



VISIONS in Indiana

Spring 2009

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Mark Your Calendar

17-19 June 2009

Families Connecting with Families International Conference. Costa Mesa, CA. Co-hosted by National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, Braille Institute, and Junior Blind of America. Contact: National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, P.O. Box 317, Watertown, MA 02471; phone: 800-562-6265 or 617-972-7441; email: <napvi@perkins.org>; web site: <<http://www.spedex.com/napvi/conferences.html>>.

3-8 July 2009

National Federation of the Blind National Convention. Detroit, MI. Contact: National Federation of the Blind, 1800 Johnson Street, Baltimore, MD 21230; phone: 410-659-9314; e-mail: <nfb@nfb.org>; web site: <www.nfb.org/nfb/national_convention.asp>.

4-11 July 2009

American Council of the Blind National Convention. Orlando, FL. Contact: American Council of the Blind; phone: 202-467-5081; e-mail: <info@acb.org>; web site: <www.acb.org/convention/info2009-1.html>.

6-17 July 2009

Helen Keller National Center 13th Annual Summer Teen Program for Youth Who Are Deaf-Blind. Contact: Dora Carney, Admissions Coordinator, Helen Keller National Center, 141 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point, NY 11050; phone: 516-944-8900, ext. 258; email: <dora.carney@hrenc.org>.

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 site: <www.aerbvi.org> for more information.

7 August 2009

Statewide Assistive Technology Conference hosted by INDATA Project of Easter Seals Crossroads. Free. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Contact: Emily Abel, Conference Coordinator; email: <eabel@eastersealscrossroads.org>; phone: 317-466-2001 x2824 or toll free at 888-466-1314; fax: 317-466-2000.

26 September 2009

2009 Indiana Vision Expo, Indiana State Library, Special Services Division, Indianapolis, IN. 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Contact: Carole Rose, Expo Coordinator; phone: (317) 232-0609; (800) 622-4970; email: <crose@library.in.gov>.

15-17 October 2009

141st Annual American Printing House for the Blind Annual Meeting of Ex Officio Trustees and Special Guests. Louisville, KY. Contact: American Printing House for the Blind, 1839 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206; phone: 800-223-1839 or 502-895-2405; email: <info@aph.org>; web site: <www.aph.org>.

15-17 October 2009

27th Annual Closing the Gap Conference: Computer Technology in Special Education and Rehabilitation. Minneapolis, MN. Contact: Closing the Gap, P.O. Box 68, 526 Main Street, Henderson, MN 56044; phone: 507-248-3294; e-mail: <info@closingthegap.com>; web site: <www.closingthegap.com>.

28-31 October 2009

Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) 2009 Chicago Conference. Schaumburg, IL. Contact: ATIA, 401 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611; phone: 877-687-2842 or 312-321-5172; e-mail: <info@atia.org>; web site: <www.atia.org>.

10-14 November 2009

Accessing Higher Ground. Westminster, CO. Contact: Howard Kramer: CU-Boulder; phone: 303-492-8672; e-mail: <hkramer@colorado.edu>; web site: <www.colorado.edu/Atconference/>.



IERC Updates

BOOK ORDERS DUE

Don't forget to submit large print and Braille book orders, as well as orders for aids and equipment via the ICAM ASAP for the 2009-2010 school year. If you need assistance, please call the IERC at 800-833-2198 or the ICAM staff at 800-795-9271.

RETURN OF MATERIALS

Textbook and equipment being returned to the Center can be sent "FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND." Do not mail regular print materials or regular print textbooks "Free Matter for the Blind." Postal Code requires the appropriate postage.

ANNUAL INVENTORY SUMMARY REPORTS

Thanks to all of you who have completed and returned your inventory summary forms to us. This has helped us reuse materials more efficiently and effectively for the next school year. Please notify us immediately if there are any changes to your form (ex: will be retaining a book instead of returning it). If you have not yet returned your forms to us, we would appreciate your time in doing so as soon as possible.

SUMMER HOURS

The IERC will be open Monday-Friday during the summer months, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Please feel free to call the Center during this time if you have any questions or need information.

BOOK DELIVERY REMINDER

Please remember to have someone designated to be responsible for the receipt of ordered materials during the summer months. We have already begun shipping materials and will continue to do so during the summer. If you have special mailing instructions, please let us know as soon as possible.



The IERC staff would like to wish all of you a fun-filled summer!

