



VISIONS in Indiana

Fall 2009

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Mark Your Calendar

14-15 January 2010

Eye Camp. Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Diane Childers, Outreach and Related Services; phone: 317-253-1481, ext. 175; email: <dchilders@isbvik12.org>

27-30 January 2010

ATIA 2010 Orlando. Registration deadline: January 9, 2010. For more information, contact: ATIA, 401 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL; phone: 877-687-2842 or 312-321-5172; email: <info@atia.org>; web: <www.atia.org>.

5-7 February 2010

Transition Weekend. Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Diane Childers, Outreach and Related Services; phone: 317-253-1481, ext. 175; email: <dchilders@isbvik12.org>

20 February 2010

2010 Indiana Braille Challenge. Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Toni Hughes, Director, Outreach and Related Services; phone: 317-253-1481, ext. 221; Email: <thughes@isbvik12.org> or Diane Childers, Outreach and Related Services; phone: 317-253-1481, ext. 175; email: <dchilders@isbvik12.org>.

22-27 March 2010

California State University at Northridge (CSUN) Center on Disabilities' 25th Annual international Conference: Technology and Persons with Disabilities. San Diego, CA. Contact: Center on Disabilities, CSUN, 18111 Nordhoff Street, BH 110, Northridge, CA 91330-8340; phone: 818-677-2578; email: <conference@csun.edu>; web: <www.csun.edu/cod/conf/index.html>

23-25 April 2010

51st Annual Conference of the California Transcribers and Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CTEBVI). Los Angeles, CA. Contact: CTEBVI, Braille Institute, Los Angeles; email: <administrator@ctebvi.org>; web: <www.ctebvi.org>

24 April 2010

Early Childhood and School-Age Conference. Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Diane Childers, Outreach and Related Services; phone: 317-253-1481, ext. 175; email: <dchilders@isbvik12.org>.

28 April - 1 May 2010

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Annual Convention and Exposition. Nashville, TN. Contact: CEC; web: <www.cec.sped.org>

June 2010

Research in the Rockies: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Braille Reading and Writing. More information to come.

20-25 July 2010

2010 AER International Conference. Little Rock, Arkansas. Contact: Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, 1703 North Beauregard Street, Suite 440, Alexandria, VA 22311; phone: 703-671-4500, ext. 201; web: <www.aerbvi.org> for more information.



IERC Updates

New Staff Members

The IERC has two new staff members. Barbara Thomas has joined the IERC staff and will be instrumental in order processing and fulfillment. Annabelle Paul has joined the IERC Braille Project and will perform data entry, preliminary text input and braille production. We are excited to have Barb and Annabelle as part of our team.

Prison Braille Program Directory

APH recently released the “2009 Directory of Prison Braille Programs.” Indiana is now represented in the directory, detailing aspects of our Miami Braille Project. Photos of the men working in the program are also included.

VI Teacher Directory

Thanks to all of our VI teachers for updating their school contact information for the “2009 VI Teacher Directory.” The directory is now completed and has been disseminated electronically to all teachers. *Please note that this directory is for VI teacher distribution only.* If you have not received your directory via email, please contact the IERC.

Packing/Shipping Slips

Please remember to sign and return a copy of the packing lists enclosed in your textbook and aids and/or equipment shipments. This will let us know that you received the materials we have shipped to you for your students.

Book Orders for Second Semester

If you will need braille and large print books for the upcoming semester/s, please send in those orders now to allow the IERC staff ample time for production, ordering, and processing.

2010 Annual Registration of Students Who Are Legally Blind

The packets for the *Annual Student Registration of Legally Blind Students* will be disseminated by mid December to state directors of special education. The effective date is the second Monday in January. Please mark your calendars and begin preparing for this important procedure. This registration is separate from and in addition to the ongoing ICAM student registration process. It is for registering students who are legally blind only for the purpose of generating federal quota funds under the “Act to Promote the Education of the Blind of 1879.” This census is conducted through the advisory services portion of the Act.

The Federal Quota Program was enacted in 1879 by the Federal “Act to Promote the Education of the Blind.” This program is a means whereby a per capita amount of money is designated for the purchase of educational materials for each eligible student registered through an established Federal Quota account. These Federal Quota accounts are maintained and administered by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) and its Ex Officio Trustees. The coordinator of the Indiana Educational Resource Center is the responsible Ex Officio Trustee for the school-age, public and private accounts in Indiana.

Again, **this registration process is for students who meet the legal definition of blindness only** and does not include those students who have low vision and whose vision does not meet the legal definition. It does not take the place of the ICAM registration but is in addition to that process. Registration procedures and requirements for the Federal Quota registration will differ from the ongoing registration procedures required by the ICAM. Again, this registration is **ONLY** for students who are legally blind.

VI teachers should collaborate with the special education director for the LEA’s they serve to complete the registration. **The deadline for registering students will be February 15, 2010.**

New Materials Added to the IERC Professional Library Collection

Check out these new professional books and DVD’s added to the IERC professional collection. They are available to VI teachers on a 60 day loan period.

Assistive Technology for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired: A Guide to Assessment. AFB, c2008. This manual is for teachers of students with visual impairments, members of the IEP team, administrators, technology professionals, and anyone who needs to keep up with the ever-changing world of technology. It provides an overview of the full range of assistive technology that students can use to manage information in print or electronic formats, whether they use vision, touch or hearing to access information; how to select appropriate tools and strategies; a structured process for conducting a technology assessment; a detailed assessment form that can be used to determine students’ technology needs and solutions to address them; and advice on writing up program recommendations based on assessment results. Also included are: tips and insights on working with technology effectively; a summary of laws and regulations relating to assistive technology; a resource section of assistive technology producers; and reproducible, blank assessment forms.

