



VISIONS in Indiana

Winter 2008

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Mark Your Calendar

28 February-2 March 2008

49th Annual California Transcribers and Educators of the Visually Impaired (CTEVH) Conference. Los Angeles, CA. Contact: CTEVH, Braille Institute of America, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90029-3594; phone: 323-666-2211; web site: www.ctevh.org/conference.htm.

10-15 March 2008

California State University at Northridge (CSUN) Center on Disabilities' 23rd Annual International Conference on Technology and Persons with Disabilities. Los Angeles, CA. Contact: Center on Disabilities, CSUN, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Building 11, Suite 103, Northridge, CA 91330; phone: 818-677-2578; email: conference@csun.edu; web site: www.csun.edu/cod/conf.

2-5 April 2008

Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Exposition. Boston, MA. Contact: Council for Exceptional Children, 1110 North Glebe Road, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22201; phone: 888-232-7733 or 703-620-3660; web site: www.cec.sped.org.

4-5 April 2008

Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute, AFB. San Francisco, CA. Contact: Caitlin McFeely, Communications Department, American Foundation for the Blind, 11 Penn Plaza, Suite 300, New York, NY 10001; phone: 212-502-7615; email: <cmcfeely@afb.net>; web: <www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=28&TopicID=92>.

16 April 2008

2008 PATINS Tech Expo. Indianapolis, IN. Visit: <www.patinsproject.com> for more information.

26 April 2008

Early Childhood/School Age Conference. "Trail to Your Treasure." Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Indianapolis, IN. For more information, contact: Toni Hughes, Outreach Resources Coordinator; phone: 317-253-1481, ext. 221, e-mail: <thughes@isbvik12.org>.

22-27 July 2008

2008 AER Biennial International Conference. Chicago, IL. Contact: Jim Gandorf, Executive Director, AER; phone: 703-671-4500, extension 201; email: <jgandorf@aerbvi.org>; web site: <www.aerbvi.org>.

1-3 August 2008

Expanding Your Horizons. 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. Information will be sent to VI teachers in the near future.

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.

26-29 October 2008

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

January 2009

Braille Challenge. Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Indianapolis, IN. Date TBA. For more information, contact: Toni Hughes, Outreach Director, Outreach and Related Services Department phone: 317-253-1481, ext. 221.



IERC Updates

ANNUAL REGISTRATION

A reminder that the Annual Student Registration process is now in its final stages. If you have not returned your forms please do so immediately. Legally blind students registered during this process will generate federal quota funds effective October 1, 2008.

If you have deleted a student on your form, you will need to return any materials borrowed for that student. Students entering your program after the annual registration deadline date may be registered for services using a *Supplemental Registration Form*. Please call the IERC if you need copies.

BOOK ORDERS

Don't forget that we are entering the book order season for next year, especially for Braille readers, so start putting your book orders together. This is the best time to order any Braille textbooks you know you will need for next year. Many Braille transcribers are currently looking for work and it is the best time to get transcriptions placed. Be sure orders are signed by the authorized official or designee for your SEA/LEA. Look for book order packets in early spring.

ANNUAL INVENTORY SUMMARY REPORTS

A reminder that Inventory Recall Forms will be sent out in the near future to all SEA/LEA's who have borrowed materials from the IERC. This is a very important procedure as it allows materials and resources to be reused effectively.

POSTAL REMINDER...

Please do not mail order forms, registration forms, or other First Class mail items *Free Matter for the Blind*. This is a violation of the federal Postal Code.

NEW WEBSITE

Check out the new IERC website now part of the ICAM site. The ICAM web site has been posted and can be accessed at: <<http://www.icam.k12.in.us/icamv2/>> The web page provides information on the ICAM, News and Updates, training materials, resources, tools, downloads, terms and definitions, information on the NIMAS file set, and library search options as well as a direct link to our newly incorporated IERC web site.

IERC ORDER FORMS ON THE WEB

Downloadable copies of our *Textbook and Aids and Equipment* order forms, as well as our *Inventory Return* and *Equipment Repair* forms can be found at <<http://intra.isbrockets.org/public/news/ierc/Forms>> The *Inventory Return* form and the *Equipment Repair* form can also be downloaded from our web site on the ICAM, under the Forms section, <<http://www.icam.k12.in.us/icamv2/>>

NEW PROFESSIONAL BOOKS

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

Beyond Pegboards: A Guide for Teaching Adolescent Students With Multiple Disabilities by Cynthia O'Connell. This is a practical guide that uses a theme-based approach to help teachers create meaningful learning opportunities for students with multiple disabilities. It is filled with very easy to replicate activities that can become a springboard for more activities and ideas. All activities are referenced in a critical skills chart that ties them to the skills and concepts that they address. Examples of how activities relate theme-based teaching to the educational standards are also included.

