

VISIONS in Indiana

Fall 2006

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Mark Your Calendar



12 October 2006

World Sight Day. For more information visit
<<http://www.v2020.org/>>

12-14 October 2006

138th Annual Meeting of American Printing House for the Blind, "Adjusting the Sails," Louisville, KY. Contact: American Printing House for the Blind, 1839 Frankfort Avenue, P.O. Box 6085, Louisville, KY 40206; phone: (502) 895-2405; email: <info@aph.org>; web: <www.aph.org>

18 October 2006

Implementing NIMAS (National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-466) Seminar. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at The Fountains Conference Center, 502 East Carmel Drive, Carmel, IN. Additional information at <<http://www.patinsproject.com/>>

19-21 October 2006

24th Annual Closing the Gap Conference, "Computer Technology in Special Education and Rehabilitation."

Minneapolis, MN. Contact: Closing the Gap, P.O. Box 68, 526 Main Street, Henderson, MN 56044; ;phone: (507) 248-3294; e-mail: <info@closingthegap.com>; web: <www.closingthegap.com>

20-21 October 2006

NCOMA (North Central Orientation and Mobility Association) 2006 Conference, Lombard, IL. Contact: Carol Otten, e-mail: <ottencarol@comcast.net>

2-3 November 2006

Indiana AER Fall Conference, Brown County State Park, Nashville, IN. Contact: Becky Smallwood, phone: (317) 232-4748 or email: <becky.smallwood@fssa.in.gov>

16-17 November 2006

Workshop for new teachers working with students with visual impairments. Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Diane Childers; phone: (317) 253-1481 x175; email: <dchilders@isb.state.in.us>

24-27 January 2007

ATIA (Assistive Technology Industry Association) 8th Annual Technology Conference. Caribe Royale All-Suites Resort and Conference Center, Orlando, FL. Contact: ATIA, toll-free: 877-687-2842; e-mail: <info@ATIA.org>

8-9 February 2007

Project Vision workshop, *Braille Literacy: A Functional Approach Designed for Non-traditional Learners.* Presenter: Dr. Diane P. Wormsley, Pennsylvania College of Optometry. Holiday Inn at the Airport in Indianapolis, IN. Brochures with registration information will be mailed in the near future. For more information contact: Sharon Bryan, Project Vision, 800-622-3035.

22-24 February 2007

AFB Workshop, Braille Literacy: A Functional Approach. For more information, visit: <www.afb.org>

23-25 March 2007

Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute (JLTLI). Dallas-Addison Marriott Quorum by the Galleria, Dallas, TX; 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; phone: (757) 623-7588; email: <conf@ace.org>; web: <http://site.aace.org/conf>

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: NAPVI, AFB and The Seeing Eye.



IERC Updates



APH Scholar Selected from Indiana

Cindy Corbett, VI teacher from MSD of Lawrence Township schools, has been selected by APH as one of five national 2006 Scholars to attend the October Annual Meeting as guests. The five Scholars, all direct services providers and first time attendees, were nominated by Ex Officio Trustees in their home states. Each nominee submitted a letter of application stating reasons to come to Annual Meeting and how information learned would then be shared. The five scholars were chosen by the Educational Services Advisory Committee at their May meeting in Louisville. The other scholars selected were from Maryland, North Carolina, California and Maine. Congratulations Cindy!

VI TEACER DIRECTORY

We are in the process of updating our VI teacher list. Forms have been sent out to each teacher. Please complete and return your form as soon as possible. If you have not received a form and need one, please contact us. The 2006-2007 directory will be published and disseminated at the end of October. Reminder...Please do not forget to complete your e-mail address. We send our newsletter, updates, and items of interest to teachers via electronic mail.

PACKING LISTS

Please remember to sign and return a copy of the packing lists enclosed in shipments of textbooks and equipment. This will let us know that you received the material we have shipped to you.

BOOK ORDERS FOR SECOND SEMESTER

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

ANNUAL STUDENT REGISTRATION

Just a reminder... the Annual Student Registration of Blind and Visually Impaired Students will be conducted in January of 2007. Registration packets will be mailed out at the end of December, so please mark your calendars and begin preparing for this important procedure.

SUPPLEMENTAL REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS

A reminder...when you have a newly identified VI student or a previous VI student that has moved back into your LEA, please complete a Supplemental Registration Form. The Supplemental Registration Form provides up-to-date student information and verification that the student currently meets all eligibility requirements, as well as authorizes the IERC to provide services.