We are looking forward to another great year in 2009-2010.

HAVE A GOOD SUMMER!

State Library Updates

By Carole Rose
Indiana State Library
Special Services Division



Digital Update

Good news! The transition to digital talking books and playback equipment has begun! The pre-launch testing began on April 27th, when demonstration players were shipped to NLS regional and sub-regional libraries throughout the United States. On May 1st, the Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library received one standard and one advanced player. Within the next two weeks, we should receive two flash memory cartridges—one fiction and one nonfiction title.

Features on the standard player include a power button, play/stop button, rewind, fast forward, volume, speed, and tone controls, and a sleep switch. When this button is pressed, the player will automatically shut off after a specified time. In addition to these control keys, the advanced model includes four keys which enable the user to set bookmarks and navigate a book by chapter, heading, sentence, etc. These features are especially useful for students and adults who enjoy reading nonfiction. The players and cartridges will be on display during the summer, and we encourage parents, teachers, and students to visit the library for a hands-on demonstration. We will also be happy to answer any questions.

Mass distribution of the digital player should begin in August or September, 2009.

2009 Indiana Vision Expo

The *2009 Indiana Vision Expo* will be held at the Indiana State Library, on Saturday, September 26, from 9:30 AM – 3 PM. The purpose of the Expo is to introduce persons with vision loss, their friends and families, service providers, educators, health care professionals, and other interested consumers, to a wide variety of products and services designed to promote independence. Mitzi Friedlander, one of the National Library Service's (NLS) best loved talking book narrators, will be the Expo's keynote speaker and will be giving two additional presentations. For more information about the upcoming Vision Expo, contact: Carole Rose, Expo Coordinator, (317) 232-0609; (800) 622-4970; email: <crose@library.in.gov>.

Be Creative @ Your Library

The 2009 statewide children's summer reading program, "Be Creative @ Your Library," will showcase the talents of our young readers who are blind or have low vision. This year's theme suggests ideas for projects that will not only encourage children to be creative, but will also celebrate and recognize their accomplishments.

Several years ago, we asked students to submit stories, poetry, personal narrative, or other items of interest. We gathered these entries together and produced a

book in large print and braille and on cassette. The project was very rewarding. We are again inviting young writers to submit a story, poem, personal experience piece, or other article to the library for inclusion in another book. Rules for submission include: more than one entry may be submitted; writing done in the classroom should be submitted by the end of the academic year; participants may submit entries during the summer. Every participant will receive the completed book in an audio format. The distribution of braille and large print copies may be limited due to budget constraints. A possible alternative may be to offer the book online for downloading by people with computer access.

We also want to celebrate the talents of those patrons who are not writers. Many are involved in music or a variety of arts and crafts. We are interested in a project in these areas which will be displayed in exhibit cases here at the library. Projects in these areas, completed at school, should also be submitted by the end of the academic year. Projects created at home, during the summer, will also be accepted. We will display the items during the summer and also during our 2009 Indiana Vision Expo, which will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2009. We are also interested in accepting any writing or other art projects that were completed during the first half of the 2008-09 academic year. Please be sure that the student's name and grade level are

included with the literary or other art project for recognition purposes. Students in grades K-12 may participate.

Writing projects may be sent to my attention at: The Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library, 140 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. You may also send them electronically to the following email address: <crose@library.in.gov>. We are looking at ways to receive art projects, which cannot be sent in the mail. I welcome any suggestions you might have for making this a very special activity for everyone involved. You may reach me by phone at (317) 232-0609 or (800) 622-4970 or by email at <crose@library.in.gov>.

"EYE-DEAS"

By Ann Hughes

Early Childhood Consultant

Outreach and Related Services

Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired



Distance learning has now reached young children with an online music class called “Come Children, Sing!” Though “live” music sung with children by parents and teachers is still wonderful, these laptop musical learning activities using technology focus a child’s attention on rhythm and tonal activities in addition to specific activity songs. The National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments even provides a \$35 gift certificate for a 10-week online music class. Adults simply send an email to <mepinzino@comechildrensing.com> mentioning NAPVI and that the child is visually impaired, and a gift certificate will be sent via email.

