What’s on TTAP for Spring?

April 9  TTAP Advisory Council Meeting in Austin
techaccess.edb.utexas.edu/

May 6  Easter Seals Fort Worth
8th Annual Hats Off to Mothers Luncheon
ntx.easterseals.com/

May 6  Assistive Technology in the Home Training, East Texas Center for Independent Living, Tyler
For information contact Helen D. Thornton Tel: 903-581-7542

June 15-17  Texas Assistive Technology Regional Conference, Houston
www.texasatconference.net 713-744-6831

July 28-30  Assistive Technology Cluster Conference, Richardson
www.region10.org/specialeducation/atcc09.html

June 23-27  RESNA Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA
conference@RESNA.org

Save the date! June 15-18, 2010
Texas Assistive Technology Network Conference, San Antonio
www.texasat.net

Calling All Power Users
Is there assistive technology you love? Do you have a little trick, shortcut, or tip that you would like to share with others? Do you have a recommendation for new or additional AT for our Device Loan Program or Demonstration Program?

Here’s your chance to contribute. We’re looking for any and all of your favorite ideas. Please write, e-mail, call, or fax us with your information or recommendations. We will appreciate your input.

Phone: 512-232-0751 or 800-828-7839
Fax: 512-232-0761

What Types of AT are Available from the TTAP Device Loan Program?

Reachers and Grabbers
Activities of Daily Living
Kitchen and Cooking
Writing and Typing
Switches and Mounts
Communications
Vision
Hearing
Early Childhood
Learning and School
Computer Access
Cognitive Access

TechnoTech Access Program Launches Newsletter

The Texas Technology Access Program (TTAP) is pleased to present the first edition of our Web-based newsletter. We hope to bring you three to four newsletters each year containing helpful information regarding Assistive Technology. We plan to include information on new products, services, resources, trends, and helpful tips from experts in the field of Assistive Technology.

The Texas Technology Access Program is your state Assistive Technology Grant program. Our services are free to citizens of Texas and provide opportunities for people of all ages to learn about, try-out, and ultimately obtain assistive technology. TTAP is funded by the Federal Rehabilitation Services Administration and administered by the Texas Center for Disability Studies located at The University of Texas at Austin. TTAP provides demonstrations and short-term loans of assistive technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies, professionals, or others seeking to meet the needs of individuals with a disability and provide industry information regarding all aspects of assistive technology.

In this issue we have highlighted some of the latest assistive technology on the market, including information on a new software program for persons with learning disabilities. The program is called “Wynn” and is available from TTAP for either demonstration or loan. We have also included information about upcoming assistive technology training and local events sponsored by some of our demonstration center partners. Please feel free to copy, print and share our newsletter freely to anyone who might have an interest.

Have a question? Have an answer? Contact TTAP Director, Roger Levy: at rogerlevy@mail.utexas.edu

New AT Device From Microsoft!

The University Of Texas at Austin
Texas Center for Disability Studies
10100 Burnett Road, Bldg. CMS, #137, Rm 1.154, MC/14000
Austin, Texas 78758-4445

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Q: Can a scanner make handwritten materials accessible thru JAWS?
A: No. Screen reading programs have not advanced that far to date. They translate and read print materials only. Several companies are working on this feature however, so perhaps soon.

Have a question? Have an answer? Contact TTAP Director, Roger Levy: at rogerlevy@mail.utexas.edu

If you would like to be notified when a new addition of the TTAP newsletter is available, it’s real easy: just send an e-mail to Darlene West, Assistive Technology Specialist at dwest@mail.utexas.edu with “subscribe” in the subject line.
Do you have difficulty in using a regular telephone? If you are a person with a disability and have difficulty in accessing a regular telephone, the Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program (STAP) funded by the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitation Services (DARS) could help you purchase the appropriate phone or adaptive telephone device to meet your individual needs. On their Web site is an application, a list of approved vendors, a list of approved communications devices, and the amount DARS pays towards each device. If your device of choice is more than the amount paid by DARS, you have the option of using their voucher and paying the difference.

