

Creating a Successful AT Lab for Conferences

Carolyn Phillips, Liz Persaud, & Martha Rust
Tools for Life
ATIA 2015

www.gatfl.gatech.edu

For Handouts: <http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki>



Today's Session

Have you ever wondered how to create a successful AT Solutions Lab at a state conference, international conference, or conferences geared toward a specific group? Come to this session and learn how! For the past 18 years, Tools for Life have been able to host a successful lab at a variety of different conference including but not limited to: Statewide conference covering all disabilities, conferences focusing on learning disabilities, conferences focusing on neurodegenerative disabilities, and conferences that focus on the aging.



Today's Session

During this session, participants will learn the who, what, when, why and how to put one on yourself. Participants will come away with tools on how to set up a budget and creating partners to assist. They will also learn how to decide what equipment will be needed and how much equipment as well how to come up with a working schedule of who is in the AT Solutions Lab.



Accessibility Made Smart

AMAC creates practical solutions that work, with a focus on utility, ease of use, and high quality.

- **Accessibility Consulting** focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and website accessibility solutions.
- **Braille Services** produces customized projects from both print materials and electronic text including partial books and chapters or graphics only using cutting-edge technology.
- **Captioning Services** makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- **Professional E-Text Producers** provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML.
- **Certified Assistive Technology team** provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.

For more information, please visit our website at www.amacusg.org

Tools for Life

Georgia's Federal AT Act Program

- TFL developed Georgia's Plan for AT
- We serve individuals of all ages & all disabilities in Georgia
 - Over 50,000 thru various activities throughout the year
- TFL Network
 - Assistive Technology Resource & Outreach Centers
 - Lending Libraries
 - Training and Demonstrations
 - AT Reuse
 - AT Funding Education/Assistance and Resources
- Online Resources
 - www.gatfl.org - ~5,000 unique visitors a month



**Georgia
Tech**



TOOLS for LIFE
Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

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[ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY](#)

[TFL NETWORK](#)

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**FEB
26**

UGA Hotel & Convention Center
Athens, Georgia

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TOOLS FOR LIFE APPFINDER



...for Living, Learning, Working, and Playing.

AT ONLINE EXCHANGE



AT FUNDING GUIDE

[BOLLEAS & SENSE](#)



Tools for Life AppFinder

TFL AppFinder

Search by:

- ✓ **App Name**
- ✓ **Categories**

- Book
- Education
- Environmental Adaptations
- Hearing
- Cognition, Learning, Developmental
- Navigation
- Personal Care and Safety
- Productivity
- Communication
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[Meet the TFL Team](#)[Advisory Council](#)[Directions/Map](#)[Join our Mailing List](#)[Welcome](#)[AT Services](#)[Try AT](#)[Get AT](#)[AT Guides](#)[Research](#)**Welcome to Tools for Life**

Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.

Tools for Life and the TFL Network work collaboratively together to accomplish our mission through:

- [AT Demonstration](#)
- [AT Evaluations and Assessments](#)
- [AT Funding Options & Education](#)
- [Access to the TFL AT Lending Libraries](#)
- [AT & Durable Medical Equipment Reuse](#)
- [AT Training \(Individual\)](#)
- [AT Training \(Groups\)](#)

2013 IDEAS CONFERENCE

2013 Institute Designed for
Educating All Students Conference
June 3 - 6, 2013
Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island

- [Submit a Proposal](#)
- [Conference Website](#)
- [Exhibitor Details](#)

