

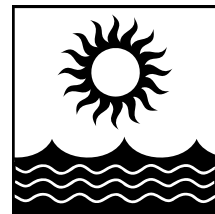
# OTAP

Oregon Technology Access Program  
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WWW.OTAP-OREGON.ORG

# NEWS

## Take Your Technology on Vacation: OTAP Assistive Technology Summer Institute

August 11, 12 & 13, 2008  
Seaside Civic &  
Convention Center



Staff at the OTAP office are excitedly making plans for the Assistive Technology Summer Institute. This year's Institute will be back at the Seaside Convention Center on the Oregon Coast, by popular demand! We are preparing for three days of intensive, day-long classes on a variety of topics related to the ways students with disabilities can use assistive technology to participate more fully and be more independent in the classroom and beyond. Each session is a full day class taught by highly-skilled presenters from throughout Oregon and the nation, including nationally-known speakers Kelly Fonner, Steve Timmer, Gayl Bowser, and Penny Reed. Sessions range from hands-on labs and a make-and-take experience, to information and ideas to help educators integrate technology use throughout a child's day. Topics include specific applications like IntelliKeys, Clicker 5, Boardmaker and Dragon Naturally Speaking, plus topics such as switch access, implementing assistive technology throughout the curriculum, and how to use things like blogs and wikis to enhance AT. It's a full and exciting program! Register for one, two or all three days of the Summer Institute. The OTAP Summer Institute registration form is included with this mailing.

For more information or duplicate brochures, please contact Karen Daniels in the OTAP office at [karen.daniels@douglasesd.k12.or.us](mailto:karen.daniels@douglasesd.k12.or.us).

## Plan Now for 2008-09 Assistive Technology Professional Development

*Customized, Local Classes  
Available at Your Request*

The mission of the Oregon Technology Access Program is to empower schools and district staff to use assistive technology effectively in their daily work with students with disabilities. To do this, OTAP is committed to bringing to your door training that meets local needs of your staff where they work and live. We work with each education agency to customize our professional development offerings in order to meet the needs of each group.

Below is a listing of just some of the classes which OTAP can offer. We are happy to work with you to arrange customized technology training opportunities on any assistive technology topic for your group. As you are planning next year's professional development calendar, please contact Diana Roberts or Shar Burgoyne to schedule one of these training opportunities. We would be happy to discuss the possibilities for regional training for your staff.

- BoardMaker
- Clicker 5
- Dragon Naturally Speaking
- Electronic Books
- IntelliTools
- Kurzweil
- SOLO
- WYNN

**Shar Burgoyne** • *Assistive Technology Resource Specialist/Trainer*

[shar.burgoyne@douglasesd.k12.or.us](mailto:shar.burgoyne@douglasesd.k12.or.us)

**Kim Philpott** • *Equipment Manager*

[kim.philpott@douglasesd.k12.or.us](mailto:kim.philpott@douglasesd.k12.or.us)

**Terry Christenson & Karen Daniels** • *Office Support*

## Inside this Issue

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## Look for our NEW AND IMPROVED OTAP Website!

### [www.otap-oregon.org](http://www.otap-oregon.org)

The remodeled OTAP website is launched and live. The new website offers a more user-friendly format, including Quick Links to OTAP staff, the OTAP loan library, web class and workshop registration forms and more. Share your favorite tools or forms by posting them to the Oregon AT Resources page. Also accessible via the newly-revised website:

- OTAP Events calendar with links to registration forms
- OTAP library searchable database
- Equipment loan orders by email
- Information on upcoming web classes taught by Gayl Bowser
- Downloadable OTAP publications
- Grant application form for the Coalition for Assistive Technology in Oregon (CATO)
- Ask questions of OTAP staff
- Connect to quality state and national AT resources

## Summer Loans from the OTAP Equipment Library

OTAP loan library equipment is available for checkout for the entire summer. This can be especially helpful for students who may need a longer equipment trial period, for parents who want to become familiar with the equipment their children use at school, and for professionals who want more time to learn or practice with an AT device or application. To borrow an item from the OTAP loan library for the summer, contact Kim Philpott at 541-440-4759 or [kim.philpott@douglasesd.k12.or](mailto:kim.philpott@douglasesd.k12.or).

