

Volunteers for the South Dakota State Library, Braille & Talking Book Program

Volunteering with the South Dakota State Library Braille and Talking Book Program is an interesting, rewarding experience that produces materials that benefit South Dakotans who are unable to read standard print. Volunteers with the Braille and Talking Book Program work in our recording studios. By donating their time and energy, volunteers make an invaluable contribution to thousands of South Dakotans.

The South Dakota State Library has two volunteer recording studios. These studios are located at the MacKay Building, 800 Governors Drive, Pierre and at Siouxland Libraries' Main Library, 200 N. Dakota Ave., Sioux Falls.

There are two positions available to volunteers in the recording studio: Reviewer and Narrator.

The reviewer operates the Media Player software to listen to the recorded material. The reviewer's job is to insure a quality recording by scouring the recording for errors in narration, unwanted noises from the recording booth, and general misrepresentation of the author's intent. The reviewer's objective criticisms are crucial to the production.

The narrator presents the text of the book in a professional, yet conversational manner. The narrator must prepare for each session by researching pronunciations of difficult works, and practicing awkward phrases. The narrator is the only member of the production team that cannot be replaced because he or she must read the book from start to finish. Every volunteer who is interested in being a narrator must pass an audition. The audition consists of reading two selections: one that contains dialogue and the other narrative.

We are focusing on recruiting and training volunteer reviewers as we plan to begin submitting books recorded in our studios to the National Library Service (NLS) Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) website. Locally produced digital talking books must meet NLS standards before being uploaded to the network site.

South Dakota produced braille books are already available on BARD.

Braille & Talking Book Program – recording studio volunteer narrators

Pierre Volunteer Narrators

Carol Axtman
Jean Luidahl
Twila Merkwon
Lola Schreiber

Sioux Fall Narrators

Paula Boehmer
Lee Burd
Michael Costanzo
Donna Dreisen
Christine Fravel
Sarah Fravel
Timothy Goettsch
Becky Jansa
Brianna Leesch
Tom Roberts

<http://library.sd.gov/BTB/volunteers.aspx>

Pierre Recording Studio – State Library, MacKay Building









Sioux Falls Recording Studio – Main Downtown Branch of Siouxland Libraries











