

TTAP, The Quarterly Journal of the Texas Technology Access Program
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What's NEW???

Bureau of Engraving and Printing Distributes Free Currency Readers

The U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) announced it will distribute free currency readers to eligible blind and low-vision individuals, a preemptive solution to the Federal Reserve's tactile-enhancement of currency notes.

Read more about this on this link:

<http://www.moneyfactory.gov/uscurrencyreaderform.html>

Latest News from the Device Loan Program:

iPad Wireless Switch

This switch is 5" in diameter and interacts with your iPad, iPad Mini, iPhone or iPod Touch. You can connect one or two capability switches. The Wireless Switch works with any app that has been programmed for switch access. (A chart of switch accessible apps is available free on the Enabling Devices website) Works through Bluetooth 2.1 for pairing and has a range of over 50 feet. A lithium-ion battery recharges through your USB port. Also can act as a regular capability switch to activate any switch adapted product.

iPad Wireless System Interface

Connect two of your switches to this interface and interact wirelessly with your iPad, iPad Mini, iPhone or iPod Touch. The interface works with any app that has been programmed for switch access. Works through Bluetooth 2.1 for simple pairing and has a range of over 50 feet. A lithium-ion battery recharges through your USB port.

Wireless Ultimate Switch:

This cordless switch transmits 20 feet through the air by radio waves. Comes with 19" gooseneck, universal clamp, transmitter and receiver.

Art-Lime-Light:

The Arc of the Arts Studio (Austin, TX)

This program is offered by The Arc of the Capital Area and allows artists to create their artwork in many different mediums and to professionally show and sell their artwork. The Arc developed the studio to promote social inclusion and to increase access to non-segregated activities for youth and adults with developmental disabilities, as well as to provide an opportunity for adults with disabilities to learn job skills and to ultimately work towards making a personal income. To read more visit this link:

<http://www.arcofthecapitalarea.org/collaborative-art-studio.php>

InfoSphere article:

I developed the InfoSPHERE column because of my passion for adult learning and accessible resources. I also use this column to report about technology advances and support and accessible resources. This time I am combining both interests to draw your attention to the availability of new educational and corporate collaborative spaces known as makerspaces and touchdown spaces that should be developed for all users.

The Advent of Accessible Makerspaces and Touchdown Spaces:

The emergence of makerspaces and touchdown spaces is an interesting phenomenon. However, accessibility advocates must ensure that students and employees with disabilities have the same opportunities and access. This means that colleges, universities, organizations, and companies are responsible for designing these new workspaces according to universal design protocol along with taking preventive measures to reduce architectural barriers to both workstations as well as study and office layouts.

What Are Makerspaces?

"Makerspaces are designed to provide a dedicated space for creating and tinkering with advanced technology, tools, and equipment."⁽¹⁾ Makerspaces seem to be more prominent in public libraries.

What Is A Touchdown Space?

Touchdown spaces are used in both academic and business settings. Students and staff members may use "touchdown spaces" to conduct one-on-one meetings and make occasional confidential videophone calls. These collaborative spaces are typically designed to provide privacy when needed, promote online collaboration, and include wireless technology. "There are different types of touchdown spaces, facilitating a variety of needs. These include teaming

(groups working together), meeting (of all sorts and sizes) and quiet, heads down work." (2)
Some types of touchdown spaces might require space for whiteboard walls, scanners, printers, and storage for work that is in process.

College and University Settings:

Accessible Makerspaces. The University of Maryland's McKeldin Library has taken the additional step to provide an accessible makerspace. The program is called iDiversity. iDiversity purchases technology and other supplies to ensure that all UMD students can use the space. For more information about iDiversity visit this link: idiversity.umd.edu.

Accessible Touchdown Spaces. In most academic settings, touchdown spaces are small physical spaces available around a college campus.

I work in Library Services at Austin Community College. We have had several students express an interest in a space without noise or distractions for video conferencing and distance learning (e.g. meetings with their instructors for virtual office hours). As far as I know, ACC does not have these areas but I am hopeful that someday the College will provide these areas and they will be completely accessible for all students.

