

VISIONS in Indiana

Winter 2009

Vol. 17, No. 2

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Mark Your Calendar

20-22 February 2009

Transition Weekend, Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Contact: Toni Hughes, Coordinator of Outreach and Related Services; phone: 317-232-0587 x221; email: <thughes@isbvik12.org>.

2-4 March 2009

The Sensory Learning Kit: Designing Learning Opportunities. Presenter: Millie Smith. Sponsored by Project Vision. Radisson Hotel, Carmel, IN. Contact: Sharon Bryan, Phone: 800-622-3035; Fax: 812-237-8089; Email: <Sharon.Bryan@indstate.edu>.

5-7 March 2009

The 2009 Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute, Washington, D.C. For more information, visit: <www.afb.org/jltli.asp>.

14 March 2009

Early Childhood Conference. Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Contact: Ann Hughes, Early Childhood Consultant, Outreach and Related Services; phone: 317-253-1481, ext. 100; e-mail: <ahughes@isbvik12.org>.

12-15 March 2009

California Transcribers and Educators of the Visually Handicapped Jubilee: "Fifty Years in the Golden State." Burlingame, CA. Contact: Sue Douglass, Conference Chair, California Transcribers and Educators of the Visually Handicapped Jubilee; email: <vipretech@msn.com>; web site: <www.ctevh.org/conference.htm>.

15-19 March 2009

California State University at Northridge (CSUN) Center on Disabilities' 24th Annual International Conference on Technology and Persons with Disabilities. Los Angeles, CA. Contact: Center on Disabilities Conference, CSU Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff Street, BH 110, Northridge, CA 91330-8340; phone: 818-677-2578; email: <conference@csun.edu>; web site: <www.csun.edu/cod/conf>.

1-4 April 2009

Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Exposition. Seattle, WA. Contact: Council for Exceptional Children, 1100 North Glebe Road, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22201; phone: 888-232-7733 or 703-620-3660; web site: <www.cec.sped.org>.

16 April 2009

PATINS Tech Expo. Junior Achievement Building of Central Indiana, Indianapolis. Free. Visit: <www.patinsproject.com> for more information and to register.

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>.

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@hrnc.org>.

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.

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>.

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.



IERC Updates

Ordering Teacher Items and Repair/Replacement of Equipment

Many of you have begun the process of registering students and ordering accessible materials thru the new ICAM (Indiana Center for Accessible Materials) web site. If you need materials for teacher use only, you can still order these items directly from the IERC. Please use our IERC order forms and fax or mail to us directly. If you need to replace an equipment item that has malfunctioned, please send the equipment item back to the IERC with an enclosed *Equipment Repair Form* detailing the problem.

ANNUAL REGISTRATION

A reminder that the Annual Student Registration deadline was February 15th, so if you have not returned your forms to the IERC, please do so immediately. Legally blind students registered during this process will generate federal quota funds effective October 1, 2009.

Reminder...Please register all new students and update student information on the ICAM web system.

BOOK ORDERS

Don't forget that we are entering the book order season for next year, especially for Braille readers, so start gathering your book orders together and submit them to the ICAM. This is the best time to order Braille textbooks for the upcoming school year. Many Braille transcribers are currently looking for work and it is the easiest time to secure transcribers. Our staff will contact you if print books are needed.

ANNUAL INVENTORY SUMMARY REPORTS

A reminder that annual Inventory Recall Forms will be sent out in the early spring to all teachers of students who are blind or have low vision, who have ordered/borrowed items from the IERC through their LEA's DRMs or directly from the IERC. This is a very important procedure as it allows materials and resources to be reused effectively and efficiently.

NEW PROFESSIONAL MATERIALS

The IERC has recently added the following materials to the professional collection. If you are interested in checking any of the materials out, send/fax a book order directly to the IERC. When ordering, please keep in mind that all professional materials are on a **60-day** loan period.

[You Make the Difference: An Educator-Oriented Process for Supporting High Quality Interactions with Students Who are Deafblind](#), TSBVI, c2008. DVD.

As research continues to validate the role of interaction in attachment, security, relationships, learning and communication, the need for educators of students with deafblindness to develop their interaction skills becomes more apparent. The interactive training process presented in this DVD will help educators learn how to improve the quality of their interactions with students who are deafblind, by changing their own interactive behaviors and by adapting the interactive context.

