Did you know…

…that NLS releases updates to the PBL database on average a couple of times per month? These updates typically contain label templates for the books most recently released by NLS and also some retro "titles". This saves the end users from always having to manually enter (by typing them in) the print and braille data for thousands of books.

First, how to get the files.

Go to PICS system via:

https://nls.us.baesystems.com/pics.html

Each library has a unique PICS login ID/password. If you don't have access credentials for the PICS system, please obtain the user name and password from your library's Director.

Once logged in you will see this screen:

Network Library Services: Library Menu

Copy Allotment Selection : January 2021 ready for selection
Download Bibliographic Records
Book Delivery Verification : 39 books are awaiting action (Shipped during the past 180 days)
of which 7 books were shipped more than 60 days ago and are eligible for reporting shortages.
NLS WebNet
Magazine Administration
Interlibrary Loan
Web Ordering and Warehousing (WOW)

Change Password

Logout of system

Comments about this site to NLS Automation Officer - mmartys@loc.gov

Click on "Download Bibliographic Records" and you will be taken to this webpage:

Network Library Services

Main Menu Copy Allotment Bibliographic Data WebNet Magazine Administration Web Ordering and Warehousing Interlibrary Loan Network Database

Bibliographic Data (MARC Record) Download

Download Current Bibliographic Records
Download Previous Bibliographic Records

Download Full MARC Records

Address questions or comments about bibliographic data to Head, Bibliographic Control: raxt@loc.gov

Address comments about this site to Automation Officer: mmartys@loc.gov

Then first click on "Download Current Bibliographic Records" and you will be prompted to download a file called "PICSCUR.TEX"
Download this file to a place on your computer, network, or an external drive that you will know how to browse to later.

Then click on "Download Previous Bibliographic Records" and you will see a webpage that looks like this:

Index of /pics/download/books

Name	Last modified	Size	Description
Parent Directory		-	
PICSCUR.TEX	15-Jan-2021 20:35	200K	
RETR2101.TEX	05-Jan-2021 17:44	1.0K	
PIC2101A.TEX	05-Jan-2021 07:37	106K	
PIC2012B.TEX	15-Dec-2020 18:18	175K	
PIC2012A.TEX	08-Dec-2020 06:51	246K	
PIC2011B.TEX	16-Nov-2020 16:47	162K	
PIC2011A.TEX	09-Nov-2020 08:34	88K	
PIC2010B.TEX	26-Oct-2020 09:53	143K	
RETR2010.TEX	14-Oct-2020 13:19	5.5K	
PIC2010A.TEX	14-Oct-2020 12:05	371K	
PIC2009B.TEX	25-Sep-2020 13:32	239K	
PIC2009A.TEX	25-Sep-2020 12:56	92K	
RETR2009.TEX	04-Sep-2020 09:51	11K	
PIC2008B.TEX	25-Aug-2020 20:02	592K	
RETR2008.TEX	07-Aug-2020 17:30	15K	
PIC2008A.TEX	07-Aug-2020 15:36	186K	
PIC2007B.TEX	16-Jul-2020 16:48	56K	
PIC2007A.TEX	02-Jul-2020 16:21	56K	
PIC2006B.TEX	19-Jun-2020 10:16	105K	
PIC2006A.TEX	09-Jun-2020 19:31	87K	
PIC2005B.TEX	18-May-2020 10:56	98K	
PIC2005A.TEX	08-May-2020 16:53	92K	

From here you can download any file that you have not previously downloaded. If you always use the same web browser for the site, it should highlight the ones you have downloaded in the last as "previously visited links". This is a way to help you keep track of what you have downloaded and what you have not yet downloaded.

Once you have the .TEX files that you need, you can exit this website. It might be a good idea to check back there every week or two to look to see if any new .TEX files have been posted.

