AT 101: Understanding and Advocating for Assistive Technology

Carolyn Phillips, Tools for Life
With contributions from Christopher Lee, Martha Rust, Liz Persaud & Ben Jacobs & Ben Satterfield

www.gatfl.org
For Handouts: http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki

LDA Webinar
Thursday, September 18
7pm-8pm

www.amacusg.org
Welcome to the Assistive Technology Revolution!

The world around us is evolving at an astounding rate. Assistive Technology developments have been foundational in this evolution and a catalyst for producing positive life-changing results for individuals with disabilities.

This session will take a closer look at:
• AMAC | Tools for Life – AT Act Program
• Advocacy & Knowing Your Rights
• Making and LD Evaluation Your Action Plan
• Understanding Assistive Technology
• Using “Low/Light Tech” to inform “Mid/High Tech Solutions”
• 5 Trends to Watch
• where we are and perhaps, where we are going.
…all in 50 minutes!

For Handouts: [http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki](http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki)
AMAC Accessibility is a social change organization on a mission to create affordable services for governmental, private and non-profits organization working with individuals with disabilities. Services include e-text, braille, captioning, assistive technology, office management software and consulting.
AMAC creates practical solutions that work, with a focus on utility, ease of use, and high quality.

- **Accessibility Consulting** focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and website accessibility solutions.
- **Braille Services** produces customized projects from both print materials and electronic text including partial books and chapters or graphics only using cutting-edge technology.
- **Captioning Services** makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- **Professional E-Text Producers** provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML.
- **Certified Assistive Technology team** provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.amacusg.org](http://www.amacusg.org)
Tools for Life Mission

We’re here to help Georgians with disabilities gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.
• TFL developed Georgia’s Plan for AT
  • We serve individuals of all ages & all disabilities in Georgia
    • Over 50,000 thru various activities throughout the year

• TFL Network
  • Assistive Technology Resource Centers/Outreach Sites
  • Lending Libraries
  • Training and Demonstrations
  • AT Reuse
  • AT Funding Education and Resources

• Online Resources
  • [www.gatfl.org](http://www.gatfl.org) - 5,000 unique visitors a month
• Tablets
• Vision Items
• DME
• Communication
• Games
• Software
• Switches
• Keyboards
TFL AppFinder
TFL AppFinder

Search by:
✓ App Name
✓ Categories
  – Book
  – Education
  – Environmental Adaptations
  – Hearing
  – Cognition, Learning, Developmental
  – Navigation
  – Personal Care and Safety
  – Productivity
  – Communication
  – Therapeutic Aids
  – Vision
Get to Know Your AT Act Program

The RESNA Catalyst Project provides aid and resources for:
- Statewide Programs
- Financial Loan Programs
- Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAATs)
- AT Entity Grantees

Quick Catalyst Project Resources:
- Quick Contacts (PDF)
- Webinars
- Highlights Monthly Newsletter

Catalyst Project Hubs
- Transition to the Community
- AT for Employment

Links
- RESNA
- AT Connects
- Pass It On Center
- Center for Assistive Technology Act Data Assistance (CATADA)

http://resnaprojects.org/
Guiding Principles

• We – Collectively – are Brilliant & Can find an Innovative Path and Create Brighter Futures

• We must Think, Live and Act from a place of Abundance – We have enough time, money, resources…

• We Must Focus on Abilities!

• Assistive Technology is Key to Success.

• Success Breeds Success

• YOU have the Power to make the Difference! – Change vs. Progress (Bob Phillips)
Considering the Lifespan!

- Master Our Skills!
- Expand Our Knowledge and
- Build Stronger Schools to
  Create an amazing, Inclusive
  and United Community!
Consider this -

• My Success relied on
  – Assistive Technology!!
  • Try before you buy – Explore!
  • Training
  • Think across environments –
    – Laptop – Still Need!
    – iPhone – I used 13 apps yesterday and today!
    – iPad – use everyday
  • Organization – Learn Your Style
    – efficiency brings peace
  • Evaluations – Hot Button
    – Working from No/Old/Incorrect info
    – Don’t trust everything you read & hear
  • Advocate for an AT Evaluation/Assessment
Consider this -

• My Success relies on
  – Failing
  – Dignity of Failure
    • I learned More from My “Failures” sometimes than my "successes"
    • Give yourself room to fail – and Grow from the experience
    • Learn to Laugh…a lot!
    • Be Optimistic…
    • Evaluate & Evolve!
Begin with the End in Mind!
• Know Your Rights
Why Assistive Technology?

