

VISIONS in Indiana

Winter 2007

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Mark Your Calendar

1-4 March 2007

California Transcribers and Educators of the Visually Handicapped (CTEVH) Annual Conference. Santa Clara, CA. Contact: Pat Leader, Conference Chair, CTEVH, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90029; phone: 323-666-2211 or 408-988-1500; e-mail: <pleader@comcast.net>; web site: <www.ctevh.org/conference.htm>

19-24 March 2007

California State University at Northridge (CSUN) Center on Disabilities 22nd Annual International Conference: Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference. Los Angeles, CA> Contact: Center on Disabilities, CSUN, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Building 11, Suite 103, Northridge, CA 91330; phone: 818-677-2578; e-mail: <conference@csun.edu>; web site: <www.csun.edu/cod/conf/index.htm>



23-25 March 2007

Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute (JLTLI). Dallas-Addison Marriott Quorum by the Galleria, Dallas, TX. Contact: Abby Manishor; phone: (212) 502-7615; email: <amanishor@afb.net>; web: <www.afb.org/jltli.asp>

26-30 March 2007

18th International Conference of the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education. San Antonio, TX. Contact: Conference Services, Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education, P.O. Box 3728, Norfolk, VA 23514; phone: (757) 623-7588; email: <conf@aace.org>; web: <http://site.aace.org/conf>

1 April 2006

APH InSights Art Competition and Exhibition 2007 deadline for entries from students in preschool through high school. To enter, artists must meet the definition of blindness: corrected visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, or a visual field limited to 20 degrees or less. To receive complete rules and entry forms, e-mail: <rwilliams@aph.org> or call 800-223-1839, ext. 357.

5-6 April 2007

IntelliBraille Braille Curriculum Training. Atlanta, GA. Contact: Shirley Landrum at 404-525-2303 to request and application. Registration deadline: March 2, 2006.

28 April 2007

2007 Vision Expo. Sponsored by the Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library. 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Contact: The Indiana State Talking Book and Braille Library, phone: 317-232-3684 or 800-622-4970.

5 May 2007

Osborne Early Childhood Conference for families with children who are blind or visually impaired. This conference is for families and service providers of children birth to kindergarten age. Additional information will be mailed out in March. For further information, contact: the Outreach Department at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired at 317-253-1481, ext. 189.

30 June -7 July 2007

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

1-6 July 2007

National Federation of the Blind (NFB) National Convention. Atlanta, GA. 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>

2-6 July 2007

2007 Lions Clubs International Annual Convention. Chicago, IL. Contact: Lions Clubs International Headquarters, 300 West 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523; phone: 630-571-5466; web site: <www.lionsclubs.org>

13-15 July 2007

Families Connecting with Families Conference. A national conference covering all aspects of raising and educating a child with a visual impairment, Omaha, NE. Sponsors: National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI), American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and The Seeing Eye.

30 July – 30 August 2007

National Federation of the Blind Youth Slam: A 2007 STEM Leadership Academy. Baltimore, MD. Contact: National Federation of the Blind, 1800 Johnson Street, Baltimore, MD 21230; phone: 410-659-9314; e-mail: <youthslam@nfb.org>; web site: <www.blindscience.org/ncbys/Youth_Slam.asp>

IERC Updates

ANNUAL REGISTRATION

A reminder that the Annual 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, 2007.

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.

STUDENT STN NUMBERS

If you have not submitted your student's STN numbers with your annual student registration report, please remember to send them to the IERC as soon as possible. We are now requiring this information as part of our statewide registration process.



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 all 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.

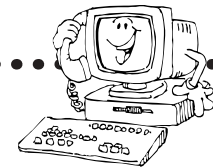
POSTAL REMINDER...

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 PROFESSIONAL BOOK AVAILABLE FROM PERKINS

The IERC has recently added the following book to the professional collection. If you are interested in checking it 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.

Welcoming Students With Visual Impairment to Your School: A guide for training public school personnel and families about the needs of students with vision loss. This book includes modules that can be used for developing training for public school staff about the needs of their students with visual impairments.



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:

<ledurst@doe.state.in.us>

<elpedigo@doe.state.in.us>

<bscott@isb.state.in.us>

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

Hours of operation:

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

NIMAS and IDEIA 2004: Access to Accessible Materials in Indiana

Q&A for VI Teachers

by Vicki Hershman
ICAM Project Manager and
PATINS StateCoordinator

Question: What system will be put in place to implement the *IDEIA 2004* for the provision of accessible materials to print disabled students?