ACCESSIBLE TEXTBOOKS IN THE CLASSROOM

Check out this comprehensive document on the CAST web site, "Accessible Textbooks in the Classroom: An Educator's Guide to the Acquisition of Alternate Format Core Learning Materials for Pre-K-12 Students with Print Disabilities" at <http://nimas.cast.org/about/resources/accessible_textbooks.html>. The report was prepared by Skip Stahl, with support from Chuck Hitchcock, Valerie Hendricks, Mindy Johnson, Susan Christensen, and Mary Ann Siller. It was written with support from the NIMAS Development and Technical Assistance centers, cooperative agreements between CAST and the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), Cooperative Agreement nos. H327P040003 and H327P040002.

NEW PROFESSIONAL BOOK AVAILABLE

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. For a complete listing of professional publications at the IERC, please contact the Center.

Making Evaluation Meaningful by Marnee Loftin, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, c2006. This book is intended to provide guidance to evaluation personnel, teachers of the visually impaired, and families in making the best possible decisions regarding student evaluation.



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@doe.state.in.us>

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

Hours of operation:

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



NIMAC: National Instructional Materials Access Center

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) signed into law at the end of 2004 includes several changes that will have a positive impact on how and when blind and other print disabled students throughout the country receive their textbooks in the accessible formats they need, including braille and large print. The National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) will be housed and operated at the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky.

The NIMAC will receive and catalog publishers' electronic files of print instructional materials in a standard format: the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS). The NIMAS was developed by experts across the country for this specific purpose. The NIMAC will serve as a repository for these standardized files and make them available to authorized entities to produce textbooks and other core print instructional materials for blind, visually impaired and print disabled students across the country. The combination of standardized file format and a central repository should significantly expedite the time frame in which instructional materials are delivered to students who need them in the classroom.

The NIMAC will have an automated system for allowing publishers to deposit NIMAS file sets and to check and confirm that they are in a valid NIMAS format prior to being cataloged into a web-based database. Those who have been authorized for access will be assigned a user identification and password. These authorized users will be able to search the NIMAC database and download directly the file(s) they need. The authorized users may convert files to fully accessible textbooks or may deliver the files to outside vendors or contractors.

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) is working with the U.S. Department of Education, the Association of American Publishers, the Association of Educational Publishers, the NIMAS Development Centers and many other organizations that produce instructional materials and advocate on behalf of students who have difficulty accessing standard print materials. APH has formed the NIMAC Advisory Council, which has met monthly since December 2005.

The NIMAC is currently in the testing and final preparation stages and will soon begin to accept NIMAS files from the publishers and register authorized users. It is scheduled to be operational in December 2006. Our state is working diligently on implementing the new legislation and developing a statewide plan for accessing the NIMAC and the dissemination of accessible student materials.

For more information on NIMAC can be found by visiting www.nimac.us. Visit <http://nimas.cast.org/> or the latest information on NIMAS and the NIMAS Development and Technical Committee's work.



"EYE-DEAS"

by Toni Hughes
Director



Outreach and Related Services

Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

I am the new Outreach Director at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. I was a teacher of the visually impaired for the last 20 years at Greater Lafayette Area Special Services in Lafayette. During most of the 20 years I also served as a specialist, chairing case conferences for all disabilities from preschool through high school. Before that I taught in a resource room for mildly mentally disabled and learning disabled students in Lafayette for about 5 years. I'm very excited about starting in this new position and am enjoying learning all about the Outreach Department. I feel as if I have come home. I worked here 31 years ago as the speech and hearing therapist for two years. I have also worked here for the past ten years in the summer with the early childhood evaluation team. I started my career here and hope to finish it here. It's great to be back and I'm looking forward to all the new experiences. I am trying to get around the state to meet some of the directors and vision teachers and I'm looking forward to meeting as many as possible.

The Outreach Department was started in 1989 and continues to grow and change. We offer many services to assist the school districts around the state to be able to meet the needs of their students. Following is a list of the services offered to schools throughout the state. We are very proud of our services and have very knowledgeable and experienced staff working very hard to help all students. If we can help you in any way please let us know. We are always anxious to improve or add to our services.

