

VISIONS in Indiana

Spring 2008

Vol. 16, No. 3

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Mark Your Calendar

29 June-5 July 2008

National Federation of the Blind National Convention. Dallas, TX. 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>.

5-12 July 2008

American Council of the Blind National Convention. Louisville, KY. Contact: American Council of the Blind, 1155 15th Street Northwest, Suite 1004, Washington, D.C. 20005; phone: 800-424-8666 or 202-467-5081; e-mail: <info@acb.org>; web site: <www.acb.org/convention>.

22 July 2008

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) MacFarland Seminar. Chicago, IL. The theme of the seminar is prosthetic vision. Contact: Jim Gandorf, Executive Director, AER, 1703 North Beauregard Street, Suite 440, Alexandria, VA 22311; phone: 703-671-4500, ext. 201; e-mail: <jgandorf@aerbvi.org>; web site: <www.aerbvi.org>

22-27 July 2008

2008 AER Biennial International Conference. Chicago, IL. Contact: Jim Gandorf, Executive Director, AER, 1703 North Beauregard Street, Suite 440, Alexandria, VA 22311; phone: 703-671-4500, ext. 201; e-mail: <jgandorf@aerbvi.org>; web site: <www.aerbvi.org>

23-26 July 2008

Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children 2008 Conference. Minneapolis, MN. Contact: Division for Early Childhood, Council for Exceptional Children, 27 Fort Missoula Road, Suite 2, Missoula, MT 59804; phone: 406-543-0872; e-mail: <dec@dec-sped.org>; web site: <www.dec-sped.org>

1-3 August 2008

Expanding Your Horizons. Indianapolis, IN. Family conference for academic students who are visually impaired or blind in Indiana and their families. Sponsored by Innervision 20/20 Foundation/Craig MacFarlane and ISBVI Outreach Department. Deadline to register, June 20, 2008. For more information, contact: Toni Hughes, Outreach Director, Outreach and Related Services Department; phone: 317-253-1481, ext. 221.

5-6 September 2008

2008 Envision Conference, a multi-disciplinary low vision rehabilitation and research conference. San Antonio, TX. For more information, visit: <www.envisionconference.org>

27 September 2008

2008 Indiana Vision Expo. Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. Sponsored by the Indiana State Library, Talking Book and Braille Library. Contact: Carole Rose, Vision Expo Coordinator; phone: 317-232-0609; e-mail: <crose@library.in.gov>. For more information, visit: <www.indianavisionexpo.org>

2-4 October 2008

American Printing House for the Blind 2008 Annual Meeting. Louisville, KY. Contact: The American Printing House for the Blind, 1839 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206; phone: 502-895-2405; 800-223-1839; fax: 502-899-2274; e-mail: <infor@aph.org> web site: <www.aph.org>

9-10 October 2008

ISBVI Outreach Workshops: Thursday, October 9th - "Issues of Visual Impairment in Relation to Learning." This workshop is suggested for beginning teachers and/or those wanting a "refresher course" plus other topics TBA; Friday, October 10th - "Sensory Integration, Visual-motor, Visual Perceptual and Traumatic Brain Injury Issues and their Impact on Vision and Learning." (Presenters TBA) Registration will be sent out in early September of 2008. For more information, contact Diane Childers, School-Age Consultant, Outreach and Related Services Department, Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired; phone: 317-253-1481, ext. 175; e-mail: <dchilders@isbvik12.org>

16-18 October 2008

26th 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>.

29 October-1 November 2008

National Braille Association Fall 2008 Professional Development Conference.

Lexington, KY. Contact: National Braille Association, 3 Townline Circle, Rochester, NY 14623; phone: 585-427-8260; e-mail: <nbaoffice@nationalbraille.com>; web site: <www.nationalbraille.org>.

28-31 January 2009

Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) 2009 Conference. Orlando, FL.

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>

31 January 2009

Braille Challenge. Indianapolis, IN. For more information, contact: Toni Hughes, Outreach Director, Outreach and Related Services Department, Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired; phone: 317-253-1481, ext. 221; e-mail: <thughes@isbvik12.org>.