Answer: The Indiana Department of Education/Division of Exceptional Learners' response to the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) (IDEIA 2004) compliance is to open an Indiana Center for Accessible Materials (ICAM), at the Southern Indiana Educational Resource Center (SIEC), in Jasper, Indiana. ICAM (when operational) will take requests, from local educational agencies, for textbooks and core curriculum instructional material in specialized formats and tangibles for use by qualifying print disabled students for use in accessing the curriculum. All requests will be processed through the Indiana Center for Accessible Materials (ICAM). The ICAM will route requests for processing to the following agencies:

- 1) Jasper ICAM (Digital and audio files for all students with a print disability); and the
- 2) IERC (Braille, large print and specialized aids and equipment for students who are blind and visually impaired.)

Question: How will my school access the ICAM?

Answer: Access to specialized formats of textbooks and core instructional materials will be available through web access at the ICAM web site (which is currently under development). ICAM will provide access to NIMAS publisher's files for specialized alternate formats only if the textbook has been purchased by the school district the student is enrolled in. An administrative appointed and registered Digital Rights Manager (DRM) for the school district must request the files and specialized formats. In order for your school district to obtain these files and specialized formats there must be verification of compliance opting in to coordinate with NIMAC/ICAM on file with the Indiana Department of Education/Division of Exceptional Learners.

Question: What is and what are the responsibilities of the Digital Rights Manager (DRM)?

Answer: A Digital Rights Manager (DRM) is a staff member, designated by the superintendent or their appointee, responsible for requesting, receiving, disseminating and tracking the usage of copyrighted accessible materials for students qualified as print disabled. The DRM will register electronically with ICAM and sign a Limited Use Agreement Form (indemnity contract) assuring the district will adhere to the terms of IDEIA and current copyright laws with regards to the files received from ICAM.

Question: How will my school district access the IERC to order and register students until the ICAM state system goes live?

Answer: Once the ICAM becomes operational all orders previously obtained through the IERC will be processed through the ICAM system. Until the ICAM is fully operational and the Center's policies and procedures are received by the local educational agency, you should continue to access the IERC to order specialized formats and tangibles and to register students as you always have done.

Question: What steps should my school district be initiating in preparation for accessing the ICAM when it becomes operational?

Answer: Your school district/special education office should start now to prepare for accessing ICAM by:

- Consulting with your school system's AT personnel and your local PATINS Regional Site Coordinator to determine the accessible formats and accessible/assistive technologies your student(s) will need.
- Determine what additional training on needed accessible hardware and software your student(s) will require. Contact your local PATINS office to determine how they can assist you.
- Contact the IERC to assess what hardware/tangibles are available on loan for your student(s) use.
- Include the need for alternate specialized formats in the IEP decision making:

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- 1) Case Conference determination of print disability,
 - 2) Certification of an organic print disability by competent authority
 - 3) Ask the question....
“Does (a) the student require accessible, alternate format versions of printed textbooks and printed core materials (b) that are written and published primarily for use in elementary and secondary school instruction and (c) are required by a SEA or LEA for use by students in the classroom?”
 - 4) If a student with a print disability does need a specialized format, the IEP should specify the following:
 - the specific format(s) to be provided (Braille, audio, e-text [digital-audio files, i.e. Daisy Talking Books], large print, etc.);
 - the services and/or assistive technology the student needs to use the specialized format;
 - the individual or individuals responsible for providing the specialized format; and
 - whether or not the format is required to be used in the student’s home or in another setting in order for the student to receive a free appropriate public education.
- Inquire with your school system’s superintendent office and/or your special education director to determine who will be appointed as Digital Rights Manager (DRM) for your student(s).
 - Establish a relationship/network with the designated DRM. Educate the DRM about the population you serve, the type of orders to expect, and importance of expediting Braille and large type orders. It is recommended that your special education office develop a case conference follow-up form that is then provided to the DRM and which includes all necessary student and ordering information.
 - Work with your district’s textbook adoption personnel to ensure that publisher’s contracts include specific language regarding the requirement that all purchased textbooks and core instructional materials, on and off the textbook adoption list, be provided in the NIMAS file set to the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC).
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- If there will be a need to obtain and locally convert files into digital or audio formats, consult with your IT department regarding any issues that may hinder your ability to provide these specialized formats in student ready formats, across the required environments, in a timely manner.

Question: When is the ICAM expected to be operational?

Answer: The ICAM is expected to be fully operational for the 2007-2008 school year. However, the ICAM is targeted to begin beta testing the system in May 2007. For further updates on the ICAM services you should watch for announcements to be posted on the PATINS website and on the VI listserv.

Question: Where can I find more information on NIMAS, NIMAC and resources for obtaining accessible textbooks in the classroom?

