

# *VISIONS* in Indiana

Fall 2007

Vol. 16, No. 1

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## Mark Your Calendar

### 11-13 October 2007

*139th Annual Meeting of Ex Officio Trustees and Special Guests.* Downtown Marriot Hotel, Louisville, KY. For more information, visit: [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org).

### 18-20 October 2007

*25th Annual Closing the Gap Conference: Computer Technology in Special Education and Rehabilitation.* Minneapolis, MN. [www.closingthegap.com](http://www.closingthegap.com)

### 25-27 October 2007

*National Braille Association, Professional Development Courses and Fall Meeting,* Crowne Plaza, Minneapolis North Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota. For more information, visit: [www.nationalbraille.org](http://www.nationalbraille.org).

### 25-28 October 2007

*The Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children 23rd International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families.* Niagara Falls, Ontario Canada. [www.dec-sped.org/annualconference.html](http://www.dec-sped.org/annualconference.html)

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**15-16 November 2007**

*Indiana Chapter of AER Annual Conference.* Nashville, IN. Contact: John Trueblood, President, Indiana AER, 1325 Winter Avenue, Louisville, KY 40205; e-mail: <jtrueblood@gcs.k12.in.us>

**29 November-December 2 2007**

*Eighth Biennial Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference.* St. Pete Beach, FL. Contact: Kay Ratzlaff, Coordinator of Instructional Resources, Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired, 4210 West Bay Villa Ave., Tampa, FL 33611; phone: 813-837-7829; e-mail: <kratzlaff@fimevi.org>; web site: <www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.com>

**3-4 December 2007**

*2007 PATINS State Conference.* Crowne Plaza, Indianapolis, IN. For more information visit: <www.patinsproject.com>.

**6-8 December 2007**

*Discovery 2007: The Low Vision Conference.* Chicago, IL. Contact: Leah Gerlach, conference chair, Deicke Center for Visual Rehabilitation, 219 East Cole Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187; phone: 630-690-7115; e-mail: <leah@deicke.org>; web site: <www.deicke.org>.

**30 January-February 2 2007**

*Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) 2008 Conference.* Orlando, FL. Contact: ATIA, 401 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611; phone: 977-687-2842; e-mail: <info@atia.org>; web site: <www.atia.org>.

**15 March 2008**

*Early Childhood/School Age Conference.* 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>.

**4-5 April 2008**

*The 2008 Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute, The Gateway to Technology.* Airport Marriott, San Francisco, CA. For more information, visit: <www.afb.org/jltli.asp>.

**16 April 2008**

*2008 PATINS Tech Expo.* Visit: <www.patinsproject.com> for more information.

**22-27 July 2008**

*2008 AER Biennial International Conference.* Chicago, IL. Contact: Barbara C. Sherr, conference manager, 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; e-mail: <bsherr@aerbvi.org>; web site: <www.aerbvi.org>



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## IERC Updates

### VI TEACHER DIRECTORY

We are in the process of updating our state-wide VI teacher list. Please complete and return the form you received from the IERC as soon as possible. If you did not receive an address update form from us and you are currently working as a teacher of visually impaired students in Indiana, please contact the IERC and we will get one to you. The 2007-2008 Directory will be published and disseminated at the end of October. Please do not forget to update your e-mail address. The IERC sends out our newsletter, updates and items of interest throughout the year via electronic mail only.

### PACKING/SHIPPING LISTS

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

### BOOK ORDERS FOR SECOND SEMESTER

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

### SUPPLEMENTAL REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS

A reminder to submit a Supplemental Registration Form for newly identified VI students or VI student move-ins. We can not process your Supplemental Registration Forms if all sections are not accurately filled out. Do not forget to include the student STN number on your form. This is now required information.

Please remember:

- 1) A Functional Vision Assessment and Functional Literary Assessment must be completed for each student, documenting their need for the accessible formats you are ordering (braille, large print, specialized aids and equipment.)
- 2) Do not order braille, large print and other specialized aids unless they have been designated as accessible formats on the student's IEP.
- 3) Large print and braille must be identified as a primary or secondary reading medium on the student's registration prior to placing orders for these materials from the IERC. For example, if you have listed regular print for a student's primary reading medium and auditory for the secondary reading medium, you cannot order large print materials. In these instances, the LEA will need to verify and authorize changes in primary and secondary reading mediums prior to the IERC processing orders.

Please check your student paperwork before submitting orders.

## NEW SUPPLEMENTAL REGISTRATION FORMS

We will be sending out new Supplemental Registration Forms to each VI teacher. The new forms include a section for the STN number that is now required. When you receive the new form, please discard the old forms.

