TTAP, the Quarterly Newsletter of the Texas Technology Access Program
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In this Issue

• TTAP at Abilities Expo
• Latest News from the Device Loan Program
• InfoSphere by Melinda Townsend
• Assistive Technology Q&A
• Spotlight on TTAP Demonstration Centers
• Tech Corner: Good Read app.
• What’s on "TTAP" for Fall
• Just for Laughs

TTAP at Abilities Expo Houston 2014

(various pictures of TTAP booth at Abilities Expo Houston)

TTAP is a proud annual sponsor of Abilities Expo Houston. Abilities Expo is about bringing necessary products and services together under one roof for the community of people with disabilities, their families, caregivers, seniors and healthcare professionals. It's about introducing opportunities that can enrich your life...especially opportunities you never expected.

Now scheduled yearly in seven cities across the nation, each Abilities Expo offers three days of access to the latest technologies and resources for ALL disabilities, informative workshops on issues that most resonate with the Community and fun activities like adaptive sports, dance, assistive animal demos, and more.

This year, 4,251 adults and lots of kiddos attended the Houston Abilities Expo held July 25-27. Director Roger Levy, Technology Specialist Darlene West, Ana and Tony Canevaro, and Peter Roy represented the TTAP. It was a great experience for all of us and we look forward to the next Abilities Expo Houston coming July 31, 2015.
Latest News from the Device Loan Program

New Devices available from the Device Loan Program!
- Tobii T10
- Gooshy Switch
- iPad Mini w/apps
- Lamps Words for Life
- BAT Keyboards
- Smooth Talker
- Switchamajig for iPad
- ChatBox 40XT
- Keyless Keyboard
- J-Pad for iPad
- Fan Switch
- TechScan 8, and lots more!

Check the TTAP website to see all the new devices!
http://techaccess.edb.utexas.edu

Are there any new devices you would like to see available in the Device Loan Program? Please e-mail us and let us know!

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InfoSphere by Melinda Townsend

The Blue ADA-Compliant Icon Gets a Makeover

The most popular version of an accessibility sign is called the International Symbol for Accessibility (ISA). The blue and white ISA sign of a human figure using a wheelchair is a slightly different version of the one designed by Susanne Kofoed in 1969, showing a history of three versions of symbol for ADA compliance. The new icon was created by Tim Ferguson-Saunder, Brian Glenney and Sara Hendren. The long awaited new edition of the blue and white is getting some attention. For example, New York State has adopted the 2014 image and is the first state to do so. (1)(2)(3)

There does not seem to be much said about the reason for using the blue except that blue is the noted color "travel services, information signs, emergency evacuation routine signs, and as part of Interstate and some state route marker" (4) and "blue with white symbols for rest areas, food, gasoline, hospitals, lodging, and other services." (5). You can learn more about the new icon at http://www.accessibleicon.org/icon.html
Highlight on AudioEye Communications

AudioEye Communications developed a way for people with visual and reading disabilities to easily search the web. Their technology converts text on a webpage into audio and allows users to navigate an Internet site using sound. Reportedly, AudioEye was intended to help college students with visions loss, dyslexia, and even loss of motor functions. (6)(8) Their "About Us" reveals that company was incorporated in 2005. They also describe their company as a company that "focuses on working to improve the mobility, usability and accessibility of all Internet-based content through the development, sale, licensing and use of our proprietary accessibility technologies. Audio Internet® is a technology that utilizes our patented architecture to deliver a fully accessible audio equivalent of a visual website or mobile website in a compliant format that can be navigated, utilized, interacted with, and transacted from without the use of a monitor or mouse. You can learn more about AudioEye and AudioEye Communications at audioeye.com. (8)

2. source:  http://www.disabilityscoop.com/2014/03/06/new-handicapped-
museum/19167/
3. source:  http://www.braunability.com/abilityvoice/index.php/2010/06/the-history-of-the-little-blue-sign/#sthash.5H0wxIZZ.dpuf
4. source:  http://www.trafficsign.us/signcolor.html
6. source:  https://www.audioeye.com/
7. source:  http://www.accessibleicon.org/icon.html
8. source:  http://dyslexiahelp.umich.edu/latest/audioeye-communications-turning-web-text-audio

Melinda Townsend is the Accessibility Facilitator for Austin Community College’s Library Services. She serves on ACC’s College Accessibility Committee (CAC) and is the Project Coordinator for ACC’s Project Enable program.

Assistive Technology Q&A

Q: What is iThoughts?

A: iThoughts is a mindmapping tool for the iPad, iPhone and iPod touch that is designed for individuals who find it difficult to organize their thoughts and/or remember information, people with mental illness or learning disabilities, or visual learners. It enables the user to visually organize their thoughts, ideas, and information. SIZE: 35.9 Megabytes. LANGUAGE: English.

**Tech Corner:**

**New app for iPhone and iPad**

GoodReader 4 is an iTunes application that can help individuals with communication problems by organizing PDFs of very large size, TXT documents with high-resolution graphics and pictures, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, HTML files, and Safari web archives. Regarding audio and video files, it is natively supported by IOS. Compatible with iPhone and iPad. Version 4.3.0 offers a “WiFi only” option for scheduled Auto Sync in App settings. SIZE: 40.7 megabytes. LANGUAGE: English only.

**Price:** $6.99 at the Apple Store

**Spotlight on Demonstration Centers**

**Houston Center for Independent Living**

6201 Bonhomme Road, Suite 150 South
Houston, Texas 77036
Voice/TTY: (713) 974-4621
TTY Direct: (713) 974-2703
Fax: (713) 974-6927
hcil@neosoft.com

**A community-based, non-profit, independent living advocacy organization**

Services include:

- Information and Referral
- Peer Support
- Individual and Systems Advocacy
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Coordination of Services
- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance
- Disability Voting Action Project
What’s on TTAP for Fall 2014

October 15-17, 2014  32nd Annual Closing the Gap Conference
                     Minneapolis, MN
                     Contact: Jan Latzke
                     526 Main Street
                     P.O. Box 68
                     Henderson, Minnesota 56044
                     Telephone: 507-248-3294
                     Fax: 507-248-3810

October 22-24, 2014  The NW Conference on Professional Development in Disability Services
                     Eugene, Oregon
                     Contact: Vicki Devlin
                     2405 Front Street NE
                     Suite 150
                     Salem, Oregon 97301
                     Tel: 503-585-3337
                     FAX: 503-585-3722

November 20, 2014   Assistive Technology Conference of New England
                     Warwick, Rhode Island, USA
                     Contact: TechACCESS of RI
                     110 Jefferson Blvd
                     Suite I
                     Warwick, RI 02888
                     Tel: (401) 463-0202

Just for Laughs

(picture: two dogs sitting in front of a laptop computer. “And then I just hit delete. I haven’t actually eaten any homework for years.”)

Any suggestions, comments, or article you would like to have included in our newsletter, please contact us:

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(512) 232-0750/dwest@austin.utexas.edu
(512) 232-0772/srthomas@austin.utexas.edu
TTAP Demonstration Centers

- Ability Connection, Dallas
- Brazoria County Center for Independent Living, Angleton
- Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living, Bryan
- Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living, Corpus Christi
- Disability in Action, Abilene
- East Texas Center for Independent Living, Tyler
- Easter Seals of Greater Houston
- Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, Austin
- Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth
- Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center, Belton
- Helping Hands, Amarillo
- Houston Center for Independent Living, Houston
- Paso Del Norte Children’s Development Center, El Paso
- REACH Center for Independent Living, Plano
- RISE Center for Independent Living, Beaumont
- VAIL – Valley Association for Independent Living, McAllen