

e-Audio @Harvard Diggins Library

We are proud to introduce digital audio to Harvard Diggins Library users. This is an experimental program, and will be expanded if successful.

Digital audio in the form of audiobooks (to the listener, these sound just like the familiar recorded books on cassette tape or compact disc) can be purchased for a much lower price, and takes up no shelf space in the library. In order to listen to the audiobooks in this format, a special player device must be used. To start this program, we will be using small portable players provided by the distributor of the files. These are the Otis™ digital audio players.

Library users will be able to place a request, similar to a book request, for a player and one or two audio titles. When a player becomes available, library staff will preload it with the requested files, and notify the user to pick it up just as they would any requested book. Loans will be for three weeks, just like ordinary books and audio books. Fines for late return of the player will be \$1.00 per day.

The Otis™ digital audio players are about the size of a pack of playing cards. They operate for about ten hours on two AAA batteries, and can play back audiobooks through portable earphones, an automobile cassette deck, or a pair of computer loudspeakers. They have sufficient memory to hold up to 25 hours or more of material, depending on content, and are able to bookmark the listener's place and return to it later, even after a battery change.

The library presently owns two players, and hopes to purchase two more in the near future. A selection of files is now available, covering a wide range of listening/reading tastes, and more will be purchased based on user response. If you are interested in participating in this pilot program, inquire at the Circulation Desk. All users will be asked to fill out a brief survey when they return their Otis™ device to the library.

The initial selection of audio files is as follows:

Non-Fiction:

All things considered, 09-11-2001. (National Public Radio's early reporting on the day of the terrorist attack. 1 hr., 2 min.)

Browne, Jill Conner.

The Sweet Potato Queens' book of love. (4 hrs., 55 min.)

Carter, Jimmy, 1924-
Christmas in Plains. (Read by the author. 2 hrs., 29 min.)

Deutschman, Alan, 1965-
A tale of two valleys: wine, wealth, and the battle for the good life in Napa and Sonoma. (6 hrs., 54 min.)

Johnson, Samuel, 1709-1784.
A journey to the Western Islands of Scotland. (4 hrs., 30 min.)

Parkman, Francis, 1823-1893.
The Oregon trail. (11 hrs., 54 min.)

Thurber, James, 1894-1961.
My world - and welcome to it. (4 hrs., 36 min.)

Drama:

Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616.
Romeo and Juliet. (Full dramatization. 2 hrs., 52 min.)

Fiction:

Bring me the head of Anne Boleyn. (Short stories by multiple authors. 6 hrs., 25 min.)

Archer, Jeffrey, 1940-
Sons of fortune. (14 hrs., 24 min.)

Brown, Dan, 1964-
Digital fortress. (12 hrs., 52 min.)

Clark, Mary Higgins.
On the street where you live. (8 hrs., 45 min.)

Davidson, Diane Mott.
The cereal murders. (9 hrs., 38 min.)

DeMille, Nelson.
Up country. (28 hrs., 11 min.)

Doyle, Arthur Conan, Sir, 1859-1930.
The memoirs of Sherlock Holmes. (7 hrs., 29 min.)

Higgins, Jack, 1929-
Angel of death. (6 hrs., 57 min.)

Higgins, Jack, 1929-
The president's daughter. (8 hrs., 21 min.)

Hugo, Victor, 1802-1885.
The hunchback of Notre Dame. (22 hrs., 33 min.)

L'Amour, Louis, 1908-
Ride the river. (5 hrs., 20 min.)

Martel, Yann.
Life of Pi. (11 hrs., 28 min.)

Meltzer, Brad.
The first counsel. (15 hrs., 35 min.)

O'Dell, Scott, 1898-1989.
Island of the Blue Dolphins. (3 hrs., 58 min.)

Turow, Scott.
Reversible errors. (14 hrs., 30 min.)

White, E. B. (Elwyn Brooks), 1899-
Stuart Little. (1 hr., 55 min.)

Weis, Margaret.
Mistress of dragons. (11 hrs., 12 min.)

(As additional files are added, they will appear in the online catalog. Use an author search for "Audible Inc." to see the entire current list.)