

NOTE: Profound apologies are in order. Because of minor technical difficulties, the recording started approximately one minute late (I will endeavor to use a more reliable digital recording setup in the coming weeks)...

Comment: (Steve Prine - NLS)

...If libraries still had RC's on hand, they've gotten approval to dispose of before March of this year, and I've gotten a number of responses and, we're compiling that. The contract has been signed, so we're at the point now where we're trying to determine how many mailing cards we need to acquire and how quickly we can get them, so that will be the next step, but our goal is to acquire them as quickly as possible, get them out to the libraries so you can begin disposing of the RC's – the ones that were ready to go before the March cycle but also the ones that have gone through XESS since the March cycle. That would include the ones that are going through the cycle this month in August.

Currency Readers: We continue to work with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and we're getting closer to resolving all the little issues that are involved in that. A question that has come up from a library is that they're getting requests from other agencies for Currency Readers for demonstration purposes. That had not been considered to date in our discussions with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. At this point, we would say "no" but we will bring this up with them in the next week or so...to see what their feelings are on that. We do expect that the Currency Readers for the Network Libraries will begin (being) mailed to the Network after Labor Day. So, hopefully the first or second week of September. Each regional, sub-regional, advisory outreach center and machine lending agency will receive two Currency Readers each, for demonstration and display purposes.

Question: (Richard Smith - NLS)

We've had quite a number sign up for that haven't we? Steve, what was that number?

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)

As of Friday, there were 2,102 people on Webnet – that have requested Currency Readers.

Comment: (Steve Prine - NLS)

Two other things: We continue to work with PIMMS. We're doing alpha testing with three Network libraries and a Multi-State center – and they have moved from that, into alpha testing on Web READS. We're on schedule with that. At this point, we still expect to implement PIMMS in October – if no problems arise that can't be corrected easily.

Comment: (Richard Smith - NLS)

If Barbara, Ruth and Sue don't find more problems during their testing. They've been doing a great job for us.

Comment: (Steve Prine - NLS)

The network database: We're continuing to work on finalizing a network database that will be easier for libraries to submit information to. We have done some beta-testing with some Network Libraries and we hope to begin – after Labor Day – to notify libraries of passwords and I.D.s. We're moving from library-specific passwords and I.D.s to individual-specific password and I.D. at the library. So, we'll send out those temporary passwords and I.D.s so that libraries can get started. We hope to have this by the middle of September. The only other thing I have is that there was an Operations Alert. Talking Book Topics order form is reverting back to following the content of the titles in TBT, based on library suggestions and patron concerns. We expect that to happen with the September-October issue.

Question: (Danielle Miller - WA)

Hello everybody. I'm just wondering if you have any idea about the timeline for the new instruction manuals for UEB?

Answer: (Judy Dixon - NLS)

They're expecting them to be ready in January.

Question: (Sue Chinault - MI)

Thank you. I'm in Michigan and we have a small group around the table here. We just had a meeting of our Sub-regionals and AOC's. One of the things that came up is the Currency Reader, and who qualifies. We're just wanting to verify. Is it only people who have a visual disability and are blind? Or is it open to everyone who is a patron of our service?

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)

Blind and/or visually-impaired, which means they're unable to read regular print.

Question: (Sue Chinault - MI)

The next question concerning the Currency Reader is: I know two devices are going to each regional. Is that also going to each sub-regional or AOC?

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)

Yes. Each regional, sub-regional and AOC.

Question: (Susan Roberts - FL)

Hi. I have one question for Steve: On the RC XESS, we have heretofore used pallets that we seal completely shut and ship them that way. Will we be able to do the same thing – going to the new contractor?

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)

There is the possibility. I need to get with you offline to talk about that.

Question: (Andrea Clarkson - OR)

Hello. I have two questions and, my first question concerns the battery charger adapters. I'm asking this on behalf of the Equipment Coordinator here. Is it possible to get a couple more of those?

Answer: (John Brown - NLS)

This is John. We have an order pending in our Contracting Office to buy more of those. Right now, we're out. Once our Contracting Office executes the order, the manufacturer will build them and then we'll have them in stock again. Honestly, I don't know when that's going to happen but I would hope that we get them back in stock within the next couple of months. We'll put out information once they're here.

Question: (Andrea Clarkson - OR)

Thank you. I'll pass that along. And then, my second question is about the XESS. When we receive permission to ship those out, are we all going to be able to ship at once or, are you going to stagger it?

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)

Once you get the cards, you can do it on your schedule. I can't say exactly when you're going to get your cards. It depends on how many we're able to purchase and how quickly we can get them. We want to give everybody an opportunity to begin to get rid of stuff.

