

AHEAD 2009 - Global Access: Opening a World of Opportunity

Louisville, KY July 20-25, 2009

Contact: Association on Higher Education and Disability
107 Commerce Center Drive, Suite 204
Huntersville, NC 28078 USA
Tel: (704) 947-7779
FAX: (704) 948-7779
www.ahead.org/conferences/2009

National Disability Sports Conference

September 10-12, 2009
Kennesaw State University, Georgia

Contact: Jeff Jones
Blaze Sports America
280 Interstate North Circle, Suite 450
Atlanta, GA 30339
Tel: (770) 850-8199
FAX: (770) 850-8179
E-mail: jjones@blazesports.org
www.blazesports.org

Closing the Gap 27th Annual Conference

Minneapolis, MN October 15-17, 2009
(Preconference Workshops October 13-14, 2009)

Contact: Closing The Gap
526 Main St, PO Box 68
Henderson, MN 56044
Tel: (507) 248-3294
FAX: (507) 248-3810
www.closinathegap.com/conference

**Just for Laughs
Overheard in a computer shop...**

Customer: "I'd like a mouse mat, please."

Salesperson: "Certainly sir, we've got a large variety."

Customer: "But will they be compatible with my computer?"



Happy 4th of
July

Have a question? Have an answer? Contact Roger at rogerlevy@mail.utexas.edu



Texas Center for Disability Studies
The University Of Texas at Austin
J.J. Pickle Campus
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02
July
2009

JOURNAL OF THE
Texas Technology Access Program

TTAP

this issue

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News from the Device Loan Library by John Morris, TTAP AT Coordinator

The following items are new to the Device Lending Library: iPod touch AC device, Dynavox M3, Vantage light, UB Duo, Reading Pen, ChatBox and the ChatBox40

To try out these new devices, visit our Web site and complete a loan request application. For further information, please contact the Device Loan Program at (512) 232-0753 or e-mail at jcmorris1@mail.utexas.edu

Assistive Technology Q&A

Q. What is the latest version of the Window Eyes screen reading program?

A. Straight from "The Ranger Station," word is that Window Eyes 7.1 is now out of Beta testing and ready for shipping. Window-Eyes 7.1 is packed with features, including support for Windows 7, support for 64-bit versions of Windows Vista, Windows Server 2008, and Windows 7, enhanced Braille functionality, new scripting features for end users and script authors, and more.

From the Director's Desk

By Roger Levy

Eleven years ago, while working on the Twenty-fourth Institute on Rehabilitation Issues, I wrote the following: "A prevalent misconception is that only certain types of people can benefit from assistive technology (AT). Historically, modifications focused on accommodations for those with mobility, hearing, and visual impairments..."

In retrospect, we have seen some expansion of AT for individuals with what may be referred to as having hidden disabilities or impairments. This population received little benefit from AT in the early years. In this decade, we have seen AT for people with learning impairments, cognitive aids beyond medication reminders, orientation, and process reminding aids. We hope, as your AT Act Program, we are meeting everyone's needs. As the Director of your Program, I welcome feedback on how we can improve and expand our services to be of more assistance. Our goal is to be of assistance to all persons with disabilities in our state when it comes to access or acquisition of AT. So, regardless of your age, where you live in our state, or what limitations you might have; if you have comments or suggestions on our services, contact me.

For further information, please contact TTAP at (512) 232-0751 or e-mail rogerlevy@mail.utexas.edu.

Health Care Therapies, LP - "Leaders in Positive Touch"

Health Care Therapies (HCT) is a unique therapeutic services agency providing in-home massage and community-based aqua services for children and adults of all levels of ability.

The mission of Health Care Therapies is to improve the quality of life for children and adults with Cerebral Palsy, Traumatic Brain Injuries, Autism and other special needs. Working with medical experts, they provide professional services through evaluation and implementation of effective treatment plans.

All HCT Massage Therapists are licensed by the State of Texas.

Contact Us

Health Care Therapies welcomes parents and clients to contact them for further information regarding services they provide.

6800 Westgate Blvd.
Suite 132-325
Austin, Texas 78745
Phone: (512) 444-2288
Fax: (512) 716-8010

Assistive Technology for "Hidden Disabilities"

By Darlene West, TTAP AT Specialist

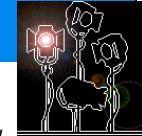
Some of the most difficult disabilities to accommodate are hidden disabilities. These hidden disabilities can include autism, asthma, cardiovascular conditions, acquired brain injury, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), sleep disorders, schizophrenia, and many others. Although these disabilities may be overlooked by the casual observer, they can cause major deficits in some, or all, aspects of an individual's independence and ability to work.