Mini-Steps and Milestones: A History of Services for Young Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired by Dr. Virginia Bishop. This publication is a history of services to blind and visually impaired infants and preschoolers in the United States. It outlines the rich legacy and the prominent leaders who guided the development of services for this population.

Natural Environments: Service and Advocacy for Children Who Are Visually Impaired or Deafblind by Julie Bernas-Pierce and Tom Miller. This monograph outlines the implications of the natural environments debate on early intervention services for children who are blind, visually impaired or deafblind. It is intended as a tool for advocacy for parents and professionals.

Books currently on order: *The Oregon Project for Preschool Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired*, 6th Edition; the *Assessment of Braille Literacy Skills*; and *Braille Requisite Skills Inventory: Assessment and Planning Tool*.



"EYE-DEAS"
by Diane Childers
School-Age Consultant
Outreach and Related Services
Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBVI)



Hello colleagues:

Hope you are surviving this crazy winter weather! We are busy here in Outreach as I know all of you are too.

Please mark you calendars and save the following dates:

Saturday, April 26, 2008: *Osborne Early Childhood Parent Training Conference and School-age Conference, "Trail to Your Treasure"* at ISBVI. Information will be sent out the week of March 17, 2008.

Friday - Sunday, August 1-3, 2008: *Expanding Your Horizons*, family conference for academic students who are visually impaired or blind in Indiana and their families. This conference is sponsored by Innervision 20/20 Foundation/Craig MacFarlane and ISBVI Outreach and Related Services Department. Information will be sent to VI teachers and Outreach mailing list before the 2007-2008 school year ends.

Thursday - Friday October 9-10, 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 2008.

January 2009: *Braille Challenge*. We are in the process of setting up the Braille Challenge Contest to be held in January, 2009 (Date TBA) at ISBVI. 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 to their future success. Information will be mailed late in school year 2007-2008 or early school year 2008-2009.

The **Braille Challenge**[™] is a two-stage academic contest designed to motivate school-age braille readers to excel in this vital medium. Contestants may take the **Preliminary Contest** anytime during the first two months of the year in one of two ways: Students gain the fullest experience by attending one of the many regional daylong events in their own state or region. Students may also take the Challenge individually if the contest is administered by a teacher of the visually impaired. Either way, everyone can be a part of the **Preliminary Round**. Then, the top eligible students are invited to Los Angeles, where they'll match braille skills against their peers at the June Challenge.

How it works:

The contest is divided into five academic levels.

Grades 1-2: Apprentice

Grades 3-4: Freshman

Grades 5-6: Sophomore

Grades 7, 8, 9: Junior Varsity

Grades 10, 11, 12: Varsity

Here's the breakdown of **Contest Categories** for each level:

Apprentice and Freshman:

Spelling, reading comprehension and proofreading.

Sophomore:

Reading comprehension, proofreading, spelling, speed and accuracy.

Junior Varsity and Varsity:

Reading comprehension, proofreading, speed and accuracy, charts and graphs.

If you want more information or would like to be involved in this great event, please contact Toni Hughes, Director of Outreach and Related Services <thughes@isbvik12.org> or 317-253-1481 Ext. 221. Katie Culbertson, TVI at West Central Joint Services has administered the challenge to one of her students for the last four years. Last year one of her students made it to the finals in California. If you have questions about how to prepare your students, Katie is willing to offer suggestions. You can contact her at <Katie.Culbertson@wayne.k12.in.us> or 317-227-8542 or 317-227-4894.

Please note the following ideas:

- From Karen Shelley, teacher of visually impaired students in Harrison County: free Braille playing cards are available by contacting: Heidi DePuy at <wenarced2@aol.com>. These are from the Carson City Natives and Newcomers. Casinos donate the cards, prisoner's braille them and the newcomers make cases for them.
- Also from Karen Shelley: My student and I were discussing how to keep the print book and the braille book together without smashing the braille and so she wouldn't lose them. She came up with the idea of a pocket so what I can do is take the spiral bound braille books apart with the machine the Reading Recovery teachers use to make books, add in the pocket folder and put the spiral book back together. If you replace the spiral with a larger size then you can accommodate a larger print book although at this time I am only using very thin, short books. I am trying it with using the bubble wrap in the pocket to minimize braille crushing.
- Recreation and Leisure Skills Curricula and Resources:
Games for Individuals with Sensory Impairments: Strategies for Including People of All Ages by L.J. Lieberman and J.F. Cowart. (1996). Human Kinetics, Champaign, IL. (*Information from Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired website.*)
- Websites for issues related to blindness and visual impairment are available by going to: <<http://webeye.ophth.uiowa.edu/dept/Websites/blindness.htm>>

If anyone is interested in having a once per month (or less frequent) networking “night out” please contact Diane Childers. Outreach will coordinate this effort to network and share ideas. Let's do dinner!