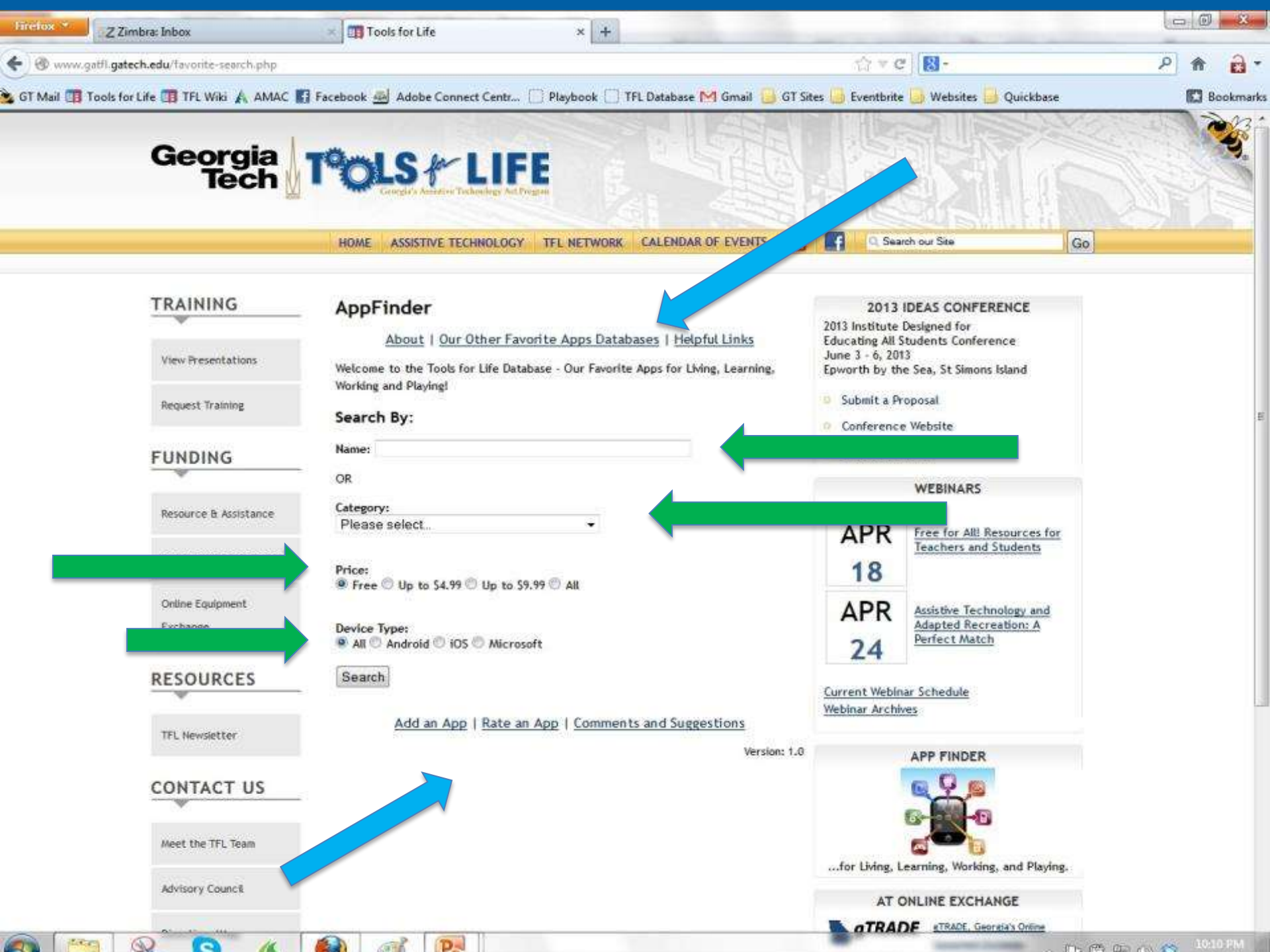
WEBINARS**APR
18**[Free for All! Resources for
Teachers and Students](#)**APR
24**[Assistive Technology and
Adapted Recreation: A
Perfect Match](#)[Current Webinar Schedule](#)
[Webinar Archives](#)**APP FINDER**

... Living, Learning, Working, and Playing.

AT ONLINE EXCHANGE

gTRADE [gTRADE, Georgia's Online
Equipment Exchange](#)

encourages members to offer AT and DME for sale or donation to others who may benefit from using technology unneeded by others.



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[About](#) | [Our Other Favorite Apps Databases](#) | [Helpful Links](#)

Welcome to the Tools for Life Database - Our Favorite Apps for Living, Learning, Working and Playing!

Search By:

Name:

OR

Category:
Please select...

Price:
☒ Free ☐ Up to \$4.99 ☐ Up to \$9.99 ☐ All

Device Type:
☒ All ☐ Android ☐ iOS ☐ Microsoft

[Add an App](#) | [Rate an App](#) | [Comments and Suggestions](#)

Version: 1.0

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WEBINARS

APR
18

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[Free for All! Resources for
Teachers and Students](#)

[Assistive Technology and
Adapted Recreation: A
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APP FINDER



...for Living, Learning, Working, and Playing.

AT ONLINE EXCHANGE

[aTRADE](#) [eTRADE](#) Georgia's Online

In the beginning...1997



What is an AT Lab?

- An AT Lab can be defined as:
 - An area providing a hands-on experience with AT
 - A place where AT is available to demo
 - Go-to place for problem solving and learning about strategies



Tools for Life AT Demo Lab

- Tablets
- Vision Items
- DME
- Communication
- Games
- Software
- Switches
- Keyboards



Tools for Life AT Demo Lab



Ten days with Google Glass

By [Will Shanklin](#)
December 23, 2013

14 Comments
7 Pictures

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Official Site. Visit Us Now & Save!
Designer Eyewear, Lenses, &
More.

36

Like

54

Tweet

22

8+1



4

Pin it

8

Share

submit

reddit



Email



Gizmag shares some more thoughts about being part of the Google Glass Explorer program

[Image Gallery](#) (7 images)

Here at Gizmag, we're very interested in the present and future of w tech. So we thought it was fitting to sign up for the Google Glass Ex program, to give you a better idea of what Sergey Brin and compa brewing up in Mountain View. Though we aren't quite ready to di proper Google Glass review, we want to share some more thou our first ten days with Glass.