Answer: There are resources posted on the following web sites:
NIMAS Development and Technical Assistance website
<<http://nimas.cast.org/>>
Accessible Textbooks in the Classroom - Resource
<http://nimas.cast.org/about/resources/accessible_textbooks.html>
Copyright Law website
<<http://www.copyright.gov/title17/92chap1.html#121>>
Office of Special Education – NIMAS Q&A website
<<http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/%2Croot%2Cdynamic%2CTopicalArea%2C10%2C>>
NIMAC website
<www.aph.org/nimac/faq.html>

Question: How do I obtain more information on accessing the ICAM?

Answer: Contact any of the following ICAM staff:

- ICAM Project Manager, Vicki Hershman/PATINS State Director at
<Vicki.hershman@wayne.k12.in.us>
- ICAM Site Coordinator, Alice Buchanan at
<Buchanan@siec.k12.in.us>
- ICAM Technology Consultant, Ryan Hanger at
<rhanger@siec.k12.in.us>

"EYE-DEAS"

by Ann Hughes

Early Childhood Consultant

Outreach and Related Services

Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired



VI Teachers/Consultants who work with preschoolers might find these two EYE-Deas useful. One is a wonderful source for infant's and children's sunglasses for your photophobic students. The glasses, called JazOshades, come in two sizes: *Infant* (suitable for 0-3 year olds) and *Child* (suitable for 4-8 year olds.) They also offer 10 color choices, are inexpensive, and include a very soft adjustable neoprene band to ensure a great fit. Visit <www.jazoshades.com> to obtain more information. The second EYE-Dea is for a resource that might be helpful for classroom preschool teachers of young students. It can be found on the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI) website <www.tsbvi.edu>, and although targeted for teachers in Texas, it covers basics that apply in any state. Written by Virginia E. Bishop, Ph. D., and titled "Preschool Children with Visual Impairments," the 45 page article is an introductory guidebook. The sections that might be most valuable for your preschool teachers include; general guidelines, critical areas of development, and suggestions for very appropriate IEP goals.

On Saturday, May 5th, the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Outreach Department will host its 48th annual Osborne Conference for Parents of Young Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired – Birth to Kindergarten. The theme this year is: "SAFARI— Hunting for Resources and Information for your Child with Visual Impairment." The Keynote Speaker will be Kathy Nimmer, an award-winning high school English teacher in Lafayette who has a great understanding of visual impairment, as she is a Braille reader. Session topics will include: sibling issues, fine motor skills for children with visual impairment, and developing communication skills for non-verbal children with other impairments in addition to their vision loss. There is no cost to adult family members, service providers, or teachers of the visually impaired who attend this conference.

This summer the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired will offer the ASSESSMENT OF YOUNG CHILDREN (AYC) Program for children who are blind or visually impaired. The AYC Program can provide formal and informal assessment of your 3 to 5 year-old student's development in all or some of the following areas: *Communication; Fine and Gross Motor; Self Help; Cognitive; Orientation & Mobility; Functional Vision; and Functional Literacy/Learning Media*. The assessment occurs on

the campus of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired during the weeks of June 11th or 18th with the purpose of assisting local education agencies in meeting the needs of their preschoolers with visual impairment. The evaluation resembles a 3-day summer camp experience and there is no cost to the local school or the family. The assessment is carried out by professionals who have training and experience with children who are blind or visually impaired. The assessment team includes professionals such as the: School Psychologist; Early Childhood Consultant; Teachers of the Visually Impaired; Houseparents; Social Worker; Physical Therapist; O& M Specialist; and Speech and Language Specialist. *A limited number of children can be served, so referrals and paperwork should be sent in a timely fashion.* To refer a student to the AYC Program, mail or FAX a letter of referral on corporation or planning district letterhead to:

Toni Hughes
Director of Outreach and Related Services
Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
7725 N. College Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46240
FAX: (317) 251-6511



State Library Updates

by Carole Rose
Indiana State Library
Special Services Division



2007 Indiana Vision Expo

Teachers, parents, and students are invited to attend the 2007 Indiana Vision Expo at the Indiana State Library on Saturday, April 28th, from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. The Expo, coordinated by the Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library, in partnership with Easter Seals Crossroads, will introduce persons with low vision, their friends and families, professionals, and other interested consumers to a variety of products and services designed to promote independent living.

The first Expo, held in 2006, was even more successful than anticipated, attracting more than 500 visitors and lots of business for our exhibitors. This year, the Talking Book and Braille Library and Easter Seals Crossroads are planning a bigger and better Expo for 2007.

