



Getting and Using Accessible Instructional Materials (AIMS): What You Need to Know

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www.gatfl.org

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3:00 PM EST

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Presenters: Martha Rust and Liz Persaud, Tools for Life; Daphne Brookins, The Center for Financial Independence and Innovation/Credit-Able; Sally Atwell, Shepherd Center Benefits Navigator; and Naomi Walker, The Georgia Advocacy Office

What's Your Script? Assistive Technology and Writing

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Presenters: Ben and Pat Satterfield, Center 4 AT Excellence/CREATE

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AIMs

OBTAINING ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION IN GEORGIA

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Georgia Department of Education
September 10, 2013





Alphabet Soup



- **AIMS**-Accessible Instructional Materials
- **NIMAS**-National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard
- **NIMAC**-National Instructional Materials Access Center
- **IDEA**- Individuals with Disabilities Educational Improvement Act of 2004
- **NCLB**- No Child Left Behind aka ESEA
- **AMP**-Alternative Media Producer
- **NLS**-National Library Service





Alphabet Soup Continued

- **GIMC**- Georgia Instructional Materials Center. Your source for AIMs for K-12 Public Education in Georgia
- **LA**- Learning Ally (Formerly RFB& D)
- **DAISY**- Digital Accessible Information System- Bookshare and LA. MP3 formats also available from LA.
- **IEP**- Individual Education Program
- **LEA**- Local Education Agency
- **TTS-PDF**-Text-To-Speech- Portable Document Format. File allowing visual and audio access to a book for students with print disabilities
- **BRF**- Braille Ready Format- Bookshare



Legal Mandates for AIMS

- **ESEA-** Elementary and Secondary Education Act **AKA**
NCLB-No Child Left Behind
- **IDEA-** Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act 2004
 - **Both require state and local education agencies to ensure that all students, including those with disabilities receive the supports and services they need to access, participate, and achieve in the general education curriculum.**



IDEA 2004

- Requirement to provide AIMS
 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004
 - Requires that State Education Agencies (SEAs) and/or Local Education Agencies (LEAs) "will provide instructional materials to blind persons or other persons with print disabilities in a timely manner" (Part B, Sec. 612(a)(23)(B) and Sec. 613(a)(6)(B)).



Legal Mandates for AIMS

- Requirements to provide AIMS (cont.)
 - Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973
 - Funding recipients must provide "auxiliary aids to qualified students who have disabilities", and the Office of Civil Rights, United States Department of Education, has determined that Section 504 at 34 C.F.R. § 35.160 (Communication):
 - "...in this context to mean the transfer of information, including (but not limited to) the verbal presentation of a lecturer, **the printed text of a book**, and the resources of the Internet.



Legal Definition

- Blind persons or other persons with print disabilities
 - means children served under Part 300 who may qualify to receive books and other publications produced in specialized formats in accordance with the Act entitled “An Act to Provide Books for the Adult Blind,” approved March 3, 1931, 2 U.S.C. 135a. [34 CFR 300.172(e)(1)(i)] [20 U.S.C. 1474(e)(3)(A)]



Legal Mandates for AIMS

- Chafee Amendment to U.S. Copyright Law
 - 1996 Amendment to the copyright law (17 U.S.C. § 121 [1]). This enables nonprofit organizations or governmental agencies to provide alternative accessible copies of previously published nondramatic literary works in specialized formats exclusively for use by blind or other persons with disabilities. Amended again in 2004 by IDEA to include large print textbooks.



WHAT ARE AIMs?

- Accessible Instructional Materials (AIMs)
 - Accessible Instructional Materials include specialized and alternate formats of curricular content that can be used by and with print-disabled learners.
 - Specialized Formats
 - Formats which do not alter or modify the content of the original printed material.
 - Braille
 - Audio
 - Large Print
 - Electronic Text formats - PDF and DAISY



What are Alternative Formats?

- Accessible Instructional Material (cont.)
 - Alternate Formats
 - Formats which substantially modify the content of printed materials.
 - Books with modified vocabulary or reading level.
 - Books with communication symbols.
 - Functional books adapted for students with severe intellectual deficits.
 - <http://gadoe.georgiastandards.org/impairment.aspx> look for “**Access to the GPS: Electronic Resource Board**”
 - The GIMC provides a number of adapted stories for students with significant cognitive disabilities.



Eligibility, Certification, and Documentation

- Determining the need for AIMS
 - For students with disabilities who qualify for special education services, the IEP team is responsible for determining the need for accessible instructional materials.
 - For students with disabilities who do not qualify for special education services but who qualify for accommodations under a Section 504 Plan, the Student Support Team is responsible for determining the need for accessible instructional materials.



