



Assistive Technology for Reading

Shonda Golden, Ed.S.
Assistive Technology
Specialist, Fulton County
Schools

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



Bookshare

www.bookshare.org

The screenshot shows the Bookshare website in a Microsoft Outlook Web Access browser window. The address bar displays <https://www.bookshare.org/>. The website header features the Bookshare logo and a navigation menu with the following items: Home, Membership, Getting Started, Community, Volunteer, Contribute, About Us, Help, and Contact Us. The Membership menu is expanded, showing options: Membership Overview, Membership Options, Qualifications, Gift Memberships, and International Membership. Below the navigation, there is a search bar with a 'Search' button and links for 'Advanced Search' and 'Browse'. A 'Quick Links' section includes 'Newspapers & Magazines', 'Training', and 'Donate Now'. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'An Accessible Online Library for people with print disabilities' and 'Free memberships'. Below this is a photograph of a woman and two children. To the right, a statistics box states 'How many titles does Bookshare® have?' with the number '179,056'. Below this, there is a 'Browse Book Lists' section with links for 'New York Times Best Seller' and 'New to the Collection'. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 3:29 PM on 2/20/2013.

Text-to-Speech/Reading Support

Tool	Features										
	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

- Speak by

L e t t e r

W o r d

Or speak by sentence

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

Modify text interface

How the program reads, or
chunks, the text



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



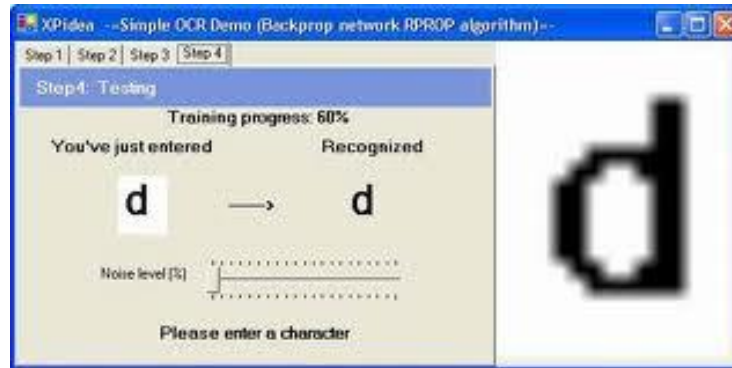
Ability to Insert, Create, or Modify Scaffold for reading

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!