[Better Together: Building Relationships With People Who Have Visual Impairment & Autism Spectrum Disorder \(or Atypical Social Development\)](#) by Linda Hagood, TSBVI, c2008

An increasing number of students with visual impairment are being diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. The issues related to identification of autism in children with visual impairment remain controversial. Parents and teachers are faced with a growing number of visually impaired children who have trouble building social connections. Practical suggestions are provided for teachers and parents who want to build important foundational relationships and teach social skills to children with visual impairment and autism or other types of atypical social development.

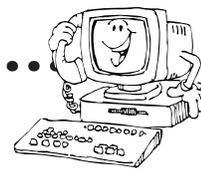
Empowered: An Activity Based Self-Determination Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairments by Cleveland, Jeri, et al. TSBVI, c2007.

This publication provides teachers and parents with tools to assist in building self-determination (the knowledge of self and the environment, decision-making, problem solving, goal setting, personal advocacy, communication skills, self-control, and knowledge of how to interact with the environment to achieve desired outcomes) in their students/children who are blind or have low vision.

Evals: Evaluating Visually Impaired Students Using Alternate Learning Standards Emphasizing the Expanded Core Curriculum by TSBVI, c2007

This tool provides a 3-part evaluation for conducting evaluations in the expanded core curriculum areas of: compensatory/access skills; orientation and mobility skills; social interaction skills; independent living skills; recreation and leisure skills; career education skills; technology skills; sensory efficiency skills; self-determination skills; and transition skills. Though it is based on the Texas State Education Standards, TVI's from other states can correlate their specific state standards to the objectives in the evaluations.

IERC Directory



Mail:

Indiana Educational Resource Center
7725 North College Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Telephone: (317) 232-0587

Toll-Free: (800) 833-2198

FAX: (317) 475-9181

E-Mail:

<ldurst@isbvik12.org>

<mlabouty@isbvik12.org>

<bscott@ibvik12.org>

Voice Mail: (317) 253-1481, ext. 195

Hours of operation:

Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



State Library Updates

By Carole Rose
Indiana State Library
Special Services Division



As coordinator of Children's Services for the Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library, I would like to announce a plan that would expand our 2009 statewide children's summer reading program and showcase the talents of our young readers, who are blind or have low vision. This year's theme, "Be Creative @ Your Library," 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, Braille, and on cassette. 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 at the Library, which cannot be sent in the mail. I welcome any input from our patrons.

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 Toni Hughes

Director

Outreach and Related Services

Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired



Transition Weekend

Transition weekend will be held February 20-22, 2009. This weekend is a supplement to transition planning for high school-aged students with visual impairments, focusing on post-secondary education and/or community employment, community living, and an integrated adult life. Mr. Larry Schaaf, Research Associate, IU Center for Excellence on Disabilities, and parent of a disabled son, facilitates activities to assist in forming an individual action plan for each student. The agenda for the weekend also includes the following topics: technology sessions on the use of e-text, exhibit area to include low vision and technological equipment specific for students with visual impairments, informational sessions concerning trusts, guardianship, assisted living, supportive and competitive employment, post secondary education, funding issues, disability services, and vocational rehabilitation information. The conference is limited to 25 students and their parents. The conference is held at a local hotel. There is no cost to the families or local school corporations. Each student is allowed to attend only once during their high school years.

First Annual Braille Challenge

The state's first annual Braille Challenge was hosted by Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired on January 31, 2009. The statewide competition for young Braille readers represents the regional round of the only national academic competition for blind students in the country, the national Braille Challenge. Twenty-three students, grades 1-12, from across the state participated. The students tested their skills in reading comprehension, Braille speed and accuracy, proofreading, spelling, and reading tactile charts and graphs. Approximately sixty family members participated in activities that helped them understand the world of persons who are blind or have low vision. They had the opportunity to try out their skills with Braille tabletop games, visual simulations, a cookie project and an art project while wearing sleep shades. The day ended with an awards ceremony in which all participants earned an award. The scores will be sent to the Braille Institute and the top twelve scores in each age group from all the states will be invited to participate in the National Braille Challenge in June. All involved had a great day and everyone is looking forward to next year. Hopefully, more students will join the Challenge next year.

