

NLS Telephone Forum - 11-30-2011
(paraphrased)

Comment: (Bob Fistick - NLS)

Thank you very much. Welcome everybody. I heard that we had 37 (participants) on the line, which is a great number. So you all must have had a good Thanksgiving and we're ready for our conversation this afternoon. I'm going to turn it over to Carolyn Sung. She's got a few announcements - and then we're going to take some questions.

Comment: (Carolyn Sung - NLS)

Hello everybody. I hope everybody's good, I wanted to say thank you. We appreciate the really good response on the statistics. The readership and circulation reports have mostly all been filed. We will be compiling them in December and no doubt will be sharing some of this with you in January (to) get some real idea of how the analog to digital has gone this year. We won't have an Open Forum in December. We talked this over with the Conference Chairs yesterday... we decided we would forego that and do the conference call in January...and what we plan to do in January is to have a little reporting from Jane Caulton and the Public Education and Outreach group, on what they have come up with so far. So, that's what we'll be looking forward to in January. We're still being paid through December 16. The Library of Congress is operating under a "continuing resolution." We hope we'll be paid for Christmas. The budget uncertainty in Washington (DC) I'm sure is in your area too. Just want you to know that the Director position - the recruitment closed the 21 or 22nd and so as far as we know it's progressing, and it does take a little time to go through the paperwork and do the interviews and so forth and so on, but we're still looking forward to one day having a new director. Only two other things: I hope (that) you all noticed the announcement about the Westerns Bibliography. We'll be talking about bibliographies with Richard in a bit... and I hope you all have been getting some tear-off returns from the Institutional postcard mailings. I think what we'll do before we take questions is, the question that was posed by Richard on the line - we had an opportunity to prepare for it Mike Martys and (Bob) Axtell and Judy Dixon have information for you about the integration of Web Braille into BARD, and how that is going to happen.

Comment: (Michael Martys - NLS)

Just a recap. The question we received from Richard had to do with: What should libraries do about links on their own web pages that point to Web Braille and how will the incorporation of Web Braille into BARD affects those links? The first part of the answer has to do with a bit of an explanation about links, and something that we call "handles." You need to understand that before we give you the rest of the answer. I'm going to let Bob Axtell talk a little bit about links, and how the links are used in Voyager and, what a "handle" is and how is it used.

Comment: (Bob Axtell - NLS)

Okay. Thank you Mike. When we started putting Web Braille... or that's to say, when we started distributing full MARC records... we realized we should have a persistent link. The link would be going out on the record - to your local systems and in fact...some of them are using them now. So, the Library of Congress is using a system called "handles." The function is something of an intermediary and, it allows the link to persist, even if the actual physical address of the digital resource changes. You might think of it as a "drop box" or a redirect or something like that. While we do expect the addresses to change for those books, the links that are used in Voyager and the full MARC records you download, will remain perfectly good... And now to speak very directly to Richard's question,... the links follow a very definite pattern - I mean the handles, that is, and once you look at a few Voyager records in the MARC display, you'll see what it is..., but that's what you have to do. Look up on Voyager, any Web Braille book, go to the MARC display, go to the 856 field at the bottom, and that's the form your link will need to take (<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.nls/br.<book number>>) followed by a lower case "v" and the volume number with the leading zeroes... and this will also be true for the Digital Talking Books - they also currently have handles, and they will persist.

Comment: (Michael Martys - NLS)

So, a little bit more on the answer then. What Bob is basically saying is that there are two links for Web Braille. There's something that is called a "handle" which is persistent and never has to change and then there's the real link that actually points to the Web Braille server. All libraries who use the handles in their local web pages, you're covered. You don't have to do anything. Whenever we make the change, the handles are automatically going to change. Your local pages will point to the new location. But for those libraries that actually use the links that point to the real Web Braille server, you actually should start the process of converting your links to the handles now. You probably have 3 months to do it before we actually switch to Web Braille. We're looking at early March as the date of the actual (change) over - and at that day, even if you didn't get everything done and switch to the handles, you won't be out of luck. We're going to keep the old links working for at least three more months after that, but the older links will be using the old Web Braille account and old passwords - so we don't want people to use those for much longer. They should start switching over to the new BARD link. So, the goal would be that as soon as you possibly can, start switching your links to the handle form, and then, you don't have to worry about the actual cut-over date. And your target for that should be the beginning of March.

Comment: (Bob Axtell - NLS)

Just to add one quick caveat. We have networked Web Braille in Voyager now. I want the handles to at least reflect the book number somewhere in there and add some predictability. Networked Web Braille once it's moved to BARD will be getting a new book number system. I may change the handles for those. I'm not sure anyone would be citing those now anyway. Just in case...