Hours for the event have been extended. There will be more space to accommodate exhibitors and guests. The 15 exhibitors who participated in 2006 will be returning and will bring even more items to display and sell. There will also be more service and resource information available. We have added several new exhibitors to our

list, including the Low Vision Center of Indianapolis, and an accessible voting exhibit presented by the Office of the Secretary of State. We were especially pleased to learn that a representative from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) will be at the Expo to demonstrate a prototype of the new DTB digital talking book player and a flash memory cartridge, the new talking book medium.

The Expo will also feature a morning speaker and an afternoon panel discussion. Dr. Richard Windsor from the Low Vision Center will speak on advances in treatment of eye diseases, with emphasis on Macular Degeneration. He will also be available for questions. The panel discussion will focus on real employment issues for persons with vision loss. Should you need nourishment, Starbucks will be providing coffee and pastries.

Please join us on April 28th. There is more to see, do, and learn. And remember, this will be the perfect opportunity to see the new digital player from NLS. For further information about the Indiana Vision Expo, visit <indianavisionexpo.org>

The web site will be updated as soon as new information becomes available. You may also contact Carole Rose, Expo Coordinator at (317) 232-0609 or email <crose@statelib.lib.in.us>



Upcoming Inservice Training Activities. Just as an FYI, there are four upcoming training activities that may be of interest to teachers who serve children who are blind or low vision, deaf or hard of hearing or deafblind.

March 30, 2007. “Computer Activities for Children with Deafblindness: A Focus on Language and Literacy.” A full day workshop, sponsored by the Indiana Deafblind Services Project, at the Holiday Inn Select Airport, Indianapolis. Description: This hands-on presentation will highlight computer activities and modifications for children with deafblindness in an educational setting. Participants will see examples of computer activities used with children who are deafblind to access the curriculum. The primary focus will be on supporting development of language, communication, and literacy with children who have some vision. Included will be examples of switches, touch screens, alternative keyboards, specialized and off-the-shelf software and multimedia authoring tools. The presenter is Wendy Buckley, a full-time computer teacher/specialist in the Deafblind Program at Perkins School for the Blind in Massachusetts. Please visit <<http://web.indstate.edu/soe/blumberg/dbconf.html>> for registration information.

April 12, 2007. “Reading Aloud: Supporting Literacy for Young Children.” A half-day pre-conference session, sponsored by the Indiana Deafblind Services Project, at the Indiana Early Childhood Annual Conference, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis. Description: Paraeducators have indicated that they are looking for specific ways to support teachers in literacy instruction. Reading aloud to children in large or small groups or even individually can be an excellent way for paraeducators to support literacy, encourage independence and help children see connections between a text and their own lives. This session is designed for participants to learn (a) why it is important to read aloud to children and youth, (b) what steps can be taken to make “read-aloud time” especially meaningful, and (c) how to choose a book and collect “texts sets” for “read aloud time.” The presenters are Dr. Mary Fisher, Professor, College of Education, IUPUI and Linda Crum, paraeducator, Robinson Elementary School, Anderson Community School Corporation. Please visit <www.iaeyc.org> for registration information.

April 12, 2007. “The Wonderful Life with American Sign Language: A Primer for Early Childhood Educators.” A half-day pre-conference session, sponsored by the Indiana Deaf & Hard of Hearing Project, at the Indiana Early Childhood Annual Conference, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis. Description: Babies use their hands to “talk” before they use their voices to “talk”. Using ASL with young children enhances communication skills.

Learning and using ASL is fun and empowering. You will discover that this communication and language boosts the child's self-esteem. You will discover there are plenty of ASL resources via the internet. You will view various video clips of Deaf and Hearing Young Children using signs (and you can help "catch" what these little people are saying that is not obvious to the listeners). You will have hands-on opportunities to experience being an ASL user! The presenters are Jodee Crace, M.A., Early Intervention Coordinator, Outreach Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children and Joy Lehnerz, M.A., Early Childhood Educator, Indiana School for the Deaf. Please visit <www.iaeyc.org> for registration information.

July 30 – August 1, 2007. VIISA (Vision Impaired InService in America), A three day training at Indiana State University, Terre Haute. Description: The VIISA training course focuses on working with infants and toddlers with blindness and low vision in both the home and center-based preschools. Project Vision will be recruiting a small and select group of individuals who are interested in receiving the two part training in the VIISA model. After training, the participants must be willing and available to help build Indiana's capacity to provide training to early intervention, early childhood, and vision personnel serving children birth to five with blindness and visual impairment and their families. Look for information regarding the training and application materials in the near future.

VI Distance Education Training Program. The new 2007 cohort of eight teachers was enrolled in December and began their first class with a weekend seminar, January 19-21, 2007. The class, *The Eye, Its Function and Health* is being taught by Sharon Knoth, VI Licensure Program Coordinator and adjunct faculty member at Ball State University and Lynda Keim, adjunct faculty member from Indiana State University. During the semester, the students will be participating in online chats, face-to-face classes each month and an additional weekend seminar.