There are many wonderful ideas for promoting early literacy in young children who are blind or have low vision. Many teachers of the visually impaired and preschool teachers in Indiana schools use teacher-made experience boxes and books to provide young children with literacy experiences that evoke memories of a child’s actual experiences in a tactile format. Items are collected by the adult during an experience (field trips to a farm, a post office, a fire station, a grocery store, a greenhouse, etc.), and those items, along with a “child’s perspective” narrative, become the story book or box. This also gives the adult opportunities to use concepts of time to describe when the experience occurred (yesterday, last week, etc.) as the book is “read” with the child. Twenty-five years ago, Jane K. Kronheim described the use of “learning pillows” in professional literature as another way to provide literacy experiences. “Learning pillows” give tactile information, provide strong visual contrast and auditory cues, and teach simple special concepts and directionality in addition to being a story on a pillow “page.” The tactile aspects of the story can begin on one side of the pillow and continue on the other side. A separate text is used by the adult as the pillow is “read” and explored. An example of a story, “King and His Closet,” has a crownless king on one side of the pillow, and fabric doors that open to reveal fabric hats and crowns that can be tried on the king’s head on the other side. Velcro is used to “hang” the hats and crown in the closet or to put them on the king’s head. Because “everything old is new again,” learning pillows can be very effective with preschoolers or older children who have multiple needs. Though the world is changing and wonderful advances seem to occur daily, most pre-reading and pre-braille concepts remain the same.

Braille Challenge 2009 Update

By Toni Hughes

Director

Outreach and Related Services

Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

On January 31, 2009, the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired hosted the first annual Indiana Braille Challenge. The Braille Challenge is an academic competition unlike any other. The students compete by grade levels against other students from around the state. We had 21 students and their families attend this year. The top 12 in each grade level are picked to compete in the National Braille Challenge competition. These top 60 students were selected from 650 contestants from across the United States. Indiana has five students who have won a chance to compete in the National competition. Only one other state had more students going on to the Nationals. We are very proud of the five students in our state. Hopefully, next year we will have more students in Indiana competing. The date for next year's Indiana Braille Challenge is February 20, 2009, with a snow date of February 27, 2009. More information will be sent out next school year. If you have a student interested in competing next year, watch for the information/registration flyer. If you want to see the final results of the Braille Challenge, go to their website <www.brailleinstitute.org>





PROJECT VISION

By Karen Goehl
Project Director

Upcoming Inservice Training Activities. There is one inservice training activity currently scheduled. It is the VIISA (Vision Impaired InService in America) training. The VIISA training is scheduled in two parts. Part One of the VIISA training is scheduled for July 14-16, 2009. Part Two of the training is scheduled for October 24-25, 2009. Both trainings will take place at Indiana State University in Terre Haute. 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 will be 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 Consultant for the Outreach and Related Services Department at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, will be the lead trainer. Ann attended a VIISA “train the trainers” workshop in April 2008 and she can now train other people. We have received several applications and it looks like there will be a good size group attending the VIISA training. Currently, we are grant writing and will be planning some new inservice training activities for the upcoming school year. The VI State Advisory Committee met on April 21, 2009 to identify new topics. In addition, if any of you have training topics you would like Project Vision to consider, please let me know via email <karen.goehl@indstate.edu>

VI Distance Education Training Program. Project Vision has three cohorts enrolled in the VI Licensure program. The 2007 cohort will have finished their final course in the program this June. Yea!!! The 2008 cohort of seven students will complete their third class, *Communication Skills for Individuals with Visual Impairments* (the braille class), in early June. Finally, a new cohort of five students just completed their first class, *The Eye, Its Function and Health*.

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Training Program. Our 12 Indiana teachers who have been enrolled in the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (now Salus University) Orientation & Mobility program continue to work on their internships. Finding supervisors has been a challenge and thankfully, the internship supervisor at Salus University has been very helpful and flexible in helping our Indiana students.

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.

Please continue to check the Project Vision website for information about the Project and its activities. The website 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

WHAT'S NEW..

TEACHER MATERIALS FOR *READ:OUTLOUD* UNIVERSAL VERSION NOW AVAILABLE

The ICAM has made available the teacher materials, including a Getting Started guide, help materials, passwords, and other reference material, for using the downloadable *Read:OutLoud* text reader. All files are in PDF format and will open in a new browser window/tab. To access these materials, visit the ICAM web site <<http://www.icam.k12.in.us>> and click on the Tools and Download tab, then click on the Read:OutLoud tab.