• For a person without a disability, technology makes things easier.

• For a person with a disability, technology makes things possible.

• TIP: USE AT. I have yet to meet a successful student with disabilities who doesn’t use Any AT.
Assistive Technology Device
...any item, piece of equipment or product that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

- Public Law 105-394 [29 USC 2201]

Low/No-tech
- pencil grip
- adapted books
- slant board
- highlighters, tape
- magnifiers
- color coding
- read to out loud
- picture schedule
- strategies for memory
- colored transparencies
- Proof readers
- note taker

Mid-Tech
- word prediction
- text to speech
- speech to text
- spell checkers
- talking calculators
- digital recorders
- organizers
- e-books
- adapted keyboard
- adapted mouse
- adapted toys
- CCTV
- apps under $100

High-Tech
- computer/laptops
- tablets/phablets
- smartphones,
- smartpens
- OCR scanner/software
- magnification software
- speech output devices
- switch, joystick access
- scanning access
- voice recognition
- environmental control devices
- apps over $100

What is Assistive Technology?
What is an AT Service?

Assistive Technology Services

Any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.

Includes:
• Evaluating
• Providing devices
• Selecting, Designing, Customizing
• Maintaining, Repairing
• Coordinating
• Training/Technical Assistance – student, family and school service providers

- Public Law 105-394 [29 USC 2201]
Observations & “Hanging out with Intent”

Assistive Technology is a **continuum of tools, strategies, and services** that match a person’s needs, abilities and tasks.

**Low/No-tech**
- pencil grip
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- magnifiers
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**High-Tech**
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- magnification software
- speech output devices
- switch, joystick access
- scanning access
- voice recognition
- environmental
- control devices
- apps over $100
Assistive Technology Laws
Family Center on Technology and Disability

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
  Public Law 101-336 [42 USC 12101]

- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**
The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was initially passed in 1975 as P.L. 94-142. P.L. 94-142 has been amended many times since passing in 1975, most recently in 2004.

- **Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act**
  29 U.S.C. § 794d

- **Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004**
  Public Law 105-394 [29 USC 2201]

- **Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act Amendments of 1998**
  Public Law 105-332 Section 1 (b) [20 USC 2302]

- [http://www.fctd.info/resources/techlaws.php](http://www.fctd.info/resources/techlaws.php)
• **Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988**
  Public Law 100-430 [42 USC 3604]

• **The Hearing Aid Compatibility Act of 1988**
  Public Law 100-394 [47 USC 610 (b)]

• **The Television Decoder Circuitry Act of 1990, Section 3**
  Public Law 101-431 [47 USC 303 (u)].

• **Telecommunications Act of 1996**
  Public Law 104-104 [47 USC 255]

• **Federal Government Procurement of Accessible Information Technology**
  Public Law 105-220 section 408 [29 USC 794 (d)]

• **Workforce Investment Act of 1998!**
  Public Law 105-220 [29 USC 701]

  • [http://www.fctd.info/resources/techlaws.php](http://www.fctd.info/resources/techlaws.php)
AccessGA is a joint initiative of the Georgia State ADA Coordinator’s Office, the Georgia Institute of Technology’s AMAC Accessibility Solutions and Research Center, and The Georgia Technology Authority. AccessGA’s purpose is to support Georgia state agencies with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility, promoting equal and timely access for employees and customers with a wide range of disabilities.

Support

For customer support, call 855-495-0374 or complete the request form. Consult the AccessGA Wiki for online support.

Email

Category
Select a Category …

Request

Submit  Reset

Event Calendar

To view more information or to register for an upcoming event, please click on the name of the event.

No upcoming events scheduled

Accessibility Services

Assistive Technology
Document Content Remediation
Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT)

Agency Network

Administrative Office of the Courts
Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

Resources

WAVE
WebAIM
Wiki
Consider this:


– When you use contractors to develop websites or applications, are you requiring that they comply with WCAG guidelines?

– Be Aware: JAWS users may not see all of the problems on a website. JAWS is intelligent enough to self-correct certain accessibility flaws.
AT Act Moves from Department of Education to Health and Human Services
Moving from Information to Action

Evaluations for Learning Disabilities
• One to one assessment
• Comprehensive battery of tests
• Detailed report with recommendations for support in work and/or learning

• What did You learn in your LD Evaluation?
• Moving from Information to Action
  – Using your Evaluation results as an Action Plan for AT
Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)

- “Also known as Central Auditory Processing Disorder, this is a condition that adversely affects how sound that travels unimpeded through the ear is processed or interpreted by the brain. Individuals with APD do not recognize subtle differences between sounds in words, even when the sounds are loud and clear enough to be heard. They can also find it difficult to tell where sounds are coming from, to make sense of the order of sounds, or to block out competing background noises.”