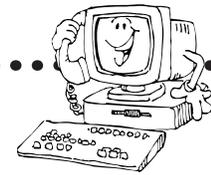
## ANNUAL STUDENT REGISTRATION/ QUOTA REGISTRATION

Just a reminder...the Annual Student Registration of Blind and Visually Impaired Students will be conducted in January of 2008. Please mark your calendars and begin preparing for this important procedure.

## NEW PROFESSIONAL BOOKS AVAILABLE

The IERC has recently added the following book to their professional collection. If you are interested in borrowing a copy, send a book order to the IERC. When ordering, please keep in mind that all professional materials are on a 60-day loan.

Cortical Visual Impairment: An Approach to Assessment and Intervention by Dr. Christine Roman-Lantzy, AFB Press. This book provides readers with both a conceptual framework with which to understand working with CVI and concrete strategies to apply directly in their work.



## 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@isbvik12.org>

<kbosier@isbvik12.org>

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

### *Hours of operation:*

Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



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## **"EYE-DEAS"**

*by Heather Holland*

*Short Course Instructor*

*Outreach and Related Services*

*Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired*



### **Short Course Program**

The Short Course Program at ISBVI is entering its fifth year and it has been an exciting new opportunity for students with visual impairments in the state of Indiana. We are serving approximately forty students at the present time. New students will enter the program throughout the school year. All of the Short Course students are enrolled in their local schools and are in grades kindergarten through twelfth grade. The amount of time students spend in the program during each school year is determined on an individual basis and varies from one to nine weeks in a given school year.

The emphasis of our program has been intensive programming in expanded core curriculum areas. Braille readiness and braille reading skills have been taught to a number of students as well as the braille Nemeth Code. Braille instruction has also been provided to several students whose vision is deteriorating. Orientation and Mobility skills have been assessed and reinforced with students who have identified O&M as a need. The low vision and braille students have been introduced to various software programs and other assistive technology that may prove useful in accessing, reading and recording information. Visual efficiency has included exposure to various environmental supports and training for low vision devices. Personal management and organization skills have been taught and reinforced and independent living skills have included cooking activities, bed making, personal hygiene and financial management. Part of independent living skills has also included field trips to a local grocery store to: practice using low vision devices; practice budgeting skills; and locate specific grocery items needed for cooking activities. The dorm activities and elective classes have provided age-appropriate activities and have assisted the students in making choices and increasing their self-esteem. Social interaction skills are addressed in all Short Course activities. Career education has included interest inventories as well as pre-vocational skills. In addition, career education has included field trips that have given the high school students an opportunity to visit adults with visual impairments in the work place. The students have written interview questions and then become the interviewers on these outings. We have visited a librarian, an insurance broker, a massage

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therapist, an industry worker, a counselor, a teacher, engineer analysts, a rehabilitation specialist and a state employee for the civil rights commission. The students have also participated in adapted physical education, music and art. Beyond the expanded core curriculum areas, we have provided academic resource to ensure that their local school curriculum needs are being met.

**We have received a very positive response to our program.**

We sent out evaluation forms to parents, VI teachers and teachers whose children and students have attended Short Course. There has been such positive feedback.

- A Special Education Supervisor said, “Our student has received extreme benefits from ISBVI Short Courses. Many suggestions and recommendations were provided as well as a good blend of curriculum, which has met our student’s needs. The program has also helped this student to better cope and to adjust to his visual impairment and has improved his self-esteem. This is a wonderful support program. ISBVI has gone above and beyond to assist our school corporation and our low vision students. Experts were always available and provided timely assistance.”
- A Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments said “I believe the Short Course program provided needed one on one instruction, structure, independence, and social opportunities. The comprehensive ISBVI Short Course Program Report provided ideas to incorporate into our school curriculum.”
- A student who participated in the Short Course Program stated that she was so excited to be a part of the program and is looking forward to participating each month next year.
- One of our Short Course student’s teacher had this to say about their student’s experience in the program. “I just finished viewing our student’s Power Point presentation that she created in Short Course and it is so very, very nice. I told the student that I have not had many visually impaired or hearing impaired students over the years, but that I have learned just as much from the students, as they have learned from me. The technology and ideas out there for visual or hearing weaknesses is amazing. I know changing schools every few weeks has its downside, but these weeks in Indianapolis have given this student so much more for her future success.”