Braille Challenge 2009





PROJECT VISION

By Karen Goehl
Project Director

Upcoming Inservice Training Activities. There are two inservice training activities currently scheduled for 2009. *The Sensory Learning Kit: Designing Learning Opportunities* workshop is scheduled for March 3-4, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel, 251 E. Pennsylvania Parkway, Carmel, Indiana. The presenter, Millie Smith, is a private consultant for students with visual and multiple impairments. Millie has a Masters Degree from the University of Texas at Austin in visual impairment and emotional disturbance. She has published several books and numerous articles and in 2003, developed The Sensory Learning Kit for the American Printing House for the Blind. The two-day workshop will include both lecture and small group activities. Participants will learn how to use sensory strategies to design activities for students with visual and multiple impairments so that specific skills addressed in IEP goals and objectives can be learned more efficiently.

Another inservice activity is scheduled as a two-part training in the *VIISA (Vision Impaired In-Service in America)* curriculum. 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, an Outreach Department consultant 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 can now train other people. Registration information will be available soon. Please be thinking about your own interest in this training as well as whether there might be some preschool teachers in your area who also would be interested. Training materials will be provided for each participant.

Please check the Project Vision website <<http://www.indstate.edu/blumberg/pv/projectvision.htm>> for updates on any additional inservice training activities. Please note the website has a new address.

The VI State Advisory Committee will be meeting on April 21, 2009 to identify other topics for inservice training for the upcoming year. If any of you have training topics you would like the committee to consider, please email <kgoehl@indstate.edu>.

VI Distance Education Training Program. Project Vision has three cohorts enrolled in the VI Licensure program. The five teachers in the 2007 cohort currently are enrolled in their fifth class, *Principles of Orientation and Mobility*. The 2008 cohort of seven students is enrolled in their third class, *Communication Skills for Individuals with Visual Impairments* (the braille class). A new cohort of five students began their first class, *The Eye, Its Function and Health*, in January 2009.

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Training Program. Several of the 12 Indiana teachers who have been enrolled in the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (now Salus University) Orientation & Mobility program have completed their internships, while several others continue to complete their 250 hour internship. Indiana is very fortunate to be able to increase the number of Orientation and Mobility Specialists who can serve children and youth across the state who are blind or have low vision.

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 <SharonBryan@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.





PATINS PROJECT NEWS

**Promoting Achievement through
Technology and Instruction for All Students**

By Vicki Hershman
PATINS State Coordinator

PEARSON TAKES STEPS TO MARKET MODEL FOR DISTRIBUTING ELECTRONIC NIMAS FILE

Pearson, the global leader in education and education technology (brands include Scott Foresman, Prentice Hall, Addison Wesley, Benjamin Cummings, PEMSolutions, Stanford 10, SuccessNet, MyLabs, PowerSchool, SuccessMaker and many others), unveiled their HTMLbook at the recent National Instructional Materials Access Standard (NIMAS) Implementation Advisory Council meeting. The HTMLbook will incorporate features that are critical to the success of students with print disabilities. Students can also apply layers of assistive technology, such as screen readers, that read the digital text aloud.

Through the HTML format, many of Pearson's math titles also will include a specialized electronic format that opens a new awareness of complex math equations for print-disabled students by displaying equations as text, not as images. Verbal descriptions of pictures, charts and graphics, which have traditionally been inaccessible to students with sight disabilities, may be included.

Future Pearson HTMLbooks will provide a more immediate, flexible response to student needs than is currently available. Students can go online or use a CD-ROM to access Pearson's leading education content.

ICAM DRM REGISTRATION NOTICE

Local educational agencies can now register or change their ICAM digital rights managers through a simple on-line process at <<http://www.icam.k12.in.us>>. If you are interested in finding out whom the digital rights manager(s) is for your school district, contact the ICAM or your regional PATINS site coordinator.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – PATINS TECH EXPO COMING!

When: April 16, 2009
Where: Junior Achievement Building of Central Indiana, Inc.
7435 North Keystone Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Free admission and sack lunch
Varied Presentations and Vendor Booths
Door Prizes and Giveaways!

To register, visit: <www.patinsproject.com>

KNFB READING TECHNOLOGY ANOUNCEMENT

knfb Reading Technology (a Joint Venture between Kurzweil Technologies and the National Federation of the Blind) has announced exciting new advancements to the Mobile Product Line including new features and new lower pricing! Single language reading software with English user language - \$995; 3 language reading software with translation between languages - \$1,295. *Note: This price is software only and does not include the cost of the mobile phone (Nokia N82 or Nokia 6220 Classic).* This technology, developed by assistive technology pioneer Ray Kurzweil, and delivered on a Nokia mobile phone platform, is revolutionizing reading machine functionality and portability.