5-8 March 2009

2009 American Foundation for the Blind National Conference. Washington, D.C.

This conference was formerly known as the Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute. Contact: Caitlin McFeely, Communications Department, American Foundation for the Blind, 11 Penn Plaza, Suite 300, New York, NY 10001; phone: 212-502-7615; e-mail: <cmcfeely@afb.net>; web site: <www.afb.org>

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>.



IERC Updates

BOOK ORDERS DUE

Don't forget to submit large print and Braille book orders ASAP for the 2008-2009 school year. If you need additional forms or have any questions, please call the Center at (317) 232-0587 or 800-833-2198 or visit <<http://intra.isbrockets.org/public/news/ierc/Forms>> to download the forms.

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 and 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.

NEW PROFESSIONAL BOOKS

The IERC has recently added the following books to the Professional Collection. If you are interested in checking them out, send a book order to the IERC. When ordering, please keep in mind that all professional materials are on a 60-day loan. For a complete listing of professional publications at the IERC, please contact the Center.

Monographs:

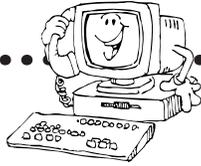
- 1) The Oregon Project for Preschool Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired, 6th edition
- 2) The Assessment of Braille Literary Skills
- 3) Braille Requisite Skills Inventory: Assessment and Planning Tool

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.



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>

<epedigo@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.



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

We are looking forward to another
great year in 2008-2009.

HAVE A GOOD SUMMER!



State Library Updates

By Carole Rose
Indiana State Library
Special Services Division



Thanks to a generous grant from the Alpha Xi Delta National Foundation and money from our gift fund, the Talking Book and Braille Library was able to purchase 139 large print titles for children in grades K-3 and 2-4. Although publishers insist that the print size in books for this age group is large, it is not large enough for most of our younger patrons.

Until our recent purchase, we hadn't added any new titles to this part of the collection since 1984. The size of the print in these books, purchased from Library Reproduction Services, varies from 16 to 28 point. Print in a few of the titles may be even larger. Many of the books include colorful illustrations.

The collection features titles from the Magic Treehouse, Magic Schoolbus, Nate the Great, Amber Brown, the Polk Street School, and Frog and Toad series. There are also titles by Eric Carle, William Steig, Cynthia Ryland, Kevin Henkes, Marc Brown, Maurice Sendak, and more.

The collection is now ready for circulation. The library is in the process of producing a limited number of catalogs listing the new titles. They should be

available on loan within 4 to 6 weeks. Please contact us to reserve a copy. The books are listed on our web site. Just indicate the media you wish to access and the grade level. You can also search by title, author, or area of interest. Plans are already underway to expand this collection. We will be ordering more books during the summer.

Once again, it's time for readers ages 5-13 to register for our statewide children's summer reading program, June 2-August 1. This year's theme is "Catch the Reading Bug." Participants will have the opportunity to win lots of wonderful buggy prizes—growing spiders, dancing ladybugs, hand puppets, spider rings, plush butterflies, shirts, bags, and much more. There will be special awards for outstanding readers from each grade, as well as outstanding Braille and large print readers. Two grand prize drawings will also be held.

Students and schools registered with the Talking Book Program should have received applications for the summer program. Teachers with students who are eligible to participate this summer but did not receive an application may request one from TBBL at (317) 232-0609. We appreciate the support we continue to receive from teachers of visually impaired students.



"EYE-DEAS"

By Ann Hughes

Early Childhood Consultant

Outreach and Related Services

Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired



Here is an “eye-dea” from Steve Goodman at the California School for the Blind for using a “kid friendly” A-Z glossary of eye conditions. The information was written for children and young teens that have visual impairments. It tells the name of the impairment, the causes, and what accommodations to try if you have the impairment. Visit <http://www.csb-cde.ca.gov/Documents/Causes%20of%20Visual%20Impairment/causes_of_visual_impairment.htm> to access the glossary.