Some of the more common disabilities and assistive strategies were addressed by Tony Gentry, PhD OTR/L, from Virginia Commonwealth University in a recent presentation of the subject. Dr. Gentry offers insights on some of the common limitations these hidden disabilities cause and suggestions for accommodations. Common limitations and accommodations include:

- Functional Cognition Deficits
 - Possible accommodations include:
 - removing clutter and simplifying environment
 - Teach pacing, doing one thing at a time
 - Work environment in a quiet setting if possible
 - Utilize low-tech and high-tech memory/organization aids
 - Teach relaxation skills
- Decreased Stamina/Chronic Fatigue
 - Possible accommodations include:
 - Flexible schedule with regular down-times
 - Schedule a daily nap, if possible
 - Use cooling jacket, if fatigue is related to overheating
 - Work and shop from home (using internet) when possible
 - Delegate responsibilities when possible
 - Keep fatigue diary to better time tasks
 - Consider sleep clinic assessment
- Emotional Stress
 - Possible accommodations include:
 - Relaxation and movement therapy
 - Conflict resolution training
 - Behavioral management training
 - Collaborate with co-workers on task delegation
 - Utilize Positive Behavioral Support strategies
- Reading/Writing/Speaking
 - Possible accommodations include:
 - Use accommodations software on PC or Mac
 - Text-to-Speech or Speech-to-Text software
 - Identify strengths and work to enhance them
 - Allow extra time for completing tasks
 - Ask a co-worker to proofread written materials
- Sensory Defensiveness/Sensitivity
 - Possible accommodations include:
 - Occupational therapy assessment
 - Use of Assistive Technology to compensate for problem (glare)

Case study reports may be viewed at:
<http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/pda>

Spotlight on TTAP Demonstration Centers Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, Austin



The Assistive Technology Lab, located in the Goodwill Community, provides Goodwill consumers, employees, and members of the community access to the latest in assistive technology. Training is available on specialized equipment and demonstrations are available of programs and software.

DEMONSTRATION

Services to show and demonstrate the assistive technology lab

- Use and capabilities of technology programs
- Information and assistance on accessibility
- Navigating the Internet

TRAINING

Assistance with lab equipment and efficiency of technology use in:

- JAWS™ (Job Access with Speech) for persons who are blind or have visual impairments
- Magic™ (magnification software) for persons with low or limited vision
- Deaflink (video relay interpreting) for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Dragon Naturally Speaking™ (speech recognition software) navigation through the computer and the internet by voice and for persons who may have limited mobility, learning disabilities or spasticity

JOB ASSISTANCE

Using assistive technology equipment:

- Job seeking skills training
- Application skills
- Interviewing skills
- Typing skills

For information regarding eligibility and appointment, contact their Assistive Technology Lab Specialist at (512) 637-7520 or e-mail sarah.brody@austingoodwill.org

Tech Corner

Apple iPod touch 8 GB (2nd Generation)



Proloquq2Go, the groundbreaking Alternative & Augmentative Communication (AAC) program for Apple's iPod touch, is now available. The low price and fantastic features, plus the "cool factor" of the iPod Touch means the iPod touch has the potential to change the lives of some AAC users - especially young people for whom the "cool factor" may mean that they're more willing to use their device in public.

The Apple iPod touch is the size of a cell phone and fits into your pocket!

AT Breaks Writing Barriers for Students with Autism, Cognitive and Physical Challenges

Don Johnston, Inc. has released a new case study which confirms the writing success of students using their intelligent word prediction programs. To view a video of the case study visit donjohnston.com and click on "case studies" on the left side of the page.

The Co:Writer program is an intelligent word prediction program which allows the user to write in any word processor, email program, or on the internet. Co:Writer uses context clues and common spelling information to "predict" the words students try to write even when they spell them phonetically or inventively (such as writing the word "elephant" as "lfont").

Co:Writer offers predictions in a list form that the program reads audibly. When students hear the right word, they choose the word and it is sent to the writing application. Don Johnston also offers the Write: Outloud program. This is an award-winning talking word processor and writing software program built specifically for students in grades 3-12.

For further information and to request a catalog:

Donjohnston.com