The 2006 cohort of eight students began their third class in January 2007. The course is titled *Communication Skills for Individuals with Visual Impairments*. This is the class where cohort members learn Braille. Bill Powell from the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Sharon Knoth are the adjunct faculty for the course.

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>>.

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Training Program. The twelve Indiana teachers who are enrolled in the Pennsylvania College of Optometry Orientation & Mobility program continue to work on either their required Supervised Fieldwork or Internship hours. The potential “O&Mers” will be meeting together on March 22, 2007 to update each other about the successes and challenges of completing their program.

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 List Serve Requests. If you are a VI teacher and want to be added to the VI Discussion List Serve, you can send an email to <SharonBryan@indstate.edu> and she will add your name to the Discussion List. Should your email address change, please contact Sharon so she can make the necessary changes.



For Your Information

APH News

On Sunday, December 3, 2006, the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) began operations. The mission of the NIMAC is to serve as the national repository of publishers' electronic files of print instructional materials in the National Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) format. The NIMAC is the conduit through which the NIMAS files are made available to authorized users who convert them into accessible textbooks for elementary or secondary school students with qualifying disabilities.

The NIMAC was established through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004, and it is funded by the United States Department of Education's Office of Special Education Projects.

NIMAC has begun the process of registering state coordinators, authorized users and accessible media producers and is actively educating these users regarding instructions and procedures via web casts.

More information about NIMAS and NIMAC is available at www.nimac.us/; nimas.cast.org/; and www.afb.org/nimas.asp

The presentations of the inspirational keynote presenters, Tom Sullivan and Michael Hingson, from the 2006 annual meeting of the American Printing House for the Blind can be accessed at:
<www.aph.org/anmtg/2006/media.html>

January 4th marked the 198th birthday of Louis Braille who was born on January 4, 1809 in Coupvray, a small town near Paris, France. For more information on Louis Braille, visit: <www.duxburysystems.com/braille.asp>; <www.louisbrailleschool.org/LouisBraille.htm>; <www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/PublicWebsite/public_braille.hcsp>.

Hire Disability Solutions, a career network for people with disabilities, recently partnered with Monster.com, a global careers web site, to create a career network on the Internet specifically designed for people with disabilities. Hire Disability Solutions links businesses that are looking for qualified employees with disabilities to those job seekers who are trying to find or enhance careers. For more information, contact: Customer Service and Support, Hired Disabilities Solutions; phone: 718-965-8600; e-mail: <support@hireds.com>; web site: <www.hireds.com>

The Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library now have descriptive videos available for loan. The current collection contains 41 titles. For more information or a list of the available movies, contact the regional library at 317-232-3684 or 800-622-4970.

The *Project Math Access* web site <www.tsbvi.edu/math/projectmathaccess> provides extensive information about math education for students who are visually impaired. The site is housed by the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and is organized into 12 chapters, with information ranging from how to teach basic to advanced mathematical concepts and Nemeth code to students with visual impairment; information on calculation tools and devices, collaborative and inclusive strategies, and spoken mathematics.

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) will be holding *Youth Slam 2007* from July 30-August 4, 2007, a four-day academy designed for blind youth. Students will stay at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, to be mentored by blind role models during fun and challenging activities meant to build confidence and increase science literacy. Participants will also have the opportunity to attend various social events as well as workshops on topics such as leadership, career preparation, and blindness. For more information about the NFB Youth Slam event, including information for potential students and mentors, please visit: <www.blindscience.org/ncbys/youth_Slam.asp> or e-mail: <youthslam@nfb.org>

AiSquared was recently purchased by Technology Investment Capital Corporation and a private investor.

A list of organizations offering scholarships and grants for students who are blind or visually impaired for the 2007-2008 academic school year can be obtained by contacting the American Foundation for the Blind at 212-502-7600 or <www.afb.org>.

In 2005, APH commissioned the National Center on Low-Incidence Disabilities (NCLID) to analyze 50 years of research in mathematics education. The final report is now available from NCLID <http://nclid.unco.edu/rch/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1358&Itemid=2>

The National Center on Low-Incidence Disabilities has references for doctoral dissertations related to the education of students with low-incidence disabilities published since 1996. These are available to view at <http://nclid.unco.edu/rch/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21&Itemid=2>

Jim Fruchterman, CEO of the Benetech Initiative was one of 25 winners of the 2006 MacArthur Fellowship from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Fruchterman launched Bookshare.org, the web-based system, in which users who are blind or otherwise print disabled share books with all other members. Winners of the Fellowship receive a \$500,000 grant over the next five years.