The Indiana School for the Blind Outreach Department and the 20/20 Innervision Foundation are sponsoring the second annual “Expanding Your Horizons” weekend. The event will be held August 1-3, 2008. This fun-filled, informative weekend is offered free of charge to any academic student in Indiana who is blind or visually impaired and will be in grades 6-10 for the school year 2008-09. The entire family is invited to attend though siblings must be 5 years old or older. Lodging expenses at Courtyard by Marriott are paid as are all fees for activities and food for the weekend. Applications for registration are available through the local teacher of children with visual impairments or online at: <http://intra.isbrockets.org/teams/dept_outreach/2006-09_Update/index_files/Page699.htm>. Applications will be sent directly to students who attended this event last year and are still in grades 6-10. The proposed agenda includes: a cooking activity, a clay activity with an artist, a rock climbing wall, tandem bikes, recreational and tabletop games and activities, goal ball, bowling, “Power Show Down Ping Pong” for the blind and visually impaired, a golf driving range activity, Bocci ball, horseshoes, archery, Challenge Ed activities, and an inspirational session for parents with Craig MacFarlane, President of 20/20 Innervision. Meals will include Friday night appetizers and snacks, breakfast buffets, and a pizza party and cook-out. An all expenses paid VIP tour of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway will culminate the activities of the weekend. Applications will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. *The application deadline is June 20, 2008.* For further information or if you have questions regarding this event, please contact Toni Hughes, Director of Outreach at ISBVI; phone: (317) 253-1481, ext.221 or <thughes@isbvik12.org>.

BRaille CHALLENGE

Bra i l l e C h a l l e n g e

The National Braille Challenge is a unique academic competition designed to actively promote Braille literacy among blind and visually impaired students across the country. It is the only national academic competition specifically designed to challenge and motivate blind students in grades 1-12 to continue their study of Braille, which is essential for their future success. It is a two-part contest for school-aged children. The first contest is at the local level and the second part is the national contest.

The preliminary Challenge is designed to be a full-day competition, with five 25-minute contests. The day typically includes a pre-competition pep rally, lunch following the contests and an awards ceremony. The participants are divided into five academic levels, based on their age and grade level, and compete in five Braille categories – reading comprehension, proofreading, chart and graph reading, spelling, and speed and accuracy (transcribe a taped story into Braille).

The first local Braille Challenge will be held in January 31, 2009 at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. More information will be distributed in the fall. If you have any questions about this new event, please contact, Toni Hughes, Director of Outreach and Related Services; phone: (317) 253-1481, ext. 221; e-mail: <thughes@isbvik12.org>.





PROJECT VISION

By Karen Goehl
Project Director

Upcoming Inservice Training Activities. Project Vision is pleased to announce that a “hands-on” training on developing Nemeth Worksheets and other related topics will be presented by Susan Christenson on July 9-10, 2008 (location to be determined). During the workshop, Susan will cover a number of items including: When do you use which Document Settings Template; a general overview of the different Duxbury Styles under Layout and when you would use which ones; information about transcribing basic tables that students must read or must complete; lists that might need leading lines like a table of contents or index; inserting braille page breaks in Duxbury; information about when to use what level of heading on the style sheets; the correct format for listing a picture caption; how to braille a worksheet that has a graphic organizer on it; and an overview on how to download web braille books from NLS as well as using bookshare files for embossing. Thank you to Leslie Durst for providing the list based on questions posed to the IERC by Indiana teachers who serve students who are blind or have low vision and to Katie Culbertson, the VI consultant at West Central Joint Services, for guidance on the formation of this list.

Please check the Project Vision website <<http://www.indstate.edu/soe/blumberg/Vision.html>> for registration details. We will be using a computer lab and space will be very limited, so if you are interested in the July 9-10 workshop, please register early.

VI Distance Education Training Program. The seven students from the 2006 cohort recently completed their fifth class, *Principles of Orientation and Mobility*, and currently are completing their *Practicum in Visual Impairment*. Five teachers from the 2007 cohort will have completed their third course, *Communication Skills for Individuals with Visual Impairments* (The Braille Class!), by the end of June 2008. The 2008 cohort of eight students recently completed their first class, *The Eye, Its Function and Health*. No classes will be offered during the summer.

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Training Program. Several of the 12 Indiana teachers who are enrolled in the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) Orientation & Mobility program have completed their internships and are either taking or have taken the ACVREP certification exam. Others enrolled in the program are working on completing their internship hours. All of the teachers enrolled in the program are to be applauded as their commitment to the program is significant. Both the students and their supervising

O&M specialists certainly deserve kudos from Project Vision as well as the districts/schools that ultimately will benefit from all of their hard work!