- What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?

http://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/
Moving from Information to and AT Action Plan

Dyscalculia

• “A specific learning disability that affects a person’s ability to understand numbers and learn math facts.
• Individuals with this type of LD may also have:
  – poor comprehension of math symbols,
  – may struggle with memorizing and organizing numbers,
  – have difficulty telling time, or
  – have trouble with counting.”

• What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?

http://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/
Dysgraphia

• “A specific learning disability that affects a person’s handwriting ability and fine motor skills.
• Problems may include illegible:
  – handwriting,
  – inconsistent spacing,
  – poor spatial planning on paper,
  – poor spelling, and
  – difficulty composing writing as well as thinking and writing at the same time.”

• What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?  
  http://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/
Dyslexia

- A specific learning disability that affects reading and related language-based processing skills. Dyslexia is sometimes referred to as a Language-Based Learning Disability.

- The severity can differ in each individual but can affect:
  - reading
  - fluency,
  - decoding,
  - reading comprehension,
  - recall,
  - writing,
  - spelling, and
  - sometimes speech and can exist along with other related disorders.

- What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan? [http://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/]
Moving from Information to and AT Action Plan

Visual Perceptual/Visual Motor Deficit

• A disorder that affects the understanding of information that a person sees, or the ability to draw or copy. A characteristic seen in people with learning disabilities such as Dysgraphia or Non-verbal LD, it can result in:
  – missing subtle differences in shapes or printed letters,
  – losing place frequently,
  – struggles with cutting,
  – holding pencil too tightly, or
  – poor eye/hand coordination.

• What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?

http://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/
Moving from Information to and AT Action Plan

Language Processing Disorder

• A specific type of Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) in which there is **difficulty attaching meaning to sound groups that form words, sentences and stories**. While an APD affects the interpretation of all sounds coming into the brain, a Language Processing Disorder (LPD) relates only to the processing of language. LPD can affect expressive language and/or receptive language.

• What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?

http://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/
Moving from Information to and AT Action Plan

Non-Verbal Learning Disabilities

• “A disorder which is usually characterized by a significant discrepancy between higher verbal skills and weaker motor, visual-spatial and social skills. Typically, an individual with NLD (or NVLD) has trouble interpreting nonverbal cues like facial expressions or body language, and may have poor coordination.”

• What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?

http://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/
Moving from Information to and AT Action Plan

• What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?

• Avoid the temptation of a “cookie-cutter approach”

• Customize approach – No 2 individuals are the same. We all have different strengths and Abilities to build upon.
Building a Firm Foundation for AT Success!
The “FAST” Track

• Frustration
• Anxiety
• Stress
• Tension
Human Activity Technology (HAAT) Model

• **Human**: represents the skills and abilities of the person with a disability

• **Activity**: a set of tasks to be performed by the person with a disability

• **Context**: the setting or social, cultural and physical contexts that surround the environment in which the activity must be completed

• **Assistive Technology**: devices or strategies used to bridge the gap between the person’s abilities and the demands of the environment

• Developed by Cook & Hussey
The SETT Framework

S = Student/Skills
E = Environment
T = Tasks
T = Tools

Adapted from Joy Zabala  www.joyzabala.com
What specific tasks occur in the environments which enable progress toward mastery of IEP goals and objectives?

What are the students special needs and abilities?

What are the functional areas of concern?

What are the students current abilities?

What activities take place in the environment?

What materials, equipment, supports, resources are available?

Where will the student participate - classroom, home, community, therapy?

What is the physical arrangement?

What activities is the student expected to do?

Tools must be student centered.

Describe tool features that are needed.

Tools are devices and services - everything that is needed to help the student succeed.

Tools are on a continuum from no/low, mid, high.