Listed below are the services that are available to parents and local education agencies at no cost:

- Consultation/observations in the school, home, or community settings
- Assistance in locating resources relating to visual impairment and skill development
- Loan of specialized materials to families and agencies serving children who are blind or visually impaired
- Annual parent training conferences
- Attendance at IFSP and IEP conferences if requested
- Training and assistance with functional vision/functional literacy assessments
- Workshops and presentations for schools, families, or agency staff
- Summer assessment camp for children ages 3 through 5
- Summer school sessions for school age students
- Transition Weekend for high school students and their families

- Orientation & Mobility consultations to evaluate skills, train staff and offer program suggestions (no charge); direct services are available on a fee-for-service basis
- Short Course Program to provide intensive instruction in expanded core curriculum O&M instruction, Braille instruction, assistive technology, independent living skills, study skills, etc.
- Low Vision Clinic to provide low vision services and loan optical devices

Forms for any of these services are available on our website.

We wanted to share with you one of the many appreciative letters we have received.



Michael Harding
Superintendent of Schools

Administration Building
408 South Carroll Avenue
Michigan City, Indiana 46360-5345
(219) 873-2000

May 19, 2005

Dear Ms. Wingert:

I am writing this letter to commend one of your short course educators, Shaylee Susemichel. Shaylee is an outstanding advocate for students with visual impairments as well as a source of information for the challenged student. She has continuously provided our district with resources, insights, and assistance for all visually impaired students.

Shaylee has gone above and beyond the call of duty to provide the best practices for a student in our district who attends your short courses at Indiana School for the Blind. She has helped to develop skills for a young man with visual impairments that has allowed him to succeed in many environments within his community. Shaylee looked inward to see this students' potential and guided him through the process to be the best student and individual he can be. She has helped him to grow academically, personally, and emotionally.

It is evident that Ms. Susemichel cares about each individual student she works with. She is professional, organized, and a great teacher. I have enjoyed working with her these past two years. She is patient with my questions and concerns and provides a timely and accurate answer to any questions that I might have. Shaylee is a gem. She has assisted me in times of need and stress to navigate through the process of providing services for a student with visual impairments. Frankly, my year would have had many more rough edges without Shaylee. Further, I know that my student agrees with this analysis of his short course teacher at ISB. He has nothing but praise for his program and teacher.

Thank you for allowing us to share Shaylee. We are looking forward to another great year of successes and growth.

Sincerely, Michele Gillman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michele Gillman', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Secondary Supervisor, Special Education
Michigan City Area Schools



For information about any of the Outreach services contact:

Outreach Department & Related Services
Indiana School for the Blind
and Visually Impaired
7725 N. College Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46240-2504
(317) 253-1481
Website: <www.isbrockets.org>



State Library Updates

by Carole Rose
Indiana State Library
Special Services Division



The Talking Book and Braille Library's 2006 children's summer reading program, "Be a Bookaneer: Find Treasures at Your Library," was a big hit with our young readers. 84 students ages 5-13 read 742 books from June 4th through August 4th. Cassette circulation was down a bit, but the number of Braille titles read increased from 168 to 189, and the number of large print titles read increased from 95 to 118.

Our second annual summer reading party was held at the library on Saturday June 17th. Bookaneers sporting pirate hats, eye patches, and tattoos, posed for photos. There were games, visits to a treasure chest filled with surprises, door prizes, and lunch. At the end of the party, each child escaped with a loot bag filled with goodies.

Some of our summer readers continue to use the library while others read only required school assignments. To encourage reading among teens, we will be expanding the 2007 summer program to include this age group. Next year, the theme for children will be "Get a Clue at your Library." The teen theme will be "You Never Know at Your Library." The

con't. on page 10

Mark your Calendars - Inservice Training Activity. The next inservice training activity to be sponsored by Project Vision will be February 8-9, 2007. The title of the workshop is "Braille Literacy: A Functional Approach Designed for Non-traditional Learners." The presenter is Dr. Diane P. Wormsley from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. The workshop will be at the Holiday Inn at the Airport in Indianapolis. Brochures with registration information will be mailed in the near future.

In this two day workshop, Dr. Wormsley will present an approach to teaching reading and writing braille to learners who are at risk for learning to read. These learners may: have visual impairments or be blind; have mild to moderate cognitive impairments; be deaf-blind or have multiple disabilities; be non-verbal; and have been unsuccessful in learning to read braille for a variety of reasons.