Everyday Activities to Promote Visual Efficiency: A Handbook for Working with Young Children with Visual Impairments. AFB, c2009. This book offers principles for early intervention with very young children who are visually impaired and who may also have additional disabilities. This resource provides simple activities that can be incorporated easily by families and service providers into the everyday routines of a baby or child to facilitate early visual development and use of functional vision.

Proceedings of the Summit on Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment: Educational, Family, and Medical Perspectives April 30, 2005. AFB, c2006. Cortical or cerebral visual impairment (CVI) is now viewed as the most common cause of visual impairment in children in this country but despite widespread attention, agreement on definitions and methods of assessing and dealing with this complex condition has remained elusive. Diverse viewpoints by distinguished experts and presentations by educational and medical professionals as well as by parents are included.

Better Lighting for Better Sight. DVD. AFB, c2009. Better Lighting for Better Sight contains information about critical factors that can enhance vision, including different types of lighting, positioning of lighting, contrast sensitivity, and control of glare. It provides suggestions on how to choose the right light for the person and the task.

Preventing Falls: Adapting Your Home. DVD. AFB, c2009. This DVD suggests simple and inexpensive changes that can be made in the home to dramatically lessen the chance of a dangerous fall and enhance an individual's ability to live independently. The video addresses specific areas of the home, such as the kitchen and the bathroom; household furnishings; lighting; and caring for oneself. The DVD, created by the AFB Center on Vision Loss for Senior Site® <www.afb.org/seniorsite>, contain simple and easy-to-implement suggestions that can benefit all older people, as well as anyone with a visual impairment.

Tactile Learning Strategies: Interacting with Children who have Visual Impairments and Multiple Disabilities. DVD. AFB, c2009. This is an informative video that illustrates effective interactions with children. Used alone or in conjunction with the manual Tactile Strategies for Children Who Have Visual Impairments and Multiple Disabilities: Promoting Communication and Learning Skills. Tactile Learning Strategies provides a wealth of techniques to help successfully teach communication skills. English and Spanish DVD versions are provided.



State Library Updates

By Carole Rose
Indiana State Library
Special Services Division



Eighty children participated in our 2009 statewide summer reading program. Only sixty students registered in 2008 so we were pleased with this year's response. The number of books circulated was also impressive. A total of 837 braille, large print, and audio titles were read and returned during the eight-week program.

In keeping with the theme "Be Creative @ Your Library," students were invited to submit creative writing, pictures, and other arts and crafts projects. Students from the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired submitted pictures and crafts that were displayed in exhibit cases during our *2009 Indiana Vision Expo*. We are encouraging students to submit pictures, arts and crafts projects with a holiday theme, and creative writing through the end of 2009. These will also be displayed in our exhibit cases. Please contact Carole Rose, Coordinator of Children's Services, for additional information. Phone: (317) 232-0609 or (800)622-4970; Email: <rose@library.in.gov>.

Digital Transition

At last! Our first two shipments of digital talking book players have arrived and are

being distributed. There is a plan in place for distributing the new players, but because our monthly quota is smaller than we expected, it will take several months before everyone in the system will be served. Federal law requires veterans who want the players to be served first. The library has compiled a list of patrons who are anxious to receive the new equipment. Patrons on the list who read and return books regularly will be given first consideration. A certain number of players will also be set aside for new patrons. It is also a plus if patrons can download books from the NLS web site, or have friends or family who can download for them. Currently, we do not have a large collection of digital titles, but there are more than 20,000 titles available for downloading.

Schools will of course receive digital talking book players, but the allotment for each school will be limited for a time, due to the reduction in the quantity we receive and the need to get the equipment into the hands of individual users. Schools may want to consider downloading books from the NLS site onto thumb drives for use with the new players. You may continue to borrow titles from the library, but remember that the number of titles on digital cartridges is limited. If you are unable to download and need a book quickly, the library can help by downloading the book for you. You may keep the books which you download but must return any books downloaded by the library. Please contact the library to request a player or to obtain further information about downloading from the NLS web site.



"EYE-DEAS"

By Diane Childers
School-Age Consultant
Outreach and Related Services
Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired



Welcome back to school!

Why does it seem like the summers are getting shorter every year?! We are having a very busy year at ISBVI. We have had some changes to the Outreach and Related Services department. Pat Renick and Sally Wann, Short Course staff, retired. Dave Romano now does O&M with ISBVI students and also does direct services throughout the state. Kelly Benson, former ISBVI Braille instructor and O&M specialist, is now a Short Course teacher and does O&M for Short Course as well as assessments throughout the state. Sue Smith, ISBVI Residential Mentor, is now working in Short Course. The ISBVI Outreach and Related Services office has been relocated to House 120, located directly to the left at the main entrance (College Avenue) on campus. The direct fax number is (317) 259-4953 or fax to (317) 251-6511.

Please mark your calendars for the following events sponsored by the ISBVI Outreach and Related Services Department:

Transition Weekend: Will be offered to any student who is blind or has low vision in grades 6-12 and their parents from February 5-7, 2010. Siblings may not attend. This informative weekend consists of: preparation of a person-centered plan for the future facilitated by Larry J. Schaaf, a project coordinator/research assistant for Community Living and Careers (CCLC), Indiana Institute on Disability and Community at Indiana University; exhibits featuring services and technology available to students who are blind or have low vision; additional resources, such as a university panel (disability services), and supported employment panel; trust fund information for parents; self-esteem, social skills and confidence building activities and presentations; fun student only dinner and activity; and a parent only dinner, and guest speaker, Jay Stiteley, Associate Manager of Field Operations of the Seeing Eye, Inc. For further information and registration packet go to <www.isbrockets.org>, Outreach, Events or contact Diane Childers, School-Age Consultant, Outreach and Related Services Department at (317) 253-1481, ext. 175 or <dchilders@isbvik12.org>.