Project Vision Website. Please continue to go to the Project Vision website <<http://www.indstate.edu/soe/blumberg/Vision.html>> for updated information about inservice training activities and the VI licensure program.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2008 PATINS STATE CONFERENCE: *Accessible Materials in the Classroom*

November 10-11, 2008

Crowne Plaza, Indianapolis, Indiana

Special Conference Sessions for Teachers of the Visually Impaired:

The PATINS Project is pleased to announce that it will be hosting two all day sessions for teachers of the visually impaired at its 2008 PATINS State Conference. The sessions for teachers of visually impaired will feature presenter Susan Osterhaus from the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the 2007 winner of the *Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award* by CEC. The first day session will be on *Suggested Math Technology for Accessible Mathematics*, which will be an overview of low-tech and high-tech tools for K-12+ classroom use with an emphasis on unique adaptations for the blind and low vision learner. The second day session will be a hands-on computer lab on *The Audio Graphing Calculator*, a ViewPlus Technologies, Inc. solution that has capabilities comparable to a full-featured hand-held scientific and statistical graphing calculator.

Conference Keynote Speaker:

The PATINS Project is honored to have Jim Fructerman, CEO and founder of Benetech, as the 2008 PATINS State Conference keynote speaker on November 10, 2008. You won't want to miss his presentation on "Raising the Floor: Providing Accessible Technology and Content to Every Person with a Disability on the Planet."

Conference Registration:

Registration information for the PATINS 2008 State Conference will be available after July 1st on the PATINS website at <<http://www.patinsproject.com>>.

INDIANA CENTER FOR ACCESSIBLE MATERIALS (ICAM) UPDATE

Digital Rights Manager Training:

The ICAM is currently training LEA appointed Digital Rights Managers (DRM), through a series of webcasts, on how to access the web based ICAM for ordering specialized formats of K-12 textbooks and core instructional materials for qualifying students with print disabilities served under IDEA. DRMs that have completed the webcast will be provided a log-in and password to the ICAM. This spring, ICAM visitors will be able to view video tutorials that provide technical support/training for Digital Rights Managers on how to download and unseal NIMAS files.

NEW RESOURCES

Case Conference Committee Forms:

The ICAM has posted a series of forms on its web site at <<http://www.icam.k12.in.us/>> designed to assist the Case Conference Committee in determining student eligibility, determining specialized formats needed, and for completing information needed by the LEA's Digital Rights Manager for registering students and ordering specialized, accessible formats for NIMAS conformant files for K-12 textbooks and core instructional materials from the ICAM. These forms will be included in the new ISTAR7.

Process Flowchart:

Additionally, the ICAM web site has posted a flowchart (see forms) on the *LEA Process for Obtaining Specialized Formats of K-12 Textbooks and Core Instructional Materials*.

Free Text Reader

Read:OutLoud Bookshare.org Edition is an accessible text reader that reads Bookshare.org texts. It will be available for **free** to students qualifying for accessible materials under the Chafee Amendment. As part of their \$32 million U.S. Department of Education OSEP award, **Bookshare.org** chose **Read:OutLoud** by **Don Johnston Incorporated** as the text reader that would best achieve the goal of providing access to reading materials and enabling students to read texts with comprehension. Beginning at the start of the 2008-09 school year, students who qualify under Chafee (estimated one to three % of students receiving special education services) will use the **Read:OutLoud Bookshare.org Edition** text reader to access thousands of electronic books, educational materials and resources in **NIMAS** and **DAISY** formats from the Bookshare.org website. Students registered with the Indiana Center for Accessible Materials (ICAM) and who receive DAISY or Braille Ready Files will receive a voucher for this free text reader. For more information about the features in **Read:OutLoud Bookshare.org Edition** go to: <http://www.donjohnston.com/products/rol_bookshare/index.html>

NIMAS File Supported Commercial Software Matrix:

This tool is a valuable resource for determining what features are available in the various commercial software programs that are NIMAS compliant. The matrix can be located on the PATINS website <<http://www.patinsproject.com>> under the NIMAS/ICAM tab.

