

Braille and Talking Book Library Patrons Benefit from Digital Partnership in 2008

As of June 2008 there were 171 Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) patrons signed up for access to Greater Phoenix Digital Library (GPDL) downloadable books and other materials. Talking Book and other State Library patrons checked out an average of 150 items per month and the use has been steadily increasing. The GPDL consortium includes nine public libraries in Maricopa and Pinal counties plus the Arizona State Library. As part of the State Library contribution a librarian at the Braille and Talking Book Library Division does all of the materials selection for the project. It is currently the consortium with the highest circulation of OverDrive materials per month of any library system in the world! This fact was reported at the annual OverDrive conference where BTBL librarian Nancy Morris was recognized for excellence in materials selection.

The Greater Phoenix Digital Library offers more than 50,000 items in the multiple formats available. Titles are usually available within days of the print publication which gives BTBL patrons access to many new titles sooner than available through the National Library Service.

In addition, the Greater Phoenix Digital Library added OverDrive MP3 audiobooks to the downloadable media collection. The OverDrive MP3 audiobook can be transferred to an iPod®, iPhone™, and iPod Touch as well as many MP3 players.

In the interest of faster turnarounds and shorter waits, the checkout period for all formats of downloadable audiobooks was reduced to 14 days. All other items in the GPDL will continue to have a 21 day checkout. Other items available are eBooks (electronic text), eFlicks (films & videos), and music, all for download with a library card number from any of the participating libraries.