Question: (Barbara Penegor - KY)

Hello. Back in January when 'Popular Communications' folded, you said you were going to try to identify another magazine to take its place. Has that occurred yet?

Answer: (Ed O'Reilly - NLS)

The short answer to your question is "no." We did a survey. We were hoping for recommendations and, we have received none. We are considering replacing it with publications such as 'Popular Science' which is off the mark obviously. It has nothing to do with amateur radio or, perhaps only sporadically. Once again, we welcome suggestions. It's not too late.

Comment: (Barbara Penegor - KY)

We'll check with our patrons to see if they have suggestions themselves.

Comment: (Ed O'Reilly - NLS)

Send anything to me at eore@loc.gov.

Question: (Ruth Hemphill - TN)

Hello there. I have a question about the Currency Readers for agencies – just a verification. So even if it's an agency that is registered with us, we should not sign them up for one, correct?

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)

Correct.

Question: (Ruth Hemphill - TN)

Someone talked about the battery adapter and – I'm just throwing this out there – we're getting an awful lot of calls from patrons. We send them a player and it announces 29 hours of charge time but when they get them (the players don't) have that. We've got the adapter and tester and we've been testing them but we're still getting a lot of problems with batteries and I wondered if it's just us or if others are having (problems). A man I talked to just before I came up here said he had just gotten one – it worked for about 2 hours and then didn't work. He plugged it in. It worked for a little while and now it won't work plugged in.

Answer: (John Brown - NLS)

We work with a few libraries on their check-out procedures so it's possible you're not fully charging the battery once it's going out... I'll speak with Larry and Kevin. We'll get some more details and come up with something for you.

Question: (John Mugford - NM)

Hi Steve. I'm trying to get a little more information on the RC XESS. Am I correct in the understanding that there are two agencies that are going to be receiving the RCs?

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)

That is correct.

Question: (John Mugford - NM)

Obviously all of us have an interest in knowing when we can send the RCs out, and in many instances, we've been storing large amounts for many months. The western region was in the March cycle which of course is not being asked to provide data at this time. When did the breakdown in receipts begin to occur?

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)

The discontinuance of shipping RCs to a place for disposal started in March. XESS has continued each month and libraries have continued to offer books in XESS. We probably have over a million that can be disposed of once we acquire the mailing cards and send them to the libraries. But it has

Question: (John Mugford - NM)

Okay, so when New Mexico, for example, submitted its XESS data toward the end of March, that did go forth for claims by other libraries, as I recall. So that data has essentially been processed.

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)

That is correct. There are disposal lists and you probably actually got them. What is being held up is that up until this week we didn't have a location to which they can be sent. Now that we have that, we will acquire the mailing cards, send them to the libraries so they can begin sending the books for disposal.

Question: (John Mugford - NM)

I see. So, although there are two agencies to receive the RCs, you say they'll be going to one address? I'm a bit confused on that.

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)

It's going to be divided. We are going to purchase mailing cards with both addresses. Some will go to some libraries, some will go to others.

Question: (John Mugford - NM)

Will it be based on region, or some other factor?

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)

Whimsy I think at the moment John.

Question: (John Mugford - NM)

I had one other question – more of a general collection development question. It's based on an article I read in the Santa Fe New Mexican in which some local authors...the writer says were influential in moving the Hachette agreement toward donations to NLS. This had something to do with Amazon, Hachette and what have you. It created the thought in my mind as to what extent the publishers were donating – or obliged to continue to donate these books for an indefinite amount of time – and what the limits may be on the extent of their donations.

Answer: (Alice O'Reilly - NLS)

Basically, we just have non-binding agreements with publishers who are willing to provide their audio files to us free of charge. So, the "out" clauses are basically a 30-day out for either side. Just an agreement – almost similar to the Network Library arrangement I suppose, in that we agree that this is beneficial for each party and that's how we've reached this agreement. There is no requirement and there's no obligation for them to continue anything...

Question: (John Mugford - NM)

And, are there currently any limits? Because I have the press release for Hachette from over a year ago mentioning (releasing) select...

Answer: (Alice O'Reilly - NLS)

I can't speak to any articulated limits at the moment. The chance that an author would have an agreement with Hachette that would prevent them from being able to do something like this – so that maybe there would be a limitation on something like rights or something like that – so I think that it's probably a conservative way to construct an agreement – to say that there's a possibility that certain things would be limited, rather than to speak too broadly and have to go back and edit it.

Question: (John Mugford - NM)

And one other question related to the list and perhaps this has been asked before: I know some libraries have expressed concerns in the fact that a number of these commercially-donated books are unrated. Also, some libraries have expressed an interest in perhaps attempting to do some ratings on their own. Is there any way that the libraries can get a list of the unrated titles ahead of distribution?