SETT
By Joy Zabala
Examples of Where and When Assistive Technology Can Support the Perception & Discrimination Process
Promoting Strengths & Managing Weaknesses & Stress!
Enhancing All of Life’s Functions

Considering AT:
- Identify Environments
- Determine the Functional Areas
- Select AT

- Dr. Cheryl Wissick and
- Dr. Elizabeth Bagley
Exploring Assistive Technology Strategies and Solutions

• Try before you buy
Ergonomics

- Inhibits blood flow
- Creates muscle shortening
- Stresses back muscles and compresses spine
- Can inhibit learning
- Compresses diaphragm
  - Affects breathing
  - Voice quality
Ergonomics in the Classroom
Know Your Tablets
Android Device Fragmentation

July 2012: 3,997 Different Android Devices

July 2013: 11,868 Different Android Devices

Ben Satterfield
## Comparing Tablets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Android</th>
<th>iOS</th>
<th>MS Windows</th>
<th>Amazon Kindle</th>
<th>Barnes and Noble Nook</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number and variety of Tablets</td>
<td>Over 11,000</td>
<td>iPad and iPad mini</td>
<td>Several</td>
<td>Kindle Fire and Fire HD</td>
<td>Nook HD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating System</td>
<td>Android (Jelly bean)</td>
<td>ios7 (Sept 18, 2013)</td>
<td>Microsoft Windows 8</td>
<td>Modified version of Android ICS</td>
<td>Modified version of Android- Microsoft bought 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apps</td>
<td>860,815 (AppBrain.com updated 9/13/13)</td>
<td>900,000 with 375,00 optimized for iPad/mini (mobileburn.com updated June 2013)</td>
<td>104,917 (winbeta.org updated July 4, 2013)</td>
<td>50,000 in Amazon App store also shop in Google Play Store (theverge.com updated August 2013)</td>
<td>10,000 in Barnes and Noble and have access to Google Play store (barnesandnoble.com updated August 2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software Updates</td>
<td>As it becomes available on Google</td>
<td>Apple releases updates</td>
<td>MS releases updates</td>
<td>Amazon releases updates</td>
<td>Barnes and Noble releases updates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interface</td>
<td>As designed by manufacturer</td>
<td>Icons and widgets designed by Apple</td>
<td>Metro style designed by Microsoft</td>
<td>Modified version of regular Android</td>
<td>Modified version of regular Android</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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[www.bluebugle.org](http://www.bluebugle.org) updated by TFL 2013
Microsoft Surface

- Windows 8
- Slim and has a USB port
- Moveable Tiles
- Built-in Accessibility
  - Speech-to-text
  - Narrator
- Thin pressure sensitive cover that doubles as a keyboard
- Starts at $349
Samsung Galaxy Tab 3

- Android System
- 7, 8, or 10 in screen
- Camera
- Micro card
- Wi-Fi
- USB for computer
- Some built-in accessibility app
  - Download others
- Starts at $199.99
Apple iPad/mini/ Touch

- Multi-touch screen
- New iOS 7
- Millions of apps
- Surf web
- iTunes
- Videos
- Organization
- Accessibility
- Books
- Photos
- Speakers
- 5.0 megapixel camera

Height: 7.87 in
Width: 5.3 in
Depth: 0.28 in
Weight: 0.68 lb
Tools for Life
AppFinder
TFL AppFinder

Search by:
✓ App Name
✓ Categories
  - Book
  - Education
  - Environmental Adaptations
  - Hearing
  - Cognition, Learning, Developmental
  - Navigation
  - Personal Care and Safety
  - Productivity
  - Communication
  - Therapeutic Aids
  - Vision
Welcome to Tools for Life

Tools for Life, Georgia’s Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.

Tools for Life and the TFL Network work collaboratively together to accomplish our mission through:

- AT Demonstration
- AT Evaluations and Assessments
- AT Funding Options & Education
- Access to the TFL AT Lending Libraries
- AT & Durable Medical Equipment Reuse
- AT Training (Individual)
- AT Training (Groups)

2013 IDEAS CONFERENCE
2013 Institute Designed for Educating All Students Conference
June 3 - 6, 2013
Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island

- Submit a Proposal
- Conference Website
- Exhibitor Details

WEBINARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APR 18</td>
<td>Free for All Resources for Teachers and Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 24</td>
<td>Assistive Technology and Adapted Recreation: A Perfect Match</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current Webinar Schedule
Webinar Archives

APP FINDER


AT ONLINE EXCHANGE

gTRADE Georgia’s Online Equipment Exchange, encourages members to offer AT and DME for sale or donation to others who may benefit from using technology unneeded by others.
### Universal Design For Learning And Accommodations

iPad Apps to Support Bloom's Revised Taxonomy
Assembled by Kathy Schrock

C - Creating
- Storytelling
- Video Editing
- Videocasting
- Mixing
- Animating
- Podcasting

