

Comment: (Vickie Collins - NLS)

Well, good afternoon to everyone in the Network. This is Vickie Collins, Head of the Network Services section – and I'm standing in for Richard Smith, Network Chief – who may be out there on the telephone call someplace, currently working at another location - so we're going to start out with just a few announcements. Judy?

Comment: (Judy Dixon - NLS)

Thanks Vickie. I am really pleased to tell everyone – probably most of you know, but – the legislation that was HR-5227...passed both the Senate and the House. So, this now authorizes NLS to create producers on any format so, it removes the obstacles to creating a braille display for patrons. We're beginning the process of thinking about how to go about this and, we're really hoping to have something soon.

Comment: (Andrew Skinner - NLS)

Hi. Andrew Skinner from Production Control. An Ops Alert is forthcoming. It's in the review process right now, but I wanted to give everybody a 'heads-up' that due to some contractual issues, we have to shut down cartridge and container recycling. So, any shipments lined up to be sent to ForSight need to be canceled, even if they're already approved. We need to shut those off until further notice. This should work itself out – hopefully quickly but, for now recycling of cartridges and containers is turned off from ForSight.

Comment: (Michelle Spezzacatena - NLS)

This is Michelle Spezzacatena from Reference. I have an announcement from Meredith saying that the Spanish application has been posted on the NLS website, so it's ready to go. And also – from myself – that the PIMMS transition is still on schedule, that everyone should be moved over by September 30th.

Comment: (Paula Bahmani - NLS)

I wanted to talk for a second about BARD Express. As most of you know, the Library has accepted the donation of BARD Express, which we were formerly referring to as the BARD Media Manager. The Windows-based software is designed to simplify searching for and downloading audio titles from BARD and also transferring them to a cartridge for playback. We're still in the beta-testing phase but, I wanted to let you know that we're planning to roll out BARD Express using the same model as we used with the mobile apps. And that is, that there will be resources online for Network Libraries, in the BARD training area. We'll also have the BARD Express "How-to" video series on YouTube and, we will have a preview of the software for Network Library staff. We expect the preview to last about two weeks and, at that time we'll have either a conference call or a webinar to demonstrate the software and field questions.

Question: (Library Staff - NLS)

Will there be an Ops Alert on it?

Answer: (Paula Bahmani - NLS)

Yes. We're not quite there yet.

Comment: (Vickie Collins - NLS)

I have just a couple of short announcements and then we'll go around the table to see who is here on the NLS side. I just wanted to remind everybody who HAS done the migration to PIMMS – that that means that you would no longer be using CMLS. So, you want to make sure to let all staff members know that once you've made that transition to PIMMS, you would not be using CMLS. And another announcement is that...we are changing the PICS password – and this project is almost completed. That means that every library should have sent in a list of people and their emails – who would be using those passwords – and unless you were on that list you would not have access... So that's been a big project and we really appreciate how responsive everybody has been and how understanding in that whole PICS password transition. We were required to do this because of security. We really appreciate everybody who participated in such a friendly and cooperative way. So, we just want to go around the table...

Comment: (Library Staff - NLS)

Paula Bahmani, Education and Training Specialist; Judy Dixon; MaryBeth Wise, Network Consultant; Shana Osborne, Equipment Control Officer; Margie Goergen-Rood, Quality Assurance; Don Olson, BARD Operations;

Andrew Skinner, Production Control; John Brown, Engineering; Michelle Spezzacatena, Management Analyst; Jane Caulton, Publications and Media Section Head...

Comment: (Vickie Collins - NLS)

And Vickie Collins, Network Services. Christine, it looks like we're ready to open it up for questions from the Network.

So sorry! Connection was lost. Missing 1 minute, 53 seconds.

Question: (Unidentified Caller in progress)

...Who do I email about getting the code for the case labels because, we have the template but we've had difficulty finding the code to order the case labels.

Question: (Andrew Skinner - NLS)

For returning cartridges and containers?

Answer: (Unidentified caller)

Like, making our own...putting it back in circulation.

Answer: (Andrew Skinner - NLS)

Oh, to make the labels. Send me an email and I'll look into it - ansk@loc.gov.

Question: (Andrew Egan - RI)

I had a question on the switchover to PIMMS. Is that going to happen (with) all KLAS libraries on the same day – like October 1st, or is that going to be staggered?