Eligibility, Certification, and Documentation

- Students with disabilities who are blind or other print disabled are eligible to receive accessible instructional materials in specialized formats. Other print disabled includes students who are visually impaired, physically disabled, or reading disabled due to organic brain dysfunction.
 - This definition is referenced by IDEA 2004 regarding the use of NIMAS files from the NIMAC and the 1996 Chafee Amendment to the US copyright law.
 - Even if a student does not qualify under this definition the school is still obligated to provide AIMs if the IEP team or SST team determines that they are necessary.



Eligibility, Certification, and Documentation

- Determining Eligibility
 - In order for a student who is blind or has other print disabilities to be determined eligible for accessible instructional materials, the student's eligibility must be certified by a **competent authority**.



Eligibility, Certification, and Documentation

- Competent Authority
 - In the cases of blindness, visual disability, or physical limitations “competent authority” is defined to include doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, ophthalmologists, optometrists, registered nurses, therapists, and professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or private welfare agencies. (36 CFR 701.6(b)(2)).
 - In the case of a reading disability from organic brain dysfunction, “competent authority” is defined as doctors of medicine or osteopathy who may consult with colleagues in associated disciplines.



Eligibility, Certification, and Documentation

- Eligibility Form

- The LEA can use any documentation that states that the student has an eligible print disability and is signed by a competent authority.
- A suggested form, included in the handouts, is also available from http://www.gimc.org/GIMCForms/pdfforms/Suggested_AIM_eligibility_form.pdf.
- This form, as well as any other documentation does not have to be provided to agencies providing AIMS but must be kept on file by the LEA.



Eligibility, Certification, and Documentation

- For students with disabilities who have an IEP or Section 504 Plan documenting the need for accessible instructional materials, but who do not fall under one of the four eligible categories, the school can only purchase materials from the publisher or use materials created with permission of the publisher.



Which Format?

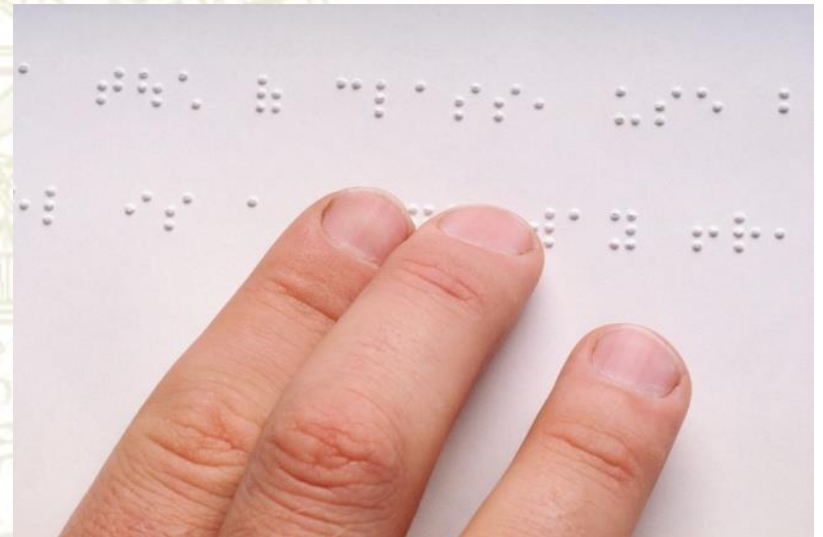
- The specialized format is determined by the student's team.
- It is common for a student to require different formats and different means to access the format for different tasks in different environments.
- Team must approach the question from a feature match perspective:
 - What are the student's learning strengths and challenges?
 - What tasks are to be completed – what type of reading?
 - What are the current and near future needs?
 - What tools has the student used in the past? Still applicable?
 - What environmental factors are involved –support, power, access?
 - What media format(s) will meet task and skill?