The knfbReader Mobile and kReader Mobile software release version 6.1 upgrade includes a host of major advancements in print access for people who are blind, visually impaired, or learning disabled. For more information, visit their web site at:
<<http://www.knfbreader.com/>>

RFB & D UPDATES THEIR LEARNING THROUGH LISTENING WEBSITE

Have you registered for RFB & D's *Learning Through Listening* website? This is a wonderful resource for teachers wanting to teach listening. Teaching tools include downloadable lesson plans using poetry, music and stories, interactive activities in the Listening Lab, strategies such as POWER listening and case stories of teachers meeting the diverse needs of their students. In addition, this site provides tools necessary to effectively and successfully manage and implement RFB&D's AudioPlus and AudioAccess audiobooks in the classroom. There are resources for parents, teachers and the administrator at the *Learning Through Listening (LTL)* program at
<<http://www.learningthroughlistening.org/>>

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SPECIAL PRICING FOR SOFTWARE

The Indiana Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education has entered into a SPECIAL PRICING AGREEMENT (Advantage License Program) with Nuance for the purchase of Nuance solutions through Speaking Solutions. This agreement allows Indiana's local educational agencies to purchase Dragon Naturally Speaking Solutions, PDF Converter Professional and OmniPage Professional 16.0 at reduced pricing. For more information visit the PATINS State Buys web site at:
<<http://www.patinsproject.com/buys.html>>

Also check out the special pricing offers on the PATINS Buys web site for the *gh PLAYER 2.2 Digital Talking Book Player* available through September 1, 2009 and for the Lab Resources *Classmate Reader* offer available through July 31, 2009.

IERC Student Registration and Ordering of Textbooks and Aids and Equipment Thru the ICAM

The Indiana Accessible Instructional Materials Center (ICAM) is your source for obtaining accessible instructional materials for Local Educational Agencies (LEAs). Please note that ALL student registrations and orders for Braille, large print, tactile graphics as well as aids and equipment must now be submitted directly to the ICAM through the school district's appointed Digital Rights Manager (DRM). Only DRMS who are registered (by the district's superintendent) with the Indiana Department of Education/Center for Exceptional Learners will have access to the ICAM system of student registration and the ordering process.

This is a policy change from the past when orders were placed directly with the IERC. Once an order has been received and processed through the ICAM, the order will be automatically sent to our partners at the IERC who will fill the order. **Please be sure the addresses submitted to the ICAM are complete, including ship to location, address and contact person at that location.** All the policies and procedures for obtaining and returning aids and equipment from the IERC will continue to be enforced. DRM's should access the ICAM to view the status of their orders after submitting.

Please use Form 3B (Textbook Order Form) and Form 3C (Aids and Equipment Order Form) for placing orders for materials from the IERC thru the ICAM and your DRM. These forms can be obtained from the ICAM web site at <<http://www.icam.k12.in.us>>. To locate these forms on the web site, the reader will need to click on the FORMS tab on the ICAM home page.



For Your Information

In October of 2008, the National Federation of the Blind announced terms of a proposed settlement between Google and authors and publishers, over the Google Books project. The terms of the settlement, if approved, allow Google to provide the material it offers users “in a manner that accommodates users with print disabilities so that such users have a substantially similar user experience as users without print disabilities.” A user with a print disability under the agreement is one who is “unable to read or use standard printed material due to blindness, visual disability, physical limitations, organic dysfunction, or dyslexia.” Persons, who are blind, like other members of the public, will be able to search the texts of books in the Google Books database online; purchase some books in an accessible format; or access accessible books at libraries and other entities that have an institutional subscription to the Google Books database. (From the NFB Website at: <http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Default.asp>>. Visit: <http://www.nfb.org/nfb/NewsBot.asp?MODE=VIEW&ID=378>>.)

The U.S. Department of Education awarded a grant to the Described and Captioned Media program (DCMP) of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) to define guidelines for description of instructional materials. The *Description Key: Guidelines for the Description of Educational Media*, which was developed with the help of the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB), presents guidelines that can be used to create narrative descriptions for people with visual impairments to make educational media more accessible. For more information, contact: Described and Captioned Media Program, National Association of the Deaf, 1447 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29307; phone: 864-585-1778; email: infor@dcmp.org; web site: www.dcmp.org.

The National Braille Association has changed its address. Their address is now: National Braille Association, 95 Allens Creek Road, Building 1, Suite 202, Rochester, NY 14618; phone: 585-427-8260; email: NBAoffice@nationalbraille.org; web site: www.nationalbraille.org.

Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Hills, Michigan, began integrating the use of a talking GPS navigation tool, the GPS Trekker Breeze manufactured by HumanWare, in its dog guide travel training. For more information, contact: Leader Dogs for the Blind, 1039 South Rochester Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48307; phone: 888-777-5332 or 248-651-9011; email: leaderdog@leaderdog.org; web site: www.leaderdog.org/breeze.

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) of the Library of Congress has awarded its contract for the production of their new PLEXTALK DAISY Talking Book Player to the Shinano Kenshi Corporation in California. NLS provides a free library program of Braille and audio materials to eligible visually impaired borrowers in the United States, free of charge. The PLEXTALK digital Talking Book players will accommodate the new digital technology that will replace the current audiocassettes circulated by the NLS talking book program. For more information, contact: NLS, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542; phone: 888-657-7323 or 202-707-5100; email: <nls@loc.gov>; web site: <www.loc.gov/nls>. NLS had begun offering downloads of digital recorded books to any active NLS patron, in good standing, who had purchased a commercially available digital player and who has an email address and a high speed internet connection. There is an online application at <www.nlstalkingbooks.org/dtb>. The download collection includes more than 10,000 books and 13 magazines at the present time.

The National Federation of the Blind, as part of its Braille Readers are Leaders, has launched NFB ShareBraille, a site intended to help connect those who want Braille with those who want to give Braille away. Visit: <<http://www.nfbsharebraille.org/>> for more information.

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) explored ways in which popular online educational tools can be made more accessible thru an online survey. Findings indicated the most important and necessary features of online educational tools present significant problems for those using assistive technology such as screen readers or screen magnification software. Most respondents indicated that features were inaccessible. The Distance Learning Survey results are available at <www.afb.org>.

Daisy 3: A Standard for Accessible Multimedia Books is a paper published by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) providing an overview of DAISY. It describes the history of DAISY books, what a DAISY book looks like on the inside and on the outside, and how DAISY books are created. There is an emphasis on how math relates to each of the topics. Visit: <<http://dessci.com/en/reference/articles/daisybooks.pdf>>.

HumanWare provides a link to their new Download Resource Page at <http://www.humanware.com/en-canada/support/find_content_for_stream>. The resource links were developed specifically with Victor Stream but there are sources for DAISY books and other accessible content that will be of interest to those who read DAISY books. The list of links includes sources for DAISY, MP3 and e-book formatted books, music, radio program archives, podcasts and other online content.

The American Foundation for the Blind's CareerConnect is a multipurpose tool that includes practical articles, success stories, audio interviews, and videos that provide a wide variety of information for users. The content is provided in separate sections for job seekers, teens, employers, professionals, and family and friends. This month on AFB CareerConnect, the most recent virtual worksite lets you see firsthand the tools and technology that allow a person who is blind or visually impaired to work in a retail or restaurant setting. Also, listen to an old-time radio skit to discover how to create an outstanding resume that will impress potential employers. Visit: <www.afb.org/careerconnect/>

AFB's Ike Presley will conduct training on April 23-25, 2009, in Atlanta, Georgia, on "Assistive Technology Assessment for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired." Participants will learn to identify the major components of an assistive technology assessment: the gathering of the needed background information, assessing the student's options for accessing printed and electronic information, determining appropriate writing tools, and determining the tools needed to produce materials for the student in alternate formats. If you are interested in participating, please contact Shirley Landrum at <slandrum@afb.net>, or call 404-525-2303 to request an application. Applications must be received by March 12, 2009. There are 24 spaces available; applicants will be notified of their acceptance status within one week of the submission deadline. Visit: <www.afb.org/Community.asp?EventID=1417>.

The Perkins Clearinghouse is a comprehensive resource of carefully evaluated information about blindness and visual impairments. Check out the Perkins Clearinghouse's centralized hub for finding the most reliable and authoritative information about all aspects of living with blindness and visual impairments. Visit: <<http://www.perkins.org/clearinghouse/>>

Ten Amazing Google Search Tips followed by comments giving more ideas and information can be found at: <<http://techtracer.com/2008/01/06/10-most-amazing-google-search-tricks/>>.