My [first few days with Google Glass](#) were mostly about the self-

Review
smartwatch



What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology Device

...any item, piece of equipment or product that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

- Public Law 105-394 [29 USC 2201]

Low/No-tech

- pencil grip
- adapted books
- slant board
- highlighters, tape
- magnifiers
- color coding
- read to out loud
- picture schedule
- strategies for memory
- colored transparencies

Mid-Tech

- word prediction
- text to speech
- speech to text
- spell checkers
- talking calculators
- digital recorders
- organizers
- e-books
- adapted keyboard
- adapted mouse

High-Tech

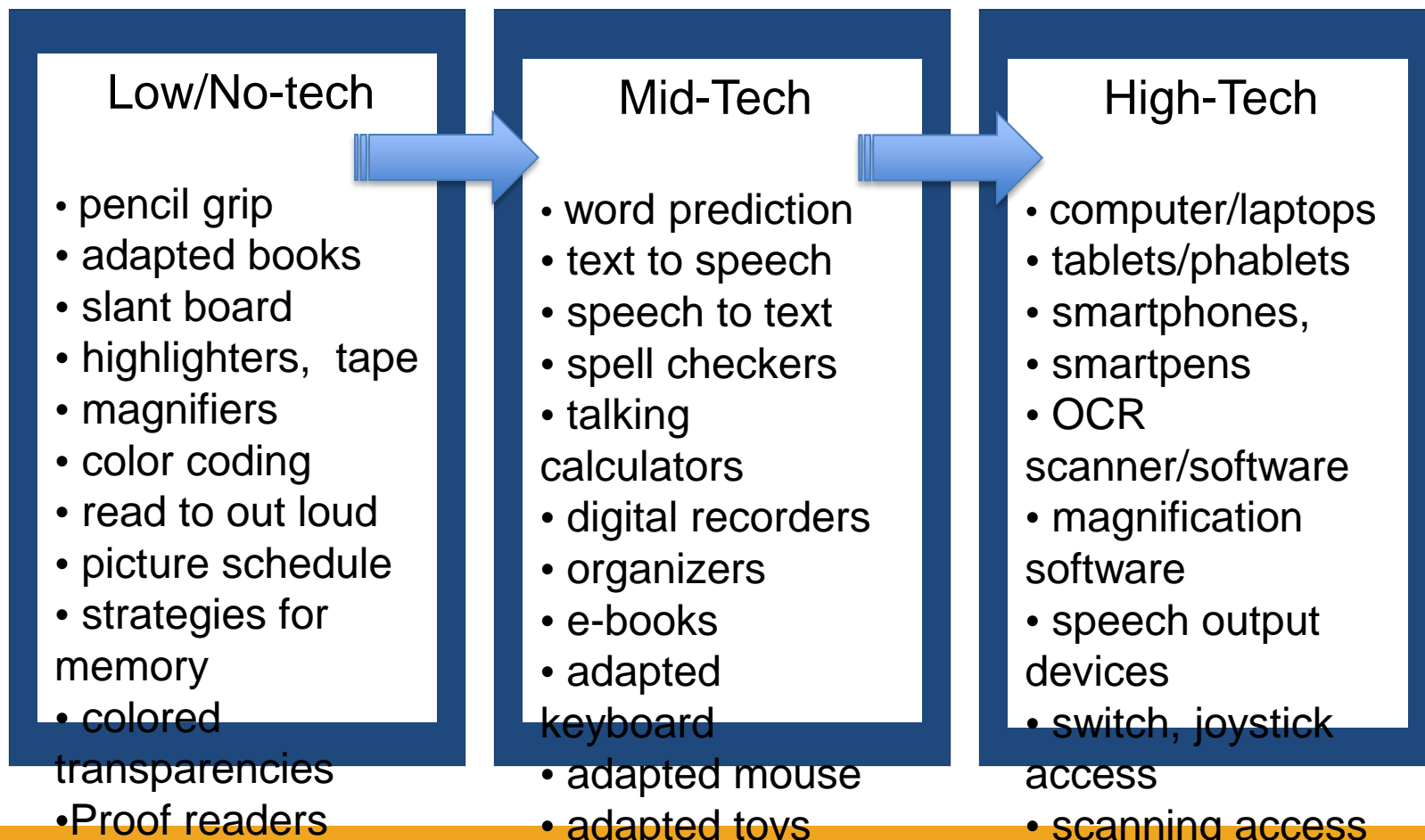
- computer/laptops
- tablets/phablets
- smartphones,
- smartpens
- OCR scanner/software
- magnification software
- speech output devices
- switch, joystick access



Assistive Technology Continuum

Observations, Feature Matching & “Hanging out with Intent”

Assistive Technology is a **continuum of tools, strategies, and services** that match a person’s needs, abilities and tasks.