E - Evaluating
- Moderating
- Conferencing
- Networking
- Posting
- Collaborating
- Critiquing

A - Analyzing
- Outlining
- Structuring
- Organizing
- Surveying
- Deconstructing
- Mashing

P - Applying
- Interviewing
- Simulating
- Demonstrating
- Presenting
- Editing
- Illustrating

U - Understanding
- Categorizing
- Annotating
- Tweeting
- Blogging
- Subscribing
- Explaining

R - Remembering
- Recalling
- Listing
- Bookmarking
- Searching
- Mindmapping
- Word Processing

http://www.schrockguide.net/bloomin-apps.html
Low Tech AT Solutions
PAR: Protocol for Accommodations for Reading

- Don Johnston
- Assist with accommodations for reading
- 3 Steps
  - 1) Student’s Oral Reading
  - 2) Adult Reader
  - 3) Text Reader
- How did the student like?
- Help with adding in AT for reading solutions
“Rewordify is a free website that makes English easier to read. In some ways it is similar to a thesaurus, but allows users to enter not just single words, but entire sentences, pages, and even websites, for clarification. Passages are preferred, as difficult words are 'rewordified' using the context of the sentence. For example, paste in "The tempest raged outside while the throng huddled inside.", and it is 'rewordified' into, "the storm raged outside while the crowd huddled inside."

Students can use this tool to make passages more understandable. Simplified words are highlighted for quick comparison with the original word(s).”
BookSense

- Compact and portable DAISY reader
- Compatible with a wide range of audio format
- Built-in text to speech engine to read a variety of documents
- Ability to record notes

- Listen to books and music on the go
- $299
Victor Reader Stream (new generation)

- Handheld media player by Humanware
- Plays DAISY books, MP3, MP4, EPUB
- Records voice and media
- Two built-in, human-sounding voices
- Built-in wireless networking capability
- $369
Reading Pens

- Scans text,
- Hear it spoken aloud
- Obtains definitions and correct pronunciation within seconds
- Variety of types
  - Wizcom
  - IRISPen
  - PenPower
  - Video Touch Pen by MoralRegion
AnyBook Anywhere

- Use to record your voice reading the story
- 200 hours of recording
- Works with any book
- Store recordings on a virtual library
- Share collections with friends
- $79.99
- www.franklin.com
Learning Ally

- Learning Ally
  - DAISY
  - Membership required
  - over 75,000 audiobooks, audio textbooks, and other recorded books
  - Free Trial
Bookshare

- Online Accessible Library
- Free membership to qualified students and schools
  - Textbooks if school is member
- 208,769 titles
- Serves individuals with:
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  - Physical disabilities
  - Learning disabilities
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- New to the Collection
- Most Popular Books
- And more...

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Start with your choice of a free book:

Best Sellers in All Categories

The Cuckoo's Calling  Divergent  Inferno  The Fault in Our Stars  Si-cology 1: Tales and Wisdom from...

Customer Favorites in All Categories
Types of Reading Apps

• There are over 27,000 reading apps and over 500,000 books and publications

• Active Reading Apps
  – Studies show that comprehension improves by 38%-70%
  – Defined as eyes are on the screen following the words
  – Highlighting of words, sentences, and paragraphs

• Passive Reading App
  – No pictures
  – Usually synthetic Computer Generated Voices/ VoiceOver
    – Therese Willkomm
Mobile Tablets/ eReaders

- What do I need?
- Does it read out loud?
- Do I need Apps?
- Change colors?
- Change line spacing?
- Textbooks?
- Fun Reading?
Reading Software
ClaroSpeak US

- Text-to-Speech
  - import documents and PDFs into ClaroSpeak from apps such as Mail, or import PDF, Word, Pages and other files directly from Dropbox using
  - Change font and color
  - Save text as an audio file
  - Visual Tracking
  - Send Text

ClaroSpeak speaks back text with high-quality speech and highlighting so you can follow the words as they are spoken.

Tap the screen to place the 'cursor point' in the text. Then tap the Play icon to start speaking. The text will be spoken from the start point with the highlighting and voice you have selected in Settings. To stop ClaroSpeak speaking, tap the Stop icon or tap anywhere in the ClaroSpeak title bar.