NIMAS Module - Training Curriculum

Local educational agencies can provide district/building level training and disseminate useful information regarding the NIMAS and NIMAC statutes, regulations, standards and file repository that support a student with print disabilities. For the NIMAS Module go to: <<http://www.nichcy.org/training/contents.asp>>

Module components that can be downloaded include:

- A 92-page discussion guide for using the PowerPoint slides
- Associated NIMAS handouts
- The PowerPoint presentation (note options for playing and use)



Information is the Key to Transition Planning

By Becky Olszewski, M.Ed.
Outreach Coordinator
Bosma Enterprises

Summer is here and it's time to forget about school for a while and enjoy the sunshine, but it's also an excellent time to be dreaming about the future and to begin making plans to turn those dreams into reality. Transition can be a challenging issue for families of students with visual impairments. Many families and students are not aware that help is available as their child leaves the public school system. That lack of knowledge can severely limit their options when considering choices for the future. I've spoken with parents who have been afraid to encourage their children to dream and set goals for their future. They worry that they will be on their own after their child leaves school. They believe that many doors will be closed to their child and that they will not have the resources to provide the keys to unlock them. There is help, and you can make a huge difference in the lives of your students and their parents by providing them with access to those resources. Students and their parents should be made aware of the different agencies and organizations that are available to work with them as partners as their children leave school and enter the adult world.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) is a state agency that provides services to

individuals with disabilities who are seeking employment. Applying to VRS is an absolute must for individuals who plan to continue their education and/or seek employment and can even provide assistance if a student just wants to learn independent living skills. Many of the other support service providers are funded through VRS, so it is a step that cannot be overlooked. If individuals are eligible for services, they may be able to receive financial assistance in finding employment, continuing their education, or receiving technology or other supports needed for them to be successful in reaching their employment goal. VR counselors are also trained to provide guidance in choosing an appropriate employment goal, and most area offices have a counselor who specializes in working with individuals with visual impairments. A student can generally apply for services in his or her junior year in high school. Parents can find their local VRS office by calling (800) 545-7763.

There are many facilities throughout the state that provide rehabilitation and training services that can help students with visual impairments transition successfully out of high school. Bosma Enterprises is an organization located in Indianapolis that offers comprehensive vision rehabilitation services, funded largely by the Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services that focus on teaching individuals to be independent in daily living skills and to prepare for entering the workforce. Bosma provides a predominantly one-to-one training program that is highly individualized to the student's needs. Areas

of instruction include Activities of Daily Living, Orientation and Mobility, Communications, Assistive Computer Technology and Keyboarding, Vocational Readiness, Manual Skills, Adjustment Counseling, and College Readiness and GED preparation when applicable. Bosma's program can be an integral part of a student's transition program by helping students acquire new skills in an adult setting and gain the confidence needed to successfully reach their goals. Housing options are available to those students attending Bosma's Rehabilitation Center who reside outside of the Indianapolis area.

Bosma also operates a STEP program in a partnership with the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services. This program gives students an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of finding and keeping a job. This is a unique program that provides students the experience of working in a real job in the community and earning real wages. Students are housed at the Indiana School for the Blind and all meals and lodging are provided by the program sponsors.

Bosma serves the entire state of Indiana and funding for the services provided by Bosma can be obtained through Vocational Rehabilitation Services for eligible students. Students and their parents are encouraged to tour the Bosma facility to get a first hand look at the services and training available. For more information parents should call (888) 567-3422 or email <info@bosma.org>.

As teachers of students with visual impairments, you have the ability to impact the lives of your students and their families in many ways. Transition is a vital part of your students' lives. With the right information and resources, students can take the knowledge and skills they gained in school and transition them into a successful life as an adult. Even though most of these services are only available to adults, it is important to let parents and students know the resources are available as early as possible. Take the worry off the shoulders of your parents and give your students the freedom to dream.



For Your Information

The Indiana Department of Education, Division of Exceptional Learners has a new name. In March 2008, Dr. Reed renamed the Division of Special Education, and gave the Department a new mailing address, new e-mail address and new staff titles. The Division is now named: The Center for Exceptional Learners (CEL), Office of High Ability Education, Office of Special Education. The new mailing address is: Indiana Department of Education, Center for Exceptional Learners, 151 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. E-mail address for staff is: <name@doe.in.gov> Web address is now: <<http://www.doe.in.gov/exceptional>>. If you need additional information or have questions, please call the Center at 371-232-0570.

