Reading Without Pages: Exploring Some Assistive Technologies for Reading Solutions

Carolyn Phillips and Martha Rust
Tools for Life
www.gatfl.org

LDA of IN
November 2013

www.amacusg.org

Agenda

- Tools for Life Overview
- A Look at E-Text
- A Look at Portable Readers
- A Look at Audiobooks
- A Look at Scanning Software
- A few Apps

AMAC

AMAC Accessibility is a social change organization on a mission to create affordable services for governmental, private and non-profits organization working with individuals with disabilities. Services include e-text, braille, captioning, assistive technology, office management software and consulting.

Accessibility Made Smart

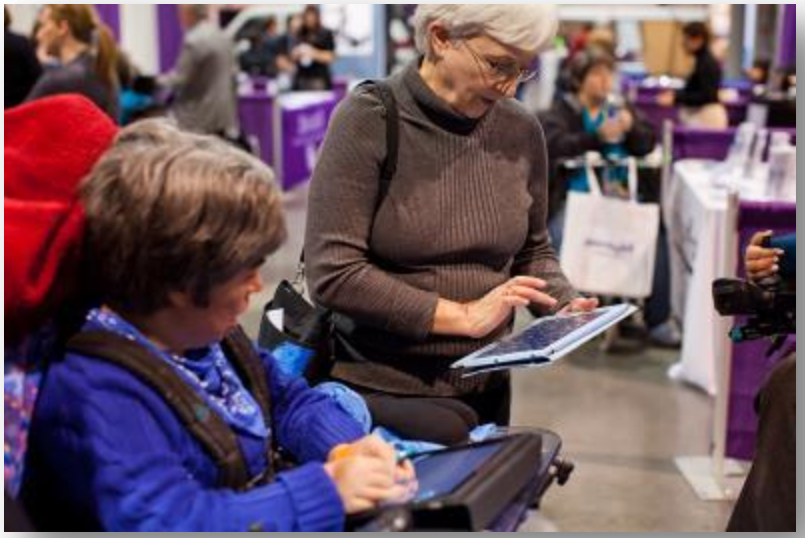
AMAC creates practical solutions that work, with a focus on utility, ease of use, and high quality.

- **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

Tools for Life Mission

We’re here to help Georgians with disabilities gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.



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 Centers
  - Lending Libraries
  - Training and Demonstrations
  - AT Reuse
  - AT Funding Education/Assistance and Resources
- Online Resources
  - www.gatfl.org - 12,000 unique visitors a month

Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

ATU127 – Assistive Technology and the IEP in K-12 Special Education (Part 1 with Daniel McNulty), OSX Mavericks Accessibility, JAWS 15

by ADMIN on NOVEMBER 1, 2013

Podcast: Play in new window | Download

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Assistive Technology for Independent Liv

Indiana Assistive Technology Act project (INDATA)

Address: Easter Seals Crossroads

4740 Kingsway Drive

Indianapolis, IN 46205

Email:

wwingler@eastersealscrossroads.org

http://www.eastersealstech.com

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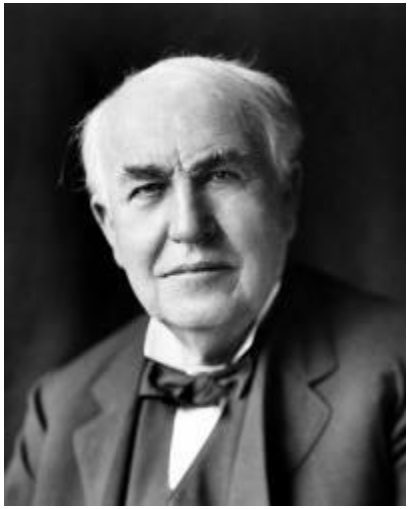
Books will soon be obsolete in schools. Scholars will soon be instructed through the eye.