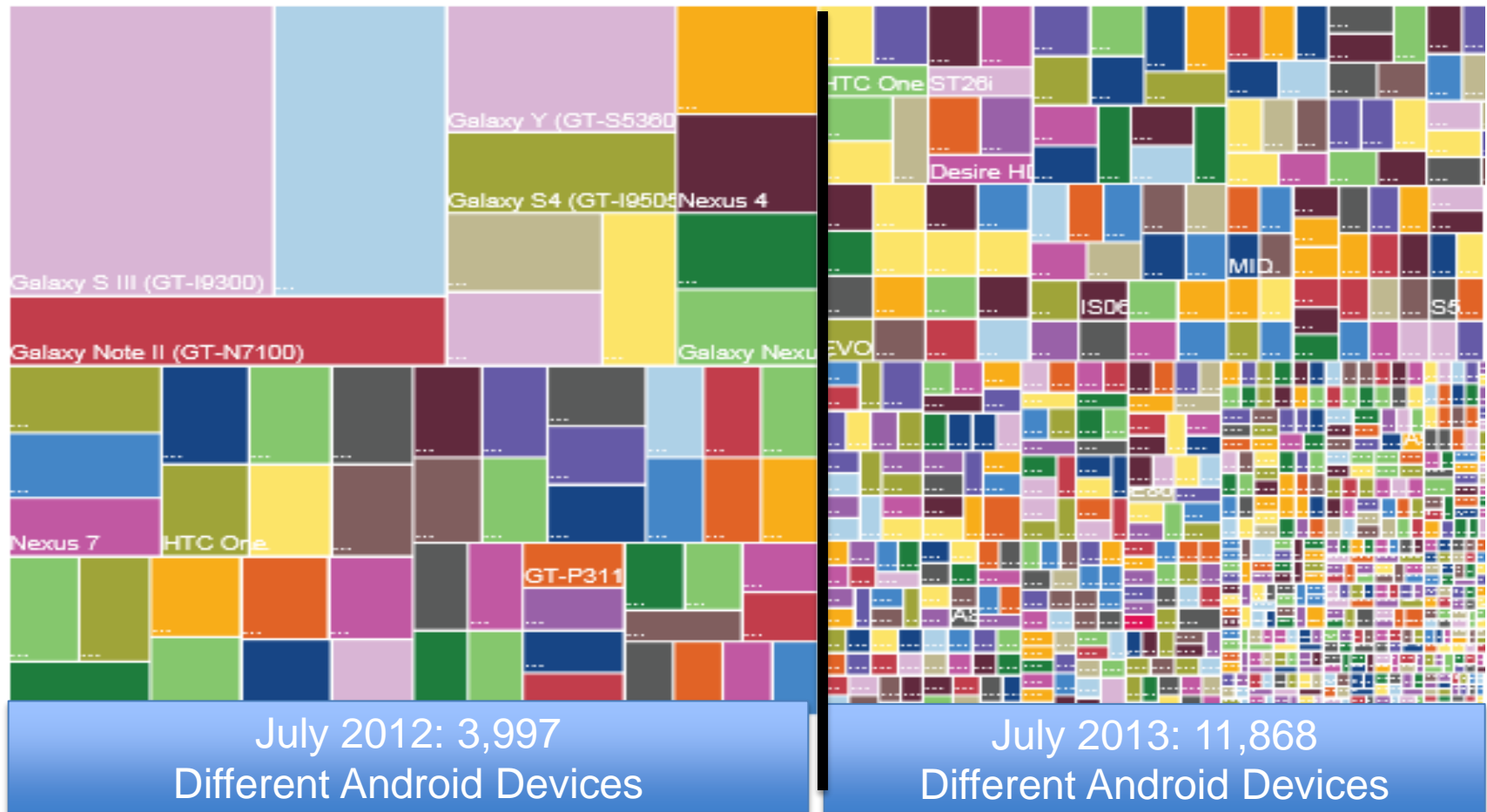
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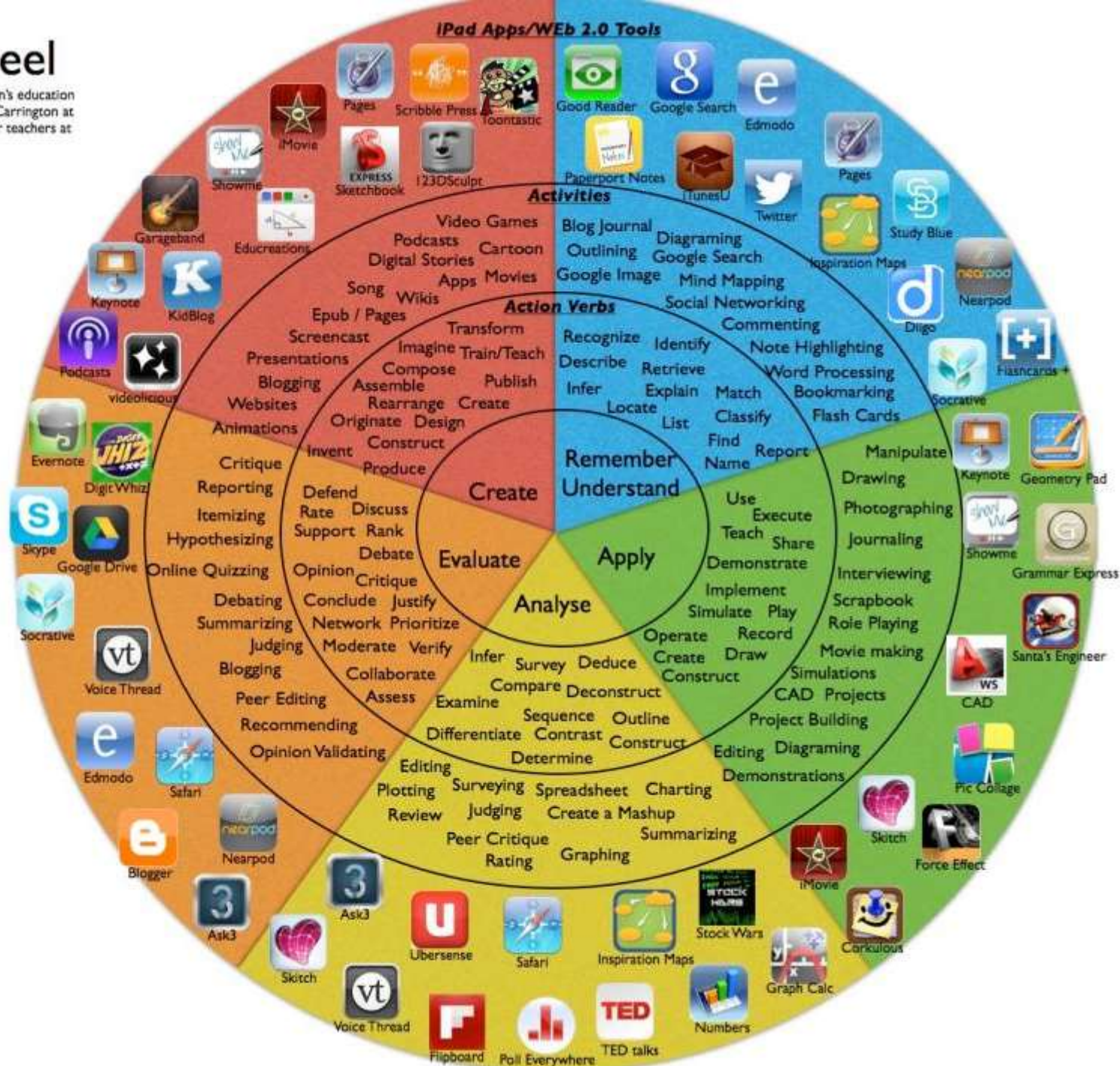