EARN 3 CRUS: *READ:OUTLOUD* VIRTUAL PERSONAL LEARNING PLAN

The PATINS Project is pleased to announce the availability of the *Read:OutLoud Virtual Personal Learning Plan* for those wishing to use the downloadable *Read:OutLoud* text reader for students with a print disability. This personal learning plan was developed in a collaboration effort with Don Johnston, Inc. Complete the virtual learning plan and submit the tracking form to receive 3 CRUS from the Indiana Professional Standards Board. To access the learning plan go to; <http://www.donjohnston.com/state/indiana/indiana_readoutloud/index.html>

PATINS PROJECT'S NEW LENDING LIBRARY REVIEW FORUM

The PATINS Project web site now offers a forum for you to share with others how a particular piece(s) of equipment has met a student's specific educational/functional need. Log in as a guest and let others know what works or what doesn't work. Share your success or failure stories. Also check out the new talking avatar on the PATINS web site which will read the web page at <<http://www.patinsproject.com>>

ICAM SURVEY FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS MANAGER(S) (DRM)

The PATINS ICAM will be sending out a Users Survey in May to assist us with refining the student registration and ordering process. If you are local educational agencies' DRM, please take a few minutes to complete and submit the survey to help us improve upon the current system. Your feedback will be of great assistance. Thank you.

Self-Voicing DAISY Software Player

- **gh Player:** The gh PLAYER™ fully supports MathML-extended NIMAS and Digital Talking Books with character-by-character navigation, fully anti-aliased display, and up to 16x zoom.
- **DAISY AMIS 3.0 Software:** The DAISY Consortium announces the new release of AMIS software, which combines a talking interface with powerful navigation features to provide access to DAISY multimedia to people with visual impairments, cognitive and learning disabilities, and people who are unable to hold a keyboard or printed publication.

The *Adaptive Multimedia Information System (AMIS)* is a free, open source DAISY software. The AMIS DAISY Player gives readers one-touch access to their books. Users can navigate through sections, pages, and even individual phrases. They can search, set bookmarks, and pick up where they left off. The multimodal experience of synchronized text and audio is further enhanced by offering custom font and color styling options. AMIS is easy to use for beginners, yet powerful for the advanced computer user. AMIS 3.0 is now available for download from <<http://daisy.org/projects/amis/>>.



For Your Information

RFB&D has announced a new download service which allows its members in the U.S. to download DAISY books (AudioPlus DAISY books) <<http://www.rfbd.org/mediapraudioplus.html>>. Members now have instant access to RFB&D's DAISY collection, access to the books anywhere, anytime, and elimination of CD handling and storage. Once downloaded, RFB&D's AudioPlus books can be played with DAISY software on a PC, transferred to the memory of a specialized DAISY player or burned to a CD to be played with a DAISY CD player. For complete technical requirements and specifications, visit: <www.rfbd.org/audioplus>.

Duxbury, version 10.7, is designed to offer braille math translation from Microsoft Word documents created with version 5 or 6 of the Math Type software program thru Design Science. For more information, contact: Duxbury Systems, 270 Littleton Road, Unit 6, Westford, MA 01886-3523; phone: 978-692-3000; email: <info@duxsys.com>; website: <www.duxburysystems.com/dbt.asp>. For more information on MathType, visit Design Science at: <www.dessci.com/mathtype>.

The California Transcribers and Educators of the Visually Handicapped (CTEVH) has changed its name to the California Transcribers and Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CTEBVI). For more information, contact CTBVI, Braille Institute of America, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90029-3594; phone: 323-666-2211; web site: <www.ctevh.org/announcements.htm>.

Twenty organizations, representing persons who are blind, the elderly, and people with learning disabilities, have formed the *Reading Rights Coalition* to protest Amazon.com's Kindle 2's text-to-speech limited capabilities for persons who are print disabled. The text-to-speech function does not work in the Kindle 2's menu. In addition, the Authors Guild lodged complaints that the text-to-speech feature would interfere with audio book rights. The *Reading Rights Coalition* lodged an online petition and an April 7th protest outside the Authors Guild headquarters in New York. You can read more about the Kindle 2 and text-to-speech debate at <www.daisy.org/news/newsletters/planet-2009-03.shtml> or at the *Reading Rights Coalition* website at <<http://www.readingrights.org/>>.

AFB (American Foundation for the Blind) Consulting has launched the *Accessibility Assurance Program (AAP)* to enable any company or organization to make its web site(s) more accessible to people with disabilities. For more information on AFB Consulting and the AAP, contact Marc Grossman at 212-502-7740 or email <mgrossman@afb.net>.

