

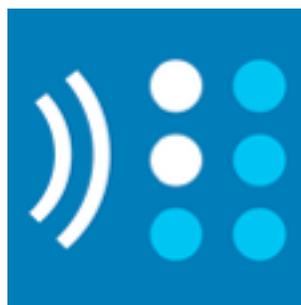


NEWSLETTER

CONSULTANT BRINGS NEW INNOVATIONS FROM NLS

National Library Service Consultants travel to the Regional Library every two years to ensure proper guidelines are being followed. NLS Consultant MaryBeth Wise visited recently and spoke to each staff member individually to ask about our concerns. She also covered new and upcoming NLS rules and innovations.

NLS Director Karen Keninger said “The BARD Mobile app allows searching, downloading and reading braille and talking books and magazines on morning fully accessible, mainstream device. It's a library in your pocket.”



Above is the icon for the new downloadable BARD app from iTunes.

One new NLS innovation is an app for BARD. Tested at many NLS network libraries, the app is now available for patron use. Ms. Wise was the first to demonstrate to Regional Library staff the app and how it would work.

Library Tech II Nina Garcia tested the app first-hand, and fully downloaded two books that she put on her wish list. Ms. Garcia believes that the app can be very useful, and even more so with improved Internet service. Library patrons with an Apple iOS mobile device such as iPhone or iPad will be able to use the BARD app to listen to books and magazines from their wish list. One of the newest advantages in joining BARD is downloading the BARD app to any Apple devices. By doing this Library patrons will not have to carry the DS1 or DA1 machines around.

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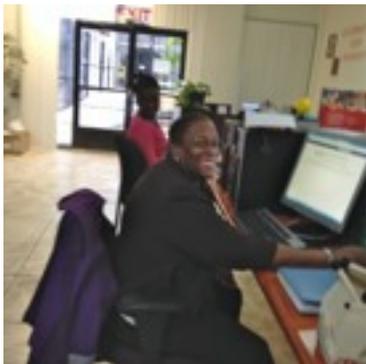
REMEMBERING A LONG TIME CLIENT

Mr. James Collins of Estate Whim in Frederiksted passed away on August 6, 2013. Mr. Collins joined the Virgin Islands Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped as a patron in 1992. I first became involved with Mr. Collins when I was installed as a Regional Librarian in 2006. Mrs. Solomon/Samuel the acting supervisor before my arrival would literally take bags of books to him. I heard in the past that he would come in person but now he was homebound. I continued the delivery once Mrs. Samuel retired. Our first newsletter under my tenure featured an article talking about Mr. Collins and his wife Coralina who was enrolled a year later in 1993. She left the books to Mr. Collins but I am sure she listened in as her husband played the books. I convinced her to put some of the books on her account so her account would be serviced. I could see they were a very loving couple. When we switch to digital she asked for only one machine. She had recently called me about an overdue notice we had sent to them and she indicated they had both been ill. She said she would do her best to get the books to the Library. I knew he was declining in health but I still was surprised when I heard he had passed. I remarked on hearing of his passing this one of the pitfalls of being a Regional Librarian. You lose your clients you have come to know very well over the years. May you rest in peace Mr. Collins and have unlimited amount of books to read where you are going.

HUMANE INCLUSION CAMP

This summer 2013 a camp visited our library. The purpose of the camp was to offer children diagnosed with a disability the opportunity to work together in the same setting with their non-disabled peers. In addition, campers explored marine life at Buck Island and Salt River and overall had a greater understanding of the culture and community of the Virgin Islands. A.U.T.I.S.M. GLOBE stands for **A**cceptance, **U**nderstanding, **T**rusting others, being an active participant in various programs that promote **I**nclusion, while providing **S**upport and **M**entorship to individuals and families who experience mental and physical challenges. Ms. Daina King, the creator and director continues to bring her students to our Library. They have been able to join and use the viNGN computers as well as read our books. It is wonderful to see our library used by viNGN consumers and other persons who find our environment conclusive for their work.

VINGN IS HERE AT ST. CROIX REGIONAL LIBRARY



Regional Library has been officially designated a "Community Anchor Institution" under the *Virgin Islands Next Generation Network*. The viNGN is part of the *Comprehensive Community Institution Infrastructure Grant* awarded by the United States federal government under President Obama's stimulus program. We have five new computer viNGN workstations in addition to our older patron workstation, all of which are available for use onsite by the general public. Since the Library services a specialized disabled community defined as either blind or physically challenged individuals, viNGN has provided assistive devices. Some workstations have keyboards with large labeling and Braille-labeled keyboards. One workstation has JAWS, a talking search system for the blind and low vision persons. Other have joysticks that function as a mouse. There are other viNGN sites on all the islands but ours may be unique with the amount of assistive technology provided by viNGN.