Formats

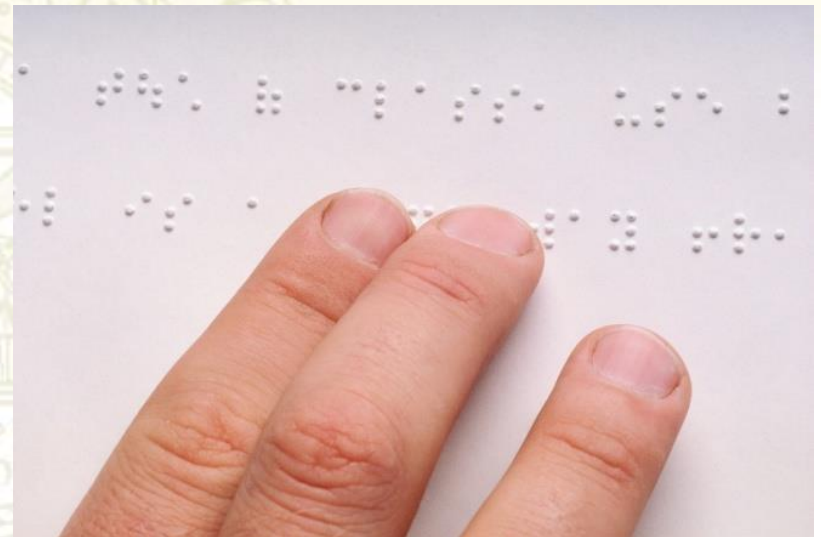
- Braille

- "a series of raised dots that can be read with the fingers by people who are blind or whose eyesight is not sufficient for reading printed material.... braille is not a language. Rather, it is a code by which languages such as English or Spanish may be written and read" (Source: American Foundation for the Blind).



Formats

- Braille (cont.)
 - Paper braille
 - Refreshable braille
 - Braille files
 - Most devices for the blind can back translate a braille (.brf) into text and play it back using a speech synthesizer.
 - There is no need to back translate if an e-text version of the book is already available.



Formats

- Audio
 - “... formats include tapes, CDs, MP3 files, text-to-speech programs, and other auditory alternatives to printed texts”
(Source: Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST)).



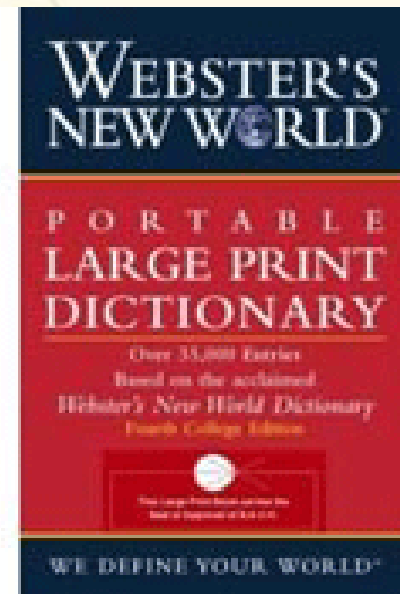
Formats

- Audio (cont.)
 - Except for traditional recorded speech the difference between audio and e-text is becoming less distinct both legally and in practice.
 - The primary difference is based on how the text is accessed and used.



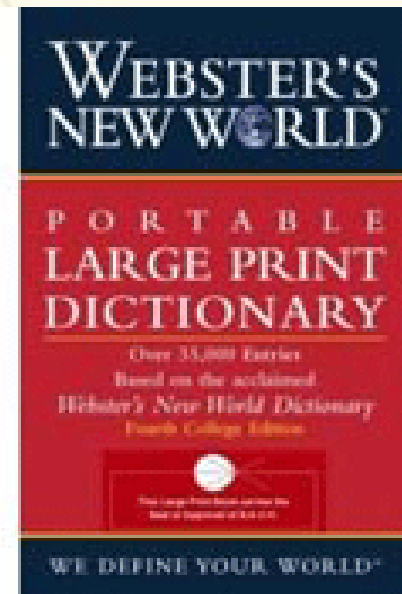
Formats

- Large Print
 - “... format provides the same content as standard print, only in larger font or page sizes to help those with visual impairments read more easily” (Source: CAST). Large print is usually considered to be a font size of 18 pt. or larger.



Formats

- Large Print (cont.)
 - Ideally large print will also include enhanced fonts and formatting.
 - Large print is also used to describe large text on a display screen.
 - Large print is most commonly supplemented using a variety of tools.



Formats

- **Electronic Text**

- “files include Microsoft Word and other file formats ... , such as rich text files (RTF), ASCII, HTML, and Digital Talking Books. Such files can be transformed into accessible forms by users by varying font size, using text-to-speech tools, etc” (Source: Cast).



Formats

- Electronic Text (cont.)
 - Digital Accessible Information SYstem (**DAISY**) is the most common and accessible format.
 - There are different versions of DAISY.
 - Portable Document Format (**PDF**) can also be created.