Comment: (Judy Dixon - NLS)

I just wanted to say a word about the change over to Web Braille. We're going to be sending out an Operations Alert, but in the next week or two, we will be putting a notice on the Web Braille site. If you go to <http://www.loc.gov/nls/braille>, which is kind of the primary Web Braille site, there will be a notice there that tells people that we will be merging Web Braille with BARD and that they need to go and get a BARD username and password. But we are aware that a lot of people never go to that site. They don't actually need to, to get Web Braille resources. They can get them through the catalog and through braille book review, so we may be missing a fair number of people, so if you are aware of users that you know use Web Braille but for whatever reason are not BARD users...they still need to get a BARD username and password to continue to use Web Braille. You might want to start letting them know. We'll be sending out Operations Alerts about this.

Question: (Jennifer R. - TX)

Hello I'm wondering whether or not the books that patrons download from the Web Braille portion of BARD are going to be integrated into the statistics that are sent to the libraries. Or will it be separate?

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)

Well, the statistics - we're going to be sending out an (Operations) Alert as soon as we have the new format of the statistics files ready to share with you but what's going to basically be happening is that, the reports that we send you out of BARD will be modified to include Web Braille materials. As you can tell there will probably be a new column or two in the report to indicate whether the item is audio or braille. You'll be receiving an Op Alert with a description of what the changes are, and mockups of the new report. We are not going to be incorporating historical Web Braille data, meaning...whenever we switch...the statistics will start tracking Web Braille downloads (as of then). But it will not include (prior statistics).

Question: (Eileen M. - MA)

It came to light earlier this month that the version of the BARD Network Library Handbook on the BARD Training Site is no longer up to date with regard to the revised language on the pledge screen. Can this be updated?

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)

Yes it will. We're actually starting substantial modifications to those materials that are necessary to support Web Braille, so there will be a pretty big update to all those materials.

Question: (Christie Briggs - MT)

Good afternoon everyone. We were trying to remember, what is the new BARD update schedule for adding new books to BARD?

Answer: (Michael Martys - NLS)

We presently don't have a schedule. Whenever they ask us, we try to tell people, "we don't have a schedule" because we don't want people to think that it occurs every day at a particular time. That being said, we try to do it every Friday, and we are working on trying to do it every day. We try to do magazines every day. As soon as we get them we try to put them up. Right now books are every Friday.

Question: (Christie Briggs - MT)

When you do updates, (with Web Braille) is BARD going to be down for substantial periods of time?

Answer: (Michael Martys - NLS)

It should be actually a "rolling" update, which means when it occurs they'll just magically show up and, the only downside might be you'll be looking at the most recently added books and then you'll hit refresh and all of a sudden it's updated.

Question: (Jennifer R. - TX)

(Will you) do one column with the book prefix and one column with the book number (Web Braille)?

Answer: (Michael Martys - NLS)

We're actually writing a document ...We've got to figure out how to handle the case when people download volumes and not the entire item. We have resolved how we will handle that in the statistics and we're going to be sending out an update.

Comment: (Judy Dixon - NLS)

The decision was made that, within BARD.. (the file) will come zipped like the audio books do now. So if there are multiple volumes all those volumes will be zipped and that file will be named similarly to the way audio books are named. If they get their books from Braille Book Review or from the catalog, they will be served individual volumes with the...extensions the way Web Braille comes now. The only difference will be they will need to log in with their BARD username and password instead of their Web Braille username and password.

Question: (Jennifer R. - TX)

(With magazines) are we going to revert to using the magazine code rather than the magazine title?

Answer: (Michael Martys - NLS)

Yes. One of the requests that we had was that not only would we give you the title of the magazine that was downloaded, plus the prefix that tells you which type, we will actually give you the CMLS code for the magazine as well. That will be covered too in the magazine statistics changes.

Question: (Richard Smith - MO)

Is there is an electronic Westerns bibliography? Does it have links to BARD?

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)

Yes (to both) it has hot links to both digital books and BARD (and braille books).

Question: (Jerome Cummings - LA)

How will we get our Web Braille into KLAS?

Answer: (Bob Axtell - NLS)

Everything that goes into Web Braille we'll have a PICS MARC record for, but it won't have the links (which) only appear on the full MARC records. They will be available (on the bibliographic download).

Comment: (Sharon Ruda - IL)

We have not received any of the tear-offs back.

Comment: (Carolyn Sung - NLS)

I hope you will get some next week...

No more questions or comments.

Comment: (Library Staff - NLS)

Okay. Thank you everybody. Have a good holiday and we'll talk with you in January.