Edit the Text in ClaroSpeak.
ClaroRead

• Reads text as it highlights
• Moveable tool bar
• Can read doc, PDFs, internet, and more
• 6.2 version
  – In Europe
  – Can save directly to iTunes
  – Create a video

• Can change highlighting colors
• www.claroread.com
Premier Software

• Read documents in standard file formats such as Microsoft Word, Rich Text, text file format, HTML, and PDF

• Converted to audio files for use on a CD or MP3 player

• Scan and read documents

• Look up a word or definition in the integrated dictionary

• Create study notes and much more!

• www.readingmadeez.com
Premier Features

- PDF Equalizer
- E-Text Reader
- Universal Reader Plus
- Scan and Read Pro
- Talking Word Processor

- PDF Magic Pro
- Text-to-Audio
- Ultimate Talking Dictionary
- Talking Calculator
- Premier Predictor Pro
Reading & Writing Software Solutions
Kurzweil 3000

- Text-to-Speech software
- Helps improve reading speed and comprehension
- Note taking capabilities
  - Different color highlighters
- firefly
  - Access many features of Kurzweil through the internet
  - firefly demo
- Free download trial
  - www.kurzweiledu.com
  - Kurzweil 3000 Demo
TextHelp

- Text-to-Speech software
- Helps improve reading skills
- Built in text and picture dictionaries
- Study skills highlighter

- Has a Google Chrom version
- www.texthelp.com
WYNN

• What You Need Now
• Freedom Scientific
• Scanning and Reading software
• Highlights text as spoken
• Icon friendly
• Built in study tools

• Internet Features
Writing Software Solutions
Low Tech Solutions

Writing Solutions:

– “The Penagain takes a novel **ergonomic** approach to ink pen design. The body of the pen is shaped like a "Y" creating a cradle for the index finger to rest in.”
  [http://ergonomics.about.com/od/buyingguide/fr/frpenagain.htm](http://ergonomics.about.com/od/buyingguide/fr/frpenagain.htm)

– Wide barrel pens can make it easier for some people to write due to their contoured shape. With a Fat Ergonomic Pen there’s more surface area to grip which makes it easier to write.
Low Tech Solutions

- Built up grips
  - Variety
  - Create your own using tennis balls
- Larger / thicker pencils
- Electronic Spellers
  - Franklin Spellers
Live Scribe Pen

- Records what it hears and what you write
- Uses specific paper for playback
- Connects to computer by USB for saving
- Tap on note and playback from there
- Jump forward and back in notes
- Dictionary
- Translation Apps
- Purchase Apps online
- Demo
Voice Input Solutions
Speech Recognition Software

• Turn spoken words into text

• Connect with the timing of your thoughts

• Dictation speed 70 to 100 words per minute
Word Q/ Speech Q

• Software that has built-in word prediction
• Suggests words
• Spoken feedback to hear what was written
• Speech Q is a plugin for Speech Recognition

• 30 day free trial
http://www.goqsoftware.com/trial/
I can hear when I have spelled things wrong. I can also hear when I have been using bad grammars. When a comma is in the wrong place it is obvious.

Run on sentences are a problem for many people I always know when I have written one because it sounds like the computer needs to take a breath.
Ginger

- Online grammar and spell checker
- Can see corrections as you type or use Ginger Proofreader to scan the entire document for mistakes
- Will read corrections out loud

- Has an mobile Android app
- Works inside Word and emails
- Text to Speech
  - Read emails and docs
  - Can choose voice and accent

[Link to Ginger Demo]
Inspiration

• Mind Mapping software
• Allows User to “connect” ideas together
• Add in pictures and hyperlinks
• Can produce an outline form

• Better organization of essays
• $39.95
• App $9.99
Memory & Cognitive Supports

- Calendar & Reminder Software
- Friendly Interface Layout

vs.
Google Calendar

- Color Code items
- Share Calendars
- Access across multiple platforms
- Customize Notifications
  - SMS Text
  - Emails
  - Popups
- Multiple ways to view
  - Daily
  - Weekly
  - Monthly
What's New In AT and the AT Community:

• Perhaps, Where We Are Going
Emerging Trends

Knowledge transfer is the practical action of transferring knowledge from one organization to another. Like knowledge management, knowledge transfer seeks to organize, create, capture or distribute knowledge and ensure its availability for future users.

TIP: Universities & Colleges are becoming more agile and actively seeking avenues for Knowledge Transfer.
Future

• Evening out the playing field

• More schools Bring Your Own Technology

• The Future is Contextual
  – GPS apps
  – Ads on Internet
  – Smart watches

• Martha Rust
E-Readers Can Make Reading Easier for Those With Dyslexia

Sep. 18, 2013 — As e-readers grow in popularity as convenient alternatives to traditional books, researchers at the Smithsonian have found that convenience may not be their only benefit. The team discovered that when e-readers are set up to display only a few words per line, some people with dyslexia can read more easily, quickly and with greater comprehension. Their findings are published in the Sept. 18 issue of the journal PLOS ONE.