Diane's contact information: <dchilders@isbvik12.org> or (317) 253-1481, ext. 175.)

Enjoy thoughts of spring...hopefully soon to come!



State Library Updates

by Carole Rose
Indiana State Library
Special Services Division



Indiana Voices

In January, 2008, the Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library launched *Indiana Voices*, a program funded by a \$950,000 grant from the Ruth Lilly Philanthropic Foundation. Volunteer narrators, monitors, and reviewers will narrate and produce books by Indiana authors as well as titles with an Indiana-related theme. Narrators and monitors will work in the library's state-of-the-art recording studio, using the latest digital equipment. Until the NLS flash memory delivery system is available to network libraries, the material will be produced on cassettes.

Volunteers will be narrating and producing books for all ages. Titles for children and teens will be selected from nominees and winners of the Young Hoosier Book Award, Elliot Rosewater Award, Best Books of Indiana nominees and winners, along with other recommended titles. Program coordinator Drake Land welcomes recommendations from educators and media specialists. Drake is also recruiting narrators, monitors, and reviewers. Narrators and monitors generally work in the recording studio for an hour once a week. Volunteers need not come to the library to review completed material.

To request more information about Indiana Voices, or to recommend titles for consideration, contact Mr. Land at (317) 232-3683 or e-mail: <dland@library.in.gov>

Indiana Vision Expo

For the past two years, the Talking Book and Braille Library has hosted a *Vision Expo* at the Indiana State Library. If you have attended this event before or plan to attend this year, the date has been changed from the last Saturday in April to the last Saturday in September. The *2008 Indiana Vision Expo* will be held on Saturday, September 27, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm at the State Library. The event will feature more than twenty-five exhibitors displaying and selling products and providing service and resource information for visually impaired children and adults. This year, the American Printing House for the Blind, the National Braille Press, HumanWare, and the Hadley School for the Blind will be exhibiting for the first time. Other first time exhibitors have also been contacted. Promotional flyers are available upon request. Within a few weeks, our Vision Expo web site will be up and running. You will be able to find the most current information by visiting the web site: <<http://www.indianavisionexpo.org>>. Updates will be posted through September 27, 2008. For further information, contact: Carole Rose, Vision Expo Coordinator; phone: (317) 232-0609; e-mail: <crose@library.in.gov>





PROJECT VISION

by Karen Goehl
Project Director

Upcoming Inservice Training Activities. Project Vision is sponsoring a two-day inservice training workshop on April 15-16, 2008. The workshop is titled, "Autism Spectrum Disorders and Visual Impairment (ASDVI)." The workshop is designed to provide participants with information that will serve as a foundation to successfully assess and plan educational programs for children with ASDVI. The following four topics will be addressed during the two days: (1) Critical Considerations, Overview of ASDVI, Strategies and Tools for Quality Assessment, General Instructional Program Considerations; (2) Communication Skills and Strategies; (3) Addressing Critical Social Skills; and (4) Addressing Challenging Behaviors.

The workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn Select Airport, in Indianapolis. The presenters for the workshop are Marilyn and Jay Gense. Marilyn is a Special Education Coordinator in Salem, Oregon with responsibilities for coordinating services to children who are blind or visually impaired and children with autism spectrum disorders. Jay is Director of Low Incidence Programs with the Oregon Department of Education in Salem. Both Jay and Marilyn are licensed teachers of students with visual impairments and are active members of the Oregon Chapter of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired. They have written numerous articles and presented widely at workshops and professional conferences on educational strategies for working with students who are blind or visually impaired and have autism spectrum disorders as well as on assessment and program development for students with low incidence disabilities. Their latest book, published in 2005, is titled Autism Spectrum Disorders and Visual Impairment. Registration information for the workshop is in the mail. Please try to attend!

VI Distance Education Training Program. Five teachers from the 2007 cohort are beginning their third course, *Communication Skills for Individuals with Visual Impairments* (The Braille Class!). The seven students from the 2006 cohort are beginning their fifth and final 3 hour course, *Principles of Orientation and Mobility*. Finally, a new cohort (2008) of eight students began the VI Licensure Program by attending a weekend seminar, January 11-13, 2008. The students attended the orientation seminar at Indiana State University where they used one of the computer labs in order to become familiar with the features of the distance education program.

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Training Program. The twelve Indiana teachers who are enrolled in the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) Orientation & Mobility program continue to work on either their required Supervised Fieldwork or Internship hours. Each of the students in the O&M program must log 150 Internship hours before they graduate from the PCO program. The commitment is significant and both students and their supervising O&M specialists certainly deserve kudos from Project Vision as well as the districts/schools that ultimately will benefit from their hard work!