DAISY vs. PDF

DAISY is a text-based file

- Left aligned, but all text and images can be included
- Access software layers on nicely because it is text based
- Uses markup for greater navigation options
- Customize presentation: font size and style, set margins
- Text to speech with word by word /spot

PDF is an image file

- Page alike image so closely resembles original
- OCR'd so text can be accessed
- Markup only for navigation by Page #. Can use Find and Bookmarks
- Image file provides Zoom
- Most software reads from clipboard, "advanced reading aids may provide highlighting in document



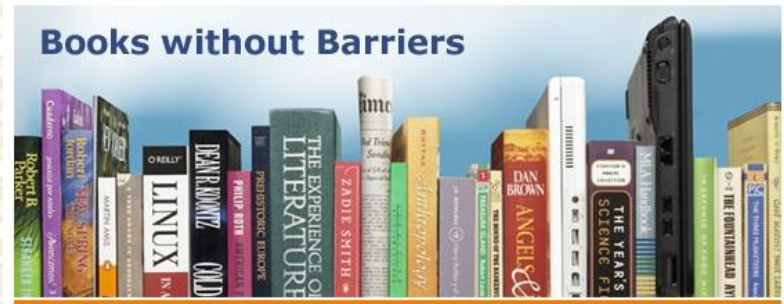
Primary Sources of Accessible Textbooks in Georgia

- Electronic Text
 - Currently available without cost from Bookshare.org to eligible registered students.
 - Electronic text that is not available from Bookshare.org will be provided by the GIMC.
- Audio
 - Available to students or organizations that have a membership with Recordings for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D). Currently available without cost to eligible registered students.
- Braille & Large Print
 - Braille and large print are usually provided without cost from the GIMC for eligible registered students.
- LEAs can also produce or purchase AIMs



Bookshare

- Bookshare's textbooks are available in a text based DAISY format.
- Textbooks are available in two files sizes and with/without images.
- All their textbooks are created using NIMAS files. Therefore -
 - **An eligible student must also have an IEP**
 - **Currently only very recent textbooks are available**
- A wide variety of leisure books are also available to all members.
- Must meet Eligibility



Bookshare

www.bookshare.org

- Obtaining books from Bookshare
 - Only registered organizations and individuals can download books.
 - Search their site using ISBN or title and download books.
 - If a book is listed, but is not available you can request it to be produced by contacting the GIMC
 - Bookshare only produces textbooks from NIMAS files.
 - Either search www.nimac.us or contact the GIMC regarding NIMAS files
- Free reading technology from Bookshare
 - Victor Reader Soft
 - Read OutLoud Bookshare



Learning Ally

- Learning Ally's books are available on CDs in an audio DAISY format and an audio only download.
- They have a very wide range of textbooks and a variety of leisure books.
- Learning Ally's books are created using human readers.
- They provide books that also include a text DAISY format if there is an available NIMAS file
- Books from Learning Ally require a proprietary player or a license key.

Learning Ally))((
Making reading accessible for all.



Learning Ally

- www.learningally.org
- Set up a membership(s).
 - This can be an individual or an institutional membership
 - There is a membership fee except for Audio Plus downloads
- Certify students that will be using the books.
- Search their site and order CDs or download files.
- If a book is not available you can request it be produced.
 - They will need a copy of the book
 - They also use NIMAS files if they are available
 - Please let the GIMC know so that the NIMAS file can be assigned to Learning Ally



Georgia Instructional Materials Center

- The GIMC provides braille and large print textbooks and a selection of leisure books to students in Georgia.
 - The GIMC also provides a number of adapted stories for students with significant cognitive disabilities.
- Books are loaned for a school year.
- The GIMC will also produce Text-to-Speech PDF format for textbooks that cannot be provided by other sources.



How are GIMC students registered?

- Student registration forms are available at www.gimc.org/forms.htm
 - There is a form for students who are blind or visually impaired.
 - There is a separate form for students who are eligible because of a physical or another organic based print disability
- Beginning in January 2010 all students will be re-registered annually using an on-line registration form.
- Ordering timeless



Changes in GIMC Registration

- Electronic student registration forms are available at www.gimc.org
 - There is a form for students who are blind or visually impaired.
 - There is a separate form for students who are eligible because of a physical or another organic based print disability
- **In January of each year all students will be re-registered annually using an on-line registration form.**
- **Ordering timeless**



Reading Technology

- DAISY
 - gh Player Premium 2.2 demo
 - Bookshare books
 - Non-Bookshare books
 - MathML
 - Victor Reader Soft – Bookshare edition
 - Bookshare books only
- Accessible PDF
 - Universal Reader Plus
 - Adobe Reader with a text reader layered on top



The Next Steps

- Begin certifying students that are eligible to receive AIMs.
- Set up memberships and register eligible students with Bookshare and Learning Ally.
- Register students with the GIMC.
- Begin ordering AIMs
- Identify and obtain any needed hardware or software players.



For additional information contact:

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