The approach, while called a "functional approach," is really a highly individualized, meaning centered approach. Participants will learn the rationale behind the approach, and, throughout the workshop, be able to apply the steps of the approach to children they have brought with them (in their heads) and to develop materials and strategies that they can use with those children upon their return to the classroom. Included throughout the workshop will be a variety of best practice techniques which are useful with all learners who are to be successful braille readers and writers. Free materials will be provided to participants. Please plan to attend this wonderful workshop!

VI Distance Education Training Program. The 2006 Cohort (nine teachers) is currently enrolled in their second class (Programs and Services for Individuals with Visual Impairments) in the *ISU/BSU Educator of Students with Exceptional Needs: Visual Impairment* licensure program. Project Vision is currently accepting applications for the 2007 cohort that will begin classes in January 2007. If you know of anyone who is interested in teaching students who are blind or have low vision, ask them to visit the Project Vision website for more information <<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 have completed their coursework. The teachers are currently working on either the required Supervised Fieldwork or Internship hours. There is a lot of work still to do for this very dedicated group of future O&M specialists. Kudos to each of them!

Project Vision Website. The Project Vision website has a new look. Please take a few minutes and visit: <<http://web.indstate.edu/soe/blumberg/Vision.html>>

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.



State Library Updates con't from page 8

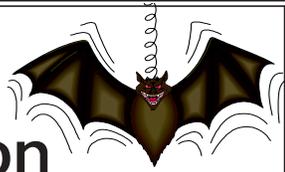
category featured in our theme-related reading lists will be mysteries. There will be exciting activities and terrific prizes for both groups.

The library is exploring a number of programming ideas for children and teens. We are hoping to add items to our home page that will be of special interest to younger readers, including links to fun and informative sites. For example, NLS has added a link to its home page just for kids, parents, and teachers called *Kids Zone*. *Kids Zone* features a catalog listing of NLS-produced Braille and recorded titles just for children and teens. Users can search by title, author, book number, keyword, subject, or series. Comprehensive instructions for using the site are included. To visit Kids Zone, go to <www.loc.gov/nls/kids>

Many of you want to know all about the digital talking book program which NLS plans to introduce in 2008. The library wants to know too. There are still a couple of production issues to be resolved, but we should know more by early 2007. Watch for an article about the new system in the next issue of VISIONS.



For Your Information



In May of 2006, the National Library Service for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress, temporarily suspended service to Web-Braille because of technical and security difficulties. Users now logging onto Web-Braille to download reading material will have to click “accept” on a terms of use agreement that affirms, in part, the copyright status of the materials and the validity of the identity of the individual wishing to download the files. For more information, contact: The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542; phone: 202-707-5100; e-mail: <nls@loc.gov>; web site: <www.loc.gov/nls/>.

On May 31, 2006, the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) relocated to a new office in the Tucson area. Their new contact information is: ACVREP, 3333 North Campbell Avenue, Suite 11, Tucson, AZ 85719; phone: 520-887-6816; e-mail: <info@acvrep.org>; web site: <www.acvrep.org>

July 26, 2006 was the 16th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The National Center of Accessible Media (NCAM) of the public broadcasting organization WGBH has been awarded a three-year grant from the National Institute on Disability Research and Rehabilitation (NIDRR), U.S. Department of Education, to make airline travel more accessible to passengers with sensory disabilities, including visual impairment. The project will examine the technical barriers and develop solutions for making the range of airline entertainments, communications, and other information accessible to all passengers. For more information, contact: National Center for Accessible Media, WGBH, P.O. Box 200, Boston, MA 02134; phone: 617-200-5400; web site: <<http://ncam.wgbh.org>>.

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) has launched a new public policy information and action network, AFB DirectConnect (AFB-DC). Individuals who enroll in AFB-DC will receive all the information included in “Words from Washington,” as well as targeted alerts and updates, based on selected topic areas, including, special education; rehabilitation, employment, and independent living; information access, telecommunication, and library services; civil rights; and Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. To sign up for AFB-DC, contact: Barbara Jackson LeMoine, policy analyst, Public Policy Center, American Foundation for the Blind, 820 First Street NE, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20002; phone: 202-408-8169; e-mail: <blemoine@afb.net>; web site: <www.afb.org/gov.asp>.

