**Music Services**

In addition to books and magazines, music scores and music books in large print, music-appreciation cassettes, and instructional cassettes for piano, organ, guitar, and other instruments are available to you as an NLS patron. For more information visit www.loc.gov/nls/music.

**Am I Eligible?**

You are eligible if you are blind or unable to read regular print with corrective aids, whether as a result of injury or diseases such as macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and glaucoma. Also eligible are those who cannot hold or turn the pages of books because of illness or disability.

You may enroll even if your condition is temporary; for example, if you have just had eye surgery or have a temporary physical condition that keeps you from holding a book.

**Equipment**

Digital talking books are read using lightweight, portable, and durable players designed to enhance the reading experience. The players are available in two versions—a standard model with eight controls and an advanced model with five additional controls that permit bookmarking and more precise navigation.

Digital talking-book players offer:

- High-quality sound
- Built-in audio instructions
- Variable-speed controls that accelerate or slow down playback without changing the pitch
- A sleep button that turns the player off in fifteen-minute intervals
"The talking-book program provides a much-needed way for veterans to continue to learn and connect with others and their communities through reading.

Without question, the NLS program enhances the quality of our lives."

—Thomas H. Miller,
Blinded Veterans Association

Veterans who cannot see to read regular print or cannot handle a book because of injury or illness can continue to experience the pleasures of reading through the talking-book program of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress.

Service to our nation’s veterans has been a cornerstone of the NLS program from its beginnings more than eight decades ago. In this new era of digital books and players, NLS is proud to continue that commitment by offering veterans priority service in accordance with the 1931 law that established the program.

Any eligible U.S. resident or American citizen living abroad may sign up to become an NLS patron at www.loc.gov/nls. Audio and braille books and magazines are loaned through a national network of cooperating libraries at the state and local levels. Materials and equipment are provided free of charge via postage-free mail.

Veterans and other eligible readers have access to bestsellers, classics, mysteries, westerns, poetry, biographies, religious literature, and more. The NLS collection includes nearly four thousand Spanish-language works, and the number is growing. In addition, you may select from more than forty recorded magazines, such as Consumer Reports, National Geographic, and People en Español. Once signed up with your network library, you may also access books and magazines online through the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service at https://nlsbard.loc.gov.

MACHINES AND ACCESSORIES

As a talking-book patron, you will receive on loan the portable digital audiobook player required to read talking books and magazines. You may choose from two models of players that are described in more detail later in this brochure. Should the equipment fail to operate properly at any time, NLS will repair or replace it at no cost to you. Eligible individuals also may borrow amplifiers, headphones, and pillow speakers.

BOOK LISTINGS AND CATALOGS

You may also request Talking Book Topics, the bimonthly periodical that lists newly released audiobooks and provides information on related library services, which is available in large-print and recorded formats. Annual and biennial catalogs of books may also be requested. All are available online at www.loc.gov/nls.