-Thomas Edison



What We Know

- Test Scores influence key decisions in education
  - Common Core Standards
- Accommodations are usually after the fact
- Accommodations are:
  - Intended to reduce or eliminate the effects of a student's disability
  - Do not reduce learning expectations
  - Level playing field, not provide undue advantages

- Majority of students with Learning Disabilities have reading disabilities
  - (Shaywitz, 2003)
- Even as they progress and get older, students with learning disabilities may read more accurately with more automaticity however are likely to remain slow readers and benefit from extra time
  - (Gregg, Mather, Shaywitz, 2003)

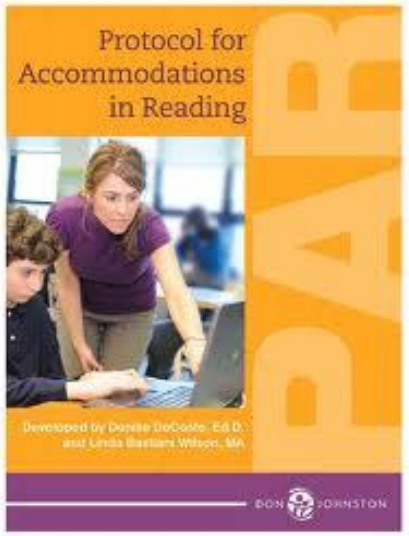
Research

- Research show that having items read aloud can improve fluency and comprehension
- Text Readers
  - Increase word recognition, speed of reading and comprehension
  - Increase the amount read, reduce distractibility

    - (Hecker, Burns, Elkind, Elkind, and Katz, 2002)

PAR: Protocol for Accommodations for Reading

- Don Johnston
- Assist with accommodations for reading
- 3 Steps
  - 1) Student's Oral Reading
  - 2) Adult Reader
  - 3) Text Reader
- How did the student like?
- Help with adding in AT for reading solutions



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Do you remember these?

Benjamin Innes for The New York Times (Source: Blackwell History of Education Museum, Northern Illinois University)

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Ray Kurzweil

Optical Character Recognition
Text-to-Speech Synthesis
Speech Recognition technology
First Reading Machine (1974)
Kurzweil KNFB Reader (2009)

Ben Satterfield-
CREATE

What is E-Text?

- Any text-based information that is available in a digitally encoded human-readable format
- Can be read by electronic means
- May be an electronic edition of a work originally composed or published in other media, or may be created in electronic form originally

Free e-text

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  - http://download.cnet.com/E-Text-Reader-IGT/3000-2279_4-10285673.html
- Text2Speech
  - http://www.text2speech.org/

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Portable Readers

What is DAISY?

- Digital Accessible Information System
  - At its conception A used to mean Audio
- Digital Talking Book (DTB) specification for accessible digital textbooks
- Internationally recognized accessible multi-media publishing system, compatible with the World Wide Web
- http://www.daisy.org/publications/docs/20070315155100/intro-article1.html

BookSense

- Compact and portable DAISY reader
- Compatible with a wide rage 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
- http://www.hims-inc.com/products/booksense/

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

Reading Pens

- Scans text,
- Hear it spoken aloud
- Obtains definitions and correct pronunciation within seconds
- Variety of types
  - Wizcom
  - IRISPen
  - PenPower
  - Video Touch Pen by MoralRegion

AnyBook Anywhere

- Use to record your voice reading the story
- 200 hours of recording
- Works with any book
- Store recordings on a virtual library
- Share collections with friends
- $79.99
- www.franklin.com

Mobile Tablets/ eReaders

- What do I need?
- Does it read out loud?
- Do I need Apps?
- Change colors?
- Change line spacing?
- Textbooks?
- Fun Reading?