To this...

Android Device Fragmentation



Originally discovered on the website of Paul Hopkin's education consultancy site mmiweb.org.uk adopted by Allan Carrington at the University of Adelaide and further modified for teachers at Zeeland Public Schools.



Exploring Assistive Technology:

Features, Strategies and Solutions

- **Try before you buy**



Define Your Goals

- Raise awareness about AT in general
- Raise awareness about AT for specific needs
- Market your program

Partner Up!

- Is there a sister program in that area?
- Can you partner with a local, regional or national conference?
- What is your overall goal?
- Who is the audience - Professionals, Parents, Users, etc.?





Budget & Other Things to Consider

- You need a budget
- Seek out Sponsorships to help offset costs
 - Travel to Event
 - Mileage
 - airfare
 - event cost
 - shipping

Costs to Consider

- Postage
 - Shipping
- Marketing
 - Design & Printing
- Electricity
 - Cords, chargers
- Wi-Fi
 - Daily rate or one time charge

Costs to Consider

- Table and chairs
- Portage for boxes
 - Some hotels or event center will charge to hold items or carry across exhibit hall floor
- Extra materials
 - Table covers
 - extension cords
 - Additional signage

Use Online Tools

- Create a Wiki page, website or collaborative area to store & share all information
- Post who is Lead for what area
- Post Lab layouts & diagrams
- Post who is bringing what equipment
- Post schedule of AT Lab events including set-up and breakdown times

2015 International Learning Disabilities (LDA) Conference AT Solutions Lab - February 17-20 - Chicago, IL

Contents [hide]

- 1 AT Solutions Lab Partners
- 2 Presentations
- 3 DRAFT Schedule
- 4 AT Solutions Lab Layout
- 5 AT Solutions Lab Equipment List

AT Solutions Lab Partners

Creative, comprehensive use of technology and the Internet by students and teachers as the very best resource ever is the focus for the Technology Lab that will be available Wednesday through Friday at the LDA Conference.

The LDA|AMAC AT Solutions Lab and generously brought to you by:

- AMAC <http://www.amacusg.org/>
- Tools for Life <http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/>
- Georgia Institute of Technology <http://www.gatech.edu/>

- Washington Assistive Technology Act Program <http://watap.org/>
- University of Washington, Center for Technology and Disability Studies <http://uwctds.washington.edu/>

- Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP) <http://www.iltech.org/>

Presentations

Wednesday, February 18th

- Learning Disabilities & AT Solutions 101: An Overview - Phillips & Rust
- SNHU Presentation - NAO Robot
- Tea & Talk: Our Favorite Apps for Writing & Reading

Thursday, February 19th

- Presentation: Understanding Apps/Tablets Accessibility: Back to the Basics -Rust & Phillips
- Vendor Talk or Another Presentation
- Tea & Talk: Our Favorite Apps for Organization

Friday, February 20th

- Learning Disabilities & AT Solutions 102: Diving Deeper - Phillips & Rust
- Vendor Talk or Another Presentation
- Tea & Talk: Our Favorite Apps for Living - Phillips

DRAFT Schedule

Set up: Tuesday, February 17th 4:00 PM—8:00 PM (Everyone)- I don't anticipate this taking 4 hours.)