The **Early Childhood Conference** will be held in conjunction with the School Age Conference on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Details and registration packets will be available in March, 2010.

The **Low Vision Clinic (ATO: Access Through Optics)** is offered on campus on the following dates:

December 8, 2009
January 12, 26, 2010
February 9, 23, 2010
March 9, 23, 2010
April 13, 27, 2010
May 11, 2009

Further information/applications for ATO are available at <www.isbrockets.org>, Outreach, Low vision clinic or contact Diane Childers, School-Age Consultant, Outreach and Related Services Department at (317) 253-1481, ext. 175 or <dchilders@isbvik12.org>

Early Childhood inquiries are currently being directed to Ann Hughes, Early Childhood Consultant, Outreach and Related Services. Contact Ann at: (317) 253-1481, ext. 186 or <ahughes@isbvik12.org>.

School-Age Consultations and services (grades K-22 years of age) are currently being directed to Diane Childers, School-Age Consultant at (317) 253-1481, ext. 175 or dchilders@isbvik12.org. Diane offers functional vision/functional literacy/learning media assessments on ISBVI's campus or on-site observations and/or in-services on site on the following dates:

November 10, 24, 2009
December 1, 15, 2009
January 5, 19, 2010
February 2, 16, 2010
March 2, 16, 2010
April 20, 2010
May 4, 8, 25, 2010

Short Course is offered to students who are blind or have low vision in grades K-12 to 22 years of age. This program focuses on intensified vision specific skills with an emphasis on Expanded Core Curriculum. Applications must be submitted by the teacher of students who are blind or have low vision and are located at <www.isbrockets.org>, Outreach,

Short Course, or contact Toni Hughes, Director, Outreach and Related Services at (317) 253-1481, ext. 221 or <thughes@isbvik12.org>

Orientation and Mobility Services are currently offered by Dave Romano for on-site direct instruction (with a portal-to-portal fee) and by Kelly Benson for on-site assessments. For further information go to: <www.isbrockets.org>, Outreach, O&M or contact Toni Hughes, Director, Outreach and Related Services at (317) 253-1481, ext. 221 or <thughes@isbvik12.org>

We hope to work with you and your students this year as a part of the continuum of services for students who are blind or have low vision. Have a great school year!

Indiana Regional Braille Challenge 2010

By Toni Hughes

Director

Outreach and Related Services

Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

The 2nd Annual Indiana Regional Braille Challenge to be Hosted by ISBVI

A unique competition that motivates blind students to improve their Braille reading skills will be held February 20, 2010 on the campus of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. This Regional Braille Challenge is for every student who reads Braille. Students from across the state of Indiana will compete in several contests. Winners' scores will be sent to the National Braille Institute in California. Our winners may have the opportunity to compete at the 10th Annual National Braille Challenge in June of 2010 in Los Angeles, California.

The Braille Challenge, Braille Institute's national reading and writing contest in braille, is a great way to motivate blind and visually impaired students to practice their literacy skills. Students test their skills in reading comprehension, braille speed and accuracy, proofreading, spelling and reading tactile charts and graphs.

For more information, go to ISBVI website <www.isbrockets.org>, Outreach, Events or contact Toni Hughes, Director, Outreach and Related Services at <thughes@isbvik12.org> or call 317-253-1481, ext. 221 or Diane Childers, School-Age Consultant at <dchilders@isbvik12.org> or call (317) 253-1481 ext. 175. Or visit the National Institute's web page at <www.brailleinstitute.org> for more information about the national Braille Challenge.





PROJECT VISION

By Karen Goehl
Project Director

Upcoming In-service Training Activities. Part Two of the VIISA (Vision Impaired Inservice in America) training was conducted on October 24-25, 2009 on the campus of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The VIISA curriculum training is for participants to gain and develop skills in understanding the unique needs of preschoolers who are blind or visually impaired. The focus of the training was on working with these children in preschool settings as well as in collaboration with the family and other members of the service delivery team. Ann Hughes, the Early Childhood Outreach and Related Services Department consultant for the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, was the lead trainer. There were eleven participants in the training group.

No other in-service trainings are scheduled at this time. Project Vision was awarded half of their requested funding for the year (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010). Because of the significant reduction in funding, project staff had to review the grant objectives and establish priorities for both Project Vision and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Project through the end of the grant year. It was determined that there was enough funding to complete the VIISA training (mentioned above) but there were no dollars available for a second training opportunity during this grant cycle. In the future, new Indiana Department of Education discretionary grants will go through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Details about the process and procedures should be published shortly. I'll keep you posted as to next steps for Project Vision.

VI Distance Education Training Program. Currently, Project Vision has two cohorts enrolled in the Teacher of Exceptional Needs: Visual Impairment licensure program. The 2008 cohort of seven students will complete their fourth class, "Instructional Accommodations for Individuals with Visual Impairment" in early December. The 2009 cohort of seven students will complete their second class, "Programs and Services for Individuals with Visual Impairments" in early December. At this time, there are no plans to begin another cohort.

VI Discussion List Serve Requests. If you are a VI teacher and want to be added to the VI Discussion List Serve, you can send an email to <Sharon.Bryan@indstate.edu> and she will add your name to the Discussion List. Also, it is important to remember that should your email address change, you must contact Sharon so she can make the necessary changes to the List Serve address list. The List Serve continues to be active and offers the

opportunity for teachers who serve students who are blind or have low vision to post questions/answers and provide valuable resource information.

!!Please remember - Do NOT post any names of students to the List Serve. It is an issue of confidentiality.

