

The CT Library for Accessible Books Announces Hub Libraries in Public Libraries Across the State

Hartford, CT – The [Connecticut Library for Accessible Books \(CTLAB\)](#), a unit of the Connecticut State Library, is pleased to announce a partnership with nine Connecticut public libraries who have volunteered and committed to serve as CTLAB hub libraries. The aim of this new initiative is to spread information about CTLAB services and offer opportunities for patrons to engage with CTLAB closer to home. CTLAB hub libraries will bring greater access, programming, and expanded outreach to more communities.

Each CTLAB hub library is equipped with an informational display featuring CTLAB resources and services. Hub libraries also feature Digital Talking Book Players and cartridges available for in-library demonstrations. In preparation, CTLAB staff conducted hands-on training sessions for public library staff at each at each hub library so that they can answer questions about CTLAB services and resources as well as demonstrate how digital talking book players and cartridges work. Looking ahead, CTLAB staff members are collaborating with hub libraries to plan informational and training sessions on CTLAB and its offerings for current and future CTLAB patrons.

The public libraries serving as CTLAB hub libraries are:

- Bristol Public Library
- Danbury Public Library
- Darien Library
- Killingly Public Library
- Otis Library (Norwich)
- Simsbury Public Library
- Slater Library (Jewett City)
- Stratford Library
- Weston Public Library

The Connecticut Library for Accessible Books, formerly known as the Connecticut State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH), is a network library of the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS). CTLAB lends books and magazines in audio and braille formats, for free, to any Connecticut resident who is unable to read print materials due to a visual, reading, or physical disability. Reading materials are delivered to CTLAB via U.S. mail or are downloaded by patrons to their personal computers and mobile devices.

"CTLAB has proudly served Connecticut residents since 1969, continually evolving with each new advance in reading," said **CT State Librarian Deborah Schander**. "We are thrilled to have the hub libraries join us in our mission to not only provide books but also help our patrons build community connections around their reading."

"CTLAB is a beloved service serving everyone from veterans to school age children," said **Dawn La Valle, Director of the Division of Library Development at the CT State Library**. "The Division of Library Development identified an inclusive priority, as part of our federal funding plan to support statewide programs that represent the foundations of library service to all people in CT. This priority ensures that all CT residents regardless of location, ability, or socio-economic circumstances, will have equal access to quality library services. The hub libraries will enable CTLAB to achieve this priority to better serve all CT residents."

"CTLAB is, by design, a remote service and our hope is that, by partnering with public libraries throughout Connecticut, we can spread awareness about CTLAB services," said **Matt Geeza, Director of the CT Library for Accessible Books**. "We hope that, by working with hub libraries to offer occasional programming opportunities, CTLAB can engage with patrons in-person and in a region closer to where they reside."

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