## OTAP Assistive Technology Teams Project

Since the advent of IDEA '04, school districts have become increasingly aware of the need to develop district processes and procedures for assistive technology evaluation and implementation. In the last three years, OTAP has provided training to districts through the Assistive Technology Teams Project. In that time, nineteen teams have received training, mentoring and support to develop Assistive Technology services and systems for their districts. This year's project included 6 teams from across Oregon, who are excited about impacting AT services in their districts or regions.

The Teams Project provides intensive training for a limited number of teams each year. Participation in the project is by application. Districts commit to send at least three team members to three, two-day training events in January, February and March. Teams may elect to work with a mentor following the training sessions. There is minimal cost to the districts for these events. Districts are required to pay for release time and travel costs. An administrator from the district attends the first day of professional development and to meet regularly with the team to support their work and planning efforts. Training topics include developing a district picture of services, AT assessment and strategies for improved professional development.



The 2009 AT Teams Project will begin in January of next year. If you are interested in participating in the '09 Teams Project, please contact Diana Roberts or Shar Burgoyne by phone or email. We'll be happy to answer your questions, send you an application or just discuss your agency's needs and concerns about Assistive Technology.

## Fall Web Class Added

OTAP is now in its fourth year of offering college-level course work on Assistive Technology via the web. Taught by Gayl Bowser, these courses have become so popular that we are adding a fall session to accommodate the number of people interested in taking the course. "After the Assessment: Planning and Implementing Assistive Technology Programs" will be offered through Portland State Fall Term, 2008 on the web. For further information, please contact the OTAP office at 541-440-4791 or email: [terry.christenson@douglasesd.k12.or.us](mailto:terry.christenson@douglasesd.k12.or.us)

## **Bookshare.org Partners with Don Johnston to Provide Free Text Reader for Students with Print Disabilities**

Bookshare.org and special education publisher Don Johnston have announced a partnership to provide qualified print disabled students with a free text reader to access electronic books from the Bookshare.org library. This technology access partnership announced at the 2008 CSUN conference in Los Angeles, CA, will serve an estimated 1-3% of the total K-12 student population, specifically those who receive special education services and qualify under the 1996 Chafee Amendment. "Don Johnston and his products have a solid reputation in the special education community," says CSUN keynote speaker Jim Fruchterman, CEO of Benetech, the Palo Alto, California-based nonprofit organization that operates Bookshare.org. "We chose Read:OutLoud because of its strong support tools for students with reading disabilities and its ability to read DAISY files that have the richness that comes from the NIMAS publisher files. Benetech and the team at Don Johnston are working closely together to create more equality for students with learning disabilities and special needs."

The goal of this partnership is to help eliminate barriers for print disabled students and provide the tools needed to ensure access to educational texts. Bookshare.org offers digital books produced from the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) and delivers them to students in the BRF Braille file format and the Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) standard for Digital Talking Books. Don Johnston's Read:OutLoud Bookshare Edition text reader gives students better access to books and effective reading instruction through a direct connection to Bookshare.org's digital texts.

Beginning at the start of the 2008-09 school year, qualified students will have the opportunity to use Don Johnston's Read:OutLoud Bookshare.org Edition text reader (Windows Version) to access more than 36,000 books, magazines and newspapers in the Bookshare.org library. The text reader offers embedded reading comprehension strategies and instructional supports that align with state educational standards. The text reader software includes audio feedback, electronic highlighting and note-taking features that allow

students to effectively capture ideas. A Mac version will follow in 2009.

