

As a patron of the WLBPD@AADL, in addition to having access to talking books and magazines by mail, you are also eligible to download tens of thousands of books and dozens of magazines from the National Library Service’s (NLS) Braille and Audio Reading Download (commonly referred to as BARD) website.

With your new digital talking book machine, all that’s required to download from BARD is an email address, a computer with a high-speed Internet connection, and a USB storage device (also called a “flash”, “thumb”, or “jump” drive). USB storage devices are readily available for purchase at many local stores and also online.

The cartridges your books through the mail come on are also USB storage devices. Blank cartridges of this type are available for purchase from WLBPD@AADL. These types of cartridges require a USB patch cable, which are also available for purchase from WLBPD@AADL.

Getting Started

In order to download books from BARD you must first apply for a login and password.

* Go to the BARD webpage at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov>
* Click on the link “BARD application instructions”
* Click on the link “BARD application for individuals”
* Complete the online BARD application

Once you’ve completed the application process, you should expect to receive an email notification indicating your BARD request was received. The verification may take up to two business days.

Once the NLS verifies that you are a patron of the WLBPD@AADL, they will send you an acceptance email with your user name and password.

The first time you log into your BARD account, you’ll be prompted to change your password and agree to the BARD User Pledge.

Once you’re logged in, you’ll be able to browse the catalog where you can search for popular or recent books; search by title, author or subject; or, search for magazines. Your search terms will take you to a listing of books (or magazines) providing their title, author, reading time, subject heading, and annotation, along with a download link.

Plug your USB storage device into your computer, click on the download link for the book or magazine you want to download, and choose “Save File.”

The book download will be a zip file. Double click on the zip file to open it and show all the internal files.

If your computer is a PC, open your Downloads folder, go to the File menu and click on “Extract All Files”; or, right-click on the downloaded files and choose “Extract All.” A Wizard for unzipping files will open. At the prompt for where to put unzipped files, choose the “Browse” button and select the storage device you have plugged into your computer. Then choose “Next.” Windows 7 or other, newer, operating systems may not offer the unzip option in the same fashion.

The Wizard will unzip the file and copy it to your storage device. When it is done, uncheck the display files box, and press the “Finish” button.

If your computer is a Mac, simply double-click on the file and it will extract automatically.

The book or magazine is now on the storage device and ready to play on your digital talking book machine. Simply remove the storage device from your computer and plug it into the USB jack on the right side of your digital talking book machine.

For phone assistance with applying for or downloading from BARD, please call (734) 327-4224.

In-person assistance is also available at the Downtown Ann Arbor District Library on a walk-in basis on Tuesdays 2-6pm, Wednesdays 9:30am-12:30pm, and Thursdays 2-5pm.