Visit <<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/word/CH100965071033.aspx>> for accessibility information on Microsoft Word 2007.

The Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind provides free technical support on adaptive technology, accessed by calling their toll-free number: 888-825-0080.

The first official release of Microsoft's "Save As Daisy XML" translator for Word can be found at <www.daisy.org/projects/save-as-daisy-microsoft>

On May 1, 2008, the United States Congress heard testimony on draft legislation, the "Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act." The legislation was requested by a coalition of organizations from the disability community to ensure that new information and communications technologies are accessible. The legislation under consideration would build on the existing law known as Section 255 which requires telephones to be designed so that they are accessible to people with disabilities. It would also require video description of TV programs. For individuals who are deaf-blind, the legislation would enable funds now used to help pay for phone service for low-income or hard-to-serve individuals to be used to help pay for braille displays and other technology needed to use text telecommunications devices and call relay systems. It would also include improvements for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. More information on the legislation can be found on AFB's web site at <www.afb.org/blog/> or visit The Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology (COAT) at <www.coataccess.org>.

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) in collaboration with the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI) has launched a new parent web site called *Family Connect*. The website presents an online source of information for parents of children with visual impairments and an opportunity for parents to connect with each other. Message boards, practical tips and ideas for parenting children with visual

impairments, general information on featured topics, and local resource information are provided. The Family Connect Administrative Center has also been established to allow organizations to post their information on the web site at <FCAdminCenter@afb.net>. Visit the Family Connect web site at <www.familyconnect.org>.

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) has partnered with the National Association of the Deaf and its federally funded Described and Captioned Media Program (CDMP) to create guidelines for the description of educational media. In 2007, AFB worked with service providers and experts in media description to formulate a set of draft guidelines for educational media description to increase the availability of predominantly visual curricula to children and youth who are blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind. AFB encourages feedback on these guidelines and suggestions for items that may need more explanation. The draft guidelines can be reviews at <www.afb.org/descriptionguidelines.asp>. For more information, contact Dr. Kay Ferrell at <Kay.Ferrell@unco.edu> or Mary Ann Siller at <siller@afb.net>.

APH News

The APH Museum web site has been redesigned. It is easier to navigate and adds a virtual exhibit feature. To experience the new museum site visit <http://www.aph.org/museum/new.html>

APH will be presenting a two-day summer workshop, “Making Test Items Accessible for Students with Visual Impairments” on August 18-19, 2008. Topics to be addressed are guidelines for designing tactile graphics, large print, computer-based and audio versions of test items, and needed accommodations. The workshop is geared towards members of assessment teams, such as test publishers, state and local assessment personnel, school psychologists, and anyone involved in the provision of tests in accessible media. There is a \$25 registration fee. Registration deadline is July 7, 2008. For more information, contact: Tasha McCoy at <tmmcoy@aph.org> or 800-223-1839, ext. 480. Workshop materials, local transportation and meals during workshop hours will be provided.

Sports camp opportunities can be found on the American Printing House for the Blind Physical Education website at <www.aph.org/pe/camps.html>

APH’s Fred’s Head Database and Companion blog contain tips, techniques, tutorials, in-depth articles, and resources for and by blind or visually impaired people. Fred’s Head can be accessed from their new web address at <www.fredshead.info>.

APH is now offering free downloadable APH Product Manuals. The addition of manuals will be ongoing. The manuals are free to print or emboss. Visit <www.aph.org/manuals/index.html>



Publications

APH has released the 2008-2009 APH Products Catalog. For a free copy, contact the American Printing House for the Blind, 1839 Frankfort Avenue, PO Box 6085, Louisville, KY 40206-0085; phone: 800-223-1839; Fax: 502-899-2274; email: <info@aph.org>; web: <www.aph.org>

Clean to the Touch: Housekeeping for Teenagers and Young Adults with Visual Impairments, written by Kathy Bull, Susan Lind-Sinanian, and Eleanor Martin, is a 190-page paperback available from Howe Press of the Perkins School for the Blind. The manual offers step-by-step techniques and a systematic approach to housecleaning, an independent living skill for students who are blind and visually impaired. Cost: \$34.95. For more information, contact: Howe Press, Perkins School for the Blind, 175 North Beacon Street, Watertown, MA 02472; phone: 617-972-7308; web site: <www.perkins.org/publications>.