American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and the Northwest Vista College unveiled a new online college curriculum in August 2006 for a career as a Braille Textbook Transcriber. A brochure about the program can be found at <www.afb.org/education.asp> then go to the Braille transcriber section. For more information about this career opportunity, visit: <<http://www.accd.edu/nvc/areas/braille/default.htm>>

IRIS (Indiana Reading and Information Services) Online is now available for print-handicapped persons living within a 45-mile radius of downtown Indianapolis using a special radio receiver. On April 3, 2006, IRIS expanded its services by launching a web stream. Anyone who has a computer with Internet access and a Windows media player will be able to listen to the entire IRIS radio broadcast. To access this new web site, go to: <www.wfyi.org/irisplayer>. The user name and password are the same: iris/iris. For further information, about IRIS, contact the Talking Book and Braille Library (TBBL) or call IRIS at 877-854-0077.

The CHARGE Syndrome Foundation announced that their manual, "CHARGE Syndrome: A Management Manual for Parents" version 2.1, is available as a free online resource. The manual is broken down into 20 chapters that can be downloaded separately, or the entire 269 pages can be downloaded as one file. The manual can be found on the Internet at <www.chargesyndrome.org/resources-manual.asp>.

Google, the Internet search engine, has announced its addition of a special function for people with disabilities in which searches prioritize sites offering the most accessible pages. Visit: <<http://labs.google.com/accessible>>.

The Blind Children's Center has announced that two popular videos are now available on DVD. "Heart to Heart" (Parents of Children who are Blind and Partially Sighted Share Their Feelings) is available for \$35 and "Let's Eat" (Teaching Competent Feeding Skills to Children with Visual Impairments) is available for \$35. Available in English and Spanish. For more information, contact: Blind Children's Center, 4120 Marathon Street, Los Angeles, CA 90029-3584; phone: 800-222-3566; fax: 323-665-3828; web site: <www.blindchildrenscenter.org>



An online peer mentoring project and discussion group for high school juniors and seniors and college students with vision loss is available.

Parents, guidance counselors and vocational rehabilitation counselors may also participate in the listserv, but it is planned primarily for peer-to-peer interaction. The effort is sponsored by the College Prep program at EH Gentry and part of the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind. Individuals may join the College Ready B/VI at <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CollegeReadyBVI>>. Contact: Karyn Zweifel, AIDB.org Site Manager at <www.AIDB.org> for more information.

“Sources of Adapted Materials to Promote Literacy Development” is a link found on the American Foundation for the Blind’s (AFB) web site. The products included in the list provide a sampling of adapted materials that can help a child acquire literacy skills at home during the informal, family-oriented activities. Parents can visit <www.afb.org> and link to learn more about Braille. From there, they can click on “Braille Resources for Parents” and look for the link to this list.

The American Printing House for the Blind’s first *Tactile Graphics* web cast presented on June 13 with APH’s Accessible Textbook Department can be found at <www.aph.org/webcast/index.html>. For more information or questions, contact Betsy Burnham at <bburnham@aph.org> or call 800-223-1839.

APH has dedicated a portion of its web site to Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI). Articles, videos, sample goals and reports, resources, and intervention strategies are only a few of the many valuable resources you will find at this website: <www.aph.org/cvi/index.html>

The free online DOTS Newsletter is published three times a year and includes information about new Braille products, strategies for teaching, and resources for teachers, parents, family members, and anyone interested in Braille literacy. Visit the AFB's website at <www.afb.org>.

The National Family Association for Deaf-Blind (NFADB) is a non-profit, volunteer-based family association. Their philosophy is that individuals who are deaf-blind are valued members of society and are entitled to the same opportunities and choices as other members of the community. NFADB is the largest national network of families focusing on issues surrounding deafblindness. NFADB is sponsoring a list serve to share ideas, thoughts, questions, successes, etc. To join the list serve, send a blank email to: <nfadb-subscribe-requests@tr.wou.edu>.

Big.com, a new search engine developed to deliver search results to users in large, easy to read format, has made available Big.com Web Magnifier. Available from <<http://www.big.com/toolbar>> as a free, downloadable toolbar for use with Internet Explorer web browsers, Web Magnifier provides users with the ability to enlarge the text and graphics of any HTML web page for easier reading and navigation. System requirements for the Big.com Web Magnifier include Microsoft Windows 2000/XP, Internet Explorer 6.0, 1 MB hard drive space and 128 MB of RAM. Big.com is a service of Perfect Market Technologies, Inc.