Continue to check the Project Vision website for information about the Project and its activities. The web address is <<http://www.indstate.edu/blumberg/pv/projectvision.htm>>





PATINS PROJECT NEWS

Promoting Achievement through Technology and Instruction for All Students

By Vicki Hershman
PATINS State Coordinator

ICAM Offers Free Access to RFB&D

The ICAM is pleased to announce a recent agreement made with Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) to provide audio digital format to certified students with a print disability textbooks and trade books (novels). The Agreement allows school districts to place request for materials and download materials through your ICAM registered Digital Rights Manager (DRM) at no cost to the district. To learn more on training and how to access RFB&D see the **Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic tab on the Tools and Download tab** on the ICAM web site: <<http://www.icam.k12.in.us>>

Also note that the PATINS Regional Sites now have availability of the Easy Reader Software and Victor Streams, through their lending libraries, to support student use of RFB&D audio files.

Also, Indiana education administrators, special educators and families will be particularly interested in the Teaching through Listening program at RFB&D because of its ability to provide teachers with wonderful on-line resources. The on-line resources contain a variety of downloadable lesson plans, strategies and activities and case studies. For more information on how to access RFB&D's Learning Through Listening (LTL) resources go to their website at: <http://www.rfbd.org/training_support.htm>

ICAM Offers Upgrade to Read:OutLoud Universal Access Speech-to-Text Software from Don Johnston, Inc.

The ICAM is pleased to announce that the Indiana Center for Exceptional Learners' PATINS Project has entered into an additional year's agreement with Don Johnston Incorporated to provide a new version of the *Read:OutLoud* text reader. Many enhancements have been made to the software to make it easier to install, use and implement efficiently and effectively. This statewide, unlimited license, agreement is available through the ICAM at no cost to Indiana local education agencies (LEAs).

As the national accessible instructional materials repositories continue to grow through the collection of more and more textbooks and materials, so then does the accountability for LEAs to provide these materials to students in a timely manner. So as your district is looking to adopt and implement a software tool to assist in the provision of accessible instructional materials for students with print disabilities, please take time to review this software the state has purchased to make these materials available to the widest range of students.

Read: OutLoud 6 text reader software will assist administrators, regular and special education teachers and families in providing access to a variety of digital alternate formats of standard print instructional materials. This statewide initiative is intended to assist LEAs as they strive to support the individual reading accommodations needed for students. The unlimited licensing of the software will enable your district the greatest amount of flexibility in providing reading related accommodations to your students at school and at home because the license includes “take-home” rights for students—installation and use of the software at home, network accessibility and a more student user friendly format. Adoption of this tool will ultimately expedite access to the general education curriculum for all students.

Watch the ICAM web site <www.icam.k12.in.us> for training opportunities and materials. For on-site training opportunities, access the PATINS Project website <www.patinsproject.com> for contact information of your Regional Site Coordinator who can speak with you regarding on-site training opportunities.

ICAM Says Good-bye to Site Coordinator Alice Buchanan

The ICAM said good-bye to site coordinator Alice Buchanan on Thursday, October 22, 2009. The PATINS Project staff and the ICAM staff wish Alice all the best in whatever future endeavors she may seek. The ICAM will be posting Alice’s position and hope to fill the position in the near future. In the interim, please note that Martha LaBounty, of the IERC, will be taking over the majority of Alice’s responsibilities for DRM registration of students, training of DRMs and for supporting the ordering of alternate print instructional materials through the ICAM. You can reach Martha by email at <mlabouty@isbvik12.org> ; by phone at the IERC toll-free number 800-833-2198; or through the ICAM.

CAST Launches NATIONAL Center on Universal Design for Learning

CAST has established the *National Center on Universal Design for Learning* to provide leadership to the growing field of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and to build the capacity of organizations to implement UDL through information dissemination,

communities of practice and technical assistance. The Center has a virtual presence through a website that is a “go-to” resource on UDL providing information resources for teachers, UDL advocates, researchers and parents. Initial core content has been posted including the redesigned UDL Guidelines with supporting research references. In addition, the reader will find teacher-friendly resources and examples that illustrate the UDL Guideline checkpoints. Visit the website at <www.udlcenter.org> .



For Your Information

The National Braille Association (NBA) has updated its “Ask An Expert” web site, a resource for asking questions or reviewing the answers about textbook formats, tactile graphics, mathematics or science notation, and much more. The site includes forums for Transcriber and Educator Services, Online Braille Course, Literary Braille, and others. Visit <www.nationalbraille.org>.

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) has acquired the AFB Migel Memorial Library Collection. This collection, one of the finest non-medical libraries on blindness in the world, has been in existence over the last 80 years at the American Foundation for the Blind in New York. APH is in the process of reorganizing the collection that consists of 40,000 books, magazines, pamphlets, and essays, at its new home. The Migel Library will be become part of other important collections housed at APH that include the Barr Library, Braille Authority of North America Archives, AER Warren Bledsoe Orientation and Mobility Archives, the APH Museum Collection as well as several on-line databases. For more information, contact Julia Myers at APH at (502) 895-2405, email:<jmyers@aph.org>. For more information, visit <<http://www.aph.org/newsrel/20090826migel.html>>

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has made the transition to Digital Talking Books and are distributing their new digital machines. For more information about the new Braille and Audio Reading Service (BARD) of the National Library Service, contact the Indiana State Library, Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, NLS office to learn more about this service. Phone: (317) 232-3684 or (800) 622-4970.

The California Transcribers and Educators of the Visually Handicapped (CTEVH) have changed their name to *California Transcribers and Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CTEBVI)*.

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) has adopted the IPA: Braille (International Phonetics Alphabet: Braille) as the authorized BANA code for phonetics. The publication can be found on the BANA website at <www.brailleauthority.org>. The BANA Tactile Graphics Committee has completed a comprehensive review of the Guidelines and Standards for Tactile Graphics and is currently compiling and evaluating the results.

A new statute of Helen Keller was unveiled in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol on October 7, 2009. Visit <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/social_issues/july-dec09/keller_10-07.html> to download audio and streaming video highlights of the event. Helen Keller joins the ranks of only nine women, the only child and only person with a disability represented.