### **About Bookshare.org**

Bookshare.org is an online community that allows people with print disabilities to legally download books and periodicals to be read as Braille, large print or synthetic speech. In October of 2007, Bookshare.org received a \$32 million five-year award from the U.S. Department of Education to significantly expand the availability of accessible digital books and software for reading those books. Over the next five years, Bookshare.org expects to add over 100,000 new book titles and textbooks to its collection.

### **About Don Johnston Incorporated**

Don Johnston empowers educators with supplemental instruction and intervention solutions to help struggling learners build core literacy skills with confidence. Since 1980, the company has partnered with literacy experts, psychologists, teachers, researchers, and scientists to develop over a dozen educational technology access products. The company also publishes Start-to-Finish®, a collection of paperback, audio and computer books to engage struggling readers and ESL learners. 1-800-999-4660 - [www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com)

### **Resource Links:**

Read:OutLoud® Bookshare.org Edition Text Reader

[http://www.donjohnston.com/products/rol\\_bookshare/index.html](http://www.donjohnston.com/products/rol_bookshare/index.html)

CSUN - California State University at Northridge Annual International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference -

<http://www.csun.edu/cod/conf/2008/>

American Foundation for the Blind - Chafee Amendment: Initiated by the late Senator John J. Chafee (R-RI), enables students with visual and print disabilities to qualify for specialized technology to access print materials.

<http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=44&TopicID=16&SubTopicID=33&DocumentID=1785>

US Copyright Law:

<http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/factsheets/copyright.html>

Learn about NIMAS. Watch NIMAS 101: What Educators Need to Know

[http://www.donjohnston.com./prof\\_services/nimas/index.html](http://www.donjohnston.com./prof_services/nimas/index.html)

**QIAT SUMMIT • June 23 & 24, 2008 •**

*Minneapolis, MN*. Join your colleagues and the QIAT Leadership Team (QILT) to continue the work of the QIAT community. During the two-day work session, participants will work collaboratively in large and small groups to expand support for the development and delivery of quality assistive technology services. For further information, contact Gayl Bowser at [gaylbowser@aol.com](mailto:gaylbowser@aol.com).

**Coming Events**

special education and rehabilitation. A large number of the sessions focus on technology for children. Pre-conference sessions are held on

Tuesday and Wednesday with shorter sessions on the final three days of the conference. The vendor display arena is enormous! Check for the latest conference news at [www.closingthegap.com](http://www.closingthegap.com). call 507-248-3294 or email: [info@closingthegap.com](mailto:info@closingthegap.com).

**OREGON ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SUMMER INSTITUTE • August 11-13, 2008 • Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, OR** • Registration materials are included with this newsletter. For further information about the Summer Institute, contact Karen Daniels at 541-440-4776 or [karen.daniels@douglasesd.k12.or.us](mailto:karen.daniels@douglasesd.k12.or.us).

**AFTER THE ASSESSMENT: IMPLEMENTING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS • Fall Term, 2008 • On the Web** • Web-based class through Portland State University. For further information contact Terry Christenson at 541-440-4791 or email: [terry.christenson@douglasesd.k12.or.us](mailto:terry.christenson@douglasesd.k12.or.us).

**CLOSING THE GAP • October 14-18, 2008 • Minneapolis, MN**. The Closing the Gap Conference is one of the nation's largest conferences on technology in

**MODELS OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT • Winter Term, 2009 • On the Web** • Web-based class through Portland State University. For further information contact Terry Christenson at 541-440-4791 or email: [terry.christenson@douglasesd.k12.or.us](mailto:terry.christenson@douglasesd.k12.or.us).

**OTAP ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TEAMS PROJECT** January, February & March 2009. The OTAP AT teams project provides intensive training for up to eight teams from school districts and education service districts throughout Oregon. The purpose of the Teams Project is to help education agencies develop the resources they need to provide high quality, legal, ethical and cost efficient AT services for all students who need assistive technology. For further information, contact Diana Roberts at [diana.roberts@douglasesd.k12.or.us](mailto:diana.roberts@douglasesd.k12.or.us) or call her at 541-440-4791.

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