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





PATINS PROJECT NEWS

Promoting Achievement through Technology and Instruction for All Students

by Vicki Hershman
PATINS State Coordinator

Indiana Center for Accessible Instructional Materials (ICAM) Update

For the past year, the Indiana Center for Accessible Instructional Materials (ICAM) has not been able to go operational as Indiana's one-stop shop for local educational agencies needing specialized formats for textbooks and core instructional materials. There was a divergence between the NIMAS regulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act of 2004 and Indiana State Law around the indemnification of liability contract that Indiana was required to sign in order to access the National Materials Access Center (NIMAC). However, on December 26th, President Bush signed H.R. 2764, the Omnibus Appropriations Bill, into law. This legislation included language indemnifying the NIMAC which has resulted in the removal of the previous restrictive language from the required Limited Use Agreement between the NIMAC and Indiana Department of Education. On February 6, 2008, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Suellen K. Reed, signed the new agreement form and officially appointed the PATINS Project and its coordinating partner, the IERC, as Indiana's lead coordinating agencies with the NIMAC.

The Division of Exceptional Learners and Dr. Reed's office will be sending notifications to local educational agencies' superintendents asking them to register their Digital Rights Manager(s) (DRM) who will have access to the web based ordering system for specialized formats of textbooks and core instructional materials.

The ICAM web site has been posted and can be accessed at: <<http://www.icam.k12.in.us/icamv2/>> The public side of the web page provides information on the ICAM, News and Updates, a direct link to the newly incorporated IERC web site, training materials, resources, tools, downloads, terms and definitions, information on the NIMAS file set, and library search options. Once a local educational agencies' Digital Rights Manager (DRM) has been registered, that DRM will also be able to log-in to the web based ordering system of ICAM from the home page.

Bookshare.org – Indiana Accessible Media Producer

The Office of Special Education Programs of the U.S. Department of Education has awarded Bookshare.org a \$32 million, five-year grant to dramatically expand the Bookshare.org collection and provide all U.S. students with qualifying print disabilities free access to the service. This funding supports the objectives of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by supplying high quality textbooks and educational materials to students with special needs. The Indiana Center for Accessible Materials (ICAM) will be working with Bookshare.org for distribution of DAISY and Braille Ready Files to local educational agencies whenever a requested textbook or supplementary material is made to the ICAM.

ICAN/ISTAR Accessible Materials Information Tools

The ICAM has collaborated with the Indiana Classroom Accountability Network (ICAN) and the Indiana Standards Tool for Alternate Reporting (ISTAR) projects, to provide web based case conference tools for the consideration and identification of students with a print disability.

The PATINS Project also has available an excellent podcast, with Dr. Joy Zabala, on *Making Decisions about Accessible Instructional Materials; Implications for CASE Committees – Podcast #9*. You can listen and view the enhanced podcast by going to the PATINS web site at <<http://www.patinsproject.com>> and clicking on the NIMAS/ICAM tab and then clicking on the NIMAS Podcast link to the Indiana Designs Equitable Access for Learning (IDEAL Project).

PATINS Project Update

As the lead state agency for implementing NIMAS in Indiana, the PATINS Project has a number of useful resources on their web site including a NIMAS File Supported Software Matrix. Additionally, The PATINS Project is offering a number of discounted volume buys on software and hardware that supports the implementation of NIMAS at the student level. Current discounted products being offered are from Eye Can See, TextHelp, and Premier Assistive Technology. Check out the PATINS web site at: <<http://www.patinsproject.com>> for more details on these current offerings and for future postings.

PATINS Project 2008 Tech Expo

The *PATINS Project 2008 Tech Expo* is scheduled for April 16, 2008, at the Junior Achievement Center of Central Indiana, 7435 North Keystone Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46240, from 9:00am- 4:00pm. Vendor booths will be available and there will be vendor and non-for-profit presentations throughout the day. A box lunch will be provided to all attendees. The event is open to educators, families and the general public at no cost and parking is free. To register for this event go to the PATINS web site at:< <http://www.patinsproject.com>>



For Your Information



APH Celebrates 150 Years

The American Printing House for the Blind is celebrating its 150th year sesquicentennial!

Many events have been planned to celebrate this special achievement. Thanks to APH for its great contributions to our field and to their continued efforts to improve the education of all students with visual impairments in this country.

In celebration of its 150 years, APH is conducting an essay contest. APH is inviting children, adults, and the professionals who serve them, to tell how APH products have made an impact on their lives. The contest is open to: students with a visual impairment who are enrolled in grades 3 through 12 for the 2007-2008 academic year; adult consumers of APH products; teachers of those who are visually impaired; rehabilitation counselors; and other professionals in the field of blindness. APH gift certificates as well as APH products will be awarded as prizes. Deadline for entry is April 1, 2008. For entry forms, guidelines, and more information, go to: www.aph.org/essay.html.