AFB News...

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) has launched a comprehensive web-based learning center for professionals working with seniors with age-related eye conditions, the *eLearning Center for Aging and Visual Impairment*. Developed by AFB Senior Site and featuring 21 mini courses on topics related to aging and vision loss, the eLearning Center's goal is to give service providers the knowledge and skills needed to help older American with vision loss live active, independent lives. Visit <www.afb.org/seniorsite/elearning>. For more information on the eLearning Center, contact Pris Rogers, course administrator at <pris@afb.net>.

The American Foundation for the Blind's Professional Development Department has announced that it is now beginning the development of the new Training Resources on Low Vision Technology Project. Also known as the Low Vision Tech Project (LVTP), this program is a two-year effort with a long range goal of providing resources that will assist professionals attempting to stay abreast of the rapidly changing field of low vision technology. Outputs from the project will include a web resource that can be used by service providers to acquire the latest information on low vision technology and access a multi-leveled overview of the topic and a curriculum that can be used by Certified Low Vision Therapists (CLVTs) to provide information specific to low vision technology in face-to-face training experiences. The LVTP will encompass a

variety of activities, including updating and expanding AFB's assistive technology database and the demonstration videos on low vision technology; developing various curricula for service providers; providing training seminars in California, Florida, Texas, and Massachusetts; and developing and implementing a web-based resource that can be used by service providers or CLVTs to offer updated training on low vision technology. In addition, AFB will be collecting input from participants and other service providers in the field about the design of the web-based tool that would meet their needs to remain updated on low vision tech. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact Ike Presley, LVTP Project Manager, at <presley@afb.net>, or 404-525-2303.

AFB Press has completed an initiative to put a number of its most important print publications into digital format and make them available online as e-books, significantly expanding the offerings in the AFB Press ePublications bookstore. The AFB Press ePublications are less costly than their print versions, and offer the convenience of accessing and searching books online. Readers can choose to purchase the entire book or individual chapters. Some of the new additions include the following popular titles: [Autism Spectrum Disorders and Visual Impairment: Meeting Students' Learning Needs](#); [Collaborative Assessment: Working with Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired, Including Those with Additional Disabilities](#); [When You Have a Visually Impaired Student with Multiple Disabilities](#)

in Your Classroom: A Guide for Teachers; selected chapters from the textbook Foundations of Low Vision: Clinical and Functional Perspectives; and additional classic articles from the *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness (JVIB)*. For the full list of offerings, visit the <<http://www.afb.org/bookshelf/librarylogin.asp>>

AFB is offering free one-day low vision technology workshops by Ike Presley, National Project Manager at AFB. The workshops are open to ophthalmologists, optometrists, low vision therapists/specialists, occupational therapists, rehabilitation teachers, teachers of the visually impaired, assistive technology specialists, allied health professionals working with people who have low vision. Participants will acquire a general knowledge of the current types of technology available for people with low vision, and will provide input to AFB about the most effective strategies to keep professionals up-to-date on this topic. To apply, contact Shirley Landrum at <slandrum@afb.net> for an application. Upcoming trainings will be conducted in February, March and April. Contact Ike Presley at <presley@afb.net>; phone (404-525-2303 or visit <www.afb.org> and select Calendar of Events under AFB Community.

A free and accessible conversion program is available online for turning favorite photographs, documents, or audio files into a readily accessible web page. For more information, visit <www.file2.ws>.

NFB Newslines, a telephone-based reading system, now offers two new ways of receiving nearly 300 newspapers and magazines. Users can navigate, using NFB Newslines on Demand, any of the available newspapers or magazines online and select an entire newspaper or section to be directly emailed to their email accounts. Using the NFB Newslines in Your Pocket, users can connect a portable player, such as Victor Reader Stream or the Braille+ Mobile Manager, to the computer's USB port and transfer content directly from the site to the player. Once downloaded, Newslines content allows the user the same navigation features that are available via telephone. The user can move from section to section, article to article, or paragraph to paragraph, have words spelled, or search for particular text. Individuals who are already subscribed to Newslines on the phone can go to the Newslines web site and register for the online versions. NFB Newslines accepts any previous authorization from organizations, such as the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped or state vocational rehabilitation agencies to become a member. Subscription is free. For more information, visit <www.nfbnewslinesonline.org>.

Technology News from DOTS for Braille Literacy Fall 2009...

EAP is a new acronym, which stands for electroactive polymer, and has the potential to improve refreshable braille displays. Yoseph Bar-Cohen, a senior researcher at NASA's Jet Propulsion laboratory, wrote about the idea of tiny "artificial muscles" that may yield a full-page active system, and scientists and engineers around the world have used his ideas to develop prototypes. The Center for Braille innovation at the National Braille Press contacted Bar-Cohen about collaborating with researchers to accelerate the development of EAP-actuated braille displays. Visit www.popsci.com/scitech/article/2009-08/iphones-blind or search on EAP at www.spie.org.

The 6Dot Labeler, designed by MIT students, is a portable device that embosses braille onto commercially available adhesive labeling tape. The major difference in this device from previous label makers is the standard braille keyboard and the fact that it uses a built-in microprocessor that can store up to 16 characters. A provisional patent has been filed, and two companies have expressed interest in manufacturing and distributing the 6Dot. Visit www.braillelabeler.net/about.html.