Google has added an Advanced Search feature to Google Accessible Search. Google Accessible Search gives higher priority to pages that are more easily accessible to screen reader users. To use this search, visit: <<http://labs.google.com/accessible>>

The National Library Service has updated their web site to include the September 2006 document, “Current Strategic Business Plan for the Implementation of Digital Systems,” that outlines the NLS plan for digital talking book (DTB) and digital talking book machine (DTBM) technology that will replace the existing recorded cassette. Visit: <<http://www.loc.gov/nls/businessplan/businessplan2006.html>>

Publications

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is offering free Braille books through their “Anna’s Book Angel Project.” Every blind and visually impaired child is eligible to win one free book per year by registering at the Seedlings web site. Seedlings randomly selects 10 children per week from those registered. These children receive one free book from their wish lists. Visit <www.annaangel.com> or call Seedlings at 800-777-8552 for more information.

The newly revised and expanded edition of Children with Visual Impairments: A Parent’s Guide, edited by M. Cay Holbrook, Ph.D., is available from Woodbine Press. This is an essential resource for parents of children who are blind, legally blind or have low vision. The second edition introduces the new educational concept of “expanded core curriculum,” as well as an overview of the latest equipment for learning and daily living, the best toilet-training methods, and recent changes to special education under IDEA 2004. Cost: \$18.95. For more information contact Fran Marinaccio at <fmartinaccio@woodbine.com> or 800-843-7323.



Adventures in Darkness: Memoirs of an Eleven-Year-Old Blind Boy is a new book by Tom Sullivan. The 240-page book is available in hardcover and abridged audio on CD for \$24.99. For more information, contact: Thomas Nelson Publishers, P.O. Box 141000, Nashville, TX 37214; phone: 800-251-4000; web site: <www.thomasnelson.com/consumer/product_detail.asp?sku=078522081X>

The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) in the U.S. Department of Education is providing information about the rights and responsibilities of students with disabilities who are preparing to attend postsecondary schools. "Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities" is a pamphlet that explains the obligations of a postsecondary school to provide academic adjustments, including auxiliary aids and services, and to ensure that the school does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The pamphlet is available in print and online at <<http://www.ed.gov/print/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html>> to answer frequently asked questions about transitioning and can be reproduced and distributed. For more information, visit <www.ed.gov> or call 877-433-7827 to order a free copy.

Baen Books <www.baen.com>, a publisher of science fiction, began providing its electronic books free of charge to readers who are blind or have other disabilities in November of 2006. For more information, contact: <www.readassist.org> or WebScriptions: <www.webscriptions.net>

Explore It After School: Technology and Science for the Visually Impaired is a free resource guide that includes lesson plans for technology and science projects and career exploration resources. The information in the book was developed by the organizers of TechBridge – an after-school program launched in 2000 by the Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland, California, to engage girls in the areas of technology and science. TechBridge adapted the program for students with visual impairments and hosted the program at the California School for the Blind. The after-school program introduced challenging and rewarding activities that encouraged students to work independently and to challenge stereotypes regarding academic and career options for persons with visual impairments. TechBridge projects include building telephones, creating web sites, dissecting squid, and learning about solar technology. The guide is available online for free download from: <<http://techbridgegirls.org/ExploreIt.html>>. For more information, contact: TechBridge, Chabot Space and Science Center, 10000 Skyline Boulevard, Oakland, CA 94619; phone: 510-336-7300; web site: <www.chabotspace.org>.

The National Braille Press is experimenting with creating tactile, *Braille Sudoku* puzzles. They have created a prototype book consisting of 10 Braille grids in a wire-bound notebook. Readers can tear the grids out, insert them into a braillewriter, and work the puzzles by writing numbers in the blank squares. It is currently being used by consumers to gather feedback.

The National Braille Press has announced the following new products: Tactile Mazes, new from Creative Adaptations for Learning, are created on thermoform paper. Cost \$15; A Family of Poems: My Favorite Poetry for Children, compiled by Caroline Kennedy and the #1 children's bestseller, is a two Braille volume or PortaBook. Cost: \$19.95; Sadie Can Count, a multi-sensory picture book for blind children, provides a full-color tactile counting book from Sensational Books. Ages: baby-preschool. Cost: \$25; Louis Braille: A Touch of Genius is a new biography of Louis Braille by C. Michael Mellor. Cost: Softcover Braille edition - \$25; Hardcover print edition - \$35. Junior Geographer Atlas in 5 volumes, contracted, interpoint Braille by Nystrom. Cost: \$417.00. For more information, contact: the National Braille Press, 88 St. Stephen Street, Boston, MA 02115-4302; phone: 800-548-7323; web site: <www.braille.com>

