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
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.
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](http://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
Find Your AT Solutions
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
  - Therapeutic Aids
  - Vision
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

AT ONLINE EXCHANGE

eTRADE 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.
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
• Tablets
• Vision Items
• DME
• Communication
• Games
• Software
• Switches
• Keyboards
Here at Gizmag, we’re very interested in the present and future of wearable tech. So we thought it was fitting to sign up for the Google Glass Explorer program, to give you a better idea of what Sergey Brin and company are cooking up in Mountain View. Though we aren’t quite ready to do a proper Google Glass review, we want to share some more thoughts from our first ten days with Glass.

My first few days with Google Glass were mostly about the self-documentation aspect of Glass. It’s fascinating to see your eyes move and the camera follow.

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

*Image Gallery* (7 images)
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
- apps over $100
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.

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
- Proof readers

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

High-Tech
- computer/laptops
- tablets/phablets
- smartphones,
- smartpens
- OCR
- scanner/software
- magnification software
- speech output devices
- switch, joystick access
- scanning access
From this...
To this...
Android Device Fragmentation

iPAdagogy Wheel

Originally discovered on the website of Paul Hopkin's education consultancy site mniweb.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

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/JAMAC 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/

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

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- Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP) http://www.iletch.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)
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
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

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!
• 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 Supports for Reading & Writing across the Lifespan:
- Children and Adolescents
- Adults

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 Buxus with HendiSongs
Open Lab Demo Time
Dedicated Exhibiting Hours

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
Dedicated Exhibiting Hours

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

Tea & Talk: Our Favorite Apps for Living
Tech Talk: Vendor
Open Lab Demo Time

AT Supports for Reading & Writing across the Lifespan: Adults
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Tech Talk: Beth Lawrence with Communication APPlitude
App Share & Swap: What are Your Favorites?
Open Lab Demo Time

Tea & Talk: Our Favorite Apps for Living
Tech Talk: Vendor
Open Lab Demo Time
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:15 PM - 2:15 PM</td>
<td>Robot Therapy for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Southern New Hampshire University: Presenters – Dr. Lundy Lewis and Dr. Nancy Charron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 PM - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>Tea &amp; Talk: Our Favorite Apps for Writing &amp; Reading</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
About You!

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

Tell us your experience level with AT

Beginner
Intermediate
Advanced

Tell us

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:

- [ ] IT Solutions Lab Sessions
- [ ] Open Demo Time
- [ ] Tea & Talk Sessions
- [ ] Tech Talk Vendor Sessions

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

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Disclaimer
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