Wednesday, February 18th 9:30 AM—6:00 PM

- (Welcome reception / Continental Breakfast 9:00 AM)
- 9:30 AM—10:15 AM Dedicated exhibiting hours (Please, Contact Liz to Sign Up to Work this Shift)
- 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM Learning Disabilities & AT Solutions 101: An Overview
- 11:15 PM - 1:15 PM Open Lab Demo Time (Please, Contact Liz to Sign Up to Work this Shift)
- 1:15 PM—2:15 PM Presentation: SNHU - NAO Robot
- 2:15 PM - 3:30 PM Open Lab Demo Time (Please, Contact Liz to Sign Up to Work this Shift)
- 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM Tea & Talk: Our Favorite Apps – Writing & Reading (Martha Lead - Please, contact her to present with her)

Solutions Lab Layout

- LDA AT Solutions Lab
- DRAFT Basic LDA AT Solutions Lab Configuration

AT Solutions Lab Equipment List

ATP Equipment List

- 6 – iPod Touch (third and fourth generations)
- 8 – iPad / Mini (varying generations)
- 6 – Android Tablets (varying OS versions)
- 2 – Microsoft Surface Pro
- Kindle DX, Kindle keyboard WiFi, Kindle HDX
- 9 – PC Laptop Computers
- 3 – MacBooks
- 2 – Chromebook
- Software
 - JAWS
 - Window Eyes
 - OpenBook / PEARL
 - MAGic
 - ZoomText
 - Dragon Premium
 - Read and Write Gold
 - SOLO
 - Kurzweil 3000

ting /Reading Aids WATAP

AlphaSmart Dana/Neo

The Writer Plus

Eye-Pal Reader

Franklin Talking Dictionary

Quicktionary Reading Pen

Wizcom SuperPen Scanner

Optelec ClearReader +

2 – Intel Reader, one capture station

2 – KNFB Reader

2 – LiveScribe Pens, notebooks

We have a variety of hand held electronic magnifiers

-

Several writing pens/pencils

Wizzcom Reading pen

Franklin AnyBook Anywhere

Franklin Talking Dictionary

Magnifiers-3 mini with lights and one on stand

ner

TAP

Mounts

Ergonomics?

-

Talking Calculator

What types of AT

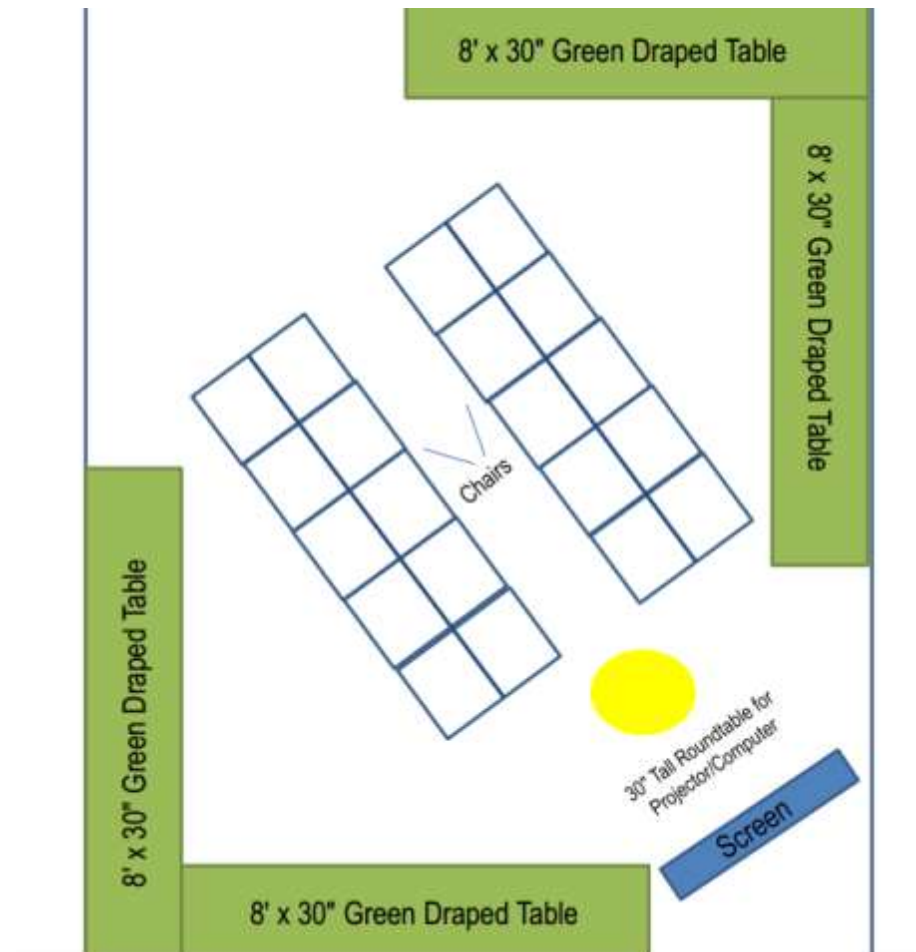
- Focus on the conference/event
- AT for the overall lifespan
 - Think outside the box
- Divide into categories
- Using AT inside booth
- Don't forget Ergonomics!



"Your attention to ergonomics is getting out of hand."

