

AT Interagency Meeting
February 8, 2010

Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) Discussion Notes

1. What resources for AIM are you having success with?
 - a. St. Helens is using MP3 players with files from Audible.com for classic novels, etc. They are working with the district curriculum department to insure that all required texts are available.
 - b. Douglas ESD AT Team is using Bookshare for texts and literature. They've had success with requesting that Bookshare scan and send a book when they found that the title needed was not already in Bookshare's collection. They ordered the file through the Bookshare website and in 16 days received an email notification that the file was available for download. Students are using laptop PCs. They plan to try using AIM files with iMacs and Dynavoxes.
 - c. OTMC (Oregon Textbook and Media Center) is a resource for Braille, large print and audio files for students with Vision Impairments. Audio files ordered through OTMC come from RFB&D (Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic).
 - d. Eugene District 4j uses RFB&D, Bookshare, and Audible.com. They are using Kurzweil for scanned texts. Had success requesting a scanned book online from Teachers Curriculum Institute, publisher www.teachtci.com. This publisher required verification of eligibility. They also use WYNN.
 - e. NorthWest Regional ESD in Hillsboro has not implemented Bookshare due to concerns about district process for tracking files. They refer people to Library2Go and Gutenberg.org.
 - f. Pearson publishing company now has electronic versions of many/all of their publications. Can buy an electronic version for anyone to use, (no eligibility requirement). Other publishers have the option of purchasing texts on a CD.
 - g. Bookshare system for tracking files and digital rights management: High Desert ESD has one district that has established their special education director as Primary Contact for Bookshare. HDESD has used RFB&D for audio text files. They find this to be a better source for files of older texts. They've had success getting NIMAS-sourced files of text books from Bookshare. They're using WYNN, Read:Outloud, Solo, Library2Go.
 - h. RFB&D now has free individual memberships.
 - i. National Geographic Young Explorer website has recent publications in an embedded text reader. Good voice, user friendly.
2. Are you using Bookshare? 10 report that they use Bookshare. 9 of 1) are happy with Bookshare as a resource for acquiring AIM for their students.

Comments:

 - a. Local district staff is running into a lot of obstacles. A high level of assistance is required. Staff doesn't have time for training. Training of

trainers is needed for district-level trainers. Maybe a hands-on Bookshare training from OTAP?

- b. Problems using Bookshare website. Not user-friendly, kind of technical. Bookshare website has recently been remodeled, so the registration forms are easier to find.
 - c. How to share responsibility for downloading? Douglas ESD AT Team has explicit instructions which they have trialed with one IA.
 - d. University: Preservice training on Bookshare is difficult because university instructors don't have direct access to students.
 - e. PPS has developed instructions for how to download files. Downloading is easier through Read:Outloud. Bookshare's collection includes public domain books that you can use to practice downloading and opening without doing it in the name of a specific student. File types may be limited for these books.
 - f. NIMAS-sourced files with images are memory-heavy files which may require more memory or technical assistance to open. Read:Outloud does the best job opening the files, but there is difficulty bookmarking files using this program. (Melanie has contacted Bookshare about the problem.)
 - g. California received a grant to develop a generic Math book for a particular grade level, open to anyone, no qualification required. (Supposed to be available from Bookshare.)
 - h. Some new curriculum materials in Math have an online component. Given difficulties they have experienced with Bookshare, one team wants their district to purchase only textbooks that come with the option of accessible formats.
 - i. Some district computers may be locked, making it difficult to download files, especially compressed files. The person downloading must be reauthorized to access the internet. It's necessary to contact the district's IT dept, who can provide the authorization code.
 - j. Training is an issue, as teachers have little time to really acquire the skills necessary to acquire and download AIM files. Kelley has tried setting up Bookshare accounts for teachers, but this is too labor-intensive for her to do for the entire district. Bookshare needs an "enter here" option for people who have difficulty with the website.
3. For what populations are you using AIM? (These numbers are informal reports from those present, and should not be considered as representative numbers for the state)
- Physical Limitations? 13 total
 - Blind? (OTMC has these numbers)
 - Vision Impaired? (OTMC has numbers)
 - Students with Print disability due to Organic Dysfunction? (7 so far)
 - Students on 504 Plans? (None reported)
4. Are you having success getting competent authority to verify Organic Dysfunction? What process is working for this?

- a. Not a good system in place for getting physician's signature.
 - b. One district has received a letter from a doctor supplied by the parents which includes a diagnosis.
5. What formats and applications are you using?
- a. Kurzweil Speech Engine: human-like speech, can change the rate
 - b. Wynn
 - c. Premier
 - d. Read:Outloud, Solo
 - e. Jaws for Windows
 - f. Mac Speech Function (free)
 - g. Freedom Scientific Scanner, called Sara: Stand-alone scanner with voice output, costly.
 - h. Daisy players: Victor Reader, Eclipse Reader (\$ Daisy software)
 - i. Natural Reader: free, better voices are available for a fee).
 - j. Omnipage: converts text to OCR
 - k. Top OCR: Free download, converts scanned documents to text, imports to Text To Speech, tracks voice by word, can speed up, slow down, convert to MP3 (Not good for students with vision issues due to small window)
 - l. Dspeech: converts and tracks word by word (pc only)
 - m. Babble Reader: free download

Have you chosen a particular application as a district?

Hillsboro has a software adoption process. They use Kurzweil.

Hard to narrow down since one application doesn't support all formats.

6. How are you dealing with logistics? How are you transferring the file? What devices are you using? (e.g. netbooks, laptops, classmates, etc.) What works best for portability, etc?
- a. MP3 players
 - b. Book is chopped and scanned chapter by chapter using a high speed scanner, chapter is emailed to the student or support staff, they download and use the file with Wynn.
 - c. Eugene 4j team is considering a pilot project at a high school to have students do book scanning. They plan regional sites at four high schools.
 - d. Download to a flash drive, load on student's computer.