The latest issue of the Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness (JVIB) features a new look. For more information, e-mail Rebecca Burrichter at <rebeccab@afb.net> or visit: <www.jvib.org/>



Publications

History in the Making: The Story of the American Printing House for the Blind, 1858-2008 was released in late 2008 in honor of the American Printing House for the Blind's 150th Anniversary. It was written by Carol Tobe, the former APH Museum Director, and contains details about the origin of APH and features tactile pages from vintage books embossed on original APH presses using original plates. The 178-page hardcover book sells with the audiobook version for \$39.95. For more information, contact: American Printing House for the Blind, 1839 Frankfort Avenue, P.O. Box 6085, Louisville, KY 40206; phone: 800-223-1839 or 502-895-2405; email: <info@aph.org>; web site: <www.aph.org/advisory/2008adv11.html>.

An Illustrated Guide to Cane Repair and More by Lynn J. Gautreau shows simple steps for repairing and modifying canes and AMDs, requiring minimal tools and supplies. It includes photos and step-by-step instructions. Order from the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired; phone: 877-492-2708; web site: <www.aerbvi.org>.

Assistive Technology for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired: A Guide to Assessment by Ike Presley and Frances Mary D'Andrea is a comprehensive handbook available from the American Foundation for the Blind, AFB Press. It includes an overview of assistive technology that students can use to manage information in print or electronic format; selecting appropriate tools and strategies; a structured process for conducting a technology assessment; a detailed assessment form that can be used to determine student's technology needs and solutions to address them; advice on writing up program recommendations based on assessment results; 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; readings about technology instruction; and reproducible, blank assessment forms. For more information, contact: AFB Press at: <www.afb.org/store>.

Large Print and Braille 2009 calendars are available from the following agencies: American Printing House for the Blind (APH); phone: 800-223-1839; email: <info@aph.org>; web site: <www.aph.org>. Independent Living Aids; phone: 800-537-2118; email: web site: <www.independentliving.com>. Maxi-Aids; phone: 800-522-6294 or 631-752-0521; web site: <www.maxiaids.com>. National Braille Press (print-braille, full color Winne-the-Pooh calendar; phone: 888-965-8965; email: <orders@nbp.org>; web site: <www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/2009POOH.html>.

A to Z by Sandra Boynton is a board book featuring rhythmic, rhyming, and repetitive text for children, ages baby-preschool in print and Braille. Cost: \$5.99. Order from: National Braille Press, 88 St. Stephen Street, Boston, MA, 02115-4302; phone: 800-548-7323; web site: <www.braille.com>

New Products

APH Products/News

APH has announced the *Perkins/APH Next Generation Perkins Braille*. The Perkins/APH Next Generation Braille retains all the features of the classic Perkins Braille, plus it incorporates new features designed for portability and comfort. It is lightweight and smaller in size, has a shorter keystroke, requires less force, is quieter, and has an easy-erase button to correct mistakes, a reading rest function for easier proofreading, margin guides on the front panel, and a modern color and new design. Cost \$650, available on quota. Perkins will launch its version of the new braille this spring.

Contact: American Printing House for the Blind, 1839 Frankfort Avenue, P.O. Box 6085, Louisville, KY 40206; phone: 800-223-1839 or 502-895-2405; email:

<info@aph.org>; web site:

<www.aph.org> or Perkins Products, Perkins School for the Blind, 175 North Beacon Street, Watertown, MA 02472; phone: 617-972-7308; email:

<perkinsproducts@perkins.org>; web site: <www.perkins.org>.

Black Work-Play Trays have now replaced the gray work-play trays to provide higher contrast. *Small Work-Play Tray* (17 x 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches); Catalog #: 1-03751-00; Cost: \$15.00. *Large Work-Play Tray* (21 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches); Catalog #: 1-03761-00; Cost: \$25.00.



Guide to Designing Tactile Illustrations for Children's Books is a free 35-page guide from APH that offers teachers, caregivers, and transcribers information concerning well-designed tactile illustrations, considerations in designing a meaningful tactile graphic, and the types of tactile illustrations and tools and materials to create them. Visit: <www.aph.org/edresearch/illustration.htm> to download the guide.

On the Way to Literacy Handbook has been revised and available in a 2nd edition. This updated handbook draws upon research and practice to guide teachers and parents in supporting a young child's first steps towards literacy. Key areas covered include: early communication and language; concepts; skills needed for learning through touch and for reading Braille; and knowledge about written language. Approaches and activities are adaptable for older children, as well as those with additional disabilities, including children who may use another means of communicating, such as symbol communication system. Catalog #, Print Ed. (with CD of accessible files): 8-77520-00; Cost: \$54.00; Catalog #, Braille Ed. (with CD of accessible files): 6-77520-00; Cost: \$112.00.