Layout

- Make sure it is accessible
 - Individuals can maneuver inside area
- Signs
 - Label areas
 - Make signs accessible
 - Braille
 - Different colors
 - QR Codes



Schedule

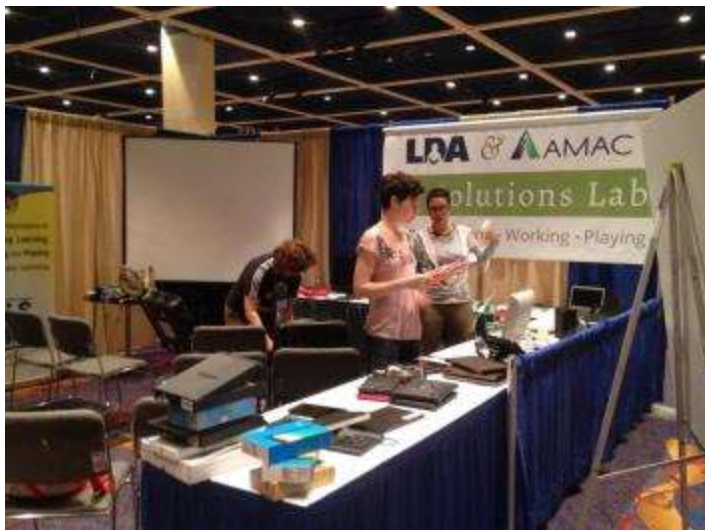
- What's going on in your AT Lab?
- Staff or other partner presentations
- Are you part of a larger Exhibit Hall? If so, include vendor presentations.
- Open lab time - allow participants to explore AT on their own
- "Tea & Talk" - problem solving, discussion opportunities



Helpful Tips



- Make sure that you have enough coverage spread amongst the team
 - Prevents burnout
 - Everyone can enjoy conference and attend sessions
 - Include a specific agenda
 - Let everyone sign up for preferred times. Allowing for staff and team members to use their strengths.





Marketing Before

- Advertise where possible
- Conference program, website, any promotional materials
- What other marketing avenues are provided? Think big! Commercials, billboards, magazine articles/ads, PSA's

AT Solutions Lab

Living • Learning • Working • Playing



Wednesday thru Friday, 10:15 AM – 5:00 PM

Come join us in the Exhibit Hall to experience:

- Low Tech and High Tech Solutions
- Open Demonstrations of Technology Devices
- Accessibility Tips and Tricks
- Assistive Technology Reading Solutions
- Assistive Technology Writing Solutions
- Favorite Apps to Learn and Share

Everyone Welcome!

Parents • Educators • Adults • Professionals



AT Solutions Lab

Living • Learning • Working • Playing

Wednesday, February 19th, 9:30 AM – 6:00 PM

EXHIBIT HALL

10:15 AM - 11:00 AM
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Learning Disabilities & Assistive Technology Solutions: An Overview
Open Lab Demo Time

AMAC SESSION - W16 (South Ballroom A)
Introducing The Assistive Technology Solutions Lab:
A Resource for Your Success - Kelley, Phillips & Rust
Tech Talk: Heidi Butkus with HeidiSongs

12:15 PM - 12:30 PM
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM
1:00 PM - 1:45 PM
1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

Open Lab Demo Time
Dedicated Exhibiting Hours

AT Supports for Reading & Writing across the Lifespan:
Children and Adolescents

2:45 PM - 3:00 PM
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Open Lab Demo Time
Dedicated Exhibiting Hours
Tea & Talk: Our Favorite Apps - Writing
Tech Talk: Vendor
Open Lab Demo Time

Thursday, February 20th, 9:30 AM—6:00 PM

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Dedicated Exhibiting Hours
Ergonomic Tips & Tricks:
Position for Success for Students with Learning Disabilities
Open Lab Demo Time

11:15 AM - 11:30 AM
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM
12:30 PM - 1:45 PM
1:45 PM - 3:00 PM
1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

AT Supports for Reading & Writing across the Lifespan: Adults
Tech Talk: Marydee Sklar with Executive Functioning Success

Dedicated Exhibiting Hours & Demo Time
Dedicated Exhibiting Hours & Demo Time

AMAC SESSION - T27 (Magic Kingdom Ballroom 3)

Understanding Apps and Tablets Accessibility:

Back to the Basics - Phillips & Rust

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Dedicated Exhibiting Hours
Tea & Talk: Our Favorite Apps - Reading
Tech Talk: Beth Lawrence with Communication APPTitude
App Share & Swap: What are Your Favorites?
Open Lab Demo Time

Friday, February 21st, 9:30 AM—3:00 PM

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM
10:15 PM - 12:00 AM
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Dedicated Exhibiting Hours
Learning Disabilities & Assistive Technology Solutions: An Overview
Dedicated Exhibiting Hours & Demo Time
Accessibility Tips & Tricks: Creating LD-Friendly Media
Dedicated Exhibiting Hours & Demo Time
Tech Talk: Vendor
Dedicated Exhibiting Hours
Tea & Talk: Our Favorite Apps for Living
Open Lab Demo Time



AT Solutions Lab

Living • Learning • Working • Playing

Wednesday, February 18th, 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Learning Disabilities & AT Solutions 101: An Overview,
Carolyn Phillips and Martha Rust

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Robot Therapy for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder
Southern New Hampshire University:
Presenters – Dr. Lundy Lewis and Dr. Nancy Charron