Alternate Assessments for Students with Disabilities offers tips on how to develop high expectations for all learners, assess progress, and use gathered assessment data to improve learning experiences for all students. Cost: \$29.95 (soft cover) \$69.95 (hardcover). For more information, contact: Corwin Press, 2455 Teller Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320; phone: 800-233-9936 or 805-499-9734; web site: <www.corwinpress.com>

Visit the following website for free tactile books of basic concepts for young children:
<www.teachersaidsforblindchildren.org/index.html>



New Products

JAWS for Windows 8.0 is the latest release of Freedom Scientific's computer operating systems designed for people with visual impairment. Free demonstration versions of the new software are available online at: <www.freedomscientific.com/fs_products/software_jaws80fea.asp#download>. For more information, contact: Freedom Scientific, 11800 31st Court North, St. Petersburg, FL 33718; phone: 800-444-44432 or 727-803-8000.

Freedom Scientific has expanded their *TOPAZ Video Magnifier* line by adding a 21" flat LCD screen monitor option to the existing 15, 17, and 19 inch models. For more information on the TOPAZ line, contact: Freedom Scientific, 11800 31st Court North, St. Petersburg, FL 33718; phone: 800-444-44432 or 727-803-8000; web site: <www.freedomscientific.com>

Window Eyes 6.0 screen reader has been released by G.W. Micro. This version offers improved access to Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook in Microsoft Office 2000, XP, 2003 and the new Microsoft Office 2007. For more information contact G.W. Micro at: phone: 260-489-3671; web site: <www.gwmicro.com/upgrade>

HumanWare has released its newest video magnifier, *SmartView Xtend*. The video magnifier includes a color or black-and-white monitor with an auto-focus camera; an X/Y moveable reading table; and a magnification range of 3X to 49X, or 68X with a 21-inch monitor. Costs range from \$2395 to \$2795. Accessory modules can be added from \$300 to \$800. For more information, contact: HumanWare USA, 175 Mason Circle, Concord, CA 94520; phone: 800-722-3393 or 925-680-7100; e-mail: <us.sales@humanware.com>; web site: <www.humanware.com>.

Kurzweil Educational Systems has released *Version 11 of the Kurzweil 1000* software. For more information, contact: Kurzweil Educational Systems at 800-894-5374; e-mail: <sales@kurzweiledu.com>; web site: <www.kurzweiledu.com>

Enhanced Vision has announced the *Nemo*, a small portable CCTV. The Nemo features a 4-inch anti-glare LCD screen, 4.5x to 9x magnification and 6 viewing modes. For more information, contact: Enhanced Vision: phone: 888-811-3161; web site: <<http://enhancedvision.com>>

MathTrax is a free computer application from NASA that helps students who are visually impaired to understand math. Its text descriptions and "audio graph" allow students to "see" and "hear" mathematical equations, providing access to information that might otherwise have been unavailable to them. For more information, visit: <<http://prime.jsc.nasa.gov/mathtrax/>>

IBM ViaScribe software provides educators and students with a live captioning system made for use in the classroom environment. Teachers create a voice profile that helps ViaScribe learn their particular speech patterns. During class, they speak into a wireless microphone that transmits the lecture to ViaScribe's speech-recognition software. Captions are generated in real time, presented on a screen and saved for later use by students and educators. When a teacher speaks into the wireless microphone, ViaScribe digitizes the speech, producing both a transcription and an audio recording. Students have the benefit of obtaining a raw, unedited transcript immediately following the lecture. ViaScribe makes the information available in multiple accessible formats, including searchable transcripts, synchronous multimedia, and digital audio. For more information, visit: <www.ibm.com/able>

APH New Products:

IntelliTactiles™ Pre-Braille Concepts has been revised to work with IntelliTools™ Classroom Suite software and the USB keyboard (available directly from IntelliTools). The revised kit includes seven tactile overlays that can be used with the commercially available IntelliKeys™ USB keyboard or as stand-alone worksheets. An interactive CD that prompts the child to find a specific shape, texture, position, or Braille dot is also included. IntelliKeys keyboards, related software, and standard visual overlays are available from IntelliTools, 1-800-899-6687, <www.intellitools.com>.

Patterns: Reading Readiness Level (Red) is being phased out and will be replaced with "*Building on Patterns: The Primary Braille Literacy Program, Kindergarten*". Complete Print Kit Catalog No.: 8-78450-00 Cost: \$250.00; Braille Kit Catalog No.: 6-78450-00 Cost: \$250.00.