Most days all the workstations are occupied with adults and children. There is no cost but the user must submit a signed agreement to abide by certain guidelines and is required to sign in for each use. For children aged 5 to 17 to use the workstations, written authorization from a parent or guardian must be on file and the child or children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian when they are using the computer equipment. Librarian Tech II Nina Garcia is the manager of the site and is responsible for completing and forwarding the usage data on a regular monthly basis to viNGN.

To provide assistance to the Library's clients, all Library personnel in the Library were encouraged to participate in a digital literacy course and then pass a competency test. We now have three persons on site who have successfully taken and passed the course.

The Regional Library's primary goal is to provide service to individuals who are disabled. As a computer access site open to

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VINGN IS HERE AT ST. CROIX REGIONAL LIBRARY

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the public, there was some initial apprehension that the viNGN program might adversely impact the Library's mission but Regional Librarian Lettitia Gittens observes those concerns have not materialized. "I wanted disabled persons to be given preference for access, even though the program serves the general public," she said "We have a very limited bandwidth and for a period of time we will still have to provide access for the new computers as well as the government's computers."

Ms. Gittens notes that clients are seeking information about their disabilities and searching for information to improve their lives. Clients also use the Library as place to put together a business plan to start a new venture. According to Ms. Gittens, "It can be a bit loud at times but is also a very lively place and this is an energetic change for this Library. " The viNGN program has also provided a printer and scanner for clients to use, although the Library is presently suppling the scarce commodities of ink and paper. viNGN has promised to provide paper and toner.

Recently the Library was informed that a company is coming to install fiber optic cords with upgraded broadband connection following soon thereafter. With the new connection service the Library will have increased speed and capacity not only for the viNGN workstations but its own workstations as well. The best part is that the Library will be able to download and even store our books in minutes from the online BARD catalog, a dream come true for the Regional Librarian. "I have been looking forward to this for many years!" says Ms. Gittens.

AUDIO BIBLE DOWNLOAD

The Aurora Ministries Audio Bibles for the Blind services now offers their materials for download to anyone who receives Talking Books or is certified as having a disability that prohibits them from reading standard or large print. In addition to the complete King James and New King James Bible in many different languages the website also offers selected scripture readings, Christian music and sermons by prominent Christian theologians. For more information call (941) 748-3031/website.audiobiblesfortheblind.org



BESTSELLERS FOR WINTER READING



- Stephen King - Joyland DB 76799
- Robyn Carr - Informed Risk DB 76931
- Sherryl Woods - Sea Glass Island DB 76830
- Charlaine Harris - Dead Ever After DB 76741
- J.K. Rowling - Casual Vacancy DB 75507
- Robert Galbraith - The Cuckoo's Calling DB 76784
- Linda Lael Miller - Big Sky River DB 76032
- Carl Hiaasen - Bad Monkey DB 76893
- Janet Evanovich - The Heist DB 76803
- Walter Mosley - Little Green DB 76882
- James Paterson - Private Berlin DB 76054
- Nora Roberts - Whiskey Beach DB 76576
- Stephanie Laurens - And Then She Fell DB 76519
- Jim Butcher - Cold Days DB 75998
- J.D. Robb - Calculated in Death DB 76226
- Jodi Picoult - The Storyteller DB 76311
- Debbie Macomber - Love in Plain Sight DB 76268

DOWNLOAD MAGAZINES USING BARD



For clients who forget to mail back magazines (blue cartridge and red case) we are recommending you download your magazines using BARD. Then you do not have to worry about being on the delinquent list and no longer being able to receive your magazines.



The Virgin Islands Regional Library has been in the Virgin Islands since 1968 and was started in St. Thomas. It was relocated to St. Croix first in Frederiksted and then, 1992, in Christiansted at its present location. The Library is part of the Library of Congress Network of the Libraries for Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals. It provides audiotaped books and cassettes free of charge to persons who are unable to utilize traditional books. More recently the Library has transitioned to the digital age with the introduction of digital players and books. The Library of Congress/National Library Service came into existence in 1931 for blind residents in the U.S. but over the years has expanded its size and scope of services.

The Library's local administrative agency is the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums in the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands.



WE WANT OUR BOOKS

Our records show that some of you have **overdue materials...**

- Borrow cassette books for 6 months. Borrow digital books for 1 month.
- Be a good neighbor; share your good reads.
- Please return books on time.

Don't want to bother with due dates? Download!

We can teach you how...**BARD** (Braille and Audio Reading Download) offers digital books and magazines to borrow as long as you like. BARD has added Braille books, magazines and music.

Contact Info

3012 Golden Rock
Christiansted, VI 00820
Phone: 340-718-2250
Fax: 340-718-3545
E-mail:
reglib@vipowernet.net

That All May Read

Staff

**LETITIA G. GITTENS,
REGIONAL LIBRARIAN**



**LLOYD "SONNY"
BARNES, LIBRARY AIDE**



**LISABETH S. MER-
CHANT, LIBRARY
ASSOCIATE**



**NINA GARCIA,
LIBRARY TECH II**

