

June 2016
Vol 30
The Quarterly Journal of the Texas Technology Access Program
TTAP

Summer 2016

(Left to center is a glowing orange and yellow photograph of a cowboy silhouette in a country field with the sun setting in the background behind a barbed wire fence.)

In this Issue:

Technology for Traveling
Accessible Horseback Riding
Camps with Accessibility
Abilities Expo Feature
Demo Center Feature
Morgan's Wonderland (Accessible Amusement Park)
Eye Injury Prevention & Cataract Awareness Months
New Technology in Demonstration Centers
Just for Laughs

Welcome to TTAP (Texas Technology Access Program) and our Newsletter! This summer we have some new things sizzling and happy to share what may interest, or benefit you. We thank you for your support of our services. If you have any ideas or suggestions that you'd like to see us publish please feel free to let us know and email: Olivia Rains orains@austin.utexas.edu

Headline: Technology News! (Image of ATAP logo purple, dark gold and green)
"Free Webinars by ATAP!"

The Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP), now has links to the newest information and Communication Technology Accessibility webcast. These Webcasts are free and cover a variety of topics, to check out their webinar page click here: <http://ataporg.org/ICTWebinars/Default.aspx>

(Headline "Technology for Traveling" over a yellow orange sunset through a cloud silhouette and an airplane flying out the side of the image.)

Are you getting on a plane to travel out of the country for your vacation this summer? Or, maybe taking a train to places closer to home? Or, perhaps a lengthy road trip in a vehicle? Assistive Technology might come in useful, here are some examples of how technology might put your mind at ease and be of some assistance:

Apps and travel go together like summer and pool time. There are so many app choices out there with very different uses when it comes to travel. I'm going to skip the travel booking apps and get straight to the apps that you'll use while you're actually in the car. From driving directions and dog-friendly restaurants to last minute hotels and crazy road side attractions your kids will love—pack these handy road trip apps to keep the drive smooth, steady and fun. There are lots of apps that can enhance your travelling experience, here are some examples:

Triposo

(Free, iPhone, iPad and Android)

Though there are travel-guide apps from existing publications (such as Wallpaper* City Guides and Condé Nast Traveler), none are so optimized for mobile as Triposo. International information can often be outdated, but this app from two 'ex-Googlers' who claim to 'have an algorithmic approach to travel' has access to information on 8,000 destinations using sources from wikitravel and openstreetmap, and is remarkably accurate. An internet connection is not needed to access the guide and useful features include a currency converter, phrase book and active suggestions for exploration dependent on the day, weather and opening hours.

HearPlanet

(Available on iPhone + iPad (\$3.99) and Android (\$0.99))

Handy though they may be, the trouble with guidebooks – and indeed their digital equivalents – is that digging through them to find the information you're after invariably means less time appreciating the thing you actually came to see. This innovative bit of software solves the problem by reading the information (farmed from Wikipedia and its own database) directly into your ears. It's a bit like one of those audio guides they hand out at museums, then, only better for your street cred. The free version has no offline functionality.

Triplt

(Free, iPhone and iPad)

Whether your journey is for a few days or several months, keeping track of trip details is a universal pain. Triplt offers an easy solution, saving your itineraries in a simple, scannable format on your smartphone. Simply email your flight, hotel, or car rental confirmations to Triplt and the app will organize everything for you. Say goodbye to the tattered folder and endless paper jumbled at the bottom of your bag.

Urbanspoon

(Free, iPhone, iPad and Android)

Urbanspoon scans your location and helps you find the closest restaurants, bars and more. You can search by type, price and rating. Good for anyone looking to try something new on the fly.

XE Currency

(Free, iPhone, iPad and Android)

Traveling outside of the country? XE Currency is the ultimate financial companion for world travelers. It gets live currency data and includes a calculator so you know exactly how much that 20 reais taxi journey is costing you or what kind of deal you're getting at the bank. Saves data for offline use as well.

