

## Listmania and Downloadable Audio

In our last newsletter I talked about our new list-making capacity. This is just a short note to tell you of a couple of new book lists, and to let you know that we have updated our list of books on tape.

The updated list of books on tape can be found here:

[http://www.menloparklibrary.org/bot\\_title.html](http://www.menloparklibrary.org/bot_title.html)

Here's a couple of book lists, fiction and nonfiction, for items that we have added since June 1. We add books all the time (daily, even!), so the card catalog is the best place to see if an item is in. Coming soon: books that we have ordered but not yet received will show in the catalog. You've probably seen this feature that several other PLS libraries have been using for some time now – items show as “on order” or “under consideration”. What's the big deal? You can place holds on those popular items that have not yet been added to the system (hello, Harry Potter and John Grisham), or even published!

Recently added fiction books:

[http://www.menloparklibrary.org/newlists\\_f.html](http://www.menloparklibrary.org/newlists_f.html)

Recently added nonfiction books:

[http://www.menloparklibrary.org/newlists\\_nf.html](http://www.menloparklibrary.org/newlists_nf.html)

The Peninsula Library System has been increasing the size of their downloadable audiobooks. These are full length, CD quality versions of books that you can download to your computer at home and then transfer to a portable listening device. Ipod owners, beware: these recordings are only available in Windows Media format (wma files). To get them into MP3 format, you are going to have to jump through a few more hoops (like burning the files to a CD, then making an MP3 file from the CD). If you need help, find a 14 year old, or call the reference desk and I'll try to talk you through it. You could also look at the downloadable audio FAQs that I have attached at the end of this newsletter. To see what titles are available, search the catalog (<http://catalog.plsinfo.org>) for “netlibrary audiobooks”.

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## Audiobooks QuickStart Guide

### What are Downloadable Audiobooks?

Downloadable Audiobooks from NetLibrary and Recorded Books are digital versions of audiobooks that are available through the Internet. Audiobooks can be played on any desktop or portable device supporting Windows Media Player version 9.0 and above. You can also transfer your favorite titles to a wide range of portable devices, including portable music players, portable media centers, Pocket PCs, and even select smartphone devices.

### Searching for an Audiobook

*Basic Search* on the NetLibrary home page ([www.netlibrary.org](http://www.netlibrary.org)) lets you quickly perform a search by entering terms and selecting a single search field. You may choose to search for your terms in the *Keyword*, *Title*, or *Author* fields. Basic search is prominently featured on the home page and is also available on the right side of every page with the exception of the *advanced search* page.

1. Enter search term in the *Basic Search* field.
2. Select *keyword*, *title*, or *author*.
3. Click *search*.

*Advanced Search* lets you construct more complicated searches using multiple fields and Boolean operators.

1. Click on the *Advanced Search* tab located in the top navigation.
2. Use the drop down menu to select search parameter (*Title*, *Author*, *Subject*, *ISBN*).
3. Enter search term or multiple search terms using Boolean operators.
4. Click *search*.

*The eBook Center*, available by clicking on the *eBook Center* link on the NetLibrary home page,

allows you to limit searches to audiobook content and browse featured titles.

**Ti p:** You can also search for audiobooks using your library's catalog or WorldCat, the world's largest bibliographic database. Ask your librarian if your library provides access to WorldCat through the FirstSearch interface.

### Checking out an Audiobook

The default checkout period for a Downloadable Audiobook is three weeks. You may check out a

maximum of six audiobook titles at one time. Please do not download audiobooks to public computers in your library.

1. From search results, click on the *Download this Audiobook* link to *Open* or *Save* the audiobook file.
2. Select a download option: CD quality, or radio quality. Radio quality provides faster download speed and is ideal for users with dial-up connections; CD quality offers highfidelity playback for patrons with high-speed Internet access.
3. If you select *Open*, NetLibrary will download the title and launch your media player. Click the play button to listen to the Audiobook. The *Save* option allows you to download the file to a directory of your choosing. Once the download is complete, you can open the audiobook directly from your media player, or by using Windows Explorer.

### Creating an Account

You can search and browse for audiobooks and listen to previews in your library. However, to

download and listen to audiobooks, you must first create a free NetLibrary account. (You'll be prompted to do so, when you try to check out an audiobook.)

1. Ask your librarian how to access the Web page with the account creation function. In most cases, you can enter [www.netlibrary.org](http://www.netlibrary.org) and use the *create a free account* link.
2. Enter your identifying information (user name, password, email address).
3. Select the *submit* button.

## Logging in

Once you have created an account, you can log in to your library's collection from any computer with Internet access.

1. Go to [www.netlibrary.org](http://www.netlibrary.org) and enter your user name and password in the log in box. (You can also go through your library's Web catalog if you prefer.)
2. Click the red *log in* button.
3. You now have access to all audiobooks available in your library's collection.

## Renewing an Audiobook

Once an audiobook has been downloaded, it can be renewed at any time.

1. Go to [www.netlibrary.org](http://www.netlibrary.org) and enter your user name and password in the log in box.
2. Click on the *My checked out Items* link.
3. Click on *Renew this Audiobook*

If you are attempting to access an audiobook with an expired license from your media player, NetLibrary will launch a pop-up browser that will prompt you to log in to renew your checkout.

1. Enter your user name and password.
2. Click the *log in* button.
3. Your license will automatically be renewed.
4. Click *play* to listen to the audiobook.

## Transferring an Audiobook to a Portable Device

You can use your media player to transfer a downloaded audiobook to portable devices supporting secure WMA format. NetLibrary automatically transfers a license to your portable device that will allow you to access the audiobook for up to three weeks from the date of original checkout. Please refer to your media player's help section for additional information.

## Finding help

Detailed information on using NetLibrary is available by clicking on the *Help* tab in the top navigation bar. Context-sensitive help is also available by clicking on the *tips* links located on NetLibrary search, details and download pages. For additional assistance, contact your librarian.

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