ET-102
Navigating the App Maze: Search Engines, Finders, Blogs and Reviews

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Handouts are available at: www.atia.org/orlandohandouts
Learning Objectives

• Compare and contrast two app search engines
• List three trustworthy app review sites and their review criteria
• List three other resources (tools, blogs, Facebook, websites) that provide a way to sort and find apps

Handouts are available at: www.atia.org/orlandohandouts
Before you start

• Remember and apply appropriate practices to matching the AT to the user – is a “generic” mobile device truly what is needed?

• Will you be searching for apps for iOS? Android? Windows? Kindle? Not all apps are available for all platforms

• You get what you pay for (but not always)

• Buyer beware

• Try before you buy (e.g. “lite” versions or loaners)

• Evidence base? Word of mouth?

• Re: App reviews – by whom? Who do YOU trust?

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Search Engine

A software program that searches a database and gathers and reports information that contains or is related to specified terms
Moms with Apps

- Search by device type (iOS, android, Kindle, Windows phone); age range (0-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9+), subject area “A” (animals) to “T” (transportation)
- “App of the Day”
- Also connect on Facebook, twitter, blog
- “Meet the Developer” feature
- List includes screenshot, description, other reviews and awards, overview of features
- Goal: Safe, family-friendly apps

Handouts are available at: www.atia.org/orlandohandouts
www.momswithapps.com

Handouts are available at: www.atia.org/orlando-handouts
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
### My Favorite Apps

You searched for: Learning, Cognition, and Developmental

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Logo</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Device Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Tango Video Calls" /></td>
<td>Tango Video Calls</td>
<td>Learning, Cognition, and Developmental</td>
<td>iOS</td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="LproNet" /></td>
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<td>Learning, Cognition, and Developmental</td>
<td>iOS</td>
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<td>Learning, Cognition, and Developmental</td>
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**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

**APP FINDER**

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

**AT ONLINE EXCHANGE**

eTRAD. Georgia's Online Equipment Exchange, encourages members to offer AT and DME for sale or donation to others who may benefit from using technology unequipped by others.
Future Plans for TFL AppFinder

• Always evolving

• Divide into educational categories
  • Pre-school
  • Elementary
  • High school

• Have some information about tablets

• Want to hear from you!
AAC Apps Assistant

- aactechconnect.com
- Modest cost ($40) for both app and device assistant
- AAC “only” – 300 apps reviewed!
- Side-by-side comparisons of features
- Robust-simple-starter-more features…
Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, Linked In, Blogs

• May or may not be associated with a website [Advantage to social media: the message comes into your mailbox/mobile device (passive delivery) and may be more timely]

• “Like” commercial pages—view user comments as well as track free/discount offers (e.g. Technology in Education “deal of the day” freebies or discounts; Speak for Yourself implementation stories)

• Join user or professional groups for reviews (and sometimes sharing of freebies): e.g. (FB) Speech Pathologists at Large; (LI) Augmentative and Alternative Communication Professionals

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Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Blogs (More!)

- Your favorite website may have an associated blog or FB page (and vice versa)
- The activity of a FB group, tweeter, or blogger may vary from MANY to 1x/month – or less.
- TCEA (Texas Computer Education Association, an affiliate with the International Society for Technology in Education [ISTE]) – https://twitter.com/tcea
- Appsforspeechtherapy.blogspot.com
- Some of my favs:
  
  PrAACtical AAC; Augmentative Communication Program at Boston Children’s

Handouts are available at: www.atia.org/orlandohandouts
Social Media: Pinterest

- Lots of resources for apps
- Search box
- Virtual cork board
- Apps have been vetted
- Pin to your board for organization
- Create your own board
- Follow and share boards
Fav: Lauren Enders

Handouts are available at: www.atia.org/orlandohandouts
Fav: Apps for disabilities
Create your own Boards

Apps

Add a Pin

Apps for Kids with Learning Disabilities
Pinned from memphisparent.com

5 Mind Mapping Apps for Students with Learning Disabilities
Pinned from scoopp.it

“50 Best iPad Apps for Students with Reading Disabilities”
edudemic.com/...