Answer: (Vickie Collins - NLS)

You'd want to check with KLAS on whatever the date might be. Each library is different – and so, that is worked out with your vendor.

Question: (Andrew Egan - RI)

Okay so, in a conversation with KLAS, we kind of determine what day we wanted to do the switchover.

Answer: (Vickie Collins - NLS)

I think they would be determining. They're working out a schedule for all of their KLAS libraries and all of the CUL libraries and we've done all of the WebREADS libraries.

Question: (Andrew Egan - RI)

Okay. I'll talk to them. A second question, relative to the BARD review that was done in terms of making people inactive/suspended. On that process, the BARD Mobile users that use BARD Mobile exclusively. Were they made inactive or are they going to be restored?

Answer: (Don Olson - NLS)

That has been understood that that was incorrectly calculated – so the BARD programmers are reevaluating their calculations. Yes, that will be restored – unless you yourself want to restore your people. That's fine too.

Answer: (Vickie Collins - NLS)

And everybody knows that you can go into BARD, you go into their account, you see where it says 'inactive,' you mark it down to 'active,' you hit <submit> and then you change their password. So those are the steps you follow if you have an inactive BARD user that would like to be reactivated.

Question: (Andrew Egan - RI)

Okay. If they call because their BARD Mobile phone is inactive, we can basically make them active again.

Answer: (Vickie Collins - NLS)

Right.

Question: (Andrew Egan - RI)

You don't have a date when you would restore that...

Answer: (Don Olson - NLS)

We do not have a date at this point.

Question: (Mike Marlin – CA9)

Good afternoon – and good morning from us. I have two questions. One just occurred to me – following up on the new password authorizations for PICS. Is the password that was sent to us, changeable at all? Or do we need to stick with what (was provided)?

Answer: (Vickie Collins - NLS)

At the moment, you're actually using the one that was designated – and there is not an option to change it.

Question: (Mike Marlin – CA9)

Okay. Will that change in the future? Or is that the new regimen going forward?

Answer: (Vickie Collins - NLS)

We think that with the new PICS, it might be possible, but remember, that's a long-term project. So, that's not going to happen any time soon.

Question: (Mike Marlin – CA9)

Okay, no problem. My next question has to do with Digital Talking Book Machines. Shana and I spoke several days ago but I wanted to follow up because we – and I suspect other libraries too – have several machines on the lower end of the serial number spectrum...that when the battery is depleted, the machine will no longer work and so, we have hundreds of these. We've asked before whether we can send them back to you and you said "no" and we were encouraged to maybe get them out to patrons and we were concerned that that would be problematic because of the whole battery issue. I know John is there. I wonder if you have any thoughts about that?

Answer: (John Brown - NLS)

We just ordered some new batteries. They're a different chemistry. They have a longer shelf life and they'll retain their charge. We think using these batteries – especially in those older machines – is going to help out with the people who maybe don't plug it in and charge as often as they should. So we would encourage you – if you're going to distribute these old machines – to get some fresh batteries from the Multi State Center and use those in your early serial number machines.

Question: (Mike Marlin – CA9)

So are those batteries available now?

Answer: (John Brown - NLS)

They are. We're filling backorders right now with them. We've received a couple of smaller shipments and will receive the balance of our order sometime in September, I think. I think it's on the water now. We do have enough batteries that we've been doing backorders and there should be enough batteries to cover some new orders at least for the next three weeks or so.

Comment: (Mike Marlin – CA9)

Alright, well we'll put in an order and take our chances and hope that we can get some.

Question: (Linda Vincent - WI)

Hi. I have a few questions. One is: is there any update on how we're doing with getting the upcoming 'Harry Potter' book for our patrons? I hear a giggle.

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)

We actually don't have anyone from the Collection Development section here right now. We can take that as a note and get an answer out to you after we talk to them.

Question: (Linda Vincent - WI)

Okay. The last we heard – that because it was a 'play' format, that was an issue. I don't know.

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)

We have to request copyright permission.

Question: (Linda Vincent - WI)

Okay, and then the murky clear cases for the peach cartridges. You know they were backordered, and the last we heard in February was that 'they're coming, they're coming' but we haven't seen any more, so is there any update?

Answer: (Andrew Skinner - NLS)

On the clear (cases) I think we're going to start running them again within the next couple of months. I don't have numbers in front of me but I know we were supposed to start those this quarter.