The process consists of filling out an application and obtaining the signature of an approved licensed professional. A list of accepted, licensed professionals is on the application. There is a 1-2 month waiting period.

On your approval, DARS will send you a voucher for the maximum amount allotted for that type of device and a list of approved vendors. You will need to research and find/select the brand/model of your choice and find a vendor amongst the list of approved vendors that have it in stock or are willing to obtain it. You can apply every five years for a new communications device, or you can re-apply anytime your physical needs change. For complete instructions on filling out the application, go to the STAP Web site http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/stap.shtml On the left side, click Application; then in the first box entitled Telephone Access (STAP), click on Instructions. This link will tell you exactly what you need to include in the application, including mailing instructions and disability definitions as they relate to telephone access. Following is a list of the accepted telecommunication devices and the maximum amount DARS will pay for each device:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Device Max $</th>
<th>Device Max $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amplified Phone</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>2,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-Coil</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>8,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Visual Display (LVD)</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>7,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice Carry Over</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captured Phone</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Way Paging Device</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing Carry Over</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braille Telecommunication Device</td>
<td>6,495</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speakerphone</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Button Telephone</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talk Back Number Dialed Telephone</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote Controlled Telephone</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hands Free Activated Phone</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hands Free Switch</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Label Microphone</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outgoing Voice Amplification Telephone</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>3,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice Amplification System</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>4,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cordless Telephone</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>1,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artificial Larynx</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice Dialer</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headset, Neck Loop, or Cochlear Cord</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amplified Headset or Neck Loop</td>
<td>1,020</td>
<td>1,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Tooth Compatible Phone</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-Coil Compatible Phone Device</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ring Signal</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tactile Ring Signaler</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrared Telephone</td>
<td>1,280</td>
<td>1,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACD Wireless Card and Software</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>4,195</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the STAP Web site, on the left side of the page under Voucher Values, is the description of each device listed above. This program covers a wide range of needs and again the only eligibility requirements are that a person has a disability and has difficulty using a regular telephone in some way. Then it is just a matter of filling out an application which requires the signature of a licensed professional and proof of residence such as a Texas I.D. or utility bill and mailing the application to the STAP program.

This quarter the spotlight shines on: Easter Seals North Texas

Services provided by Easter Seals North Texas:

- Audiology Autism Treatment Program
- Assistive Technology
- Case Management/Client Interface
- CLASS Case Management
- Housing Services
- Workforce Development
- Medical Rehabilitation
- Personal Support Services
- Reflections
- Work Incentives, Planning and Assistance (WIPA)

For further information: http://ntx.easterseals.com/

Hats Off to Mothers Celebration

On Wednesday, May 6, 2009, Easter Seals North Texas will hold its 8th Annual Hats Off to Mothers Luncheon. This year we will be honoring five wonderful women - D'Ann Bonnell, Shari Hardin, Joy Ann Havran, Gayle O'Neal, and Madalyn Teal. The 8th Annual Hats Off to Mothers Luncheon will be held at the Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth and will begin at 11:00 a.m. In addition to the luncheon, a cocktail reception will be held on the evening of May 5, 2009. Individual tickets and corporate sponsorships are available for both events. For more information, please contact Meredith Cappell at 817-759-7914 or mcappell@ntx.easterseals.com.

Tech Corner

WYNN is the innovative literacy software tool designed to enhance success for individuals with reading challenges and writing difficulties. WYNN was developed with the help of special educators and individuals with learning difficulties such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, and aphasia.

By using a bi-modal approach - simultaneous highlighting of the text as it is spoken – WYNN transforms printed text into understandable information that benefits readers of all ages including English Language Learners (ELL), struggling readers and children with ADD (attention deficit disorder) or ADHD (attention deficit hyperactive disorder).

For further information log on to: http://www.freedomscientific.com/LSG/products/wynn.asp