The large print format of the Weekly ReaderTM is now available in full color. APH offers: 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, Senior (Grades 4th, 5th, and 6th), Current Events, and Current Science. Contact APH for costs and subscription information at 800-223-1839.

The *Jump Rope to Fitness Kit* includes a guidebook describing the benefits of jumping rope, how to get started, introduces jump rope social awareness, and leads the user through the progressions of jumping rope. The kit includes a: plastic cord jump rope; short beaded jump rope; medium beaded jump rope; long beaded jump rope; Jump SnapTM talking-ropeless jump rope; orientation anti-shock mat; and Jump Rope to Fitness Guidebook in large print and Braille. Catalog #: 1-07521-00; Cost: \$129.50.

ALL-IN-ONE Board (Magnetic, Velcro, Dry Erase) is intended for classroom use with students of all ages. This multi-platform, easily-adjustable board can be used in combination with either hook-Velcro accessories or magnetic pieces, as well as with dry erase markers to facilitate a variety of learning activities. The board can be positioned at a variety of angles, from nearly flat to fully upright. It can be used with young children, students, and adults with visual impairments, as well as parents and teachers working these populations. Carrying case is included. Catalog #: 1-08836-00; Cost: \$145.00.

Portable Sound Source, Sports Edition is a new, lightweight sound source that comes with a remote control and carrying strap. The carrying strap can be used as a belt for hiking or a game, such as Follow the Leader. It can be used to identify home base, a safety zone, or a basketball goal. Dimension: 7 1/8" x 4 7/8" x 1 9/16" Catalog #: 1-03045-00. Cost: \$246.00.

Consumable Number Lines are available in large print and Braille. The Consumable Number Lines can be used to reinforce beginning number concepts such as counting, sequencing, number recognition, number relationships, addition, and subtraction. Blank number lines can be used to provide a concrete representation when introducing fractions, decimals, or negative numbers. Large print: Catalog# 1-03012-00; Cost: \$10.00; Braille/Tactile: Catalog # 1-03013-00; Cost: \$10.00.

The *Wilson Reading System (WRS), Braille Student Readers 1, 2, and 3*, is a complete curriculum for teaching decoding and encoding (spelling), beginning with phoneme segmentation. WRS directly teaches the structure of words in the English language so that students master the coding system for reading and spelling. The English is presented in a systematic and cumulative manner so that it is manageable for the students. It provides an organized, sequential system with extensive controlled text to help teachers implement a multi-sensory structured language program. It is designed for grades 3 and up. The system is authored by Barbara A. Wilson and published and distributed by Wilson Language Training Corporation. Permission has been granted to APH to publish the braille and large print versions. For more information on the program, visit: <www.wilsonlanguage.com> To order, *Student Reader One*, Catalog #: 6-79502-00; Cost: \$17.00; *Student Reader Two*, Catalog #: 6-79503-00; Cost: \$17.00; *Student Reader Three*, Catalog #: 6-79504-00; Cost: \$17.00.

The *Variable Intensity Lamp* is being phased out and will be replaced with the *Lighting Guide Kit* that will include a *Better Vision Lamp* and a book, entitled, What Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments Need to Know about Lighting. The book presents information, based upon the latest research, about light and its physical properties. It shows the consumer how to judge what kind of light is best for a given student or situation. The *Better Vision Lamp* was developed between an inventor and APH staff to provide the best kind of light possible for most students with visual impairments. It uses a 27 watt 2700L, compact fluorescent tube which has no blue or ultraviolet light emissions. The book will be available at a future date in both print and braille, or as a braille-ready file download at: <www.aph.org/manuals/index.html>.

APH has recently created YouTube and Facebook sites. A short version of the new video, "Gateway to Knowledge" gives a general overview of APH. Videos that show Braille production and Talking Books production are also posted. Visit: <<http://youtube.com/user/aphftb>; <http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Printing-House-for-the-Blind/18541793028>>.

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; email: <info@aph.org>; Web site: www.aph.org>.

Reusable eye patches from DrPatch is a new product on the market for treating amblyopia or “lazy eye.” The patches are designed to fit all eyeglasses and come in six full-color varieties. Children’s patches are available with animal and insect illustrations. The adult patches feature unique designs and patterns in various colors. East set of eye patches is sold in set of six, in a storage bag along with adhesive cutout film, a glossy storage card, and instructions. Children’s set cost: \$19.99. For more information, contact: DrPatch, 783 Shefford, Bromont, QC, J2L 1C4, Canada; phone: 877-919-0722 or 450-919-0722; web site: <www.eye-patch-info.com>.

