabilities. Through your child's school membership, he or she has been accessing the books necessary for classroom success during the school year. With a free **AudioAccess** membership, your child will have independent access to the largest library of unabridged audio textbooks and literature in the U.S. all year long!

**AudioAccess** is our new, fast and easy way to download a book or parts of a book directly to a Microsoft<sup>®</sup> Windows<sup>®</sup>-based computer. Audio files can be synched with compatible portable media players. No specialized playback equipment is required. With unlimited access to our library in your home, your child can explore our extensive library and develop a lifelong love of reading.

Signing up is easy. Just apply online at <https://cuthub.rfbd.org/Registration>. For more information about **AudioAccess**, visit our website [www.rfbd.org](http://www.rfbd.org) and click on the **AudioAccess** logo.

We look forward to serving your child with a **FREE AudioAccess** membership to help build reading confidence, independence and academic success.

Eligibility required. Limited time offer. Enrollment period subject to change without prior notice. Parent or guardian must apply for students under 18. See [www.rfbd.org/membership\\_3.htm](http://www.rfbd.org/membership_3.htm) for details.

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Parent letter Free AA (090126)

## 2009 Summer Reading Program

The Braille and Talking Book Library, with the support of the South Dakota Lion's Foundation, is again offering the Governor's Summer Reading Program for all registered students between the ages of 7 and 15. The program which has a theme of "Be Creative @ Your Library" will run from June 8 through July 17, 2009.

The reader's are broken into age divisions for both braille and recorded format: 7 to 9 years, 10 to 12 years, and 13 to 15 year olds. **Participants can only read recorded or Braille books for the program. No regular print or large print books are allowed.** Participants are required to submit an oral or written book report. Students submitting the most book reports, with or without assistance in writing, will be the winner in their age division. Incentives are mailed throughout the program. The more book reports returned the more prizes they receive. Plaques will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners in the recorded and braille division. The first place winners receive their plaques at an awards program to be held in August. The awards program is attended by the winner's and their family and includes a luncheon and special program.

A registration form for the program may be obtained from the Braille and Talking Book Library. We encourage students to participate as this gives them the opportunity to read books of their choice during the summer. The program may be incorporated into summer school for required reading.

For more information call the Braille and Talking Book Library at 1-800-423-6665 and ask for Mary Sjerven, Summer Reading Program Coordinator.



## 56th Presidential Inaugural Official Guide Book

Available now in both braille and in audio is the 56th Presidential Inaugural Official Guide Book. This historic document includes the event schedule for the 56th inauguration from January 17 to January 20, 2009. It includes a welcome by the Director of the Inaugural Committee, Emmett S. Beliveau, The Mayor of Washington D. C. a quotes from the president-elect and Vice-President Elect as well as the biography of Barack and Michelle Obama and Joseph and Jill Biden. The document covers the program for these dates and other pertinent information.

## Downloadable RFB&D books

You can now download some RFB&D books to your home computer with Windows Media Player or to an MP3 player that can read .WMA files and can read 32 kilobytes (slower than the norm) and is WMA-DRM compatible. The MP3 players that have been checked by RFB&D and are known to work with this download are:

Creative Zen, ZenV, and ZenV plus

SanDisk Sansa e250 and Sansa clip

Sony Walkman NWZ-A815 and NWZ-S615F

Samsung YP-K3, YP-P2, and YP-T10

The Apple Ipod and the Microsoft Zune do not download these audio files.

## Better Vision Lamp Kit

The American Printing House for the Blind is now selling the *Better Vision Lamp Kit*. The kit contains both the *Better Vision Lamp* and the lighting guide called *What Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments Need to Know about Lighting*.

*The Lighting Guide* (book) is also sold separately and is available as a free download for the Braille ready file. The book presents information, based upon the latest research, about light and its physical properties. It shows the consumer how to judge what kind of light is best for a given student or situation. The *Better Vision Lamp* was developed between an inventor and APH staff to provide the best kind of light possible for most students with visual impairments. It uses a 27 watt 2700L, compact fluorescent tube which has no blue or ultraviolet light emissions.

The BOOKBAG, published quarterly, is our means of communication with parents, teachers, and schools that utilize textbooks and educational materials in alternative format. The BOOKBAG is available in Braille, in large print, on cassette, or on a diskette upon request and is posted on our website: <http://library.sd.gov/b&tb/>

If you have any questions or comments you would like to address, or wish to request this newsletter in alternative format, please contact the Braille and Talking Book Library.

The South Dakota Braille and Talking Book Library does not endorse any product or service listed in this newsletter.

- Karen Duenwald, Educational Materials Coordinator