Bookshare announced that it will offer children's books from Sharing-Books.com. Sharing-Books.com is a leading on-line publisher of new children books. The two companies announced that the children books published by Sharing-books.com will be added to the Bookshare Library for the benefit of children with visual impairments. For more information, contact: Ann Harrison, Benetech, phone: (415)637-5262; Email: ann.g@benetech.org or Maggie Kerr-Southin, Sharing-Books.com; phone: 250-595-0136; email: Maggie@artemispr.com

Bookshare and Code Factory, a global provider of screen readers, screen magnifiers, and braille interfaces for mobile devices, have partnered together to provide access to more than 50,000 digital books and periodicals thru low-cost mobile technologies for persons with print disabilities. The *Mobile Speak* screen readers for mobile phones, developed by Code Factory, use synthesized speech to read aloud information displayed on the mobile phone screens including eBooks stored on their phones. Using this technology, Bookshare members who are blind or have visual impairments will have new alternatives and features like navigation, bookmarking, and text search to access digital books for work, study or reading pleasure. For more information, contact: Bookshare.org, phone: (650) 644-3400.



Publications

The 4th edition of *Making Tests Accessible for Students with Visual Impairments: A Guide for Test Publishers, Test Developers and State Assessment Personnel*,

copyrighted July 2009, is available on the APH website at <<http://www.aph.org/tests/access2/index.html>>. This document includes guidelines, information, and resources relevant to braille and tactile graphics, large print test formats and graphics, use of color, audio formats, and much more. The section on accommodations has been updated and a new segment on alternate assessments has been added. A variety of position papers such as use of an abacus during test taking, extended time and accommodations are included in the appendices. For more information, contact Debbie Willis, Director, Accessible Tests, APH, Email: <dwillis@aph.org>.

Better Lighting for Better Sight is a new DVD that contains information about critical factors that can enhance vision, including different types of lighting, position of lighting, contrast sensitivity, and control of glare. It provides suggestions on how to choose the right light for the person and the task. Cost: \$49.95. For more information, visit the AFB Press bookstore at <www.afb.org/store>.

Preventing Falls by Adapting Your Home is a new DVD that suggests simple and inexpensive changes that can be made in the home to dramatically lessen the chance of a dangerous fall and enhance an individual's ability to live independently. Cost: \$49.95. For more information, visit the AFB Press bookstore at <www.afb.org/store>.

Everyday Activities to Promote Visual Efficiency: A Handbook for Working with Young Children with Visual Impairments, by Rona Shaw, Ed.D. and Ellen Trief, is a user-friendly, comprehensive handbook that provides simple activities that can be incorporated easily by families and service providers into the everyday routines of a baby or child to facilitate early visual development and use of functional vision. Early intervention services are essential for these children, not only to ensure their early development but also to help them learn to use their vision with maximum effectiveness. Available in paperback or ASCII files on CD-ROM, the book is available for \$45.95. For more information, visit the AFB Press bookstore at <www.afb.org/store>.

Drawing with Your Perkins Braille by Kim Charlson, is a book that provides instructions for making 36 drawings with a Perkins Braille. Images include shapes, animals, transportation, and holiday themes. The book is available in 18 point print or braille. Cost: \$24.95. Visit <http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?pagename=store_homepage> or phone: (617) 972-7308.

Using the Accessible iPod by Anna Dresner provides the visually impaired consumer information needed to use iTunes and the “talking” iPod successfully. The author identifies which products to purchase, how to download and install iTunes to work with a screen reader as well as building and managing iTunes library, how to set up the iPod for speech, and how to download, transfer, organize and play content on the iPod. Available formats: hardcopy braille, DAISY CD, Portabook CD, text CD or download. Cost: \$15.00. For more information, contact: the National Braille Press, phone: 888-965-8965; email: <www.nbp.org>

Navigating Nystagmus with Your Doctor by Edie Ann Glaser is a comprehensive book written for patients with nystagmus and their care givers. The 164-page paperback book provides detailed information on the forms of nystagmus, causes, how it affects vision, and what treatments are available. Cost: \$25.00. For more information, contact: Vidi Press, 11721 Whittier Boulevard, Room 203, Whittier, CA 90601; phone: 800-409-7170; email: <service@vidipress.com>; web: <www.vidipress.com>.



New Products

Light Bright Books is an innovative reading system specifically designed for children who are visually impaired or multi-handicapped with visual impairments. A custom metal adapter allows all books to be used on the APH Mini Light Box. The pictures are high contrast color or solid black on an illuminated background and offer maximum visibility. There are currently 23 book titles for infants, preschoolers, and grade school students. For more information, contact: Light Bright Books, 2930 East 4th Avenue, Durango, CO 81301; phone: (970) 799-1973; Fax: (970) 462-4232; web: <www.lightbrightbooks.net>.

The *Optelec Mini* is a portable video magnifier by Optelec US, Inc. The 3.5" screen magnifies 2X to 11X and multiple viewing modes allows for ultimate functionality. Cost: \$395. For more information, visit <www.Optelec.com>.

The new *GW Micro SenseView Pocket* is a small portable CCTV, similar to the Optelec Mini, has 4 levels of magnification, and a lower magnification setting. Cost: \$595. Also from GW Micro is the new BookSense, a portable book reader similar to the Victor Reader Stream, but with additional features. Cost: \$250; XT Model: \$499. For more information, visit <www.gwmicro.com>.

Freedom Scientific has released their newest braille display, the *Focus 40 Blue*. The Focus 40 Blue offers 40 cells of refreshable braille in a compact design that is 40 percent smaller than the Focus 40. The Focus 40 Blue operates via Bluetooth for 20 hours on its rechargeable battery or can operate from USB. Its features include the WHIZWHEELS, rocker bars, selector keys, and 10 configurable hot keys, plus two additional thumb keys for panning. The double row of keys behind the cells supports the Braille Study Mode in JAWS. Cost: \$4,495. For more information, contact: Freedom Scientific, phone: 800-444-4443; web: <www.freedomscientific.com>.