The National Braille Press has announced another book written by Anna Dresner entitled A Pocketful of Sound: A Quick-Start and Buyer's Guide to Accessible Book and Music Players. The book is available in electronic or braille formats. Cost: \$14. For more information, visit National Braille Press web site at <www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/POCKET.html>

EZ AT: Assistive Technology Activities for Children Ages 3-8 with Disabilities is a compilation of activities submitted by parents and professionals across the nation. Many of the ideas are simple and inexpensive to use at home and school. All activities use best practices for children that use technology to promote learning and inclusion. This publication is available for \$10. For more information, call 952-838-9000 or visit <www.pacer.org>

She Touched the World: Laura Bridgman, Deaf-Blind Pioneer written by Sally Hobart Alexander and illustrated by Robert Alexander, is a biography of Laura Bridgman for elementary aged students, ages 9 to 12. Laura Bridgman became deaf and blind at age two due to an undiagnosed childhood disease. She attended Perkins School for the Blind under Samuel Gridley Howe and became an international celebrity in the 1840's. Cost: \$18. For more information, contact: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin Company, 215 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003; phone: 212-420-5836; web site: <www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/catalog/titledetail.cfm?titleNumber=100568>



New Products

APH Products

The new *MaximEyes*[™] Video Magnifier from EITAC Solutions Group, LLC in West Lafayette, Indiana, is offered exclusively by the American Printing House for the Blind, Inc. This video viewer has up to 60X magnification, a large 19" LCD panel for clear and easy viewing of images for reading and writing, and a five-button computer mouse. The PenTracker[™] is a small clip-on device that is tracked by the camera as the user moves the pen. What is written automatically stays in the view of the camera. It can also control the magnification as it moves about the work surface. The MaximEyes Video Magnifier Unit costs \$3,495.00, Cat.#: 1-03915-00.

SQUID Tactile Activities Magazine, Issue 5 is now available. Students solve a variety of activities that help build skills that enable them to become more proficient tactile readers. Activities in Issue 5 include: Alligator Alley; Eggs-stra Fun; Mouse Trap; Popcorn Pick Up; Rainbow Coloring Page; and Yummy Ice Cream. Recommended Ages: 5 years and older. Cat.#: 1-08862-05. Cost: \$72.00.

The *Compact+ Hand-Held Electronic Magnifier* is an ultra-bright widescreen electronic magnifier that enlarges up to 10X and fits in a pocket or purse. The snapshot function holds one image of an area being magnified so that the image can be brought closer to the eye. Features includes three zoom levels (5X, 7.5X, and 10X); five viewing modes; camera positioned directly behind screen for ease of image alignment; snapshot feature; 4.3 inch LCD widescreen; retractable hand-grip; rechargeable battery. Cost: \$795.00. Cat.#: 1-07570-00. This product is not available with federal quota funds.

MathBuilders, Unit 6: Geometry is now available. MathBuilders is a supplementary math program separated into eight units by content standards and grade level. Unit 6 includes: teacher's guide with lesson plans for grades K-3; CD-ROM with General Guidelines for Teaching Math to Young Braille Users; student worksheets; and manipulative parts. Large Print Kit: Cat.#: 7-03563-00. Cost: \$288.50. Braille Kit: Cat.#: 5-03563-00. Cost: \$288.50

The audio splitter box Listening Post has been revised. *Listening Post III* now allows the user to connect up to four pairs of headphones to one sound source. The new selector switch allows the use of either mono or stereo headphones, eliminating the need for stereo to mono adaptor plugs. It includes four 3.5 mm jacks with volume controls and two 3-foot cords with 3.5 mm plugs. Cat.#: 1-00941-00. Cost: \$85.00.

Braille/Print Yardstick is made of durable white plastic and is drilled for hanging. It has raised-line markings along one edge in ¼" increments, with braille markings every inch. Black large print markings are along the opposite edge in ¼" increments. Recommended ages: 5 years and up. Cat.#: 1-03000-00. Cost: \$14.00.

Select Switch includes features that make it useful for individuals with severe motor disabilities and cognitive functions. The switch is battery-powered, with function control features that enable an individual to communicate and control battery-operated appliances, toys, and devices. The switch is available on federal quota. Cat.#: 1-08617-00. Cost: \$125.00.

