

October, 2009

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Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) Resources from OTAP

Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) are textbooks and core instructional materials provided in alternative formats, such as digital text, sound files, Braille and large print. AIM provides access to curricular materials for students with vision or physical impairments, or other reading disabilities, making it a powerful tool for helping students achieve. A national standard for computer source files, the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) has been established as a provision of IDEA 2004. NIMAS files are housed in the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC), and may be accessed through OTMC, the Oregon Textbook and Media Center (for students who are blind or visually impaired), Bookshare.org, or another Accessible Media Producer (AMP).

To assist districts in understanding the requirements of NIMAS and AIM, OTAP has developed two sets of informational guides about, now available on the OTAP website.

The AIM Fact Sheets are intended as resources for school districts. Each Fact Sheet has information about the requirements and provisions of AIM/NIMAS, with applicable legal statutes on the reverse side. The Fact Sheets include:

- 1 – What are Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM)?
- 2 – How do the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standards (NIMAS) help schools provide Accessible Instructional Materials?
- 3 – Which Students Qualify to Receive NIMAS files?

A second set of information guides are the AIM Process Sheets. The Process Sheets offer information and sample forms to assist IEP teams in decision-making about AIM for specific students. The Process Sheets are:

- 1 – Determining Student Need for Accessible Instructional Materials.
- 2 – Determining Student Eligibility for NIMAS files.
- 3 – Obtaining NIMAS Materials for Eligible Students in Oregon.

To access the AIM Fact and Process Sheets in pdf format, go to:
<http://www.otap-oregon.org/Pages/AIMHome.aspx>

Acquiring and Implementing Accessible Instructional Materials

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS OFFERED THROUGHOUT OREGON, 2009-10

This fall, OTAP is offering day-long workshops about the legal requirements of AIM and copyright law, student eligibility, resources for acquiring AIM for students, and processes for implementing AIM in your district. A schedule is under development to bring this training to in all areas of the state.

Coming Events

Bookshare Webinar

Oct. 19, 2009 at 1:00 pm PST

Content includes the New "one-step search" to find and request textbooks, new search technology that will help students with research and assignments, and use of the new free Firefox DAISY reader.

Register at

<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=882fp1ulqsvx>

Oregon NEO 2 Laptop Forum

Oct 23, 2009, 8:30-3:00

Beaverton SD Central Office
For more information, visit the www.renlearn.com website and click on Beaverton agenda.

OTAP AT Teams Project

Winter, 2010

Download a Teams

Application at:

www.otap-oregon.org

Click on the AT Teams Tab

Application Deadline: 10-23-09

Assistive Technology

Industry Association

World Conference – ATIA

October 29-31- Chicago, IL

Jan 27-30 – Orlando, FL

Showcase the latest innovations in Assistive Technology and offer hundreds of excellent professional development opportunities. For further information call 877-687-2842

www.atia.org

Web Classes

Models of Assistive Technology Assessment – Winter Term 2010

After the Assessment: Implementing Assistive Technology Programs Spring Term 2010

Web-based class through Portland State University. For further information download application at www.otap-oregon.org and click on the Web Classes Tab or contact Terry Christenson at terry.christenson@douglassed.k12.or.us.

Assistive Technology

The workshop is designed for special education directors, special education teachers, general education teachers, instructional media specialists, curriculum specialists, media specialists, assistive technology specialists and other school district or ESD staff who are involved in making decisions about and implementing accessible instructional materials for students



Workshop participants will:

- Understand the legal requirements of NIMAS , AIM and copyright law
- Learn about a team process to establish need for AIM, identify specialized formats needed, select and acquire AIM for individual students
- Identify elements of a district process for acquisition and management of digital materials
- Become familiar with resources for acquisition of AIM
- Learn about issues in opening and utilizing AIM files with students

To attend a workshop in your area, contact us at terry.christenson@douglassed.k12.or.us.