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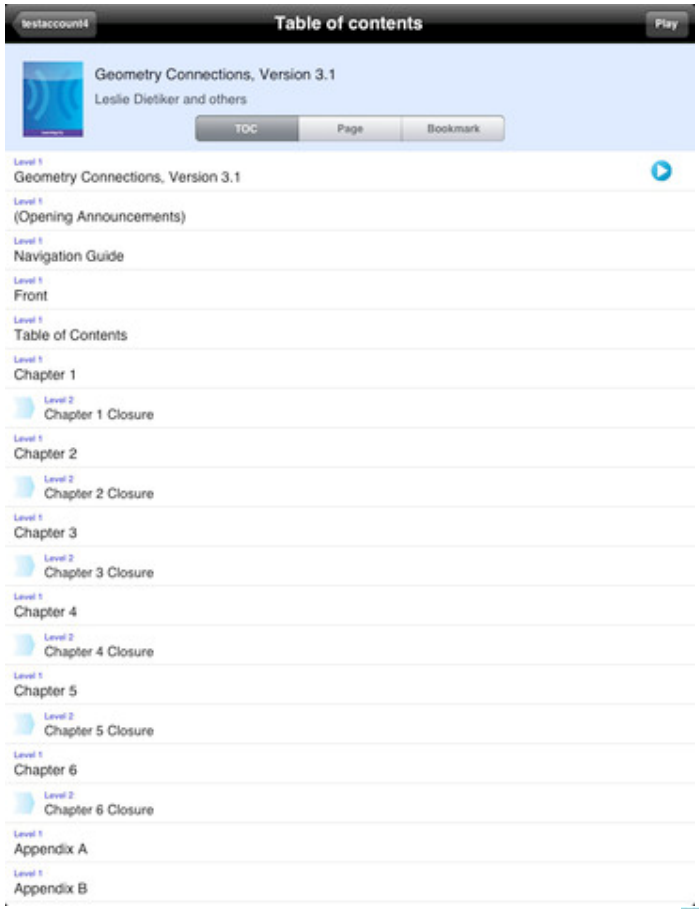
Audiobooks

Learning Ally

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



Bookshare

- Online Accessible Library
- Free membership to qualified students and schools
  - Textbooks if school is member
- 208,769 titles
- Serves individuals with:
  - Vision disabilities
  - Physical disabilities
  - Learning disabilities

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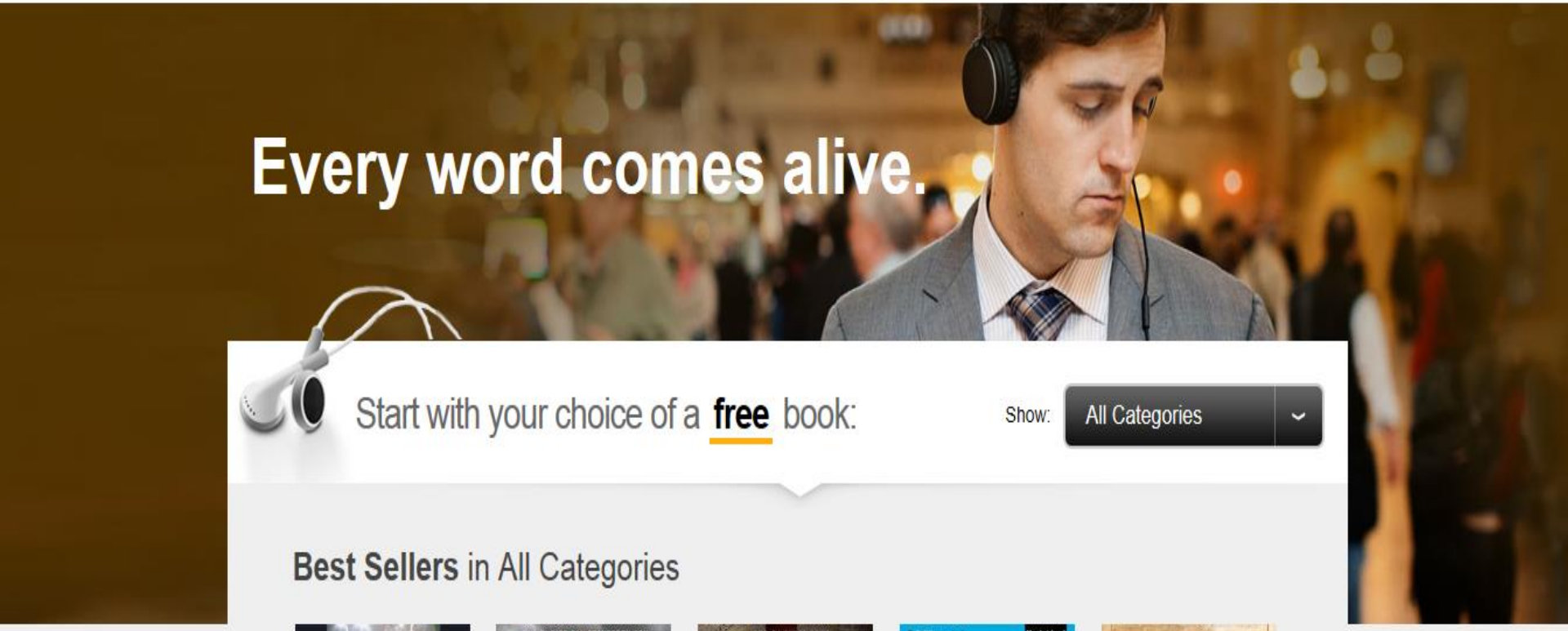

