Choosing the Right Path: Exploring Assistive Technology for Vison Loss

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About Tools for Life

- AT Act Program for state of Georgia
- Serve all ages and all disability types
- Live, learn, work and play
- Increase access to and acquisition of AT
- Loan closet
- www.gatfl.org
Direct AT Service Activities

• Web-based Funding Guide

• A resource for locating funding sources for AT devices and services. This guide was developed to make the funding process easier and to assist consumers in getting the assistive technology they need.

• New resources added frequently!
Georgia’s Alternative Financing Program for Assistive Technology

http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/cfii.php
To receive a Credit-Able Loan you must be:

- A resident of Georgia

AND

- An **individual** with a disability

OR

- A **family member** or legal guardian of an individual with a disability

OR

- An **employer** of an individual with a disability

- Able to pay back the loan

- Using the loan to buy assistive technology equipment and services
**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]

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What AT is the *right* AT?
Depends on the Individual

- Ask!
- Environmental factors
- Placement
- Low tech options are just as important as mid/high tech (also, more affordable)
- Spatial considerations
- What have they already used?
Asking Avoids Tech Abandonment
Low Tech Options
Low tech options

MILK
EGGS
BREAD
An Accessible Online Library
for people with print disabilities

Free memberships for qualified U.S. students and schools!

Sign Up!

Learn more about Bookshare®
Audible.com

- Digital audiobooks
- Read by Hollywood stars, authors, and professional narrators
- Listen anywhere
- Over 150,000 titles
- Membership
  - $14.95/ month for one book
Medium Tech Options
BookSense

- Compact and portable DAISY reader
- Compatible with a wide range of audio format
- Built-in text to speech engine to read a variety of documents
- Ability to record notes
- Listen to books and music on the go
- $299
Victor Reader Stream (new generation)

- Handheld media player by Humanware
- Plays DAISY books, MP3, MP4, EPUB
- Records voice and media
- Two built-in, human-sounding voices
- Built-in wireless networking capability
- $369
High Tech Options
American higher education, my tutor said archly. "Thank you."
Portable Video Magnifiers

- Great for Students
- Save images
- Magnify papers and items on the board
- Connect to laptop
- Change background colors
Eye-Pal Ace

- Portable scanner and reader
- Can save images
- Can reader speed
- Calendar
- Very Fast
- Expensive around $2500
Software
Learning Ally

- Learning Ally
  - DAISY
  - Membership required
  - over 75,000 audiobooks, audio textbooks, and other recorded books
  - Free Trial
Accessibility on the Go

• Mobile devices are the most versatile tools at your disposal
• There are apps for many items that would have been a stand alone device in the past
• There are a ton of options out there
• Know your databases and how to use them
Microsoft Surface

• Windows 10
• Slim and has a USB port
• Moveable Tiles
• Built-in Accessibility
  – Speech-to-text
  – Narrator
  – Magnifier
  – High contrast
• Thin pressure sensitive cover that doubles as a keyboard
• Starts at $499
Apple iPad Pro/Air/Mini

- Multi-touch screen
- Smart Keyboard with iPad Pro
- New iOS 9
- Millions of apps
- Surf web
- iTunes
- HD Video
- Organization
- Accessibility
- Books
- Photos
- Speakers
- 5.0 megapixel camera
TFL AppFinder

Search by:
✓ App Name
✓ Categories
  – Book
  – Education
  – Environmental Adaptations
  – Hearing
  – Cognition, Learning, Developmental
  – Navigation
  – Personal Care and Safety
  – Productivity
  – Communication
  – Therapeutic Aids
  – Vision
Apple Vis

- [http://www.applevis.com/apps](http://www.applevis.com/apps)
- Specifically for iOS/Apple ecosystem
- Specifically for blind/low vision apps
- Robust database, reviewed by accessibility users
OCR

- Optical Character Recognition
- Many options and various price points
- Not a good option for handwriting, images can be tricky
- KNFB Reader- $99
- Prizmo- 9.99
- Office Lens- Free
Apps for Identification

- Use the camera to get descriptions and products
- CamFind- Free
- TapTap See- 10 IDs free, then you buy bundles
- Google Goggles- free
Scanning

- Accessibility in a pinch (literally)
- Great for receipts, class notes, handouts, etc
- Synchs to the cloud
- Office Lens, free
- Scanner Pro, $2.99
- Your camera, free
Video Magnifiers

- Resolution is key
- Very versatile devices
- Mobile or desktop?
- OCR functionality
Magnification Apps

• Many options and various price points
• Pros/Cons
• Magnifying Glass, free/paid
• Magnifier 30x
Another alternative (format)
What's New In AT and the AT Community:
eSight

- Video Magnifier for your face
- Low vision/high partial
- Stationary and walking mode
- Product of Canada
- Very expensive
- Little competition
See for Yourself

What is OrCam?

OrCam is an intuitive portable device with a smart camera designed to assist people who are visually impaired.

OrCam gives independence.
• Haptic Footwear
• Uses GPS to let you know where you are
• Connects with app
• www.lechal.com
Apple Watch

• Voiceover
• Zoom
• Haptic Feedback
• “Hey Siri”
• Apple Pay
• Built in Microphone and Speaker
• “Raise to Speak”
• Health App
  – Hourly reminders to stand
  – Heart rate
  – Steps
Amazon Echo

- Speech-controlled speaker system
- Voice recognition - further distances
- Timers, news, information
- Invitation only
- $199, $99 Prime members
Toyota: Project BLAID

- Worn around the shoulders and aims to fill in the everyday gaps visually impaired users experience using canes, dogs and GPS devices
- U-Shaped
- Help them identify everyday indoor items such as escalators, stairs and bathrooms
- Built-in cameras will detect the user’s surroundings and the device will communicate information using speakers and vibration motors
- Be able to interact with the device using voice recognition technology and buttons
- Eventually add mapping, object identification and facial recognition technology
Pixie

• Maps all of the digital things in your life
• Place a pixie chip on any device and map will tell you it's precise location

• https://www.getpixie.com/
CARROT Hungry

- Free
- Sarcastic!
- Works well with Voiceover
- Keeps track of calories
- Lets you know how much exercise you will need to do
BARD Mobile

• Access directly to the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS)
• Must be registered
• Settings
• Can use with braille display
• [http://www.loc.gov/nls/find.html](http://www.loc.gov/nls/find.html)
• Free
• $3.99
• Uses the built in camera to scan documents
• Edit, copy, store, email documents
• Upload to online storage is as Evernote
• Does take practice for picture
TapTapSee

- Designed to help people with low vision identify objects they encounter in their daily lives.
- Double tap the screen to take a photo of anything, at any angle, and hear the app speak the identification back to you.
- Requires VoiceOver to be turned on.
iMove

• can read the details of a point of interest and then: you can open the system navigator to reach the point of interest, call it or visit the website (where available);
• you can share your current location via text message;
• you can group notes in routes;
• text notes are available (in addition to speech notes);
• you can share your text notes with your contacts;
• you can import text notes created by your contacts.
BlindSquare

- uses GPS and the compass to locate you; gathers information about the surrounding environment from FourSquare
- aware of when you travel by car, bus or train and starts to report interesting places in front of you (for example, the next stops) and street crossings when you are passing them
- when you are in a place, you can check in by shaking your device
- $29.99
Driverless Cars and Smart Technologies

- Driverless Cars
- Internet
- Capture data
  - See how car is driven
  - Turn down music until seat belt is buckled
- Hands free/Cameras
- Parallel park
- Ability to sense when to slow down
Our Question to You:
What have You Learned today?