Assistive Technology for Reading

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Text Reader vs. Screen Reader

Text Reader

- Software programs that read all the text in any given document or application
- Often include reading the Web
- Often include study tools and supports for writing

Most often used for students with a reading disability, but with adequate vision

Screen Reader

- Screen readers read ALL the text elements on the screen,
  - menu bars
  - buttons and dialogue boxes
- May include screen magnification features

They provide access to program navigation and written text. Most often used for students with visual impairments

Where to get electronic text

www.bookshare.org

Text-to-Speech/Reading Support

Tool	Choice of High Quality Voices	Modify text interface*	Ability to control rate	Dictionary Built-In - B Web-based-W Recursive-R	Highlight and extract key information	Ability to Insert/Create/Modify Scaffold for reading	Can read files directly from Bookshare.org (NIMAS - .opf or .xml)	Can OCR documents	Consistent format for Internet and other Reading	Converts to MP3	Language Translator
Kurzweil	X	X	X	X B - expansive R	X		X	X		X	
Premier Literacy Productivity Pack (Reading Made EZ)	X	X by letter, word, line	X	X B	X			X			X
Read & Write Gold	X	X	X	X W & picture	X		X	X			
Read Outloud (SOLO v6)	X	X	X	X W	X	X	X				
WYNN	X*	X	X	X B	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Natural Reader	paid version only, pulls other voices on your computer		X				X		X		

Choice of High Quality Voices

Modify text interface

How the program reads, or chunks, the text

- Speak by

L e t t e r

Word

Or speak by sentence

Or the program can be set to speak only after a complete paragraph.

Ability to Control Rate

Slow down or Speed Up the rate of speech

Recursive , Web-based, or Built-in Dictionary

Built -in are finite but typically easier to understand

Web-based are essentially infinite but may contain difficult language

Recursive allow user to look up words provided in the definition

Highlight and extract key information

User can select key words or phrases and move them to a different part of the screen or a different document
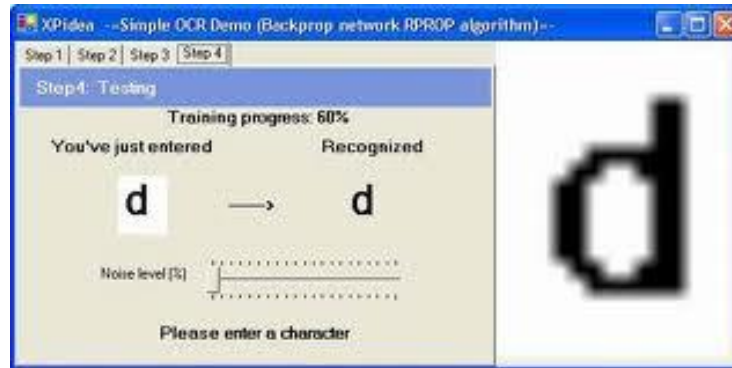
Ability to Insert, Create, or Modify Scaffold for reading

Allows the user or the teacher to guide the reader to relevant or required information within the text

Can read files directly from Bookshare.org

Without a conversion process

Can OCR documents

Optical Character Recognition transforms a picture or text to readable text

Consistent format for Internet and other Reading

Reading and other toolbars do not change depending on the type or format of text read

Converts to MP3

Includes Language Translator

Assistive Technology for Reading

The choice is yours!