Independent Living Aids, Inc. is celebrating its 30th year of providing products for people who are blind and visually impaired through its catalog. For special offers, visit: <www.independentliving.com>

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) has announced that the national nonprofit organization has discontinued the availability of analog tapes and analog players and has moved to digital-only audiobooks and players. For more information, contact RFB&D at 866-732-3585 or visit their web site at <www.rfb.org>.

Dr. Kazunori Mano, Panasonic engineer from Japan, recently visited APH to talk with Low Vision Project Leader Elaine Kitchel on the existing research and standards for large format documents and products. He has been researching APHont as a guide for labeling Panasonic products for persons with vision impairments. For more information about APHont or for a free download of APHont, go to <www.aph.org>.



Publications



“AccessWorld Guide to Assistive Technology Products,” published by AFB Press, is available in print and on ASCII disk. It is based on information from AFB’s popular online products database. Detailed profiles of over 200 products are provided to help the user determine which ones best meet their needs. Each profile includes product name, description and category; manufacturer’s name; suggested prices; product features; and more. A separate section lists all manufacturers and their contact information, as well as warranty information. The guide also includes a comprehensive list of objective product evaluations previously published in “AccessWorld.” Cost: \$24.95. To order, go to AFB web site at <www.afb.org/store>.

A new book “Web Accessibility: Web Standards and Regulatory Compliance,” by Jim Thatcher, et al, has been published by Friends of Education. Chapter titles include: Understanding Web Accessibility, Overview of Law and Guidelines, Assistive Technology: Screen Readers and Browsers, Accessible Content, Accessible Navigation, accessible Flash, PDF Accessibility and Accessibility Testing. The book is available from Amazon.com. Cost: \$49.95.

The “Tool Kit on Teaching and Assessing Students with Disabilities,” a collaborative effort of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), U.S. Department of Education, and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) was released on April 25, 2006. The Tool Kit provides up-to-date guidance on designing and implementing high-quality assessments for students with disabilities. Visit: <www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers> for more information.

“Hands-On Parenting: A Resource Guide for Parents who are Blind or Partially Sighted” is a new 212 pages comprehensive resource guide providing a wide range of practical information, adaptations and resources for parents who are blind or partially sighted. The resource guide was developed by blind parent specialist Debbie Bacon, who is also a blind mother of three adult children. The resources and suggestions were gathered from discussions with parents who are blind and partially sighted across the U.S. as well as in several other countries. To order the Resource Guide call 800-644-2666 or visit Through the Looking Glass web site at: <www.lookingglass.org>.

“Visual Perception Problems in Children with AD/HD, Autism, and Other Learning Disabilities: A Guide for Parents and Professionals” by Lisa A. Kurtz, provides an overview of the most common vision disorders experienced by children with developmental disabilities. The 108-page paperback book offers non-technical explanations of how visual impairment is detected in children with developmental disabilities, and suggests where to seek appropriate professional care. Cost: \$19.95. For more information, contact: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 400 Market Street, Suite 400, Philadelphia, PA 19106; phone: 866-416-1078 or 215-922-1161; e-mail; <orders@jkp.com>; web site: <www.jkp.com>



The AFB Press has announced the publication of “Tactile Learning Strategies: Interacting with Children Who Have Visual Impairments and Multiple Disabilities,” a new video by Deborah Chen and June E. Downing. The video illustrates strategies to help children who are visually impaired and have multiple disabilities learn through touch and is available on VHS and DVD. For more information contact: AFB bookstore; phone: 800-232-3044; web site: <www.afb.org/store>.



New Products



The American Printing House for the Blind has announced new products available with federal quota funds:

Alphabet Scramble is a print/Braille, read-aloud storybook promoting emergent and early literacy skills. It provides exposure to upper and lower case Braille and large print letters, letter names, the sequenced of the alphabet, and includes the letter word contraction associated with each Braille letter. An accompanying Notes to the Reader is provided. Catalog number: 5-01199-00. Cost: \$40.00.

Toodle Tiles: Emmy's Town Software is an educational computer game for students 5 and up. Based on the matching game of Mahjong, the object is to clear away matching tiles and pave the way for the new mayor of Emuville. Catalog number: CD version – D-00300-00. Cost: 49.00; Download version – D-00300-ED. Cost: \$39.00.