Question: (Alice O'Reilly - NLS)

Greater than a copy allotment list? Ahead of distribution...

Answer: (Michael Katzmann - NLS)

You will get a copy allotment notification, and that's before we send them to the publishers – so that is the most timely information that you'll get.

Question: (John Mugford - NM)

Okay. We would have to pull the titles individually, based on a search of the list for 'unrated,' correct?

Answer: (Alice O'Reilly - NLS)

(Yes).

Question: (John Mugford - NM)

Typically, what is the average length of time between the allotment list and the distribution time? What would be the earliest time of distribution after being on the allotment list?

Answer: (Michael Katzmann - NLS)

It varies depending on where in the cycle it comes in. You're probably looking at the minimum of 6 weeks.

Question: (Susan Hammer-Schneider - ND)

Hi. My question is: How far are you into the retro? When will that finish up?

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)

I think this morning I saw the figure 22,000 remaining, at the rate of 350 per month. I can't do that in my head, but someone at our table can. I think it will be 4 or 5 years. At a certain point, we'll be scraping the bottom of the barrel and probably doing the equivalent of weeding.

Question: (Sharon Ruda - IL)

How're you guys doing out there? I have a question. Some of you may not have seen this email. I've gotten it just probably when you were all at lunch...I'm just going to read it to you: "Since cassette books are essentially being phased out in 2015, will foreign-language books become a higher priority in recording? We've signed up 3 patrons in the last several weeks who read only Latvian, and a couple who read only Russian. There are not that many books available and they're only on cassette and not in BARD. I know we will probably still be able to get them from Multi State but are concerned for these smaller language populations. This is new for several of us here since we have not worked with foreign language populations much in the past.

Answer: (David Fernandez-Barral - NLS)

...The reply to the question basically – we've had a project going on for a while now which I've called FL2.0 which is basically a reviving of the BARD offerings – the digital foreign-language offerings – and we've converted a number of titles, we've purchased a number of titles, we've identified 20 different languages and we have things lined up to post. Unfortunately, I've had a series of delays. I was hoping to have stuff posted by February of this year, and a series of things have transpired that have made that not happen. The good news is, we have somebody that is going to be detailed from the Library of Congress' Motion Picture, Broadcast and Recorded Sound division who will be helping me with digitizing and posting some of the pieces that are missing. Regarding Latvian in particular, I've identified about 12 titles that will be part of this upgrade, and there are other ones that are in the Multi State Center.

In terms of your larger question (as to) are priorities going to be made? That, I don't know. That's a larger policy question but in regard to what we're trying to put up – at least from the Collection Development side – absolutely, we're trying to get it up. So, I'm assuming by the end of the year or by early next year you're going to see a wider number of foreign language titles that are available and once the pipeline opens, hopefully we'll be able to post things. We have the processes. We have the ability to do it. Beside myself, we just don't have a lot of the resources to do all this. Part of the problem involves cataloguing the titles. I'm trying to make a point of including multilingual annotations, so that hopefully when everything is up and running, we'll be able to have truly international, truly multilingual records and titles available to patrons, as is appropriate for a national library service.

Question: (Sharon Phillips - NY)

Hello everyone. Not to beat this to death but, this question goes back to the RC XESS and it's from my circulation supervisor. She asks: Must we place a new card in each RC that we have already pulled and that is ready for disposal. Instead, can we place them in mailing bags with a letter that lists their new correct mailing address and then put the correct label on the outside of the bag...it would make sending the backlog...so much easier.

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)

A postal mailing bag cannot be used as the primary container. It just moves mail. It cannot be used as a container itself. Obviously this is a situation that probably some other libraries are going to run into also, so, we probably need to talk about this to see if there's anything that we can do to help you resolve it.

Question: (Susan Roberts - FL)

A follow up to John's question about equipment: We have also had a rash of calls from patrons who have received a new machine that we had charged up to 29 hours. We checked it before we put the shipping label on it and, they get the machine and it works for an hour and dies. So, we're also having that problem here in Florida.

Answer: (John Brown - NLS)

Again, if you want to shoot me an email – either you or your machine person – with contact info, we'll go through exactly what you're doing and give you some advice on how to correct the problem.

Question: (Sue Chinault - MI)

In our Network meeting today, the question of blank cartridges for downloading-on-demand came up and I know that that was discussed at the National Conference and I'm wondering if there's anything that you can update us on the status of making those available.

Answer: (Michael Katzmann - NLS)

They will be ordered from the manufacturer as soon as the new budget comes through and we have money to order those, which will be early October (so) we're probably looking at early in the new calendar year, when they'll start arriving. My colleague Mr. Smith across the table here is going to work out a schedule of which libraries get what cartridges.