AFB has announced reduced individual subscription rates for the *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness (JVIB)*, the leading journal in the area of blindness and low vision. Online access is \$25.00 and a combined print and online subscription is \$65.00. JVIB serves an international community including teachers of students with visual impairments, low vision therapists, orientation and mobility specialists, rehabilitation specialists, occupational therapists, and other professionals. For more information, visit <www.afb.org>. JVIB has a new feature entitled, "Practice Perspectives." This new section will highlight professional practice and the concerns and techniques of practitioners throughout the field. The new column will be edited by Dr. Jane N. Erin and will also provide readers with the opportunity to exchange thoughts and suggestions with Dr. Erin, featured authors, and each other. The column will be free and available through JVIB online to non-subscribers for a limited time. For more information, visit JVIB online at <www.jvib.org>

The AFB Family Connect site has toolkits for parents on various topics, such as After the Diagnosis, Working with Medical Professionals, and Understanding the Vision Impairment System. Visit <www.familyconnect.org/toolkits> for a complete list. Parents wanting to know about digital book players can read a new article entitled "MP3 and Digital Book Players" at <www.familyconnect.org/parentsite>. Also on the site are Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) audio interviews with professionals in the ECC Audio Library. Visit <www.familyconnect.org>.

NFB-NEWSLINE, the largest electronic newspaper service for blind and print-disabled persons, has announced NFB-NEWSLINE Online at <www.nfbnewslineonline.org>. VictorReader Stream users can obtain the NFB-NEWSLINE through the NFB-NEWSLINE *In Your Pocket* initiative. Upgrading to Stream version 3.0 is recommended. For more information, visit <www.nfbnewsline.org> or call (866) 504-7300.

GW Micro is offering "Free Online Window-Eyes Training for Teachers and Students: Top Ten Things You and Your Student Should Know About Window-Eyes," on Thursday, June 4th at 3:30 pm. This special, free online training is designed for teachers who need to get up and running quickly with Window-Eyes. Worksheets will be provided to help you retain the information that is taught during the class. To register, send your name, email address, school address and school phone number to Jeremy Curry at <jeremy@gwmicro.com>.

A selection of audio-described (DVS) movies can be found in the *Blind Mice Movie Vault* by visiting <http://www.blindmicemart.com/assets/product_images/movies2.html>

The National Library Service has launched its *BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download)* site. Visit: <<https://nlsbard.loc.gov>> for more information.

APH News...

APH has launched its new version of the Louis Database and online ordering system. The new version includes major upgrades to both sites. The new Louis site features an easier basic search plus more advanced search capabilities, a “my list” feature that allows the user to save, email, or print items of interest, and the ability to add APH products to their new shopping cart site. The Louis web address is <<http://louis.aph.org>>. The new APH online shopping site features a familiar interface similar to other commercial shopping sites, the ability to browse for products by categories, and a relationship between products that allow the user to see optional, replacement and related products. The APH shopping web address is <<http://shop.aph.org>>. Comments or questions about the new sites can be directed via email to <cs@aph.org>.

Braille+ QWERTY Docking Station is a new accessory for use with APH’s Braille+ Mobile manager. The Docking Station is smaller than a laptop and snaps into the QWERTY Docking Station for a highly functional, comfortable-to-use, portable notetaker with Ethernet connectivity. Users can take notes with a full-size keyboard, perform full-capability word processing, browse the web extensively, and read and write email. Cat.# 1-07452-00. Cost \$600.00 plus shipping. Available with Federal Quota dollars.

Refreshabraille 18 is a braille display and braille keyboard for mobile devices such as APH’s Braille Mobile Manager, as well as other PDA’s, notebooks, and mobile phones. It connects to a mobile device via USB cable or wireless Bluetooth and supports common screen readers like Window-Eyes and JAWS for the PC and Talks and Mobile Speak for mobile phones and PDAs. Features include: 18 eight-dot braille cells; 18 cursor routing keys; forward and back scroll buttons; five-position joy stick; auxiliary space bar; USB or wireless Bluetooth connectivity; rechargeable lithium-ion battery; and reversible operation. Cat.# 1-07445-00. Cost: \$1695.00. Available with Federal Quota dollars.