APH Updates...

The American Printing House for the Blind is providing step-by-step tutorials for the Braille+. Visit the APH webcast archives at www.aph.org/webcast. Additional tutorials will be released each month. The next live discussions are scheduled for March 7 and March 14 from 2:00 to 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time. To take part in the live discussion and/or if you wish to be notified throughout the month when a tutorial is out, please send an e-mail to: mdelgado@aph.org. Check out Chase, a young student from Nebraska on YouTube providing lessons on the Braille+ at <http://www.youtube.com/user/BraillePlus>.

APH Resource Services has announced their initiative to create a comprehensive federated search engine integrating the existing Louis Database and the newly created NIMAC database. They have contracted with Quality Solutions, Inc. to improve the functionality and features of the Louis database and to provide better integration of Louis with other APH systems and the NIMAC.

APH's Fred's Head Companion was the winner of the Best Blindness-Related Blog of 2007. The Fred's Head blog contains tips, techniques, tutorials, in-depth articles, and resources for and by the blind or visually impaired people. Check out Fred's Head Database on the APH website at www.aph.org.

APH has launched an Image Library Database that is accessible from their website. Teachers, transcribers, students, families and paraprofessionals are now able to register to use the Image Library to find tactile graphics that can be enhanced for their needs. The database is searchable by category or keyword. New images will be added weekly. Visit the tactile graphic library at <<http://www.aph.org/tgil/index.html>>

A collaborative effort by Microsoft and the Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) Consortium has developed a program that will convert open XML files to the DAISY format. This is a significant development for people who use screen-reading software and need to access large documents and have the navigation features (jumping forward or back by page, chapter, section, etc.) that are provided by the DAISY format. The XML to DAISY converter will be released in early 2008 and will be available from Microsoft as a free plug-in and will be compatible with Microsoft Office 2003 and Office 2007.

The Accessible Tests Department at APH is creating a survey on types of answer sheets needed in instructional and standardized test settings for students who are blind or visually impaired. The survey is for regular education teachers, teachers of visually impaired students, school psychologists, test administrators, and other educators and assessment professionals. A live link will soon be posted to the Accessible Tests pages of the APH website and will be open for 6 weeks at <www.aph.org>.

The Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, MA has recently acquired the assets of Adaptive Technology Consulting, Inc. (ATC). ATC is a distributor and reseller of adaptive technology equipment as well as provide consulting, training, and support for these systems. By acquiring this company, Perkins will be able to add hundreds of assistive technology products to the Perkins Products/Howe Press catalog and provide greater access to these technologies worldwide via the Perkins website. For more information, check out the Perkins School for the Blind website at <www.perkins.org>.

A new free reading service, called “Read This To Me,” allows persons who are blind and low vision to have printed documents read to them over the phone. All a person needs is a phone line and a fax machine (no computer is required.) The client faxes the document to be read to the ReadThisToMe toll-free fax number: 1-877-333-8848. The first page of the fax needs to be a cover page that includes the client’s first name and callback (voice) phone number. The document itself can be just about anything: a handwritten letter, a bill, a can of food, a multi-page magazine article — just about anything that can be faxed. One of ReadThisToMe’s volunteer readers will call the client. This service is available throughout the U.S. and Canada and is absolutely free. For more information, visit: <<http://www.readthistome.org/>>

The following website provides instructions on making Tactile Books for young children with visual impairments: <<http://www.nctd.org.uk/TBAG/MakingBooks/TSTT.pdf>>

Amazon.com has purchased Audible.com. For more information visit <<http://www.thestreet.com/story/10401354/1/amazons-audible-play.html>>

Visit <<http://www.etchy.org/>> to experience an online electronic version of the *Etch a Sketch*.

The American Foundation for the Blind has a list of their 2008-2009 academic year scholarships for students who are legally blind at <www.afb.org/scholarships.asp>. Deadline for submissions is March 31, 2008.

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) was recently awarded a subcontract to develop guidelines for video description of educational materials as part of a U.S. Department of Education grant awarded to the Described and Captioned media program (DCMP) of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD). Over the next two years, AFB will collaborate with service providers and experts in video description to develop a set of guidelines for video description that will increase the availability of predominantly visual curriculum to children and youths with visual impairments. The guidelines will be evaluated through video description intervention field trials throughout the U.S. for use with P-12 populations.

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) in collaboration with the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI) will launch a parent web site in 2008. The web site will present a one-stop online source of information and inspiration for parents of children with visual impairments. The web site will provide opportunities for parents to connect with each other on message boards, practical tips and ideas for parenting children with visual impairments by age ranges, general information on featured topics, and local resource and activities for parents who have registered to receive customized information.

Amazon.com entered into a technology development agreement with the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) to make their website fully accessible by December of 2007. Many improvements have been made to the site, however due to the complexity of the task, Amazon.com expects it will take another six months to reach fully accessibility functionality. For more information, 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>.