Apex Pro, a new desktop video magnifier in the Aladdin family, incorporates an adjustable flat-panel monitor with the same features as the Aladdin Apex and Genie Pro. It is designed to convert to a “cross-room viewer,” which allows the student to view information written on the board. The *Apex Pro 17"* has a split-screen mode, a 17"-inch color monitor, and 3.5X to 46X magnification. Cost: \$3,040. The *Apex Pro 20"* has a 20-inch color monitor and 4.4X to 66X magnification. Cost: \$3,395. The Apex Pro is manufactured by InSiPhil and distributed by Telesensory. For more information, contact: InSiPhil, 650 Vaqueros Avenue, Suite F, Sunnyvale, CA 94085; phone: 800-804-8004; email: <infor@insiphil.com>; web site: <www.insiphil.com> or <www.telesensory.com>.

Dolphin Computer Access has released Version 10.02 of *Supernova Reader Magnifier* (screen reading software that provides spoken or Braille output); *Lunar Screen Magnifier* (screen magnification software); and *LunarPlus Enhanced Screen Magnifier* (screen magnification software that offers speech). Version 10.02 will be a free update for v10 customers. *EasyConverter Version 4.01* has been released. New in *EasyConverter* is the ability to input picture files including .jpg, .bmp & .tif; input Kurzweil (.kesi) files; output to DAISY 3; 35% faster scanning; new option to respect blank lines in Braille; edit braille directly with six key braille input; improved heading detection analysis and performance and improved page detection performance. Free 30-day demonstrations can be downloaded from the Dolphin web site at: <www.yourdolphin.com/demos.asp#main>. For more information, contact: Dolphin Computer Access, 231 Clarksville Road, Suite 3, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550; phone: 866-797-5921 or 609-803-2171; email: <info@dolphinusa.com>.

SmartView Graduate is an easy to use and lightweight companion for students who need to see things on their desk as well as across the room. Controls are easily accessed from the computer keyboard, including zoom-in and changing high contrast color combinations. Available from HumanWare; phone: 800-722-3393; web site: <www.humanware.com>.

The *Braille Caravan*, by Creative Adaptations for Learning, is an educational toy consisting of 30 non-toxic, plastic blocks. Each block represents the Braille cell, designed with six black pegs that can be pushed up or down to form dots 1-6. Students can make letters, words or sentences by manipulating the six dots on each block and joining them in a “caravan.” It encourages the young blind child to experiment with Braille; introduces Braille to sighted parents and siblings; and assists older Braille users with reduced tactile sensitivity. Each set contains 30 braille blocks, a canvas carrying bag, a print Activity Guide, and an English Braille Symbols Chart. Cost: \$30. Available from: National Braille Press, 88 St. Stephen Street, Boston, MA 02115-4302; phone: 800-548-7323; web site:<www.braille.com>.

Freedom Scientific has released the *Sapphire* portable video magnifier. The handheld device weighs less than 2 pounds and contains a small camera that displays images on a 7-inch LCD screen. Magnification can be adjusted. The *Sapphire* is designed for everyday tasks, such as reading menus, labels at grocery stores, or reading newspapers. A built-in reading stand can be used for tasks such as signing checks and filling in forms, and has 23 viewing modes. Cost: \$1895. For more information, contact: Freedom Scientific, 11800 31st Court North, St. Petersburg, FL 33716-1805; phone: 877-775-9474 or 727-803-8000; web site: <www.freedomscientific.com>.

The *KNFB Reader* has been upgraded to version 6.1.9. This version allows for some translation of texts between languages. The Reader now works on an additional phone, the Nokia 6220.

<http://www.knfbreader.com/upgrades_mobile.php>.

Low vision simulators for macular degeneration, glaucoma, RP, cataracts, and more from Fork in the Road Vision Rehabilitation Services, LLC can be found at web site: <www.lowvisionsimulators.com>; phone: 608-233-3464; email: <lowvisionsimulators@gmail.com>.

Design Science is testing *MathDaisy*, a program which, in conjunction with the Microsoft Save As Daisy Plug-in and the free Daisy Pipeline product, will turn equations into DAISY format. They expect the product to be available in March around the time of the CSUN conference. If you want to test it, write to: <beta@dessci.com>



VISIONS IN INDIANA

Volume 17, Number 2



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