30-Love: Tennis Guidelines for Players with Visual Impairments or Blindness is an opportunity to learn adaptive tennis, a sport for practicing sound localization skills and socialization. The game helps players develop the ability to accelerate, leg strength, general body coordination, gross motor control, fine motor control, bone strength, agility, balance, and flexibility. Players learn a variety of skills, including competing one-on-one, accepting responsibility, managing adversity, accommodating stress, planning and implementing strategies, solving problems, sportsmanship, and teamwork. The game includes 2 blindfolds, 2 rackets, a set of 6 sound-adapted tennis balls, and Braille and large print guidelines. To watch videos of tennis go to: <www.aph.org/pe/features.html>. Meets national standards on physical education. Cat.# 1-08110-00. Cost: \$123.00. Available with Federal Quota dollars.

PATTER: Preschool Attainment Through Typical Everyday Routines is a curriculum and assessment tool from APH designed to facilitate skills development by children who are visually impaired in the areas that preschoolers are expected to master through involvement in typical household routines. *PATTER* is appropriate for use with children with varying degrees of visual impairment, as well as those with additional impairments. *PATTER* breaks down an everyday activity into its component parts and allows for measurement of a child's level of participation during each step. Cat. # 8-76001-00: Large Print Guidebook with CD and DVD, Cost: \$23.00. Cat.# 6-76001-00: Braille Guidebook with CD and DVD. Cost: \$23.00. Available with Federal Quota dollars.

A webcast featuring *Turbo Phonics*, a computer-based, phonemic awareness and phonics program for young students who are preparing to develop reading skills, is available at < www.aph.org/webcast>. The program was specially designed for students who have low vision, but students with typical vision can also successfully utilize the program. Also available via webcast are overview presentations by Elaine Kitchel on *Address Earth*, APH's large format atlas, and *ToAD, Tools for Assessment and Development of Visual Skills*.

Visit <www.aph.org/webcast>. Visit <www.aph.org/pe/camps.html> for a 2009 sports camp list.

Fred's Head, the free service from APH that publishes tips, articles, and resources for blind or visually impaired people, has transitioned to a Blog. The *Fred's Head* blog offers many functions that were not available in the original database. Users can receive newly published articles via email, RSS, or Twitter. Articles are self-voicing by clicking on the speaker icon and the text is automatically read. Visit *Fred's Head* at <www.fredshead.info>.

“Administering and Scoring the Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement for Braille Readers” is a two-day workshop to be held at the Desert Valleys Regional Cooperative in Phoenix, AZ on August 28-29, 2009. Registration is \$25.00. For registration information and to access the registration form, go to <www.aph.org/edresearch/WJIIIworkshopAugust2009RegistrationForm.doc> or contact Rachel Goodman at <rgoodman@aph.org> or call 502-899-2389.

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 site: www.aph.org.

Publications

AFB Press has released Assistive Technology for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired: A Guide to Assessment by Ike Presley and Frances Mary D'Andrea. This manual addresses the role of assistive technology in the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired and the common kinds of technology used. It addresses conducting a technology assessment and provides detailed assessment forms that can be used to determine students' technology needs and advice on the writing of program recommendations based on the assessment results. Cost: \$49.95. For more information, visit the AFB Press bookstore at www.afb.org/store.

New Products

VictorReader Stream 3.0 upgrade has been released by HumanWare. The upgrade includes a number of features, including two text-to-speech voices that can be on the Stream at the same time and are accessed with a single key press, multilevel folders in the music folder, the availability of bookmark alerts as you pass over them, a 30-minute option added to the time-jump menu, the ability to search for specific words in text files, and more. To download the upgrade, as well as documentation and an audio tutorial reviewing new features, visit www.humanware.com/stream_support.

HumanWare recently released *KeySoft 8.0* for the PK and mPower models in the BrailleNote family. The new upgrade provides *KeyChat* that will allow users to use popular instant messaging services to communicate in real time with others, writing and reading conversations in one's preferred grade of Braille, as well as downloading and unpacking books directly from Bookshare, and playing audio books from Audible.com. For more information, visit the Humanware site at www.humanware.com.

The DAISY consortium recently released *Obi 1.0*, a free, open source audio recording tool for the production of structured DAISY audio books. The output is DAISY 3 and provides meaningful navigation to the content. It is available for download from <<http://daisy-trac.cvsdude.com/obi/wiki/downloads>>. Minimal training is required to produce digital content that is accessible to people with print disabilities. DAISY audio books created with Obi can be produced with chapters, sections, sub-sections, and pages, providing navigation to the content. Teachers can produce accessible materials for their students quickly and easily. Obi is fully accessible for those who use assistive technology such as screen readers. Visit the Obi website at <<http://daisy-trac.cvsdude.com/obi/>> for more information.