In the PBL manual, are the instructions to import these .TEX files into your PBL database. PBL refers to these files as "NLS TITLE FILES".
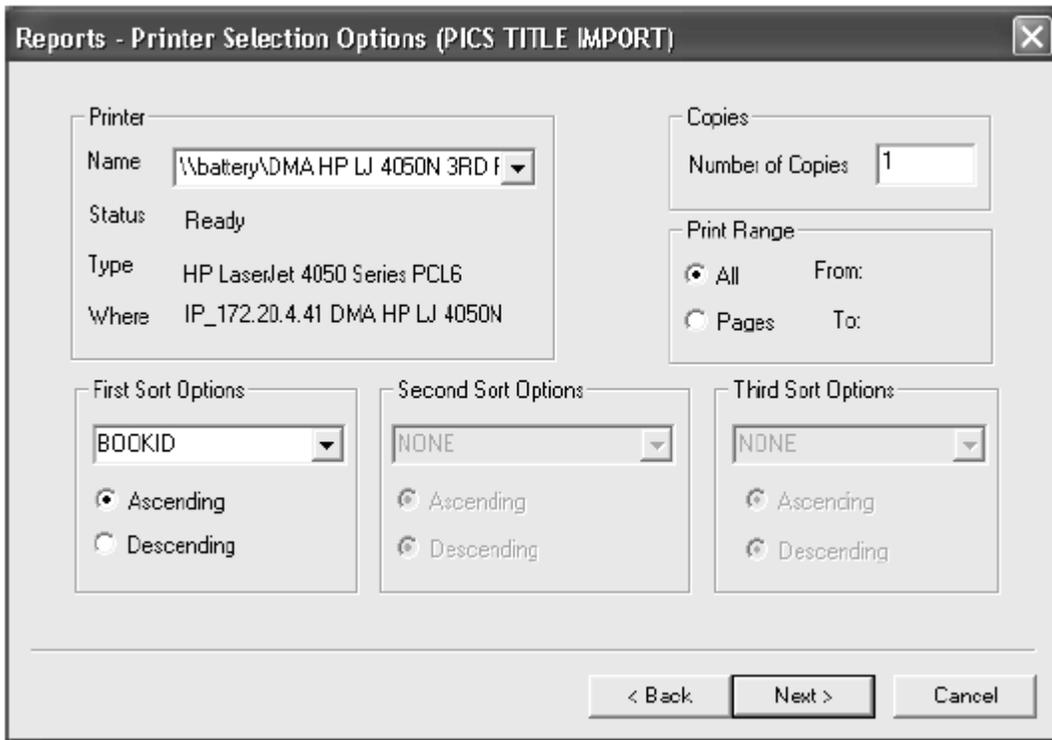The import function will only add DB and RC titles to the title table. If there are other media types in the import file, they are excluded.
To begin the import process, follow the steps below:

1) Choose 'Import' from the Windows Menu.
2) Select 'Import NLS Title File'.
3) The 'Open" window appears. Locate the title file (ending in .TEX) and select 'Open'.
4) The PBL results window appears with the following statistics:
a. Records Processed – total records in the file. This may include records with media types other than DB and RC.
b. Records Added – from the records processed, this is how many were added to the PBL database
c. Duplicate Records – records that would have been added, but were already in the PBL database.
d. Records Excluded – media formats excluded by the user or media types not used with the Print and Braille Label system.

PBL

Records Processed: 400
Records Added   : 2
Duplicate Records: 298
Records Excluded : 100

OK

5) The Report wizard starts for the PICS TITLE IMPORT report. Choose the Printer and Preview, Export or Print options. The report includes all books in the import file and lists the BookID, Title, Author and Status (added, duplicate or excluded). The import function will not overlay books that are already included in the PBL database.

Reports - Printer Selection Options (PICS TITLE IMPORT)

Printer
Name   \\battery\DMA HP LJ 4050N 3RD F ▼
Status   Ready
Type   HP LaserJet 4050 Series PCL6
Where   IP_172.20.4.41 DMA HP LJ 4050N

Copies
Number of Copies   1

Print Range
● All   From:
○ Pages   To:

First Sort Options
BOOKID   ▼
● Ascending
○ Descending

Second Sort Options
NONE   ▼
● Ascending
● Descending

Third Sort Options
NONE   ▼
● Ascending
● Descending

< Back   Next >   Cancel

More information on how to use PBL can be found in the most recent PBL menu which can be downloaded from the link below.

[Click here to download the latest version of the PBL manual](#)