Transit

(Free, iPhone, iPad and Android)

Transit App • Real-Time Tracker & Directions for Bus, Subway and Metro including Offline Schedules. Open up the app and boom: upcoming departure times for all nearby transit lines are right there,

displayed in big text and bright colors. Plan your trip, set reminders, and get notified about disruptions. Know when your next subway or bus is arriving with real-time predictions. View schedules and route itineraries. Even offline. Browse real-time service advisories, and subscribe to push notifications for disruptions that may affect your commute (in select cities). See exactly where your transit vehicle is on the map in real-time. Schedule alarms and get reminders before your bus or train arrives. (*wherever real-time info is available from transit agencies. *continued use of GPS running in the background can dramatically decrease battery life.)

LiveTrekker
(iOS, Android)

If you're traveling for pleasure, rather than business, check out LiveTrekker, which keeps a detailed record of your travels, complete with a map track and geotagged photos, videos and audio. Users can livelog their trek, or organize it all for uploading in the cloud later. Users can manage multiple trip logs, search through their media, and share their trip logs online with friends and family. It can be a bit of a data hog, and continued use of GPS can drain your battery faster, but LiveTrekker does make for a nice vacation-logging app.

Want to keep your kids busy and learning on the road trip in the car, or on the flight? Here are some apps for the in-between time you have while traveling:

LumiKids Park by Lumosity, Early Learning Play for Kids
(iPad, free)

Age: 3
Quality: 4/5
Learning: 4/5

LumiKids Park by Lumosity, Early Learning Play for Kids is the first venture into kids' territory from a lab that specializes in creating cognitive workouts for grown-ups. Before kids can play, parents need to provide the kid's birth month and year and gender. Then, kids enter the LumiKids Park, a whimsical playground where kids can interact with various features or choose from three mini-games to play; each game focuses on a different basic cognitive skill such as attention and memory, sorting or visual motor coordination, and the game adapts to your kid's progress. Some games also allow multiple fingers, so a parent or sibling can play along. The music and the little monster blobs are cute, but, after a while, sound effects can get annoying; however, this is more likely to bother grown-ups than kids. Parents can provide their email addresses to receive very basic weekly reports on their kid's progress.

StoryLines
(iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, free)

Age: 8
Quality: 4/5
Learning: 3/5

StoryLines is a creative app designed for multiple players, through pass-and-play or Facebook. The first player is encouraged to write a well-known saying (he or she can submit any sentence) and then pass it on to the next player. The second player draws a picture to go with the original sentence and then passes it along to a third player. The third player is asked to write a caption for what the second player has drawn. This goes on for anywhere from three to nine rounds. At the end, the entire StoryLine is

revealed, and it's fun to see how the original saying was interpreted and re-interpreted with each round. Since this is a free-write and free-draw app, it is possible that players will write/draw inappropriate things. Players can also use this as a group storytelling experience for more creative play.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Friends: First Words
(\$3 for iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad)

Age: 2

Quality: 4/5

Learning: 3/5

The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Friends: First Words is a mash-up of Eric Carle illustrations in a digital pop-up book that teaches words. Language options include English, Spanish, French, simplified Chinese and German, so the book app can be used with toddlers learning a first language or with any age learning new languages. Though the interface is easy enough that preschoolers could use it on their own, the parent section explains that it's designed to be explored by kids and parents together.

LumiKids Park by Lumosity, Early Learning Play for Kids
(iPad, free)

Age: 3

Quality: 4/5

Learning: 4/5

LumiKids Park by Lumosity, Early Learning Play for Kids is the first venture into kids' territory from a lab that specializes in creating cognitive workouts for grown-ups. Before kids can play, parents need to provide the kid's birth month and year and gender. Then, kids enter the LumiKids Park, a whimsical playground where kids can interact with various features or choose from three mini-games to play; each game focuses on a different basic cognitive skill such as attention and memory, sorting or visual motor coordination, and the game adapts to your kid's progress. Some games also allow multiple fingers, so a parent or sibling can play along. The music and the little monster blobs are cute, but, after a while, sound effects can get annoying; however, this is more likely to bother grown-ups than kids. Parents can provide their email addresses to receive very basic weekly reports on their kid's progress.