At ACC we developed a program that is similar to both makerspace and touchdown spaces concepts. However, I had no idea that Project Enable was a precursor to the makerspace phenomenon now pervasive and popular in academic libraries. Project Enable was born November 1, 2011. Our maker movement is largely driven by peer-to-peer learning. We offer any ACC student a workspace with scanners, special keyboards, tablets, wireless mice, wireless earphones, and even SmartBoards. We provide resources that are commonly associated with makerspaces like audio and visual equipment. Most importantly, we provide opportunities for students to learn with their hands.

You can learn more about Project Enable by visiting this site:
http://researchguides.austincc.edu/project_enable

Organizational and Corporate Settings:

Accessible Touchdown Spaces. In business and industry, touchdown spaces are viewed as virtual offices needed for highly mobile employees. Touchdown spaces are typically small spaces dedicated to providing staff with connections to the Internet and voice communications.

Shout Out to Commitment to Accessibility:

Every college, university, organization and company should have a commitment to uphold equity and inclusiveness. Now, here is my question. Do you have special spaces? Are they accessible? They should be!!!

(1) source: <https://www.launch.umd.edu/project/54147e7e09206564a08078ef>

(2) source: <http://hr.nmsu.edu/osm/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2015/02/REVISED-DRAFT-Space-Guidelines-2.9.15.pdf>

Melinda Townsel 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.

Tech Corner:

We are excited to say, we will soon be getting in the Tobii T7!

The T7 is the ultimate ultra-portable, ultra-light speech-generating device. Along with its all-powerful thundering speakers, the T7 allows users to go and be heard, anywhere, anytime.

Check in at our loan center (for Texas only) if you would like to borrow this device, to try it out!

Follow this link to us at:

<http://techaccess.edb.utexas.edu/loan.php>

Spotlight on TTAP Demonstration Centers:

Disability Connections, San Angelo

Our newest Demo center participants!

This center provides information and resources for individuals with various disabilities throughout the Concho Valley area. Their services include: independent living skill training, advocacy, and information and referral for individuals with various disabilities. Services include: information and referral options, counseling, advocacy, relocation and transitional assistance, independent living skills training, and peer support.

Demos are by appointment. Individuals may contact:

Dana Sercos at 325-227-6624 Go by and see them today!

Disability Connections

2809 Southwest BLVD

San Angelo, TX 76904

Did you know?

Tammy Duckworth is the first Asian-American woman elected to Congress in Illinois, the first disabled woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and the first member of Congress born in Thailand. She is an Iraq War veteran who served as a U.S. Army helicopter pilot, losing both of her legs and damaging her right arm. She was the first female double amputee from the war. She still continues to serve as a Lt. Colonel in the Army National Guard.

What's on TTAP coming up?

Texas Assistive Technology Network (TATN) Statewide Conference:

June 9 - 10, 2015 at Region 4 ESC, Houston, TX

<http://www.texasat.net>

Abilities Expo The event for the disability community:

Houston July 31 – August 2 2015 NRG Center (Formerly Reliant Center) Hall E

Fri 11am-5pm; Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun. 11am-4pm

<http://www.abilities.com/houston/>

Feedback from Clients, from Satisfaction Surveys for Loan Program:

Speech-Language Pathologist: "Excellent customer service; quick delivery, adequate trial period, free shipping – WOW! Thank you SO much!"

Individual: "This is an excellent piece technology. I even recognized my thick Yorkshire accent which is better than a lot of people can do"

Forensic Psychologist: (For a Federal trial, for use with a deaf inmate) "Thank you so much for making this device available. It was a great success!"

Individual: "Can't believe you are so generous. Meant the world to us to be able to communicate with our son. This new device is on its way. We had a very good experience."

Individual: "Thank you very much for your help. Blessed are we because people like you."

Just for Laughs:

Two small boys hold a payphone hand receiver in curiosity and the quote says: "they call it a phone...but how did Mom and Dad play Angry Birds?"

Texas Technology Access Program. TTAP values your input.

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

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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

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