



TRAVERSE AREA DISTRICT  
LIBRARY

Talking Book Library  
Annual Report to the Antrim county Board of Commissioners  
September 2019

TADL's Talking Book Library provides people with temporary or permanent low vision, blindness, or a physical disability that prevents them from reading or holding the printed page in eight northwestern Michigan counties with audio players, audiobooks, audio magazines, sheet music, and braille materials through a federally mandated program, the National Library Service, overseen by the Library of Congress.

The service is completely free, and materials are shipped directly to our patrons and are returned via the U.S. Postal Service's "Free Matter for the Blind" program. Nearly 80 percent of our patrons are those who have lost their vision due to age-related issues such as macular degeneration and diabetes; they often have few or no other options for education and entertainment aside from television and radio. Talking Book Library services provide an engaging and informative alternative through the convenience of their mailbox.

Finances - Calendar and fiscal year 2019:

<b>Projected revenue</b>	
Local funds (TADL millage, county contributions, donations)	\$21,907
State Aid	\$41,073
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$63,610</b>
<b>Projected expenses</b>	
Personnel	\$58,035
Services	\$4,025
Supplies and capital expense	\$1,550
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$63,610</b>

**Programs:**

The Talking Book Library is open Monday-Friday from 9:00am - 5:00pm, excluding holidays and staff training days. In 2018, the library circulated over 47,000 titles, visited at least one venue in each of the eight counties we serve, and offered a monthly book discussion, a holiday open house, a World Sight Day program, and ongoing one-on-one technology tutorials. We also piloted a small senior outreach program that includes regular monthly visits to area senior living facilities, providing reference and circulation services.

During 2018, TBL staff visited the following facilities in Antrim County:

Antrim County Commission on Aging Summer Picnic  
Bellaire Public Library  
Mancelona Township Library

**Circulation:**

The Talking Book Library circulated 3,285 items to our 43 Antrim County patrons during the past 12 months. Patrons in Antrim County continue to increase their use of the BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) digital service, which allows patrons to download titles on demand, providing great freedom and flexibility to meet their reading needs. Over 100,000 books, magazines, and musical scores are available for immediate download.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly O'Shea, MLS  
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