Freedom Scientific has announced the latest *SARA* (Scanning and Reading Appliance) update that includes new functionality for saving to and reading from USB storage devices. This new feature provides enhanced flexibility in library and school environments where multiple users, who have access to the same *SARA* appliance, can save and take their files with them after using the unit. The default format for files saved to USB storage devices is RTF (Rich Text Format). This allows students to open their scanned documents, using any text editor on their personal computer, and then read them with the assistance of JAWS or *MAGic* software. For more information, contact: Freedom Scientific, phone: 800-444-4443; web: <www.freedomscientific.com>

The *RUBY handheld video magnifier* is available from Freedom Scientific. It has a 4-inch screen and magnifies from 2X to 14X. A single button can switch among five different viewing modes, full color for viewing photos, and four enhanced contrast modes for reading text. Cost: \$745. For more information, contact: Freedom Scientific, phone: 800-444-4443; web: <www.freedomscientific.com>.

Apple introduced the new iPhone 3G S in August that features *VoiceOver*, the Apple screen reader. According to Apple, *VoiceOver* will enable users who are blind or visually impaired to make calls, read email, browse web pages, play music, and run applications. Apple's new universal Zoom function magnifies the entire screen, and the White on Black feature reverses the colors on the screen to provide higher contrast for people with low vision. For more information, visit <www.apple.com/accessibility/iphone/vision.html>.

HumanWare announced *Orator*, a screen reader software that provides speech output for the BlackBerry® smartphone using state of the art text to speech (TTS) technology with adjustable volume and speech rate. By converting the information presented visually on the device screen into intuitive and familiar speech output, *Orator* for BlackBerry Smartphones will allow the user to access and interact with the smartphone applications. For more information, visit <www.humanware.com> or <www.orator4bb.com>

HumanWare, in partnership with the Washington State office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, designed the *DeafBlind Communicator (DBC)*, a new electronic device designed to help people who are deaf-blind communicate. It is designed to be used for face-to-face, teletypewriter (TTY), and Short Message Service (SMS) cellular telephone texting communications. For more information, contact: HumanWare, 1 UPS Way, Champlain, NY 12919; phone: 800-722-3393; email: <us.info@humanware.com>; web: <www.humanware.com/en-usa/products/blindness/deafblind_communicator/_details/id_118/deafblind_communicator.html>.

The Seika Braille Display, distributed by Adaptive Technology, a division of Perkins Products, Perkins School for the Blind, is an affordable 40-cell refreshable braille display. The screen reader software interface included in the device is designed to work in tandem with the most popular screen readers. It is lightweight, compact, portable, and can be connected via a USB port to a desktop or laptop computer running Microsoft Windows XP or Vista. It will also support the Macintosh Apple operating system. Cost: \$2,495. For more information, contact: Adaptive Technology, 102 Bridge Road, Salisbury, MA 01952; phone: 978-462-3817; web: <https://secure2.convio.net/psb/site/Ecommerce?FOLDER=1110&store_id=1101>

The final release of *AMIS 3*, the DAISY Consortium's open source DAISY software player, was announced this past May. AMIS stands for Adaptive Multimedia Information System. AMIS is a software program that you can use to read DAISY books. It is self-voicing, meaning that no specialized screen-reading software is needed in order for it to be used by visually impaired people. AMIS is open source software and is provided free of charge. Types of DAISY books supported are: DAISY 2.02; DAISY/NISO 2005; Full text plus full audio; Audio plus NCX; and Text-only. System Requirements for PC's include: Windows XP, Windows Vista, or Windows 2000; DirectX 9; SAPI 5.1 text-to-speech engine; Internet Explorer 7 or higher; and 50 MB disk space. AMIS works well with several major screen reading software packages, including: Jaws for Windows; Window Eyes; and Hal and Supernova . Visit <<http://www.daisy.org/projects/amis/>> to download and for more information.

NEW APH PRODUCTS

(taken from *APH News*)

The *MaximEyes Video Magnifier* from APH has been upgraded. The MaximEyes Video Magnifier is a desktop video magnifier that features a larger 22-inch widescreen display; new joystick for easy control; better lighting; new AutoTrack Reading feature, no x-y tables; quieter motion control system; access to remote audio-video presentations through the provided inputs; and new smaller design that requires less space than other CCTVs. Catalog#: 1-03915-00. Cost: \$3,495.00. Available on quota.

APH has product manuals available for download. These downloads can be printed or embossed. Check out their websites for manual availability at <www.aph.org/manuals/>.

A Refreshabraille 18 YouTube Tutorial (in two lessons) is now available on YouTube. Additional lessons will follow. Web site: <<http://www.youtube.com/user/BraillePlus>> The *Refreshabraille 18* refreshable braille display is available with quota funds, Catalog# 1-07445-00, Cost: \$1,695.00.

Hands-On Experience with the Cranmer Abacus, DVD. This DVD and an accompanying booklet are designed to familiarize the user with the basic uses of the Cranmer Abacus. Cover how numbers are represented and how to perform the four basic math functions on the abacus. Catalog# 1-30004-DVD, Cost: \$25.00. Available on quota.

Building on Patterns (BOP): Primary Braille Literacy Program First Grade Level, Unit 1 Building on Patterns is a complete primary literacy program designed to teach beginning braille users all language arts - reading, writing and spelling. The First Grade replaces Patterns Reading: Preprimer, Primer, and First Reader Levels. The remaining lesson units of Patterns First Grades (Units 2-7) and Unit 8 (Introductory and Supplemental Information) will be released during the 2009-2010 school year. The Building on Patterns series addresses phonemic awareness (ability to hear and interpret sounds in speech), phonics (the association of written symbols with the sounds they represent), comprehension, fluency, and oral vocabulary, all of which have been identified as important for reading instruction. This program also addresses specific skill areas needed by the child who is blind, such as language development, sound discrimination, tactual discrimination, and concept development. Braille contractions are introduced from the beginning along with sound and letter associations. First Grade lessons require students to read selections themselves with emphasis on decoding skills, comprehension, and fluency. Creative writing, related to the reading selections, is included with each lesson. Spelling is based upon phonics skills. Recommended ages: 6 to 7 years and up. Prerequisite: *Building on Patterns: Kindergarten* or equivalent skills. Catalog#: Unit 1, Print Teachers Edition: 8-78461-U1, Cost: \$65.00; Unit 1, Braille Teacher's Edition: 6-78461-U, Cost: \$65.00. Available on quota.