For more information, contact: the American Printing House for the Blind, 1839 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206; phone: 800-223-1839; e-mail: <info@aph.org> ; web site: <www.aph.org>.

Lingo is a handheld, wearable device designed to be used as an independent memory aid or for auditory cuing with students who are multiply disabled. It has eight high-contrast, tactile buttons that hold digital voice recordings of 25 to 60 seconds in length. Cost: \$179. For more information, contact: AbleNet, 2808 Fairview Avenue North, Roseville, MN 551131308; phone: 800-322-0956 or 651-294-2200; web site: <www.ablenetinc.com>

The *Accessibility is a Right (AIR)* Foundation, a newly formed nonprofit organization headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is offering free downloads of a web-based screen reader, System Access to Go (SAToGo). The AIR Foundation is also providing complimentary Internet-based training in the use of the screen reader. The online screen reader is available at <www.accessibilityisaright.org>. It is designed to operate on most Windows-based computers while the system is connected to the Internet. The current free version is designed to read the content of any English-language web site. It is expected to be customized to support additional languages once additional funding is secured. For more information, contact: The AIRD Foundation, 1128 Harmon Place, Suite 310, Minneapolis, MN 55403; phone: 877-369-0101; e-mail: <info@accessibilityisaright.org>; web site: <www.accessibilityisaright.org>.

Freedom Scientific has released the latest beta version of the *MAGic* screen magnification program. They have also released an update to JAWS. The primary new features in these releases allow users of both programs to receive more accurate visual information when using the web. For more information, visit: <www.freedomscientific.com/fs_products/software_MAG110_beta.asp>

The *USB version of JAWS* has been updated to version 9. For more information visit: <www.freedomscientific.com/fs_products/software_jaws90fea.asp>

The *QuickLook FOCUS* is a small, portable video magnifier with near distance electronic focus and variable magnification from Freedom Vision. Features include a 4.3 inch color and black-and-white LCD high-brightness wide-screen monitor; 3X to 18X digital magnification; integrated, patented tilt-angle writing camera; and a 4-plus-hour lithium-ion rechargeable battery. It weighs 8.8 ounces and includes Zoom and Freeze buttons, and an Image button that takes a picture of the document or item being examined for near or eccentric viewing positions. Cost: \$995 plus \$20 shipping. For more information, contact: Freedom Vision, 615 Tami Way, Mountain View, CA 94041; phone: 800-961-1334 or 650-961-6541; e-mail: <info@freedomvision.net>; web site: <www.freedomvision.net>.

The University of Washington has developed a free web-based screen reader called *WebAnywhere*. For more information, visit: <http://webinsight.cs.washington.edu/projects/webanywhere>

The newest version of the *Kurzweil NFB Reader*, will run on a Nokia N-82 phone, making it portable and convenient to scan print material on the go. The Reader software will cost \$1500, with the phone costing around \$550. For more information, visit <www.knfbreader.com/products-mobile.php>

HumanWare Canada has announced the addition of web access for its *Maestro 2.1* handheld product. The Maestro is based on a PDA, with a tactile overlay, and includes a notetaker, DAISY book player, voice recorder, calendar, address book, portable music player, and a GPS with the addition of Trekker navigation tool.

Version 2.1 is available for download as a free upgrade to current Maestro customers.

For more information, visit:

<www.humanware.ca/web/en/maestro-trekker-upgrade.html>. For more

information on the Maestro, visit:

<www.humanware.ca/web/en/maestro.html> or phone 450-463-1717.

GW Micro has announced the Braille Sense Plus. The Braille Sense Plus is a compact, portable notetaker equipped with a 32 braille cell display and speech output, and weighs 2 lbs. It has built-in bluetooth, wired and wireless Internet, a variety of software programs, a LCD screen, GPS, MP3 player and recorder, and 8GB flash memory. GW Micro has also announced the release of Window Eyes 6.1.

For more information, contact GW Micro, 725 Airport North Office Park, Fort Wayne, IN 46825; phone: 260-489-3671; e-mail:

<sales@gwmicro.com>;

<www.gwmicro.com>



VISIONS IN INDIANA

Volume 16, Number 3



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