



Braille and Talking Book Library Featured in Exhibit at the State Capitol

Sacramento, Calif. – In honor of National Braille Literacy Month, the California State Library’s Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) will be featured in an exhibit on the first floor of the State Capitol next to the Governor’s Office, January 9-22, 2017.

The exhibit illustrates the many services provided by BTBL to blind and print-disabled individuals. It also includes a tactile map of California created by the Lighthouse for the Blind in San Francisco where visitors can touch the map and see how a person with limited vision tactilely relates to objects and text. The map features braille and touchable symbols to represent the different parts of California.

BTBL Director Mike Marlin said, “This is a wonderful opportunity to visually and tactilely showcase California’s free libraries for the blind and print-disabled who serve more than 40,000 Californians and over 2,000 institutions with access to information and reading materials in alternate formats. It is our hope that this really cool exhibit will spread the word about this free library service. We are serving only 15-20% of eligible patrons who could benefit greatly from this free library service that provides braille and audio books, descriptive movies, and downloads to all California residents who are unable to read conventional print.”

Contact: Deborah.Lynch@library.ca.gov or 916-651-6452.

About BTBL: BTBL is a branch of the California State Library which cooperates with the Library of Congress, [National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped \(NLS\)](#). The books and players are provided by the Library of Congress. The California State Library directly administers the program in Northern California. [The Braille Institute Library](#) in Los Angeles, which is also funded by the State Library, serves residents of Southern California.

About the State Library: Founded in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for the Governor’s office, legislature, state employees, and the general public. The State Library administers federal and state grants for programs in historical preservation, library construction, civil liberties education, literacy, volunteering, and broadband connectivity in public libraries. For more information, visit www.library.ca.gov.

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