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- A Special Education Supervisor stated that it broadened the student and parents' understanding of what possibilities are out there. He said "placement in the Short Course Program made this student realize that she is not in this by herself and that there are others who have visual impairments too."
  - A Teacher for Students with Visual Impairments said "What I have seen in the Short Course Program has made a very good impression on me. The variety of activities and evaluations has helped my student very much. You are doing a great job."
  - One of our parents stated that her son is actually "seeing" more of the world outside of our city and meeting more people. He is also becoming more confident and outgoing.

The Short Course Program has been a success and has impacted the educational and visual functioning of those students who have participated. We are looking forward to another exciting school year with many returning students, as well as, many new students. You may find more information about this program on the ISBVI website <[www.isbrockets.org](http://www.isbrockets.org)> then look under Outreach.



The following Eye-Deas from Mary Hobbs, VI teacher for Johnson County. She has a kindergarten student who is a braille reader and has found these ideas effective:

- Use a small cork board with a sheet of tactual weather indicators placed on it. Put small pieces of Wikki-Stix as tallies in each weather indicator box for each day. Ex.If sunny, put a Wikki-Stix marker in that box,etc.
- Use a card "game" format for basic sight words to learn braille. Sort by abc order,match with correct word,etc.
- Give a brailled class roster to student and go over it so student will know names of students in the class (teachers names too).
- Have a "Braille Center" for a day or more. Classroom peers can explore braille, write their own name in braille using a braille writer,etc.



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## State Library Updates

by Carole Rose  
Indiana State Library  
Special Services Division



### 2007 Summer Reading Program

Eighty-two students in grades K-7 participated in our 2007 statewide summer reading program. The theme, “Get a Clue @ Your Library,” gave young readers the opportunity to explore a wide selection of fiction and nonfiction mystery titles. Six hundred cassette, 105 large print, and 188 braille books were borrowed during the eight-week program. Participants earned bookmarks, stickers, food coupons, puzzles, spy glasses, and much more. Outstanding readers and grand prize winners received tote bags and shirts.

This summer, in response to several requests, the library introduced a program for students in grades 8-12. Twenty-two students participated and earned mood pencils, bookmarks, food coupons, shirts, and book bags. We were pleased with the enrollment and plan to offer a program in 2008.

#### Need Books?

Our library may not have textbooks, but we do have books that can be used in the classroom—books for required reading, reports and other special projects, extra credit, and leisure time. The library

maintains a wide selection of braille, large print, and cassette titles for children and teens. The average loan period for a book is 30 days, but teachers may borrow one or more titles for use in the classroom over an extended period of time. A loan period of one semester usually works well. Books can be returned at that time and replaced with new ones. All books must be returned at the close of the academic year.

Teachers whose schools participate in the *Young Hoosier Book Awards* program may want to check with us to see which titles are a part of our collection. Browse our online catalog at <[www.library.in.gov](http://www.library.in.gov)> If your school receives books from the Talking Book and Braille library, you have the option to order books online. Call (317) 232-3684 or (800) 622-4970 for instructions.





## PROJECT VISION

by Karen Goehl  
Project Director

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### **Upcoming Inservice Training Activities.**

Part Two of the **VIISA (Vision Impaired InService in America)** training is scheduled for November 9 – 11, 2007 at Indiana State University. The VIISA training course focuses on working with infants and toddlers with blindness and low vision in both the home and center-based preschools. Seventeen participants were enrolled in the program and attended the first training July 30 – August 1, 2007. The participant evaluations for Part One were very good (despite the hot conference room) and we're looking forward to Part Two in November.

The state committee for Project Vision met September 18, 2007 in Indianapolis. The committee has members representing teachers of students with visual impairments, the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Indiana Education Resource Center, teachers of visually impaired students, directors of special education, the Division of Exceptional Learners, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and families. The primary purpose for the committee was to review a variety of sources (e.g., needs assessments, anecdotal records, evaluation data) and identify training topics for 2007-2008. Two specific training activities for the upcoming year were identified: 1) Autism and visual impairment and 2) Working with Word style sheets and braille formats for classroom transcription. Specific details regarding dates and locations will be announced in the near future. In addition to these two training topics, it was determined that Vicki Hershman, PATINS project director, and I will work with HumanWare to look at developing an online module for learning more about the Accessible Graphing Calculator.

**VI Distance Education Training Program.** Seven teachers from the 2007 cohort are currently enrolled in their second course, *Programs and Services for Individuals with Visual Impairments*. Another seven students from the 2006 cohort are currently enrolled in their fourth class, *Instructional Accommodations for Individuals with Visual Impairments*. At this point, it is anticipated that there will be a new cohort beginning in January 2008. Project Vision continues to be interested in recruiting new people who would like to be licensed in the area of blindness and low vision. If you know someone who is interested and would like more information about the licensure program, please direct them to the following website for details about the program: <<http://web.indstate.edu/soe/blumberg/disted.html>>.