APH InSights Art Calendar 2007 print/Braille calendar is a 12 month calendar that features artwork by visually impaired artists. Catalog number: 5-18971-07. Cost: \$7.50.

Going Places: Transition Guidelines for Community-Based Physical Activities for Students who have Visual Impairments, Blindness, or Deafblindness is a resource guide for teens and young adults that promotes independent physical activity. It outlines a step-by-step process for choosing and participating in sports and other physical activities outside of the school arena. Catalog number: Large print/CD – 7-13090-00. Cost: \$68.00; Braille/CD - 5-13090-00. Cost: \$68.00.

The *Sensory Learning Kit (SLK)* has replaced the Sensory Stimulation Kit (SSK). Catalog number: 1-08611-00. Cost: \$499.00.

Adapting Science for Students with Visual Impairments: A Handbook for the Teacher and Resource Specialist (ASSVI) is designed to assist teachers, particularly those with minimal science background and/or VI experience, in making operational science activities accessible to students with visual impairments and blindness. Catalog number: 7-00000-00. Cost: \$26.00.

World at Your Fingers is a comprehensive set of tactile world maps for developing map-reading skills. Catalog number: 1-01190-00. Cost: \$55.00.

Swirly Mat Set: CVI, Catalog number: 1-08153-00. Cost: \$44.00 is for use with students with cortical visual impairments and *Swirly Mat Set: FVA* Catalog number: 1-08154-00. Cost: \$44.00 is for use during functional vision evaluations. Three mats per set. Best used with the mini-lite box.

SQUID Tactile Activities Magazine: Issue 2 is now available with all new activities. Catalog number: 1-08862-02. Cost: \$45.00. Also available is *SQUID* Issue 1. Catalog number: 1-08862-01. Cost: \$45.00.

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>

The *BumpyName*[™], The Original Orbit Label[™], is a plastic, stretchy labeling product using print and Braille. The labels are personalized with children's names in Braille and print and makes the labels a teaching tool for the children with visual impairments and sighted children more aware of disabilities. For more information about *BumpyName*[™] labels, visit their web site at <www.bumpyname.com>.

Enhanced Vision has introduced the *Merlin LCD CCTV*. Features include a three-button control panel, an integrated 17-inch or 19-inch monitor, sliding brightness level, five digital color select options, and 2.7x-58x magnification. For more information, contact: Enhanced Vision at 888-811-3161 or 714-374-1829; web site: <www.enhancedvision.com>.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ + 1 \\ \hline 2 \end{array}$$

Project Math Access was developed by the staff of Research and Development Institute of Sycamore, Illinois. Funding was provided by the U.S.

Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. Gaylen Kapperman and Jodi Sticken of Northern Illinois University, developed the content with the hope that teachers, parents, and administrators will find it useful in their efforts to provide opportunities for students who are blind or visually impaired to succeed in the study of mathematics. They believe that the study of mathematics is extraordinarily important in our modern, increasingly technologically sophisticated culture. Without well-honed skills in and knowledge of mathematics, individuals are placed at a dramatic disadvantage in our society. These disadvantages include diminished educational opportunities, reduced employment opportunities, and, in general, dramatically fewer opportunities in all important aspects of life. This situation exists for all persons, but it is particularly relevant in the lives of persons who are visually disabled. The Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired hosts a web site to accompany the materials included in the *Project Math Access* CD and DVD package at <<http://s22318.tsbvi.edu/mathproject>>.

GW Micro has introduced the *Small-Talk Ultra*, a small, full-featured handheld computer that operates with Windows XP. The Small-Talk Ultra offers a 1-GB processor, a 30-GB hard drive; 512 MB of RAM; a built-in 57-keyboard; a color display; a firewall port; and a built-in Bluetooth, USB, and a wireless technology. Also included is a full copy of Window-Eyes, custom carrying case, USB 88-key keyboard, and USB External CD-ROM. Cost: \$2795 with a full copy of Window-Eyes or \$2495 if user has own copy of latest version of Windows Eyes. Also available from GW Micro is *Portable SenseView CCTV*, a handheld closed-circuit television, which has a 4.3-inch widescreen liquid crystal display and weighs 7.8 ounces and offers 4X-28X digital magnification. It provides four brightness levels and six color modes, including standard black and white. It also has two folding legs, a snapshot function to capture the image displayed on the screen, and a 5-hour battery. Contact: GW Micro, 725 Airport North Office Park, Fort Wayne, IN 46825; phone: 260-489-3671; e-mail: <sales@gwmicro.com>; web: <www.gwmicro.com>.