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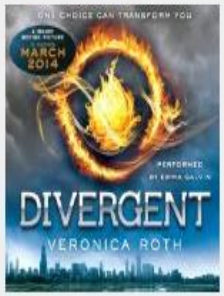
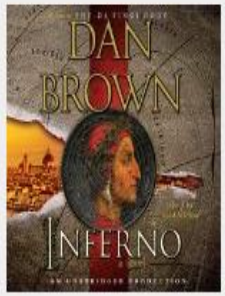
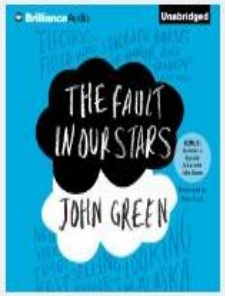


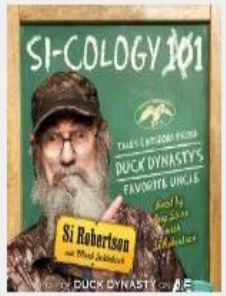
Divergent



Inferno: A Novel



The Fault in Our Stars



Si-cology 1: Tales and Wisdom from ...

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- Customer Cathryn Mazer

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- Customer Sharon Morrison

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Scanning Software

What is OCR?

- Optical Character Recognition
- Enables to convert different types of documents, such as scanned paper documents, PDF files or images captured by a digital camera into editable and searchable data
- Makes it easier for screen readers

Kurzweil 3000

- Text-to-Speech software
- Helps improve reading speed and comprehension
- Note taking capabilities
  - Different color highlighters
- firefly
  - Access many features of Kurzweil through the internet
  - firefly demo
- Free download trial
  - www.kurzweiledu.com
  - Kurzweil 3000 Demo

TextHelp

- Text-to- Speech software
- Helps improves reading skills
- Built in text and picture dictionaries
- Study skills highlighter

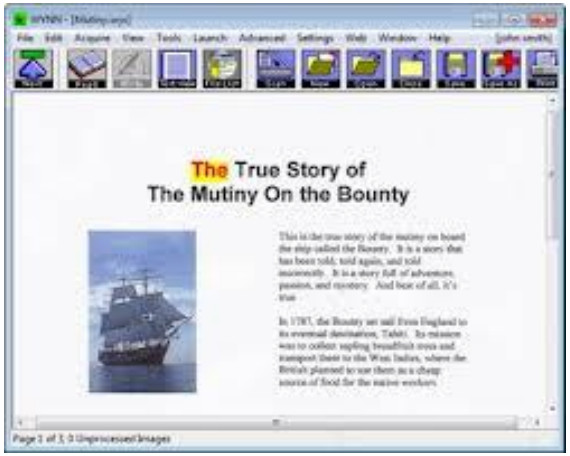
- Has a Google Chrom version
- www.texthelp.com

textHELP
Literacy ■ Language ■ Learning

WYNN

- What You Need Now
- Freedom Scientific
- Scanning and Reading software
- Highlights text as spoken
- Icon friendly
- Built in study tools