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**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.

**VI Discussion Listserve Requests.** If you are a VI teacher and want to be added to the VI Discussion Listserve, you can send an email to <[SharonBryan@indstate.edu](mailto: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 Listserve address list.





## **PATINS PROJECT NEWS**

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

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by Vicki Hershman  
PATINS State Coordinator

#### **PATINS WEB SITE**

The PATINS Project has updated its website <<http://www.patinsproject.com>> to include new search capabilities. Users can search the site by key word allowing for more ready access to desired information. Additionally, the Lending Library Catalog has a new search feature that allows the user to locate needed items through category, vendor, item or key word searches. The Lending Library Catalog provides access to the most updated inventory of assistive and accessible technologies from the PATINS five lending libraries. Also be sure to check out the latest feature on the web site, “What’s New” for updates on conferences, trainings, resources and information regarding implementation of the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS).

#### **UPCOMING TRAININGS**

##### **MAKING YOUR CURRICULUM ACCESSIBLE**

2007 PATINS State Conference

Mark your calendar and send in your registration to attend the PATINS 2007 State Conference, December 3-4, 2007, at the Indianapolis Crowne Plaza. Today’s classrooms house an increasingly diverse student population, including not only students with widely different social, economic, cultural and language backgrounds, but also students with a wide range of physical, cognitive and sensory disabilities. This conference focuses on tolls and strategies for making the curriculum accessible for ALL students.

Featured presentations for those supporting the education of students with visual impairments include: BrailleNote Mpower in the Classroom and Early Braille Literacy.



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The keynote luncheon speaker is Deneen Frazier Bowen, originator of the National Educational Computing Conference's Student Technology Leader Awards and co-author of *The Interent for Your Kids*. Using research, Ms. Bowen portrays a riveting cast of characters to reveal the students' struggle to connect what they do in school with what they do in the world. You don't want to miss this keynote titled *The Natives Are Restless*. Also, when you attend the keynote luncheon you have a chance to win one of eight video iPods as well as other vendor donated door prizes. For registration information go to the PATINS web site at <<http://www.patinsproject.com>> .

## 2008 PATINS TECH EXPO

Plan to attend the 2008 PATINS Tech Expo on April 16, 2008 (location to be announced). This vendor driven event will offer vendor exhibitions and sessions on products across all the disability related areas of assistive and accessible technologies.

Watch for more announcements regarding this event and registration information on the PATINS web site at <<http://www.patinsproject.com>>.

## PATINS WEB BASE TRAININGS COMING SOON

The PATINS Project is developing a series of short training modules and webinars on a variety of topics from how to use an accessible graphing calculator to using available conversion tools for creating accessible text. The project is partnering with a number of vendors in this endeavor to bring this training series to those serving and supporting students with special needs. Look for announcement of these training modules as they become available on the PATINS web site at <<http://www.patinsproject.com>>.

## BOOKSHARE.ORG NEWS

### BOOKSHARE.ORG – FREE ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONIC BOOKS, MATERIALS AND SOFTWARE

The Office of Special Education Programs of the U.S. Federal Department of education has awarded 32 million dollars to Bookshare.org. This grant funding is to fully support all schools and students with qualifying print disabilities in the United States, including K-12 and post-secondary education students. The grant focus will be to make the entire Bookshare.org collection of accessible electronic books and software for reading the books available to these parties free of charge. Additionally, Booksare.org is looking to increasing their collection with 100,000 new educational books and materials. Beginning

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October 1, 2007, Bookshare will cease charging schools and students a fee to join Booksare.org as members.

*The Indiana Center for Accessible Materials will be working with Bookshare.org to institute a means for local educational agencies to access their catalog library when they use the ICAM Web Based Ordering System. This will allow the ICAM to expand its library resources, allow local educational agencies to do one-stop shopping, and assist both local and state entities to provide monitoring and compliance data (National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard delineated in the Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004).*

## **INDIANA CENTER FOR ACCESSIBLE MATERIALS (ICAM) UPDATE**

The Indiana Center for Accessible Materials (ICAM) is not operational at this time. The reason for the delay in opening the Center for access by local educational agencies, for ordering accessible formats of K-12 textbooks and core curriculum material, is because of an existing conflict between the policies of the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center (NIMAC) and Indiana State law regarding indemnification. This is an issue that Indiana shares with many other states in the country. Resolution of this issue is being sought by all parties, including the NIMAC, the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs and the Indiana Department of Education. Notification to local educational agencies to register their appointed Digital Rights Managers, for access to the ICAM Web Based Ordering System, will be sent out by the Indiana Department of Education as soon as there is some resolution on the indemnification issue.