Ai Squared has announced the new *Zoom Text Large-Print Keyboard* (U.S. English version), which features keycaps that are designed to be easy to reach by people with low vision. Cost: \$99. For more information, contact: Ai Squared, P.O. Box 669, Manchester Center, VT 05255; phone: 800-859-0270 or 802-362-3612; e-mail: <sales@aisquared.com>; web site: <www.aisquared.com.com/Products/Keyboard.cfm>.

Optelec USA and Quantum Technology of Australia have introduced the *Mountbatten Learning System (MBLS)*. The MBLS adds new features to the Mountbatten Pro braillewriter and printer that include: a USB port; a music component that allows the user to create, play back, record, and emboss musical compositions using Braille notation; a diary; a stopwatch; and a Nemeth code module. Cost: \$4445. Contact: Optelec USA, 321 Billerica Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824; phone: 800-828-1056; web site: <www.optelec.com>.

The *Kurzweil-NFB Portable Reader* has been released by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). The reader is a collaborative effort between inventor Raymond Kurzweil and NFB. The unit consists of an off-the-shelf PDA combined with a digital camera. The user shoots a picture of a printed page, and then hears the text read aloud through the built-in speaker or, for private listening, through the provided earbuds. With its portable size and real-time translations, users can read package labels, restaurant menus, store receipts, business cards, memos, advertisements, and other printed items inaccessible to people who are blind. The reader stores documents as text fields that can be transferred to other PDAs or PCs for later reading or editing. It includes a voice recorder for making stand-alone voice memos or for recording a voice note to be linked to a stored document. Cost: \$395. For more information, contact: National Federation of the Blind; web: <www.nfb.org>; or Kurzweil Educational Systems; web: <www.kurzweiledu.com>.

ViewPlus Technologies has introduced the *Emprint* printer, which is both a Braille embosser and an inkjet printer. The printer can produce documents with Braille and print on the same page or on separate pages. Graphics can be produced as tactile graphics with colored ink, providing both tactile and visual information in the same document. Emprint can use any weight of paper. For more information, contact: ViewPlus Technologies, 1853 SW Airport Avenue, Corvallis, OR 97333; phone: 541-754-4002; web site: <www.ViewPlus.com>; e-mail: <info@ViewPlus.com>.

Dolphin Computer Access recently released version 7.01 of its access software for screen readers and screen magnifiers, which is designed to offer advanced features for the program, providing access through Braille, speech, or screen magnification. Dolphin's Supernova, Hal, Lunar, and LunarPlus products all incorporate the new features. Hot keys used with other screen readers have been added. Version 7.01 is available for use on desktops, laptops, networks, or Citrix networks. For more information, contact: Dolphin Computer Access, 60 East Third Avenue, Suite 301, San Mateo, CA 94401; phone: 866-797-5921 or 650-348-7401; e-mail: <info@dolphinusa.com>; web site: <www.dolphinusa.com>.

HumanWare has released *KeySoft 7.2* for use on BrailleNote or VoiceNote. Keysoft 7.2 has Victor Reader technology built in that will allow the user to listen to DAISY audio books, set bookmarks, create text notes, navigate within the file and translate text-only DAISY books into preferred grade of Braille. Keysoft allows extensive manipulation of files from any file list. The Concise Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus software is available as an optional add-on for KeySoft 7.2 For more information and additional functions of Keysoft 7.2, contact: HumanWare, 175 Mason Circle, Concord, CA 94520; phone: 800-722-3393; web: <www.humanware.com>.

Smart View Xtend, a new video magnifier from HumanWare, is a basic black and white model that can become a full color model or be upgraded to a model with computer access. Features include an enhanced page locator making document navigation easy; a lines and blinds feature that helps students focus on what they are reading and remove distracting clutter on the page; and a preset magnification that allows a student to go from one book to another. For more information, contact: HumanWare, 175 Mason Circle, Concord, CA 94520; phone: 800-722-3393; web: <www.humanware.com>.



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