- Internet Features



Premier Software

- www.readingmadeeZ.com
- Read documents in standard file formats such as Microsoft Word, Rich Text, text file format, HTML, and PDF
- Converted to audio files for use on a CD or MP3 player
- Scan and read documents
- Look up a word or definition in the integrated dictionary
- Create study notes and much more!

Premier Features

- PDF Equalizer
- E-Text Reader
- Universal Reader Plus
- Scan and Read Pro
- Talking Word Processor
- PDF Magic Pro
- Text-to-Audio
- Ultimate Talking Dictionary
- Talking Calculator
- Premier Predictor Pro

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Reading Software

Snap&Read

- Don Johnston
- Accessible toolbar that reads any text on-screen
- Floats over any application
- One-button interface reads both accessible and inaccessible text aloud

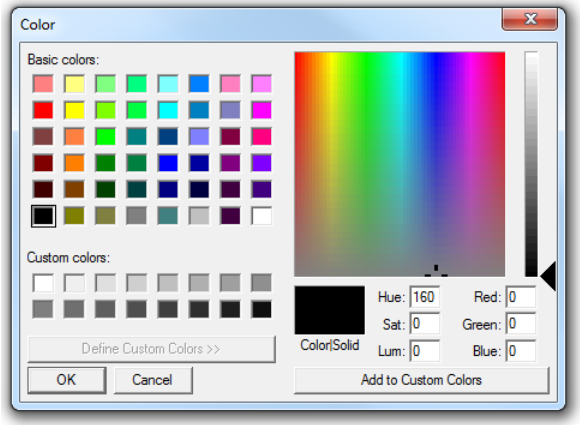
- Reads Flash websites, Word docs, PDFs, web-based tests
- $129.99

ClaroRead

- Reads text as it highlights
- Moveable tool bar
- Can read doc, PDFs, internet, and more
- 6.2 version
  - In Europe
  - Can save directly to I tunes
  - Create a video

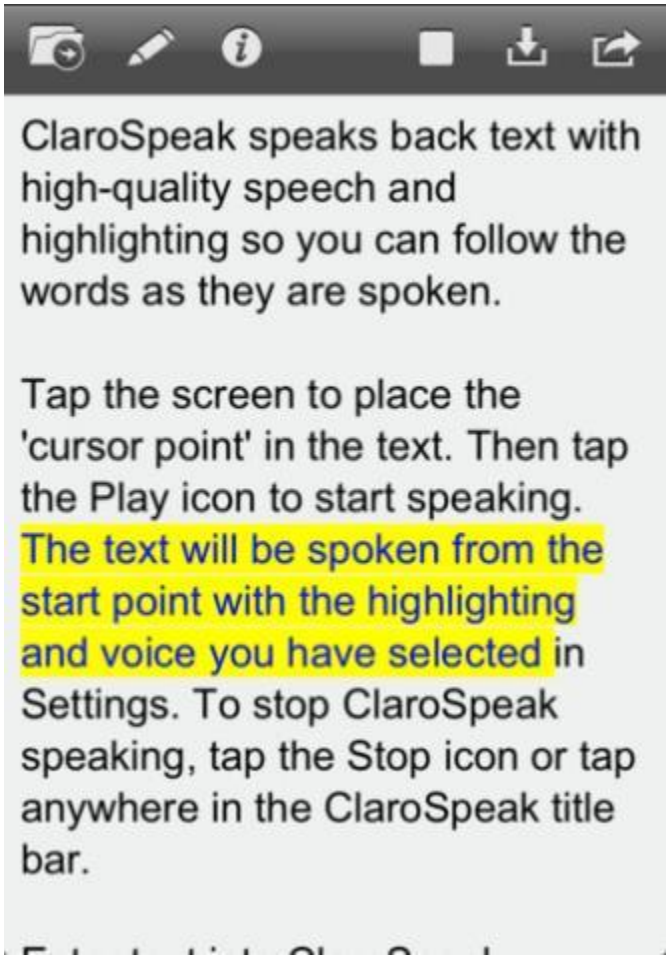
- Can change highlighting colors
- www.claroread.com