Storyline Online, a site containing children's stories read by ScreenActors Guild members, is available at <<http://www.storylineonline.net>>. Also available is a video of the actor reading it, the books illustrations and downloadable activity guides.



Publications

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) released its new publication entitled BANA Braille Codes Update 2007 in January 2008. This update compiles braille code changes approved by the BANA over the past few years. It includes updates to the following three codes: “English Braille American Edition 1994, Revised 2002”; “Braille Formats: Principles of Print to Braille Transcription 1997”; “Nemeth Code for Mathematics and Science Notation, 1972 Revision.” The 2007 update is a preliminary release of specific changes prior to the future revision and publication of new editions of each of the codes, and BANA intends to publish subsequent updates to the braille codes as necessary. BANA is currently working on a comprehensive revision of “English Braille American Edition” and “Braille Formats: Principles of Print to Braille Transcription”. The free publication is available for download in several electronic formats from the BANA web: <www.brailleauthority.org>. Hard-copy print or braille versions will be available free of charge upon request. For more information contact: Judith Dixon, chairperson, BANA; phone: 202-707-0722; e-mail: <jdis@loc.gov> ; web site: <www.brailleauthority.org> .

Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller, by Sarah Miller, is a new work of historical fiction for children aged 9-12 that imagines Anne Sullivan’s first experiences with her pupil, Helen Keller. A free teaching guide with 12 discussion topics is included. Cost: \$16.99. For more information, contact: Atheneum, Simon and Schuster, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020; web site: <www.simonsays.com>.

The *Focused On: Social Skills* series is available on accessible DVD. Each of the five DVDs addresses a different aspect of helping students with visual impairments to develop lifelong social skills. Choose from: Importance and Need for Social Skills Assessment Techniques; Teaching Social Skills to Visually Impaired Preschoolers; Teaching Social Skills to Visually Impaired Elementary Students; Social Skills for Teens and Young Adults with Visual Impairments. All five modules are available for \$39.95. For more information, visit web site: <www.afb.org/store>.

Teaching Pupils with Visual Impairment: A Guide to Making the School Curriculum Accessible by Gwasg Pia Cyf, is a practical guide to making learning accessible for elementary and secondary school students with visual impairments. The text includes a CD-ROM with additional resources. Cost: \$56.95. For more information, contact: David Fulton Publishers, Taylor and Francis Group, 2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxford, OX14 4RN, United Kingdom; web site: <www.taylorandfrancis.com> .

Mini-Steps and Milestones: A History of Services for Young Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired, by Virginia E. Bishop, was recently published by Perkins School for the Blind. The 270-page book is available for a cost of \$25. For more information, contact the Publications Department, Perkins School for the Blind, 175 North Beacon Street, Watertown, MA 02472; phone 877-473-7546 or 617-924-3434; web: <www.perkins.org/>.

Vaughan and Asbury's General Ophthalmology, 17th Edition, by Paul Riordan-Eva, provides a practical, clinically focused introduction to ophthalmology. It is intended as a quick-reference update on diagnosis and treatment of all major diseases of the eye. The 480-page paperback book is available for \$69.95. For more information, contact: McGraw-Hill Medical, McGraw-Hill Professional, Two Penn Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10121; phone: 877-833-5524 or 609-426-5793; web site: <www.mcgraw-hillmedical.com>.

The American Foundation for the Blind has released the 2008 AccessWorld® Guide to Assistive Technology Products. The 2008 edition includes detailed profiles of over 280 products for people who are blind or visually impaired. Print or disk with online access: \$34.95. Online-only edition: \$19.00. For more information, contact: American Foundation for the Blind, 11 Penn Plaza, Suite 300, New York, NY 10001; Web: <<http://www.afb.org/store>>.

Keep Your Ear on the Ball, written by Genevieve Petrillo, is a picture book about Davey, a boy who is blind and wants to play kickball with his sighted classmates. Based on a true story, the book describes the teamwork of Davey and his classmates. It is intended for children aged 9-12. A guide for teachers with seven discussion points and five interactive activities included. Cost: \$16.95. For more information, contact: Tiffany House Publishers, 2 Mechanic Street, Suite 3, Gardiner, ME 04345; phone: 800-582-1899; e-mail: <tilbury@tilburyhouse.com>; web site: <www.tilburyhouse.com>.