Regardless of this delay in opening the ICAM, local educational agencies are still responsible for providing K-12 textbooks and core instructional materials to students with print disabilities as delineated in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004. Local educational agencies service providers serving students with visual impairments should continue to access the Indiana Education Resource Center until the ICAM is operational.

The ICAM staff is finalizing policies and procedures for accessing web ordering process. Web based training modules for the LEAs on the ordering process are in development and final security measures are being instituted. Updates on the ICAM and related resources can be found on the PATINS web site at <<http://www.patinsproject.com>>.



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## For Your Information

HumanWare has announced a *Braille Literacy Scholarship Program* comprised of two awards that encourage early literacy, parent participation, and independence. The first award is the *Mountbatten Learning System Award* which includes a Mountbatten Learning System Educational pack, containing a: MB Learning System, Mimic Display, keyboard and MAB comm. PC to MC communication software. Applications on behalf of children between the ages of 3 and 8 years of age, who are learning braille or are assessed as a future Braille learner, will be accepted. In one thousand words or less, tell HumanWare why you feel braille literacy will be key to your child's success and describe the role you think the Mountbatten Learning System will play in their future. Applications must be submitted with the signature of an Early Childhood or early intervention professional and/or a parent. Parents/professionals are welcome to provide any supporting materials to their application. The second award, the *Jot a Dot Notetaking Award* will be given to five students. Each student will receive a Jot a Dot Pocket brailier. The award is open to applications from students in primary or secondary education who use braille. Using a maximum of 15 lines of 20 characters, students must describe in braille why note taking is an important skill in their

lives. Students can submit any number of entries and use various writing styles including poetry, verse or humor. Applications can be sent directly from students or on their behalf by a teacher or parent. **Entries should be mailed to:** HumanWare, Braille Literacy Scholarship Program, 175 Mason Circle, Concord, CA 94520 and post-marked no later than December 21, 2007. All winners must be willing to participate in promotional events and to attend a public award ceremony. For more information, contact HumanWare, phone: 800-722-3393; web: <[www.humanware.com](http://www.humanware.com)>

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Office of Special Education Programs created a Web site to provide a one-stop resource related to IDEIA 2004 and its implementing regulations. The site provides searchable versions of the statute and regulations, as well as, access to cross-referenced content from other laws, such as No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Visit: <<http://idea.ed.gov/explore/home>>.

AFB's CareerConnect has launched an accessible virtual worksite, showing possible accommodations for individuals with low vision. Visit: <[www.afb.org](http://www.afb.org)>

Google's Textual Maps provides text-only step-by-step directions in seconds without the visual clutter included with search results in the typical Google Map site. Visit: <<http://maps.google.com/?output=htm>>.

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Check out APH's website for archived Braille+ Mobile Manger Training Webcasts. Visit: <[www.aph.org/webcast/index.html](http://www.aph.org/webcast/index.html)>

The *Vision Care for Kids Act of 2007* (HR 507/S 1117) is a bipartisan bill introduced in the United States Congress that would establish a grant program to provide vision care to children. The legislation would allow the federal government to award grants to the states that can then be applied towards existing state programs that promote three aspects of child vision care: detection, rehabilitation and education. Specifically it will: 1) provide comprehensive eye examinations by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist for children identified by a licensed health care providers or vision screener, with priority to children under age nine; 2) provide treatment or services to correct vision problems of such children; and 3) develop and disseminate educational materials on recognizing signs of visual impairment in children. For more information, visit: <[http://www.washingtonwatch.com/bills/show/110\\_HR\\_507.html](http://www.washingtonwatch.com/bills/show/110_HR_507.html)>

The Hadley School for the Blind has announced an online forum for students and visitors. The new online discussion board will allow visitors as well as Hadley students in all 50 states and 100 countries associate with each other as well as ask questions of the Hadley staff. Go to <[www.hadley.edu](http://www.hadley.edu)> and activate the "Forums" link to reach the Hadley Discussion Board. Follow the "Register" link to join the forums.

The National Braille Association, Inc. has announced a new website feature called "Ask an Expert." Users can post questions to skilled experts in the field of braille transcription. Lists are moderated by NBA members skilled in the following areas of expertise: Braille formats course; computer-assisted transcription; educational materials (textbook format); foreign language; literary braille; mathematics and science; music braille; online learning; tactile graphics; and transcriber and educator services. Visit <[www.nationalbraille.org](http://www.nationalbraille.org)> to post questions.