Pinned by pinner
Share your own Board
Sites for Curated Reviews and Organized Apps

- **www.yappguru.com** – “uniting expert blogs for language, learning, and living”
- Categories: OT/PT/SLP; AAC/modalities; aphasia; articulation; cognition
- Reviews are completed “by only the best App Experts”
- “Ratings” tell you what the community thinks
- Blog reviews linked to app reviews
- Key word search
- Free, but you have to register to vote and comment
Sites for Curated Reviews and Organized Apps

- [http://www.ipads4teaching.net/](http://www.ipads4teaching.net/)
Sites for Curated Reviews and Organized Apps

- [http://www.janefarrall.com](http://www.janefarrall.com)
- Star ratings (0-3)
- AAC symbol and picture apps, symbol and text based apps, and text-based (only) apps
- Feature reviews: device type, symbol type, availability of pre-programmed pages, customization, voice/speech output, access options
- Switch apps (not specifically AAC e.g. play, literacy): device, about, keystrokes, type of AAC

Handouts are available at: [www.atia.org/orlandohandouts](http://www.atia.org/orlandohandouts)
Sites for Curated Reviews and Organized Apps

- http://www.schrockguide.net/bloomin-apps.html

Handouts are available at: www.atia.org/orlando-handouts
Sites for Curated Reviews and Organized Apps

- [http://dyslexiahelp.umich.edu/tools/apps](http://dyslexiahelp.umich.edu/tools/apps)

Handouts are available at: www.atia.org/orlandohandouts
Sites for Curated Reviews and Organized Apps

- www.balefirelabs.com

- More than 3500 apps reviewed and “graded” by trained reviewers (80% inter-rater reliability).

- Evidence-based review criteria

- Criteria: Instructional design (e.g. feedback, error remediation, clear learner objectives); Usability design (e.g. easy to use interface; performance reports, age appropriate reading level)
Sites for Curated Reviews and Organized Apps

- [http://bridgingapps.org/](http://bridgingapps.org/)
Bridging Apps (continued)

Our custom-built App Search Tool allows users to access app reviews conducted by therapists and special education teachers and focuses on skill, rather than age or diagnosis. Learn more about our App Search Tool features below and check out some video resources to help you get started searching for apps on our website.

- **Search by Skill**: Explore our custom-built search engine to find apps categorized by skill to meet your specific needs.
- **Search App Lists**: Search lists of curated apps or create your own list of apps you find helpful to share with others.
- **Read Professional Reviews**: Access apps that have been evaluated and trialed with special needs users using standards-based assessment tools.
- **Save Searches**: Input search criteria to search for apps and save that search for future reference.
- **Review and Rate Apps**: Provide feedback to help others find and benefit from your favorite apps.
- **Add Notes to Apps**: Add comments to apps that you have saved in your app lists.
- **Connect to App Stores**: Connect directly to the iTunes and Google Play stores to purchase apps from our app reviews.
- **Join a Community**: Connect with others who are using mobile devices in our community to share ideas and learn.

Handouts are available at: www.atia.org/orlandohandouts
Sites for Apps – Blind/Low Vision

Find, Share and Recommend iOS and Mac Apps Which Are Accessible To Blind And Low Vision Users

Here at AppleVis we strive to make it easier for you to find great apps to use on your Macs and iDevices.

iOS Apps

iOS App Directory
Our main resource for iDevice users is the iOS App Directory, which currently contains user-submitted information on the accessibility of more than 2500 apps.

View the latest entries in the iOS App Directory
Browse the iOS App Directory by category

Handouts are available at: www.atia.org/orlandohandouts
ViA

- Visually Impaired Apps by the Braille Institute
- Searchable app database that lists apps for adults and children
- allows users to sort apps by category, price, and the App Store star rating
- Create profile
- Track new apps
- Free
More resources!

- [http://www.smartappsforkids.com/](http://www.smartappsforkids.com/) (and related sites) app giveaways (e.g. free android app Friday!); top picks (out of 5 stars); categories

- Subscribe for updates and alerts (free)
What is YOUR favorite?

App search engine?
App list?
App review?
App give-away?
Any questions?

• Thank you for your participation!
• Thanks to ASHA SIG 12 members who shared their favorites!

Handouts are available at: www.atia.org/orlandohandouts
Thank you for attending this session

- CEUs – Session Code: XXX-YY
  - More info at: www.atia.org/CEU
  - For ACVREP, AOTA and ASHA CEUs, hand in completed Attendance Forms to REGISTRATION DESK at the end of the conference. Please note there is a $15 fee for AOTA CEUs.
  - For general CEUs, apply online with The AAC Institute: www.aacinstitute.org

- Session Evaluation: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ET-012
  - Please help us improve the quality of our conference by completing your session evaluation form.
  - Completed evaluation forms should be submitted as you exit or to staff at the registration desk.

- Handouts
  - Handouts are available at: www.atia.org/orlandohandouts
  - Handout link remains live for 3 months after the conference ends.
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