Independent Movement and Travel in Blind Children: A Promotion Model, is the newest volume in the Critical Concerns in Blindness Series edited by Ronald J. Ferguson of the Louisiana Center for the Blind. It is designed to contribute to the understanding of developmental orientation and mobility and independent movement and travel in children who are blind. The book discusses the effect of movement on development and the importance of movement experiences for the development of independent movement and travel in children who are blind. The 331 page book cost is \$39.99 (paperback) or \$73.25 (hardcover). For more information, contact: Information Age Publishing, P.O. Box 79049, Charlotte, NC 28271-7047; phone: 704-752-9125; email: <order@infoagepub.com>; web site: <<http://infoagepub.com>>

Anna and Natalie, written by Barbara Hancock, is a book for children aged 6 to 9 about Anna, who wants to be selected to lay the wreath at her teacher's yearly ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, DC. Anna writes an essay, from the perspective of her dog guide, about how dogs have always helped soldiers during wars, and is selected to lay the wreath at the tomb. The 32-page book is published by Star Bright Books and costs \$15.95. For more information, contact: Star Bright Books, 30-19 48th Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101; phone: 800-788-4439; e-mail: <orders@starbrightbooks.com>; web site: <www.starbrightbooks.org/

The *Journal of Literary Disability* is a new online periodical that focuses on the literary representation of disability. Subscriptions to the journal are free, and can be obtained by filling in an electronic form located online:

<www.journalofliterarydisability.com/register.htm>. For more information, contact: David Bolt, founding editor; email: <bolt@talktalk.net>; web site: <www.journalofliterarydisability.com>

BrailleInk is a non-profit organization providing children's books in print and braille. New titles include: The Dot; The Alphabet/El alfabeto, an English/Spanish alphabet book; and Twinkle, Twinkle. To find out more about BrailleInk and to browse their bookstore, visit: <www.brailleink.org>.

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the U.S. Department of Education released a CD version of the *Tool Kit on Teaching and Accessing Students with Disabilities: Parents' Materials*, designed to assist parents and states in their efforts to work together to raise the achievement of all students with disabilities. The documents were written specifically for parents and include information they need as they work with schools to ensure their children are receiving a quality education. The material may be downloaded at: <www.osepideasthatwork.org/index.asp>.

The National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB) has a new 4-page publication called Harmonious Interactions. It describes the importance of teaching families and educators to create and maintain high-quality interactions with children who are deaf-blind. This is the first of a series of publications, called Practice Perspectives, designed to expand and broaden the use of current information resources by developing easily understandable products with accessible formats. Print and Braille copies are available from NCDB. Phone: 800-438-9376; TTY: 800-854-7013; email: <info@nationaldb.org>; web site: <www.nationaldb.org>

New Products

HumanWare has launched the *Victor Reader Stream*, the smallest handheld digital Talking Book and music player on the market. About the size of a deck of playing cards, the Victor Reader Stream is designed to enable people who are blind or have low vision to quickly and accurately access the content of various electronic Talking Book formats, including DAISY, Bookshare, text, wav, MP3, OGG Vorbis, and Audible.com audio files. The device has a USB port that is designed to connect to a personal computer so books and audio files can be downloaded to the Victor Reader Stream's removable flash memory card and stored. It is also designed to digitally record voice notes. The device operates with advanced DAISY functions, and also offers navigation capabilities for all forms of audio books. The product is available for a cost of \$329. For more information, contact: HumanWare, 175 Mason Circle, Concord, CA 94520; phone: 800-722-3393 or 925-680-7100; email: <us.info@humanware.com>; web site: <www.humanware.com/en-usa/home>. Check out the American Foundation for the Blind's January 2008 issue of *AccessWorld* for a review of the Victor Reader Stream.

Serotek has created a foundation called "Accessibility Is A Right" and has turned over distribution and development of their free online screen reader "System Access to Go" to that foundation. Anybody anywhere with Internet access has free unlimited use of this screen reader. Visit: <www.accessibilityisaright.org>

David Bailes has written a JAWS Guide to Internet Explorer 7, another in his growing series of comprehensive guides for the JAWS user. Visit: <http://vip.chowo.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/jaws/Internet-Explorer-7-Guide.html>

Freedom Scientific has announced the new *TOPAZ Video Magnifier 22-inch Widescreen* model. The new TOPAZ features a 5ms LCD monitor with a 16:9 aspect ratio and the full range of adjustability that is hallmark of the TOPAZ LCD models. It weighs 38 lbs. and provides magnification from 3x to 82x. List price for the new model is \$3495. For more information, contact: Freedom Scientific; phone: 800-444-4443; web site: <www.freedomscientific.com>.

Freedom Scientific has announced the new *ONYX Deskset 17 CCTV* which offers auto-focused viewing in distance, intermediate, and up-close magnification. It also include four color modes; a range of brightness adjustments to eliminate glare and to enable viewing in low light environments; and Freeze Frame to allow time to view images. For more information, contact: Freedom Scientific; phone: 800-444-4443; web site: <www.freedomscientific.com>.