Geometro Sets. Geometro provides hands-on experiences with manipulatives that aid in teaching 3-D geometry. Geometro models are flat plastic shapes - triangles, pentagons, and hexagons - that can be joined to form three-dimensional solids. The pieces use Velcro material to adhere to each other and are easy to handle, sturdy, and safe. GS 16 Mini Set, Catalog# 1-03022-00, Cost: \$64.00, includes 16 pieces: 8 triangles, 6 squares, and 2 pentagons; GS 22 Medium Set, Catalog# 1-03023-00, Cost: \$90.50, includes 22 pieces: 12 triangles, 6 squares, 12 pentagons, and 8 hexagons; GS56 Large Set, Catalog# 1-03024-00, Cost: \$286.00, includes 56 pieces: 24 triangles, 12 squares, 12 pentagons, and 8 hexagons. Available on quota.

Digital Light Box Artwork: Supporting Language and Literacy. APH has digitized the individual art pieces from the APH Light Box Materials for use on the computer. The accompanying large print instruction guides teachers how to create personalized activities for cause & effect, choice making, and multiple-choice. The artwork works in both Window and Mac platforms and can be used with many commercially available authoring programs, such as Clicker 5 and Boardmaker. The artwork files are provided in the .png format. The instruction guide gives detailed instructions on how to create activities using PowerPoint. Each piece of artwork is available in black line, red line, and full color. Instructors can create full-page black line art for coloring activities. Available on quota.

Early Trade Books, Sunshine Kit 2. The Early Trade Books Project combines commercially available books with braille labels for beginning readers. This kit includes books, braille labels, a quick start sheet, and access to an interactive website at <<http://tech.aph.org/ebt/>>. Features include: contracted or uncontracted braille labels; matching books to a student based on braille knowledge; an interactive website that allows the user to: search for books by genre, core curriculum, or expanded core curriculum; access a book summary and activities designed for braille readers; maintain a listing and percentage of contractions learned by each student (great for documentation at IEP meeting); and share or transfer student records to other teachers. Catalog#: Contracted Braille Kit: 3-00203-00, Cost: \$250.00; Uncontracted Braille Kit: 3-00204-00, Cost: \$250.00. Available on quota.

Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement, 2001: Braille Adaptation. APH has developed a braille/tactile adaptation, with the permission of Riverside Publishing Company, of the *Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement* used diagnostic test for ages 2 to adult. The *Woodcock-Johnson III* is commonly used to identify learning disabilities and for gathering details on individual strength and weaknesses in preparation for educational planning. For more information contact Debbie Willis, Director, Accessible Tests Department. Available on quota.

The *Listen and Think Program*, Level AR, B and Level C are now on audio CDs instead of cassettes. The program is designed to develop and improve listening comprehension and thinking skills. Level AR is for ages 5 to 7, Catalog# 1-08510-01, Cost: \$59.00; Level B is for ages 7 to 8, Catalog# 1-03890-01, Cost: \$89.00; Level C is for ages 8 to 9, Catalog# 1-03910-01, Cost: \$89.00. Available on quota.

Sensory Learning Kit (SLK) Homegrown Video. This DVD features Sensory Learning Kit author and workshop facilitator Millie Smith as she talks to the viewer about the SLK and as she conducts an assessment with an adult learner. This brief overview DVD provides the viewer with information about how to use the SLK and its benefits for learners at the sensory motor level. Approximate time: 20 minutes. Closed captioned. Catalog# 1-30022-DVD, Cost: \$10.00. Available on quota.

Tri-fold Board. The tri-fold board is covered with Velcro-compatible materials and measures 37 x 24 inches. It can be used in combination with many existing APH hook Velcro-backed pieces, as well as with commercially available or teacher/parent-made manipulatives. The board can be used at its full size, folded down to one or two panels, or propped up in an easel position (if supported from behind). Two 3/4 inch D-rings for easy handling. Reverse side of the board is covered with a protective red vinyl. Catalog# 1-08859-0, Cost: \$54.00. Available on quota.

MathBuilders, Unit 8: Data Collection, Graphing, and Probability/Statistics. MathBuilders is a supplementary math program separated into eight units by content standards and grade level. This allows the teacher to focus on specific standards or provide remedial materials for individual students. Objectives for each lesson have been aligned with the “Principles and Standards for School Mathematics from the National Council for Teachers and Mathematics (NCTM).” Catalog# 7-03565-00 Large Print Kit (includes Teacher’s Guide in print), Cost: \$175.00; Catalog# 5-03565-00 Braille Kit (includes Teacher’s Guide in braille), Cost: \$175.00. Available on quota.

Picture Maker: Geometric Textured Shapes. These geometric shapes are different in texture, number, color, and size from the shapes included with the original Picture Maker kit. Shapes can be used in combination with the diagramming strips and shapes included in the original kit. It includes a felt covered board and a variety of Velcro backed pieces and features over 100 pieces in various shapes, sizes, textures, and colors. Catalog# 1-08838-01, Cost: \$50.00. Available on quota.

For more information on the products listed above or other APH Products, contact the American Printing House for the Blind, 1839 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206-0085; phone: 502-895-2405; toll-free: 800-223-1839; fax: 502-899-2274; email: <info@aph.org>; web: <www.aph.org>.



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