DB-Link has announced a new page for parents on their Web site, entitled "For New Parents – You and Your Baby." The page provides information and resources to assist parents in adjusting to life with a new baby. The links on this page connect parents to information to assist them in caring for their family. Visit: <<http://www.dblink.org/baby.htm>>

Higher education publisher members of the Association of American Publishers (AAP) launched a beta version of a *Publisher Look-Up Service*. The online search tool, at <<http://www.publisherlookup.org/>>, will enable Disabled Student Services (DSS) professionals who are seeking text materials in alternate formats for print-disabled students to more easily contact publishers. DSS professionals can either request an electronic format of a textbook or permission to scan that book in order to produce e-text.

The Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) recently announced it was discontinuing its working arrangement with the publisher of its quarterly journal, *RE:view: Rehabilitation and Education for Blindness and Visual Impairment*, and its intention to create a new journal over which AER will have full control. The new journal will be made available to AER members at no additional cost as part of their membership. For more information, contact: Jim Gandorf, executive director, AER, 1703 North Beauregard Street, Suite 440, Alexandria, VA 22311; phone: 877-492-2708; e-mail: <jgandorf@aerbvi.org>; web site: <www.aerbvi.org>.

CareerConnect, at the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB), is teaming up with the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) to initiate *NIB CareerNet*, an easy-to-use web resource designed to match job seekers with jobs at one of the 80-plus associated agencies of NIB across the United States. These agencies employ people who are blind in a wide variety of product and service areas. Visitors of the site are able to search for jobs by category or job listing. The site also utilizes the CareerConnect resume-builder and offers a streamlined process for CareerConnect users to submit their resumes to prospective employers. For more information, visit: <http://www.afb.org/careerconnect/careernet.asp>



## Publications

AFB Press has announced the release of *Cortical Visual Impairment: An Approach to Assessment and Intervention* by Dr. Christine Roman-Lantzy. This resource provides readers with both a conceptual framework with which to understand working with CVI and concrete strategies to apply directly in their work. Cost: \$49.95. For more information or to order, contact: AFB Press, Customer Service, P.O. Box 1020, Sewickley, PA 15143, 1-800-232-3044; e-mail: <afborder@abdintl.com>; web site: <www.afb.org>.

An HTML edition of the *APH Products Catalog 2007-2008* and the new *APH Assessment Catalog 2007-2008* are available online. The html versions have been designed to work with speech software and has navigable links. The catalogs are also available in print and CD-ROM. For more information, contact: American Printing House for the Blind, 1839 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206; phone: 800-223-1839; e-mail: <catalogs@aph.org>; web site: <http://sun1.aph.org/catalogs/catalog\_form.html>

The *AFB Connections Newsletter* is now available online. Issues are published biannually, in the spring and in the fall. To subscribe, email: <jalo@afb.net>

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The National Braille Press has announced the following publications for sale.

Recently released print/braille format children's books (ages 5-10) that deal with blindness: Knots on a Counting Rope, tells the story of a grandfather's wish for his blind grandson, cost: \$16.95; The Hickory Chair, a poignant story of a grandmother's love for her youngest grandson, who is blind, Cost: \$15.95.

A set of three how-to booklets entitled: 1) The Real U Guide to Your First Job, available in a 1 volume braille book or PortaBook for \$6.95; 2) The Real U Guide to Bank Accounts and Credit Cards, available in a 1 volume braille book or PortaBook for \$6.95; 3) and The Real U Guide to Your First Apartment, available in 1 volume of braille or PortaBook for \$6.95. Set of all three: \$18. Amy Ruell and Anna Dresner added their own practical tips to each book for blind users.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Braille or PortaBook, Cost: \$34.99. All seven Harry Potter books cost \$75.

Google It! A Guide to the World's Most Popular Search Engine by Jonathan Mosen and Anna Dresner, is a new tutorial for the largest search engine on the Web, designed to be used regardless of how you access the Internet (with a screen reader, a notetaker, or a stand-alone self-voicing program.) Cost: \$12.00.

Print/braille decorative magnets with memorable quotes on them. Cost: \$4.95 each.

For more information, contact the National Braille Press, 800-548-7323, Fax: 617-437-0456, web site: <www.braille.com>.