GW Micro has announced the *Small-Talk Ultra 02 LV* series of computers. The Small-Talk Ultra 02 LV is a very small computer with the power of Windows and comes preloaded with ZoomText Magnifier for \$2,395 and the Small-Talk Ultra LVS comes preloaded with ZoomText with Speech for \$2,595. For more information, contact: GW Micro; phone: 260-489-3671; web site: <www.gwmicro.com>.

GW Micro has released *SenseNav*, a GPS product designed to work with its Voice Sense personal digital assistant. It includes software, an 8GB compact flash card holding all the maps for the United States and Canada, a Holux M-1000 GPS receiver with an AC adapter, and an audio tutorial CD. Users can design routes for either vehicle or pedestrian travel. It offers a virtual mode for exploring an area before traveling. Cost is \$1549.00 or \$3944.00 if bundled with Voice Sense. For more information, contact: GW Micro; phone: 260-489-3671; email: <sales@gwmicro.com>; web site: <www.gwmicro.com>.

The *Owasys Model 22C Screenless Talking Phone* is a fully accessible talking cell phone designed specifically for the blind. It has a standard keypad with large keys that are spaced far enough apart for easy navigation. All menus are spoken and arranged in an easy-to-follow list. The phone was tested by the international Braille and Technology Center. For more information, call 877-292-2747 or visit web site: <www.screenlessphone.com>

Springer Design, manufacturer of the *BookCourier*, has announced a new version of the BookCourier that will begin shipping in early 2008. The new BookCourier will play several file formats, including WMA, OGG, and WAV, and will add the ability to play NLS Talking Books. It will offer variable speed in audio as well as text files, have a jack for an external microphone, and have the capacity to handle SD (secure digital) and DF (compact flash) cards storing up to 8 GB of materials. Cost is TBA. For more information, contact: Springer Design; phone: 925-242-0310; email: <sales@bookcourier.com>; web site: <<http://bookcourier.com/WhatsNew.htm>>

Rex: theTalking Prescription Bottle is an automated, text-to-speech pill bottle that allows pharmacists to electronically record label information to a pill bottle. The bottle uses words to identify bottle contents and informs individuals on the proper use of their medication through the push of a button. For more information, call 866-798-2557 or visit: <www.rxtalks.com>

Long Strong Crayons are a pack of nine brightly colored long, thick crayons that are very break resistant and long lasting. These crayons are designed to fit a big kid's palm grasp or whole hand grasp better than conventional crayons. They produce a good line with light pressure, yet will not break if a child bangs them. The cost is under \$3.00. For more information, call 800-308-2208.

New APH Products

Wilson Reading System® Braille Student Readers 1, 2, and 3 is now available. The Wilson Reading System (WRS) is a reading and writing curriculum for teaching decoding and encoding (spelling), beginning with phoneme segmentation in a systematic and cumulative manner. Student Reader One: Cat. # 6-79502-00, \$17.00; Student Reader Two: Cat.# 6-79503-00, Cost \$17.00; Student Reader Three: Cat.# 6-79504-00, Cost: \$17.00.

Storage Panel for Picture Maker: Wheatley Tactile Diagramming Kit provides an 8.5 x 11 inch board that can be tucked inside the folded board or inserted into a 3 ring binder. This allows the user to store unused Picture Maker pieces so that the entire main Picture Maker board can be used for diagramming purposes. Cat.# 1-08838-03, Cost \$15.00.

Picture Maker Accessories: Textured Strips provides textured diagramming strips for use with the Picture Maker. These strips are different in texture, number, color, and size from the Velcro-backed pieces included in the original kit. The new strips can represent roads, railroad tracks, curved paths, sidewalks, and other map features. Cat#: 1-08838-02, Cost: \$72.00.

Embossed XU Axis 20x20 Grid Graph Sheets contain 0.5 inch squares in a 20 x 20 grid on 80 lb, 11.5 x 11 inch paper. 25 sheets per pack. Cat.# 1-04045-00, Cost: \$5.45.

On the Way to Literacy Handbook, 2nd Edition is an updated handbook that provides teachers and parents of young children with suggestions and activities to support early literacy. Braille Edition (with CD of accessible files): Cat.# 6-77520-00, Cost: \$112.00; Print Edition (with CD of accessible files): 8-77520-00, Cost: \$54.00.

ToAD: Tools for Assessment and Development of Visual Skills Kit is a set of standardized tools for performing functional vision evaluations or visual skills development activities with the provision of tools, toys, and puzzles. Most ToAD materials are designed to be used with APH's Invisisboard and ISAVE Grid in a very softly lit environment. Designed for ages 2.5 - 5 years old. APH is currently developing the TADPOLE, for learners 0 - 2.5 years and those with severe, multiple disabilities. Cat.# 1-08152-00. Cost \$595.00.

For more information on APH products, contact APH: phone: 800-223-1839; email: info@aph.org; web site: www.aph.org



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