Reading Rainbow
(iPad, Kindle Fire, basic version free)

Age: 4

Quality: 5/5

Learning: 5/5

Reading Rainbow offers a library of books to users, themed according to a child's interests (action adventures, magical tales, etc.). Kids can choose to have a book read aloud to them or to read the book themselves. To access more than five books, however, you'll have to subscribe to the app: \$10 for one month, \$30 for six months or \$50 for one year—all on a recurring.

(Visit our Loan Program to see all of the assistive technology we have that you might want to borrow and try out on your next trip, including Tablets with apps! We have technology covering all disabilities from low tech to high tech. Be sure to check out if any of our devices may be helpful for your vacation

this summer and give you the independence and accessibility you want!
<http://tatp.edb.utexas.edu/loan.php>)

(Title "Accessible Horseback Riding" over an image showing the top half of a saddled tan horse's back including blanket, with leather saddle of and a rope tied up to the saddle.)

Have you wanted to try horseback riding, but didn't know where to start?

A growing number of physical and occupational therapists are using horses in treatment, contending that the physical rigors of riding strengthen the limbs and muscles of people with cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, paraplegia and other disabilities. And some proponents of therapeutic riding go even further, asserting that the emotional bonding and mental discipline involved can help children with autism and patients with addictions and a range of emotional and behavioral problems. While the concept of riding as therapy is not new, the notion of horses as healers who can touch troubled souls is attracting a wave of attention in popular culture. Films and best-selling books portray horses as full-fledged characters, with their own personalities, emotions and wounded psyches.

Buck Brannaman, a horse trainer from Sheridan, Wyo., who was one of the models for the Redford character, speaks almost mystically of the powers of horses. "Horses," he said, "are incredibly forgiving. They fill in places we're not capable of filling ourselves. They've given people a new hope, a new lease on life. A horse really wants to please you, to get along."

A handful of psychologists are even using horses in treating a variety of mental and emotional problems, from troubled teen-agers and young sex offenders to the sexually abused and people with anorexia. These psychologists say riding gives troubled people feelings of being in control and teaches power through gentle behavior. Antisocial teen-agers must curb aggressive behavior to win a horse's cooperation. Victims of abuse can develop trust in a horse.

(Excerpts from full article by Barbara Stewart from The New York Times at
<http://www.nytimes.com/1998/06/20/nyregion/healing-with-power-horses-therapists-use-riding-help-treat-disabilities.html?pagewanted=all>)

Interested in trying Horseback Riding this summer?! Here just a few places in Texas that provide Horseback Riding with accessibility:

Heart of Texas Therapeutic Riding Center, 848 E. White Oak Rd., West, Tx 76691,
<http://www.hottrc.org/>

Born2Be Therapeutic Equestrian Center, 3575 Sauls Road, Aubrey, Tx 76227,
<http://www.born2betec.org/>

The Saddle Light Center, 17530 Old Evans Rd, Selma, Tx 78154, <http://thesaddlelightcenter.com/>

For a complete list of Texas Accessible Horseback Riding Centers, you can go to this link:

<http://www.texashorsemandirectory.com/TherapeuticRiding.html>

(Title “Summer Camp” over a computer graphic design image of wooden panel in front of summer blue sky with clouds held by a chain above long green grass with light pink flowers to the sides and on the grass the title “Looking for a Camp that is accessible?”.)

Did you know that Texas has over 50 camps with accessibility for therapy, Brain injury, Cancer, Diabetes, Speech and Learning, Vision loss, Hearing loss, Grieving loss, Neuromuscular diseases, Epilepsy, Cognitive challenges, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Spina Bifida, and various other disabilities including all age ranges!!!!

If you’re looking for a camp to attend this summer for long term or just a day, there are tons of options for you or your family! Find one that fits your needs and check them out today!