ClaroView



- easy to use software application that can assist certain PC users
- make browsing and reading easier
- work with any piece of software, as it acts as an overlay on the PC screen
- Demo

ClaroSpeak US



- Text-to-Speech
  - import documents and PDFs into ClaroSpeak from apps such as Mail, or import PDF, Word, Pages and other files directly from Dropbox using
- Change font and color
- Save text as an audio file
- Visual Tracking
- Send Text

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Apps

TFL AppFinder

Search by:

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- ✓ **Categories**
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  - Hearing
  - Cognition, Learning, Developmental
  - Navigation
  - Personal Care and Safety
  - Productivity
  - Communication
  - Therapeutic Aids
  - Vision

Georgia Tech TOOLS for LIFE
Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

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- View Presentations
- Request Training

FUNDING

- Resource & Assistance
- Dollars & Sense Database
- Online Equipment Exchange

RESOURCES

- TFL Newsletter

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- Meet the TFL Team
- Advisory Council
- Directions/Map
- Join our Mailing List

Welcome | AT Services | Try AT | Get AT | AT Guides | Research

Welcome to Tools for Life

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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

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

AT ONLINE EXCHANGE

gTRADE gTRADE, 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.

Firefox | Zimbra: Inbox | Tools for Life

www.gatfl.gatech.edu/favorite-search.php

GT Mail | Tools for Life | TFL Wiki | AMAC | Facebook | Adobe Connect Centr... | Playbook | TFL Database | Gmail | GT Sites | Eventbrite | Websites | Quickbase | Bookmarks

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My Favorite Apps

You searched for: Learning, Cognition, and Developmental

Logo	Name	Category	Device Type
	tango Video Calls Tango brings you free, high-quality mobile voice and video calls over 3G and Wi-Fi! Millions of people around the world are using Tango in an exciting new way. It	Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	iOS
No Ratings			
app icon	i-promt Professional Tele-prompting software for your iPhone or iPod Touch.	Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	iOS
No Ratings			
	Dragon Dragon Dictation is an easy-to-use voice recognition application powered by Dragon	Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	iOS
5 stars by 1 users			
	iBooks iBooks includes the iBookstore, where you can download the latest best-selling books or your favorite classics	Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	iOS
No Ratings			
	Say Text SayText reads out loud the text in the image. It is intended for the visually impaired users. SayText is a free spin off product from the DocScanner team.	Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	iOS

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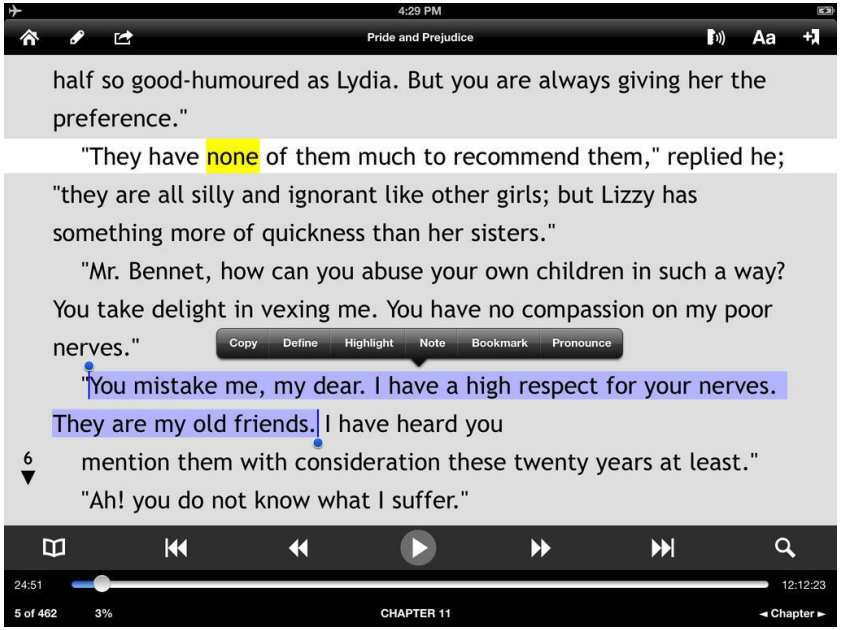
Voice Dream