An element in many cases of dyslexia is called a visual attention deficit. It is marked by an inability to concentrate on letters within words or words within lines of text. Another element is known as visual crowding—the failure to recognize letters when they are cluttered within the visual field. In the paper condition students read passages from the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Tests and answered multiple choice questions as shown. In the iPod condition the reading passage was displayed on the iPod (scrolled vertically using a finger on the touchscreen).
iOS 8 Coming Fall 2014

iOS 8 Preview

Our smartest keyboard ever.

iOS 8 makes typing easier by suggesting contextually appropriate words to complete your sentences. It even recognizes to whom you’re typing and whether you’re in Mail or Messages. Because your tone in an email may be different from your tone in a message.

Learn more ›
MIT Finger Device Reads to the Blind in Real Time

By RODRIQUE NGOWI
Associated Press
JULY 8, 2014 1:24 AM

In this Thursday, June 26, 2014 photo, a model wears a FingerReader ring at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab in Cambridge, Mass. Researchers designed and developed the instrument, which enables people with visual disabilities to read text printed on paper or electronic devices. (AP Photo/Stephan Savoia)
Gizmag shares some more thoughts about being part of the Google Glass Explorer program

Image Gallery (7 images)

Here at Gizmag, we're very interested in the present and future of wearable tech. So we thought it was fitting to sign up for the Google Glass Explorer program, to give you a better idea of what Sergey Brin and company are cooking up in Mountain View. Though we aren't quite ready to do a full and proper Google Glass review, we want to share some more thoughts on our first ten days with Glass.

My first few days with Google Glass were mostly about the self-
Join Us at LDA in Chicago!

News-in-Brief

Conference in Anaheim February 2014

LDA in Anaheim
51st Annual International Conference
February 19-22, 2014

LDA & AMAC PRESENT
AT Solutions Lab
Living · Learning · Working · Playing

Dear Beth,

Creative, comprehensive use of technology and the Internet by students and teachers as the very best resource ever is the focus for the Technology Lab that will be available Wednesday through Friday at the LDA Conference. Entitled LDA/AMAC AT Solutions Lab and generously sponsored by:

AMAC| Tools for Life  Georgia Institute of Technology
Welcome to the Tools for Life wiki. Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, gives more options for greater freedom by increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in communities of their choice.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- What is Assistive Technology?
- Where can I learn about Assistive Technology devices?
- Where can I access TFL webinar archives?

Recent Presentations and Activities

- 2014 International Learning Disabilities Conference (LDA) LDAJAMAC AT Solutions Lab - February 18 - 21 - Anaheim, CA
- 2014 GASHA - February 7 and 8, 2014 - Atlanta, GA
- 2014 ATIA - January 30 to February 1 - Orlando, FL
- 2013 GATE - December 6, 2013 - Atlanta, GA
- 2013 Learning Disabilities Association of Indiana Annual Conference - November 15, 2013 - Carmel, IN
- 2013 International Dyslexia Association of Georgia - November 12,
**LDA AT Solutions Lab**

**LIVING ● LEARNING ● WORKING ● PLAYING**

**Setup:** Tuesday, February 18th 4:00 PM—8:00 PM (CP, Martha & WATAP!-I don't anticipate this taking 4 hours.)

**Wednesday, February 19th 9:30 AM—6:00 PM**
(Welcome reception / Continental Breakfast 9:00 AM)

9:30 AM—10:15 AM  Dedicated exhibiting hours (CP, Rosemarie, WATAP!)
10:15 AM—11:00 AM  Learning Disabilities & AT Solutions: An Overview (CP & Martha)
11:00 AM—11:30 AM  Open Lab Demo Time (Mark & Sam)
11:30 AM—1:00 PM  W16 Introducing the AT Solutions Lab: A Resource for Your Success (Kelley, Phillips & Rust)
12:15 PM—12:30 PM  Tech Talk: Vendor (Mark will facilitate)
12:30 PM—1:00 PM  Open Lab Demo Time (CP, Rosemarie, WATAP!)
1:00 PM—1:45 PM  Dedicated exhibiting hours (CP, Mark & Sam)
1:45 PM—2:45 PM  AT Supports for Reading & Writing across the Lifespan: Children and adolescents (Mark & Maria)
2:45 PM—3:00 PM  Open Lab Demo Time (Mark, Maria, and Gaby)
3:00 PM—3:30 PM  Dedicated exhibiting hours (CP, Mark, Maria, and Gaby)
3:30 PM—4:30 PM  Tea & Talk: Our Favorite Apps - Writing (CP & Sam)
4:30 PM—5:00 PM  Tech Talk: Vendor (CP will facilitate)
5:00 PM—6:00 PM  Open Lab Demo Time (CP, Mark, and WATAP!)