Question: (Linda Vincent - WI)

We only got about a third of them and we're just sitting with all those peach cartridges, hoping. We were excited to hear the Spanish app is out. Just to push my luck – how about the institutional app? Is that going to be changed too?

Answer: (Jane Caulton - NLS)

The Institutional Application? I thought we just did that. I'll check on that for you.

Comment: (Linda Vincent - WI)

Oh, thank you! That's really it for now. Thank you so much.

Question: (Gary Zonderwyk - NJ)

Regarding the e-braille readers, what's the funding source for those?

Answer: (Vickie Collins - NLS)

It would be out of our budget. We – of course – are not even that far along, in terms of that project. We still have to get the President to sign off on it and we have to see what the budgetary options will be, once we know what the costs are and what the time frame is.

Question: (Gary Zonderwyk - NJ)

From which NLS programs do you anticipate you'll be moving money to fund these?

Answer: (Vickie Collins - NLS)

I think we probably don't know. We probably would at least need Karen here to be able to respond to that kind of a question. I'm sure it's being thought about, but I don't think we've gotten to any action point. Good question, Gary.

Question: (Gary Zonderwyk - NJ)

Thank you. My last question is: for the Digital Talking Book Machines, the barcode that displays the serial number does not actually translate to the same value. You need to substitute either DS or DA for Y or Z. Will there be – in the design of these new readers – an opportunity to have input on issues like that?

Answer: (Vickie Collins - NLS)

That's a good idea. I remember that problem is from way back when. Shana's too young to remember! (Laughter). Some of us do remember that, Gary but we're not at that point yet – in terms of our braille displays.

Question: (Chuck Petithomme – CA8)

Good afternoon. Ivan Johnson, the Materials Development Coordinator in our area, called and spoke with Susan Weatherton at Alcor last week. We wanted to order some blank digital cartridges. However, she told Ivan that cartridges wouldn't be available until some unspecified date in 2017. What's that all about?

Answer: (Andrew Skinner - NLS)

I believe that that's a part of our recycling issue as well as some of our production issue. We've run into a couple of issues on contracts, and that's really what's holding us up. That's really all I can (say right now).

Answer: (Vickie Collins - NLS)

Good question but we don't have a complete answer yet.

Question: (Chuck Petithomme – CA8)

That leaves us kind of shorthanded. We're just basically using recycled cartridges now – and struggling to get those.

Answer: (Vickie Collins - NLS)

Well we do have peach cartridges and I'm not sure if they're available now but certainly that would be something that you would want to take into consideration. I think our big holdup now would be the containers.

Comment: (Mitchell Small – PA8)

Hello guys. Not so much a question, but just a very big "thank you" from our Telephone Pioneers. They just received the first batch of the new batteries you were talking about earlier and, I've never seen so many older guys dancing jigs back there. Those new batteries seem to be the answer that everyone has been looking for for quite a while, and I just wanted to pass that information along.

Comment: (Library Staff - NLS)

Thanks Mitch! We like those Telephone Pioneers dancing.

Question: (Jennifer Hart - VT)

Hi everybody. I have a question about PIMMS. We converted to PIMMS on the 15th of this month, and I understand that I don't have to file a CMLS report but I'm not clear on what I should be doing with the Monthly Machine Reports, especially since we converted halfway through the month.

Answer: (Shana Osborne - NLS)

For this month, go ahead and send me your complete list and report, and I'll make sure that you receive an approved report for the month.

Question: (Jennifer Hart - VT)

Okay and then after July do I not file any more BPHICS reports?

Answer: (Shana Osborne - NLS)

No (that's correct).

Question: (Mary Jane Kayes – CA9)

Hi. We have one of our workers asking if NLS is still supplying remote control units for Cassette players when we send in requests.

Answer: (Shana Osborne - NLS)

Yes.

Question: (Sheldona - IN)

Is anyone having problems with...downloads? We have to resume a number of times before we can get a book – and its not even necessarily a long book. It can be a 6-hour book.

Question: (Library Staff - NLS)

These are braille downloads?

Answer: (Sheldona - IN)

No. These are the digital downloads on the peach cartridge – or on the green ones that we purchased.

Answer: (Library Staff - NLS)

There have not been reports of that...that I'm aware of. Ask people to report those issues to the NLS download people, please - NLSDownload@loc.gov.

Comment: (Vickie Collins - NLS)

Well, thanks for everybody's great questions, and we look forward to talking with you in August.

No more questions or comments.