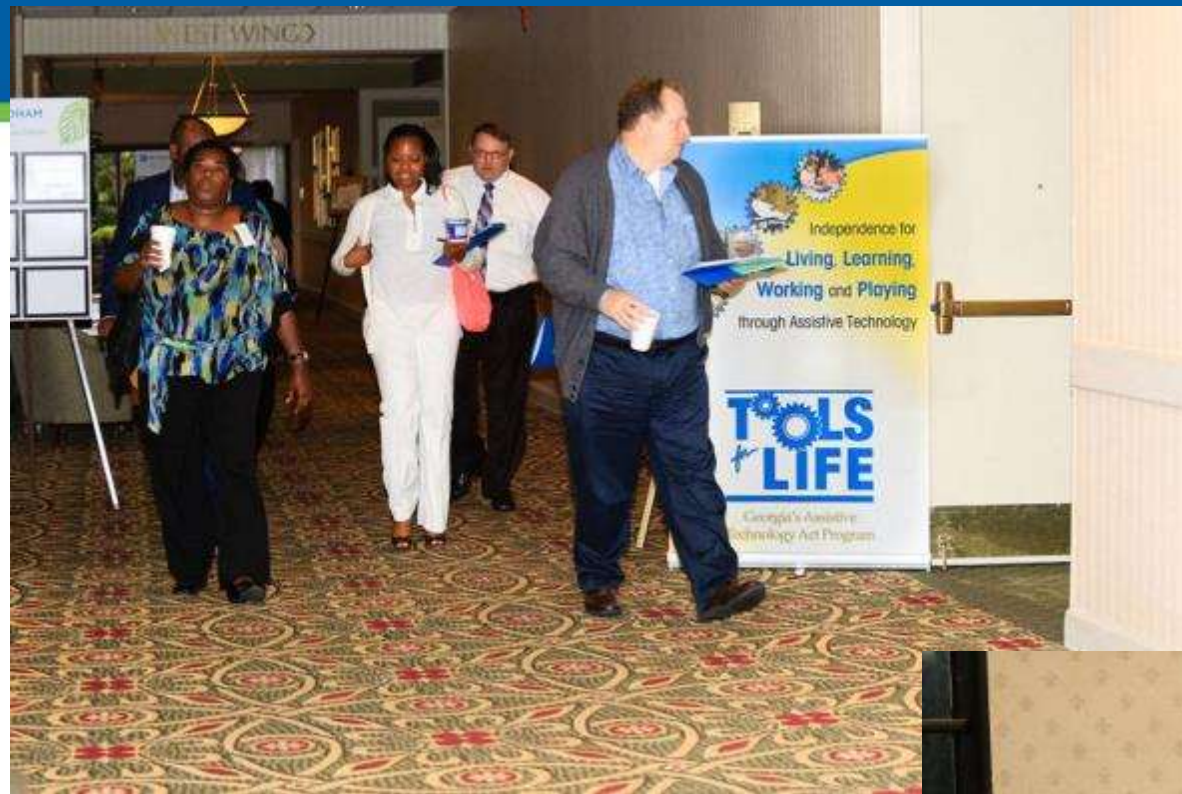
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Tea & Talk: Our Favorite Apps for Writing & Reading

Marketing During

- Advertise and talk about during the opening conference session
- Put signs everywhere!
 - Throughout conference hallways
 - During breaks
 - High-Traffic areas
- Videos





Collect Data!

***"If we don't have data, it didn't happen."
- Carolyn Phillips***

- Use This Data As a Learning Tool!
- What worked well?
- What can be improved?
- Provide a platform where participants can provide feedback.
- Listen & learn!
- 2014 LDA

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LDAATLAB>

LDA AT Solutions Lab

LIVING. LEARNING. WORKING. PLAYING

About You!

Next section will help us learn a little bit more about you and your background with AT.

What is your experience level with AT

☐ Beginner

☐ Intermediate

☐ Advanced

What is your role

☐ Person with learning disabilities

☐ Family member

☐ Teacher

☐ Employer

Participation in the AT Lab

The next section will help us learn about your activity in the AT Lab.

Did you participate in the:

	Loved it!	Liked it!	It was Ok	Didn't like it!
AT Solutions Lab Sessions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open Demo Time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tea & Talk Sessions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tech Talk Vendor Sessions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

More Thoughts

Did you learn more about AT from the Lab?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ If Yes, what did you learn?

We Want Your Feedback!

The next section will help us as we develop future AT Labs at LDA and other conferences.

8. Should we have an AT Solutions Lab at future LDA Conferences?

☐ Yes

☐ No

9. What AT would you like to see in future AT Labs?

☐ Apps

☐ Reading solutions

☐ Writing solutions

☐ Magnification solutions

☐ AT for Math

☐ AT for Organization

Please give us some more information:

10. Additional Comments about the AT Lab or anything else you would like for us to know

Contact



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Disclaimer

This presentation is produced by Tools for Life which is a result of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004. It is a program of the Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Architecture [COA], AMAC and is funded by grant #H224C030009 of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), Department of Education. The contents of this presentation were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, Georgia Tech, COA or AMAC and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal government.