Accessibility Tools for Reading: Meeting the Diverse Needs of All Readers

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Minnesota Library Association

Welcome

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PACER has programs for children and adults with all types of disabilities, as well as their parents, families, and the professionals that work with them.

The Simon Technology Center (STC)

We work to make the benefits of technology more accessible to children and adults with disabilities.

Services:
• Information and referral
• Lending library
• Free tech consultations
• Individualized trainings
• Archived workshop videos

Call PACER at 952-838-9000 and ask for the Simon Technology Center.
What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

Assistive Technology (AT) is:
...Any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is purchased commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized
...And is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a person with a disability.

Outline of Today’s Topic

Reading
• Formats: Print / Digital / Audiobooks
• Tools for...
  • Visual appearance
  • Magnification
  • OCR and text-to-speech
• Hand-outs
  • List of resources
  • Technology list

What comes to mind when you think of accessibility in the library?

• Large print books?
• Elevators?
• Wheelchair access?

What software do your library computers have to increase accessibility?

• JAWS?
• MAGic Pro?
• Chrome?
• Others?
Who are you serving?

- Invisible disabilities
- Visible disabilities
- Aging population

What are your library users reading?

- Textbooks
- Worksheets / handouts
- Literature
  - Novels, short stories, poems, plays
  - Non-fiction books
- Library research material
- Internet
- Magazines or newspapers

Specialized Formats

- Braille
- Audio
- Large Print
- Digital

Locally Created

- Optical Character Recognition (OCR)
- Creation of specialized formats
  - Text to audio conversion
  - Modify visual display of text
  - Convert to braille
- Be mindful of copyright law
- Chafee Amendment
- Fair Use
- "Publisher permission should be requested" - AEM.cast.org

http://aem.cast.org/about/what-are-aem-accessible-technologies.html#_1XD5eulVKhpg
Tools for Reading Print Text
– Visual Appearance

- Reading Helpers
- See-N-Read
- Colored Overlays

Tools for Reading Print Text
– Magnification

Optelec Compact 6 HD
Optelec Traveller HD

Tools for Reading Print Text
– Audio and OCR (optical character recognition)

- C-Pen Reader
- IRIScan Book 3
- Orcam MyReader

Apps for Reading Print and Digital Text

- Prizmo / Prizmo Go
- Claro ScanPen
- Office Lens
- Capti Voice
Software for Reading Print and Digital Text

Scan and read with text-to-speech
- Read&Write Gold
- Kurzweil

Website Reading Experience Customizations with Chrome

Chrome extensions
- ATBar
- Dyslexia Friendly
- Read&Write for Google
- EasyReader
- AdBlock

Reading Digital/Audio Books

Public library options (available in the Metro counties):
- OverDrive
- Libby
- cloudLibrary
- RBdigital
- Hoopla Digital

Apps for Reading Digital Text – Text-to-Speech

- Kindle app (with screen reader)
- PocketBook Reader
- Bookari Ebook Reader Premium
- Dolphin EasyReader (not DRM; other libraries)

Adobe’s List of other applications compatible with Adobe Digital Editions DRM files
Questions & Wrap Up

Questions?
For more information, contact the Simon Technology Center at PACER:
Call 952-838-9000
Email stc@pacer.org
Visit http://www.pacer.org/stc/

Thank you for joining us today!