The classic wooden *Desktop Reading Stand* has been redesigned. It is now made of a durable white plastic. Catalog No.: 1-03220-01 Cost \$129.00.

Large Print and Tactile Protractors allow for measurement and construction of angles. Made of lightweight, clear plastic with a movable, transparent yellow wand, notches to pin to a working surface and 6-inch ruler located on bottom of protractor. Large Print Protractor (4-pack) Catalog No.: 1-04116-00 Cost: \$20.00; Tactile Protractor (4 pack) Catalog No.: 1-04117-00 Cost: \$20.00.

Fun with Braille is an activity book that will provide additional practice for adults and children who are already familiar with Braille contractions. A list of contractions and the activities in which they appear is included for reference and an answer key is provided in the back of the book. Braille edition Catalog No.: 5-00110-00 Cost: \$19.00; Large Print edition Catalog No.: 7-00110-00 Cost: \$19.00.

For more information on these new products or any products from the American Printing House for the Blind, contact APH at 800-223-1839 or visit their web site at <www.aph.org>.

HumanWare has announced DAISY enhancements to their products. The Victor Reader Classic desktop player has been replaced with the new ClassicX and ClassicX+ models. The improved players have improved battery performance, higher color contrast of keys, a sleep timer and more easily distinguishable AC power and headphone jacks. KeySoft 7.2, an upgrade available for all BrailleNote products, now offers users DAISY players in their BrailleNote or VoiceNote units. For additional information, contact: HumanWare at 800-722-3393 or web site: <www.humanware.com>.

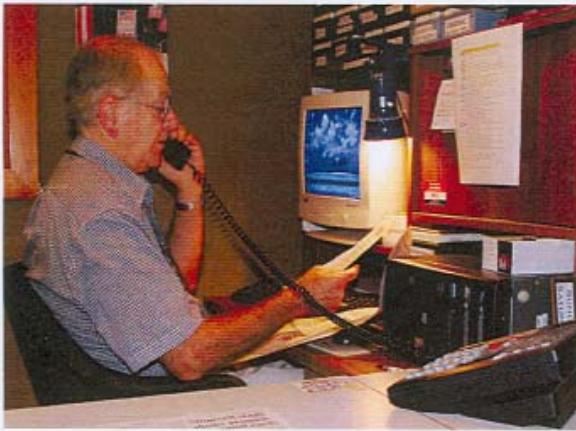
Freedom Scientific announces a Braille study aid for vision teachers. A free Web download allows teachers to use word processing software to create custom interactive Braille study lessons for use with the PAC MATE™. FSBraille Coach is a tutorial designed by Freedom Scientific comprised of 51 predeveloped lessons that include basic tests for beginners and more rigorous exercise for more advanced Braille readers. For more information contact Freedom Scientific at 800-444-4443 or <www.FreedomScientific.com>

The *Microsoft 5000 wireless optical mouse* works like a magnifying glass on your computer. View an interactive demo at <<http://www.microsoft.com/hardware/mouseandkeyboard/features/magnify.msp>>

Handy Tech North America has announced the release of *Easy Braille with Bluetooth* capability, a versatile 40-cell Braille display portable Braille device. Cost: \$4,995.00. For more information, contact: Handy Tech North America, Phone: 651-636-5184; Fax: 866-347-8249; e-mail: <info@handytech.us>; web: <http://www.handytech.us>>.



Indiana Reading and Information Services



The Nina Mason Pulliam Statewide Dial-up Service

What is the Nina Mason Pulliam Statewide Dial-up Service?

The dial-up is a reading service for Hoosiers who, for any reason, have trouble reading normal size print. The service is available 24 hours a day from any touchtone phone.

What can I hear when I call?

Callers to the service get news and information from regional and statewide sources, including many local newspapers. They can also leave requests for information.

How does it work?

Listeners are assigned codes to be entered as passwords when they dial in. Simple menu prompts direct callers to the material that is of interest to them.

How do I sign up for the IRIS Dial-up Service?

The process is simple. Just call **1-877-854-0077** to request an easy to read one page application. IRIS is a **free service** presented by WFYI Public Broadcasting.

The IRIS Web Stream

I am an IRIS dial-up listener, am I eligible for the IRIS Web stream?

Yes. After you complete your application, the IRIS office will mail your dial-up number and login information.

What will I need to listen to the IRIS broadcast via the Internet?

You will need an Internet connection, Windows Media Player, a sound card and speakers. If you do not have Windows Media Player, you can download the program for a PC or Mac from the IRIS Web stream site.

What will I hear when I log on to the IRIS Web stream?

You will hear the IRIS radio broadcast. A program schedule is available on the IRIS Web stream homepage.



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