For a full list of Texas camps click here:

<http://tatp.edb.utexas.edu/documents/TexasCamps2016.pdf>

Spotlight on TTAP Demonstration Centers:

Project Mend Medical Equipment Reuse

(image of a flashlight showing its light flow towards the title of the demonstration center.)

Project MEND serves Texans by providing a variety of donated and refurbished medical equipment items to low income persons with disabilities. Project MEND takes in donations of used medical equipment. They repair, refurbish and professionally sanitize the equipment and then inventory and warehouse it for redistribution to individuals living with disabilities. Equipment is available to low income persons at a cost of \$20 application fee. Oftentimes, this fee is covered by community agencies upon qualification.

Through their Assistive Technology (AT) services, Project MEND helps clients pay for specialized or fitted devices. Project MEND assists with a maximum of \$1000 per child or youth client and \$500 per adult client, for the purchase of these items. We have established partnerships with various medical equipment companies, prosthetic and orthotic agencies and labs that enable the purchase these items at a reduced rate.

Project MEND has been serving the DME and AT needs of persons with disabilities in San Antonio and Bexar County since 1993.

Some examples of these items are:

- Adaptive switches
- Communication equipment
- Tools for independent living
- Mobility aids
- Orthotic or prosthetic equipment
- Seating aids

- Sensory enhancements
- Therapy
- Transportation assistance

Products include: Wheelchairs, Home Hospital Beds, Hoyer Lifts, Bedside Commodes, Tub Transfer Benches, Rollators, Scooters, Power Chairs, Shower Benches.

Call their Intake Specialist at 210-223-6363 for information and availability of the equipment you need. To arrange for a donation pick up, please contact our warehouse at 210-223-7283.

Their website is: <http://www.projectmend.org>

Located at: 5727 W I-10, San Antonio, Texas 78201

Accessible Amusement Park

In graphic yellow letters with a shadow reads "Morgan's Wonderland."

Not sure what to do for your summer, or where to go? Looking for something fun to do in state with accessibility?! Have you heard of Morgan's Wonderland? Morgan Hartman, daughter of Gordon and Maggie Hartman, got inspired when they witnessed their daughter's desire to play with other vacationing kids at a hotel swimming pool, but the kids were leery of Morgan and how to interact with her. At that point Gordon decided he would find and create a place where those with or without disabilities would be able to come together and have a better understanding for one another. This is what led to the creation of Morgan's Wonderland! Morgan's Wonderland has welcomed more than 1 million guests from all 50 states and 65 countries through park participation and special events. There is a Carousel, Off-Road Adventure ride, Wonderland Express and Depot, Wheelchair Swings, Whirling Wonder ride, A Sensory Village and even a Starlight Amphitheater, and so much more!

For more information on Morgan's Wonderland visit their website at:

<http://www.morganswonderland.com/> Here is a drawn and colored map of Morgan's Wonderland and a list of the points of interest.

(Image of a satellite view map of Morgan's Wonderland with a list of park's different features and contact information.)

What's coming up?

Abilities Expo, the Nation's Largest Event for the Disability Community, is Coming to Houston on July 31-August 2

(Abilities Expo logo reading: The event for the disability community"

For more than three decades, Abilities Expo has succeeded in improving the lives of Americans with disabilities, their families, caregivers and healthcare professionals. This unique forum features three days of cutting-edge products and services, compelling workshops, fun-for-the-whole-family activities and has become the leading event for the community of people with disabilities (PWDs).

Abilities Expo reaches out to all ages and all sectors of the Community including wounded veterans, persons recovering from immobilizing accidents, seniors with age-related health concerns, children with disabilities, individuals with mobility and spinal issues, people who have vision and hearing impairments, people with developmental disabilities and many more. Whether your challenges are mild or severe, this is your event.

Register for FREE here: <http://www.abilities.com/houston/vregister.html>

(Image of a blurred ocean scene and a pair of heart shaped sunglasses being held up over the shore waves coming in and above the sunglasses reads: "Sun Protection".)