- Text to Speech
- Highlights as it reads
- Import
  - Bookshare
  - Dropbox
  - Gutenburg
  - Word Doc
  - PDFs
- Buy different voices
- Change rate of speed

- Download for later reading
- $9.99



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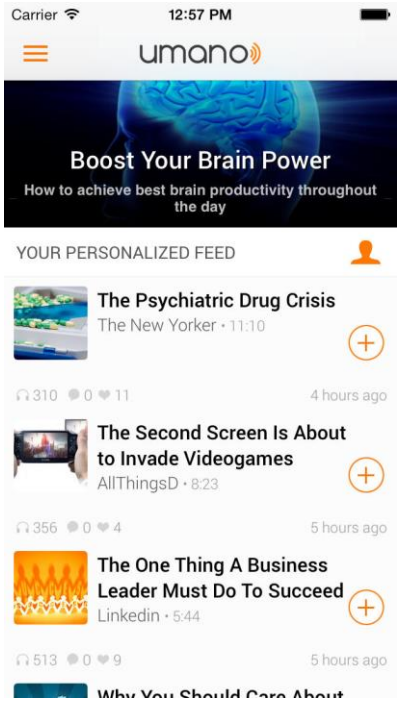
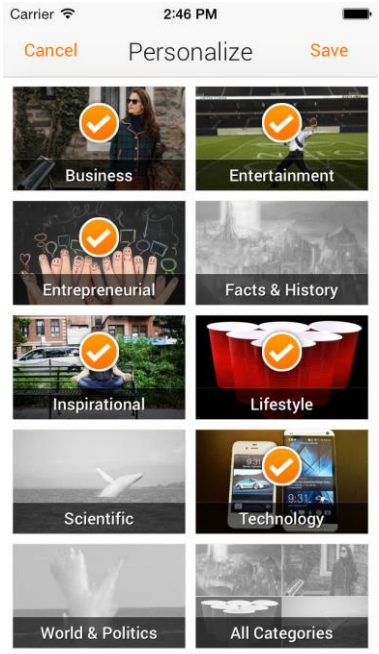
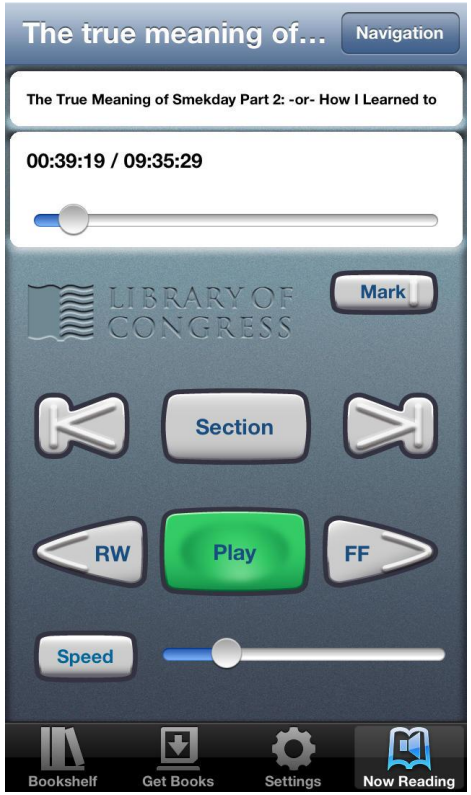
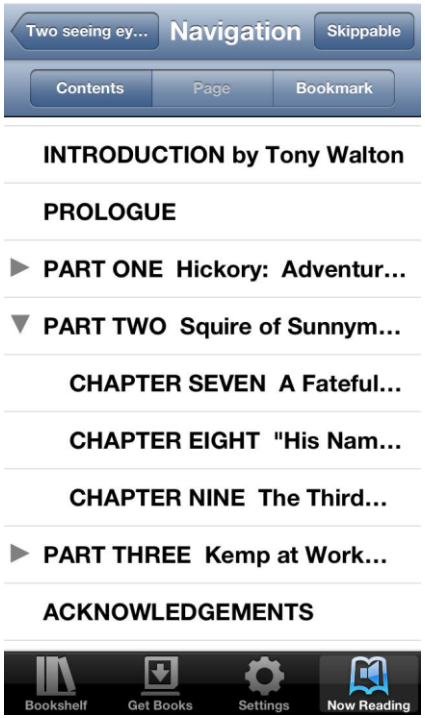