Morris and Buddy: The Story of the First Seeing Eye Dog, written by Becky Hall, describes the true story of Morris Frank and his dog guide, Buddy, a trained German shepherd. The illustrated children's book details the difficulties and triumphs of Frank as he learned to work with his dog. After completion of his training in Switzerland, Frank returned home and started a dog guide training program in the United States, The Seeing Eye, which is still in existence today. The 40-page book is intended for readers aged 4 to 8 and is available in hardcover for \$15.95. For more information, contact: Albert Whitman & Company, 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053; phone: 800-255-7675; e-mail: <mail@awhitmanco.com>; web site: <www.awhitmanco.com>.



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## New Products

### APH Products

*Bold line/tactile maps of the United States* regions and states include four map sets. Northeast Region (Cat.# 1-04110-00); the Southeast Region (Cat.# 1-04111-00); the Central Region: (Cat.# 1-04112-00); and the Western Region (Cat.# 1-04113-00). Three printed/embossed copies of each state are provided in a kit, as well as a regional map showing all the states in that collection in relation to each other. Also included is a set of print-only maps that can be copied or used as masters for “swell paper” tactile graphics.

*StackUps: Spatial Reasoning Using Cubes and Isometric Drawings, Complete Kit:* Cat.# 1-08960-00, Cost: \$199.00. StackUps encourages students to: recognize, name, build, draw, compare, and sort 2- and 3-dimensional shapes; describe attributes and parts of 2- and 3-dimensional shapes; and investigate and predict the results of putting together and taking apart 2- and 3-dimensional shapes. Students can practice: building 3-D models using Velcro cubes in combination with tactile displays; using Mat Plans to construct and create stacked cube arrangements; interpret front-right-top views; and determine volume and surface area.

*Scattered Crowns: Tactile Attribute Game,* Cat.# 1-08462-00, Cost: \$160.00.

Scattered Crowns is a board game that encourages young children to develop tactile skills. As players search for crowns with specific attributes-band texture (smooth, rough, or striped), number of jewels (1, 2, or 3), and number of points (3, 4, or 5) – they practice texture/shape/size discrimination, tactile memory, systematic searching skills, and spatial concepts (left, right, above, below, row, column, etc.) Counting, turn-taking, sorting/organizing, and social interaction skills are also practiced and reinforced.

*Address: Earth: Large Format Color Atlas, Section One, Complete Kit,* Cat.# 1-01910-00 is a new atlas that meets 70 specific readability guidelines for users with low vision. APH partnered with cartography and geography experts from the University of Louisville to research and develop these readability guidelines. The kit includes a book of large format maps and charts with a 3-ring binder, a symbol guide, and large format chapter texts covering: Earth features; North America; Southeast Asia; Northeast Asia, plus the Indian Subcontinent. Features include: maps and charts in bright, contrasting colors; transparent overlays; broad lines and large legends; durable symbol guide; text in large print; high-contrast photos; and sidebars.

*APH Insights Print/Braille Art Calendar 2008* is now available. Cat.# 5-18971-08, Cost: \$7.50.

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*Braille+ Mobile Manager*, a mobile manager and notetaker, created by APH and LevelStar, is a handheld, special version of the popular Icon from LevelStar and includes a braille keyboard. Users can: manage appointments with its calendar and address book; type reports or letters on the word processor; record lectures or the day's events; play favorite songs or listen to books and movies; stay connected with the web browser, podcasts, RSS, and email; and transfer files to or from Windows PC. Features include: a braille keyboard; 30 GB hard drive; Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capability built in; MP3 Player; book player that supports DAISY books and Bookshare; address book, clock, calendar, and more; Microsoft Word compatible word processor; and a voice recorder. Also included is a rechargeable battery and AC adapter; carrying case; lanyard; ear buds; interface and USB cables; and a tutorial audio and program CD and print/braille quick start guides. It is available on federal quota. Cat.# 1-07450-00. Cost: \$1395.00.

*Squid Tactile Activities Magazine, Issue 4* (Cat.# 1-08862-04, Cost: \$54.00) is now available. Braille reading students are provided with a variety of fun activities that help them build and acquire skills to become a more proficient tactile readers. Activities include: Put on A Happy Face (includes stickers); Beyond Castle Walls; Don't Mis-State Me; Incredible Shrinking Bedroom; Money Tree; and Paige Turner's Bookshelf. Recommended for ages 5 and up.

Verbal View Tutorial Series adds *Verbal View of Online Mail* to its software training series designed for visually impaired users. Topics covered include: Microsoft Outlook Express; mail messages; contact information; and mail options. Cat.# D-10515-00, Cost: \$50.00.