Question: (Sue Chinault - MI)

One more question concerning that: Who qualifies for getting that? Is it just the regional? A sub-regional? An AOC?

Answer: (Richard Smith - NLS)

Those are questions we're going to figure out. Thanks for asking that. We're going to talk about it.

Comment: (Sue Chinault - MI)

Our AOC's – since we have 9 of them at this point – are mandated to download books on demand, since they don't have a collection, and so it would be an especially appropriate thing for them to have.

Question: (Ruth Hemphill - TN)

Do we have any idea as to how many we will be getting?

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)

More than two (laughter).

Comment: (Ruth Hemphill - TN)

The reason I originally pressed the button to talk was just to say I'm thankful BARD is back up again.

Comment: (Steve Prine - NLS)

The exact quantity of cartridges we'll purchase is still up in the air. We have money but because the price changes for memory, we won't know.

Question: (Ruth Hemphill - TN)

Will it be based on how many patrons we have?

Answer: (Michael Katzmann - NLS)

Logically, it would be based on the number of patrons you have. Considering the funds we have available, you could – on a ballpark figure – say about ten percent of the normal number of cartridges you would receive in regular books in a year in allocations. That would be the order of what would be available next year for these cartridges.

Comment: (Richard Smith - NLS)

The Midlands earlier asked for three percent, so we're doing a lot better than that.

Comment: (Andrea Clarkson - OR)

Rather than a question, I have a suggestion: The order form for the Talking Book Topics be changed to the request form. We've been working hard with our patrons here to try to get them to understand that in ordering things from us they're actually making requests. It would really help if the Talking Book Topics form reflected that language also.

Question: (Jane Caulton - NLS)

What's the difference?

Answer: (Andrea Clarkson - OR)

Let's say you go to Amazon and you order a movie and it's delivered to you the next day if you pay for overnight shipping. You go to a restaurant and you order a meal. Order kind of (connotes) involving money. "Request" is where you make a selection and you may have to wait.

Comment: (Jane Caulton - NLS)

We'll take it into consideration. Thank you.

Question: (Kim Robertson - VA)

I'm changing things up because I don't have any RC XESS to ask about. Given that we're about to transition to WebREADS, I am wondering whether or not there's going to be any training materials/manual type stuff that (will be) coming along with the move to the web-based system.

Answer: (Paula Bahmani - NLS)

I am working with a representative at Data Management to develop training materials for WebREADS and, we're going to put together a schedule of how we're going to do the transition so that you guys are comfortable before you're off and running.

Question: (Kim Robertson - VA)

Okay. I'm less concerned about the transition than I am about the fact that I don't work Wednesdays. Someone is covering for me one day a week – and if we're transitioning from old and clunky to newer, whether or not the materials...or...a help button is going to work...so there could be some DIY...that people could do on their own.

Answer: (Paula Bahmani - NLS)

If there is a 'help' button, trust me it's going to work.

Question: (Kim Robertson - VA)

Then the question is: Is there a 'help' button?

Answer: (Steve Prine - NLS)

To be determined...but that will also be backed up by the WebREADS hotline.

Question: (Christie Briggs - MT)

Hi. This question is for Judy Dixon. Are there any more beta-testers needed for the BARD app? Or is that closed?

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)

Judy just stepped out, but she is taking names. Send her who you have and, we'll comb through the list.

Question: (Ruth Hemphill - TN)

A follow up to Christie's question: I was at the Tennessee Council of the Blind meeting. A couple of the members claimed that they were told at the National Conference – and I realize that what they were told and what they claim they were told are two different things. They claim they were told the Android app should be out before Thanksgiving. Any thoughts on that?

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)

Did they say what year? (laughter)... Our internal deadline is by the end of the calendar year and...things are looking good.

Question: (Scott Norris - MI)

My question is about the BARD Mobile app. Do we have any idea when the subsequent version is coming out?

Question: (Neil Bernstein - NLS)

We are nearly ready to start the beta for version 1.1. Are you asking about 1.1 or what may follow it?

Answer: (Scott Norris - MI)

1.1, yes.

Answer: (Neil Bernstein - NLS)

We're doing the run up to the beta test right now. We don't anticipate this being a long beta. ...We have some testing to do on the server side before we can start that beta.

Question: (Scott Norris - MI)

So that means June of 2015 instead of December 31st of 2015?

Answer: (Neil Bernstein - NLS)

I think it's likely to be (earlier than that) but...(unintelligible)

Comment: (Richard Smith - NLS)

That sounds about it. Well, we thank you and we're going to wrap it up and...we'll see you in September. Have a good day!

No More questions or comments.