BARD Mobile





- 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
- Free

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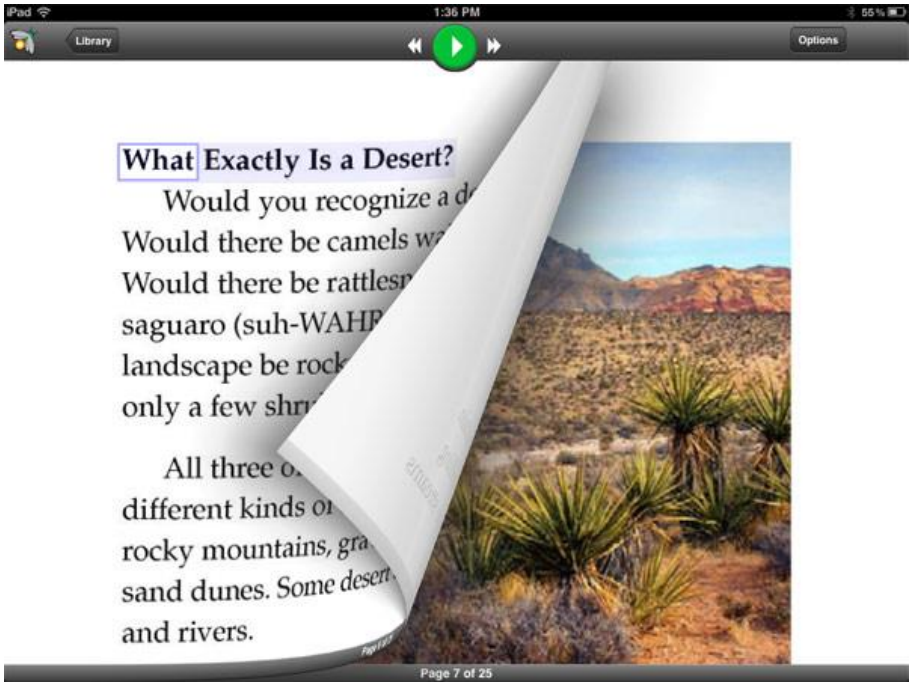
Accessibility for All

Firefly



- Kurzweil 3000
- Need web license
- Read text out loud
- 4 voices
- Upload Universal Library
- Mobile access for sharing

AMAC
Accessibility for All

Our Question to You:
What have You Learned today?

TOOLS for LIFE
Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

Contact

Carolyn Phillips

Director of Tools for Life

Carolyn.Phillips@gatfl.gatech.edu

Martha Rust

AT Specialist

Martha.Rust@gatfl.gatech.edu

Disclaimer

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