Verizon Wireless, thru a collaboration with Nuance and assistance from Dolphin USA, recently announced the release of its *Motorola Q9C with TALKS*, an Eloquence speech synthesizer. The PDA-style phone, if shipped with TALKS, is fully accessible out of the box. Users can access and manipulate Contacts, Calendar, and phone setting (such as ring tones and alarms). A user who is blind can send and receive e-mail messages and instant messages, surf the Internet, etc. The phone, with a two-year contract with TALKS already loaded sells for \$249. For more information, visit <www.verizonwireless.com/accessibility>

The second and recent release of *Microsoft's Save As DAISY* add-in for Word enables the creation of complete DAISY 3 books. This release of the translator includes a 'lite' version of the DAISY Pipeline generating full text and full audio DAISY content in one step. Visit the DAISY Consortium web site at <<http://www.daisy.org/projects/save-as-daisy-microsoft/index.php>> for more information and to download Version 2.1.1.

An evaluation of lower cost screen-reading alternatives can be found by visiting the AFB *AccessWorld* web site at <www.afb.org/afbpress/pub.asp?DocID=aw100205>.

Version 2.4 of the *MegaDots* braille translation program from Duxbury Systems is available, featuring more supported embossers, better support for Windows Vista, improved Nemeth translation, as well as other improvements. Visit: <<http://www.duxburysystems.com/news.asp>> for more information.

Apple recently announced the *3rd Generation iPod Shuffle with VoiceOver*. It can speak the names of the songs and playlists that have been loaded onto the Shuffle as well as the names of the artists who recorded the songs. It is the smallest digital audio player, measuring 1.8 by 0.7 by 0.3 inches and weighs 4 ounces, and holds 4 GB, double the capacity of the previous iPod Shuffle. Cost is \$79. For more information on the new 3rd Generation iPod Shuffle, go to <www.Apple.com/ipodshuffle/voiceover.html>.

From the NIMAS Technical Assistance Center, CAST, Inc... An updated version of the NIMAS Conversion tool has been posted to <http://nimas.cast.org/about/resources/conversion_tool>. The conversion tool will create an HTML book from a NIMAS file set. It will reduce the images from 300 dots per inch to 72 dots per inch for appropriate screen rendering as it creates the HTML if you select options 1 and 3 checkboxes in the tool. For braille transcribers who may need only part of a book for transcription, the tool may also be used to break the XML source file into leveled chunks based on the heading levels within the source file. Once an HTML book is created, you can open it in a browser and use a browser TTS plug in such as CLC's ClickSpeak to read and highlight the text. It is available as an extension to the Firefox browser from <<http://clickspeak.clcworld.net/downloads.html>> and will work with Windows, Linux and the Mac. It can also be opened in programs like *Read:OutLoud* and *ReadWriteGold*. Thanks to enhancements to the open source code by Design Science, like the previous version, Version 2.0 can also convert MathML for HTML display. If you don't have access to full NIMAS source files from the NIMAC, you can try converting our NIMAS Exemplars posted to <<http://nimas.cast.org/center/exemplars>>. For example, try the version of exemplar 10 that includes 300 dots per inch images and be sure to reduce them to 72 dots per inch using the settings within the Conversion Tool's user interface. In addition you can try any of the other exemplars as well.

MagicJack is a small rectangular device with a USB connector that plugs into a computer and a standard telephone connection for connecting any cordless or hard-wired phone. Users can make local and long distance calls throughout the United States and Canada for a \$19.95 annual cost. The device is available for purchase thru Radio Shack and other retail locations or online at <www.magicjack.com>.

KnfbReading Technology recently announced the release of version 6.1 of its *knfb Reader Mobile*, the software that runs on the Nokia N82 mobile phone. The new version has added text translation in up to 16 languages, more reading voices, and faster recognition time. The Nokia 6220, a less expensive phone than the Nokia N82, can also operate with the knfb Reader software. For more information, email Lisa Galloni at <lisa@knfbReader.com>.

Design Science has announced that it is now shipping *MathDaisy 1.0*. This add-on enhances the Microsoft Save As DAISY plug-in for Word and allows schools to easily create accessible math from Word Documents. Visit: <http://www.dessci.com/en/company/press/releases/090413.htm>



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