**Thursday, February 20th 9:30 AM—6:00 PM**

3:30 AM—10:15 AM  Dedicated exhibiting hours (CP, Mark, Maria, and Gaby)
10:15 AM—11:15 AM  Ergonomic Tips & Tricks: Position for Success for Students with Learning Disabilities (Maria & CP)
11:15 AM—1:15 PM  Open Lab Demo Time (Gaby & CP; MR)
11:30 AM—12:30 PM  AT Supports for Reading & Writing across the Lifespan: Adults (Mark & Maria)
12:30 PM—1:45 PM  Dedicated & Demo (CP, MR & WATAP!)
1:45 PM—2:45 PM  AMAC SESSION - T27 Understanding Apps/Tablets (Mark)
3:00 PM—3:30 PM  Dedicated exhibiting hours (Phillips & Rust)
3:30 PM—4:30 PM  Tea & Talk: Our Favorite Apps - Reading (CP & Sam)
4:30 PM—5:00 PM  Tech Talk: Vendor (CP will facilitate)
5:00 PM—5:30 PM  App Share & Swap: Whatare Your Favorites? (Mark)
4:30 PM—6:00 PM  Open Lab Demo Time (CP, Mark & WATAP!)

**Friday, February 21st 9:30 AM—3:00 PM**

9:00 AM—10:15 AM  Dedicated exhibiting hours (CP, MR & WATAP!)
10:15 AM—10:45 AM  Learning Disabilities & AT Solutions: An Overview (CP)
10:45 AM—12:00 AM  Accessibility Tips & Tricks: Creating LD-Friendly Media (Martha)
12:00 PM—1:30 PM  Dedicated & Demo Time (Sam, and Gaby)
12:00 PM—12:30 PM  Tech Talk: Vendor (Martha will facilitate)
1:30 PM—2:30 PM  Dedicated exhibiting hours (CP, Martha & WATAP!)
2:30 PM—3:00 PM  Open Lab Demo Time (Martha, Sam, and Gaby)

**Take down:** Friday, February 21st 3:00 PM—6:00 PM (Whole Team - I don't anticipate this taking 3 hours.)

**Color Key:**
- AMAC = Dark Blue
- WATAP = Purple
- AT Network = Red-lab

**Sessions, Presentations = Green**
**Vendor Talks = Light Blue**
Meet NAO!
Humanoid robot helps train children with autism

by David Salisbury | Posted on Saturday, Mar. 23, 2013 — 1:11 PM
Success with Assistive Technology and Advocacy begins with the Individual

- Get to Know Yourself
- Build your self-advocacy and Advocacy Skills
- Plan for Your Success – in school, work, Life!
- Explore & USE Assistive Technology that can Help You
- Begin with the End in Mind
- Be able to tell Your Story
- Listen & Learn
- Try – Fail & Try again…
- Evaluate and Evolve
- Laugh Much!
- Celebrate your Successes! Success Breeds Success.
- AND Visit Us at the LDA & AMAC AT Solutions Lab in Chicago!
Atomic Learning Tutorials
AMAC membership also provides you with access to Atomic Learning videos. Click on the Support Tab in the Student Download Center and click on Atomic Learning to access video tutorials on many widely used applications and devices such as Microsoft Office and iOS for iPad and iPhone.
Additional Resources

Family Center on Technology and Disability
http://www.fctd.info

WrightsLaw
http://www.wrightslaw.com

National Disability Rights Network
http://www.napas.org/

A Guide to Disability Rights Law – U.S. Department of Justice
http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/cguide.htm

American Association of People with Disabilities
http://www.aapd-dc.org/

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
http://www.c-c-d.org/

Many states have their own Disability Law or Protection and Advocacy Organizations. Links to these sites can be found on the Family Center on Technology and Disability’s Website under Member Organizations.
My Question to You:
What have You Learned today?
Thank You!

thank you
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Disclaimer
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