APH is offering two versions of a battery tester. The *Audible EZ Test* (Cat.# 1-03968-00, Cost \$56.00) reports battery status by beeps. The *Audible/Tactile EZ Test* (Cat.# 1-03969-00, Cost \$78.00) reports battery status by vibrations and beeps. The units test 1.5 volt batteries, including AAA, AA, C, and D batteries. The unit also includes two contacts for testing 9 volt batteries.

*MathBuilders* is a supplementary math program separated into eight units by content standards and grade level. Objectives for each lesson have been aligned with the Principles and Standards for School Mathematics from the national Council of Teachers and Mathematics (NCTM). *MathBuilders, Unit 1: Matching, Sorting, and Patterning* (Cat.# Print Kit: 7-03560-00, Cost: \$225.00 and Cat.# Braille Kit 5-03560-00, Cost: \$225.00) is now available. Unit 1 includes: teacher's guide with lesson plans for grades K-3, CD-ROM with General Guidelines for Teaching Math to Young Braille Users, 58 student worksheets for additional practice, and a set of manipulatives.

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For more information on these new products or any products from the American Printing House for the Blind, contact: APH at 1837 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY, toll-free phone: 800-223-1839 or visit their web site <[www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org)>.

Freedom Scientific has announced the next generation of the PAC Mate accessible Pocket PC, the *PAC Mate Omni*. The PAC Mate Omni is a combination of enhanced hardware with expanded functionality and new software that features the latest advances from Freedom Scientific and Microsoft. It is powered by Windows Mobile 6.0, the latest Microsoft operating system, which will allow users who are blind to access virtually every application that sighted users of mainstream PDAs now enjoy. The new PAC Mate Omni features expanded flash memory of 128 MB. All data is stored in flash memory so user files and applications are retained, even if the unit is reset or the battery is fully discharged. Other features include: access to the mobile version of Windows Power Point; Microsoft's Direct Push Technology for real time synchronizations of e-mail, calendar, contacts, and tasks; smart filtering for rapid location of e-mail messages; easy information searches via Windows Live Search; and "plug and play" support for popular WiFi and Bluetooth cards. The price for current users to upgrade ranges from \$299 to \$699.

Also available from Freedom Scientific is the new *Topaz SpaceSaver*. The Topaz SpaceSaver gives the user room to work by providing a large-view, small footprint flat panel monitor that can also be used with a PC and quickly switched over to read a magnified document. A built-in clamp allows the Topaz SpaceServer to mount quickly and easily moved and relocated. Ideal for space work areas. Visit Freedom Scientific to view these products at: <[www.freedomscientific.com](http://www.freedomscientific.com)>; phone: 800-444-4443.

HumanWare Canada's new *Victor Reader Stream* offers many of the features familiar to customers using other Victor players. In DAISY-formatted books, the Stream lets you navigate by page, heading, or bookmark. Bookmarks can be inserted and a bookmark list reviewed. Volume settings can be set separately for headphones and the built-in speaker, and battery level and storage space can be checked at any time from the keypad. Additional features include variable speed and pitch and built-in microphone for voice recordings. The Victor Stream can play books from RFB&D and Bookshare.org. An SD card is required for storing content. All prompts are spoken by a pre-recorded human voice, and all text content is read by Nuance text-to-speech. The Victor Reader Stream sells for \$320. For more information, visit: <[www.humanware.com](http://www.humanware.com)>, phone: 800-722-3393.

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*KeySoft 7.5* is now available from HumanWare. The KeySoft 7.5 supports a much broader range of models and sizes of SD cards and USB drives and provides improved speed and performance in accessing and saving information. Other features include SSL e-mail encryption, RFB&D AudioPlus DAISY books, Bookshare support for institutional accounts, built-in playlist support for media player, use of Unified English Braille Code, the latest Duxbury Braille Translator, a new visual display application (KeyView), and improved accessibility for screen readers. For more information, contact HumanWare at: <[www.humanware.com](http://www.humanware.com)>, phone: 800-722-3393.

HumanWare has released the Concise Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus for use with the BrailleNote family of Braille notetaker products. The definitions, spellings, and synonyms provided by the product are designed to be accessed from anywhere within the KeySoft word processor, web browser, or book reader applications of the BrailleNote. Entries are spoken through the BrailleNote synthesizer, read on the Braille display or both. It is intended to operate on the BrailleNote mPower, BrailleNote PK, or classic BrailleNote or VoiceNote products with KeySoft 7.2 Build 47. Cost is \$195. For more information, contact: HumanWare, 175 Mason Circle, Concord, CA 94520; phone: 800-722-3393; e-mail: <[us.info@humanware.com](mailto:us.info@humanware.com)>; web site: <[www.humanware.com](http://www.humanware.com)>.



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