July is Eye Injury Prevention Month

More than one million people suffer from eye injuries each year in the United States. Ninety percent of these injuries could have been prevented if the individual had been wearing appropriate protective eyewear.

Eye Injury FAQs

1. During July's Eye Injury Prevention Month, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Eye M.D.s around the country encourage everyone to protect their eyes from accidental injury. With the holiday July 4th and fireworks, safety is often forgotten and most important in preventing injuries. Check out these facts:

Accidental eye injury is one of the leading causes of visual impairment in the United States.

Approximately one million eye injuries occur each year in the United States.

Ninety percent of these injuries are preventable.

The leading causes of eye injuries include sports accidents, consumer fireworks, household chemicals and battery acid, as well as workshop and yard debris.

2. Learn to protect yourself from serious eye injuries by taking a few simple precautions.

Wear safety goggles when working in the workshop or yard, jump-starting your car or working with cleaning or other chemicals.

Always wear appropriate protective eyewear during sports and recreational activities. Your Eye M.D. can recommend the right eye protection for your sport.

Fireworks can cause devastating injuries to users and bystanders. Never use them at home - attend only professional fireworks displays.

August is Cataract Awareness Month

Cataract is the leading cause of blindness in the world. There are close to 22.3 million Americans age 40 and older with cataracts. More than half of all Americans will have cataracts by age 80.

Prevent Blindness America will offer tips about prevention and information about surgery.

The exact cause of a cataract is unknown. Most often, a cataract is part of getting older. As you age, you are at greater risk of developing a cataract. There are also several possible risk factors for cataracts, such as:

- Intense heat or long-term exposure to UV rays from the sun
- Certain diseases, such as diabetes
- Inflammation in the eye
- Hereditary influences
- Events before birth, such as German measles in the mother
- Long-term steroid use
- Eye injuries
- Eye diseases
- Smoking

(Green and turquoise lettering reads: "What's your UV:IQ?")

Protecting your eyes

UV rays can also penetrate the structures of your eyes and cause cell damage. According to the CDC, some of the more common sun-related vision problems include cataracts, macular degeneration, and pterygium (non-cancerous growth of the conjunctiva that can obstruct vision).

Wear a wide-brimmed hat to protect your vision, wear a wide-brimmed hat that keeps your face and eyes shaded from the sun at most angles.

Wear wrap-around style sunglasses with 99 or higher UV block-Effective sunglasses should block glare, block 99 to 100% of UV rays, and have a wraparound shape to protect eyes from most angles.

(Article excerpts taken from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and medicinenet.com with permission from www.aao.org)

Title in Blue writing with red shadowing reads: "New Technology in the Demonstration Centers"

UPDATE!!!! We now have new assistive technology out in our demonstration centers across Texas!

(Three images in a row: one is of two iPads next to one another one white and one black, the next is the new Ubi Duo, and the third is the new Victor Stream.

New iPads, Ubi Duo's, Victor Streams! To find the demonstration center nearest you please visit our website at: <http://tatp.edb.utexas.edu/demo3.html> Then contact them about trying out the new technology!

(Title reads: "Feedback" over an image of looking down at a person typing on a laptop and left of the laptop is a notebook, right of the laptop is an iPhone and a cup of black coffee above that.)

Feedback from Our Loan Program borrowers:

"Thank you so much for this great opportunity, an amazing experience."

"Yes it surely did help her. We've already made contact with DARS on her desire for purchase! Thanks much"

"It was so very helpful!!! Thank you so much. The family and I cannot thank you enough!"

"Thank you again for your time and support. We are grateful for your program."

Logo "What starts here changes the world. The University of Texas at Austin"

TTAP logo: Texas Technology Access Program

TTAP Demonstration Centers

- REACH of 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
- Project MEND, San Antonio
- REACH of Dallas
- RISE Center for Independent Living, Beaumont
- VAIL – Valley Association for Independent Living, McAllen

This publication was made possible by Grant Number 90AG0019-01-00 from the Administration for Community Living. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the HHS.