Announcing AT Teams Project, 2010

The Assistive Technology Teams Project is a workshop series for AT Teams, offered yearly by OTAP. The project brings together up to eight teams from districts and ESDs throughout Oregon for training to develop processes for provision of effective AT services. The training includes information on quality indicators for AT services, AT Team models, and resources for assessment, implementation and evaluation of AT. The workshop series will consist of three, two-day team training events at little or no cost to the districts, in January, February and March of 2010. In addition, a team mentor will be identified for each district team that would like one. Mentors will work with teams during the March AT Teams session and throughout the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year. In addition, the February training event brings teams together with experienced teams for an opportunity to network and learn from each other. Pati King-DeBaun, MS, SLP, a nationally-recognized speaker, will present on integrating AT use to enhance student achievement. (See more about this presentation below.) For more information and to access an application for the AT Teams Project, please click on the following link: <http://www.otap-oregon.org/Pages/Project%20Application.aspx>.

AT Teams Feedback from Past Participants

The AT Teams Project is now in its fifth year! A total of 107 people from 23 Teams have participated in the project since 2006, working together to develop district processes for provision of AT services, creating technical assistance manuals, acquiring resources on best practice, and developing and providing AT training for district staff. Across the state, 23 school districts and ESDs have increased their capacity to consider, assess, and implement and evaluate the effectiveness of assistive technology for students. This fall, we surveyed past Teams Project participants to gather information about how the project has impacted AT services in the districts which have participated since 2004. If you'd like to see the results and read the

Custom Workshops for Your Staff

Each year, OTAP offers workshops on assistive technology which can be delivered to your staff on-site. Topics range from hands-on training on adaptive software programs, to information and facilitated discussion on AT services and district processes.

This year, we are offering a class on:

Conversion Tools for Accessible Instructional Materials.

This training covers:

- READ: OutLoud
- Victor Reader Soft
- and other widely-used programs.

For a complete list of the classes which Oregon Technology Access Program (OTAP) can offer in your area, go to www.otap-oregon.org and click on the Training link. In addition to the classes on this list, we are happy to work with you to arrange customized training opportunities on any assistive technology topic for your group. Please contact Shar Powell or Diana Roberts to discuss options.

comments of past participants in the Project, click on <http://www.otap-oregon.org/Pages/SurveySummaries.aspx>

Teaching the Three Rs for Students with Significant Disabilities in the Inclusive Classroom



PATI KING-DEBAUN, MS, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010 • 9:00-4:00 • HOLIDAY INN
WILSONVILLE**

Join us in February for a day-long workshop on utilizing assistive technology and augmentative communication to enhance student learning and classroom participation. This workshop will combine both instructional theory and computer technology to support systematic strategies for teaching students with a range of disabilities in inclusive settings. Assistive technology and tools that accommodate learning and incorporate universal design will be emphasized. A variety of programs and ideas will be explored that scaffold learning, that help with the assessment of learning and that create opportunities for independent student practice.

Pati King-DeBaun, M.S. CCC-SLP is owner and founder of Creative Communicating, a company dedicated to creating fun, simple and universally accessible resources for communication, early literacy and creativity in young children with disabilities. Ms DeBaun believes that all children, regardless of ability, can learn, communicate and participate successfully in literacy based activities. Pati speaks and consults throughout the world on topics of early language development, augmentative communication, early literacy support and children with disabilities.. This workshop is sponsored in part by the Oregon Society for Alternative and Augmentative Communication. Cost of this workshop is \$115 for the one day session and includes lunch. Registration materials will be available on the OTAP website November 1, 2009.

For more information about Pati and Creative Communicating, go to <http://www.creativecommunicating.com/workshops.cfm>

AT Summer Institute Survey

In our ongoing efforts to better identify and address your AT training needs, we would like to request your input about the Summer Institute and alternatives for this type of training. Your feedback is a critical part of our planning cycle as we create future professional development opportunities. Please take a moment to click on the following link and respond to a brief, 6-question survey to let us know what kinds of training and training formats work best for you. We value your feedback. Thank you in advance for your input!

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=4ghz42gxAljeofz8DFSvSw_3d_3d

OTAP Assistive Technology Equipment Loan Library

The AT Loan Library is a widely-used statewide resource. A total of 330 loans were made during the 2008-09 school year! The library is available to any student or young child in Oregon who has a disability. Library services are free of charge, with the exception of the return shipping costs. New additions to the loan library are listed below. To view the searchable database and access the printable Loan Agreement Form, see the OTAP website at www.otap-oregon.org. For technical assistance regarding library equipment, please contact Shar Powell at 541-440-4793 or email her at shar.powell@douglasesd.k12.or.us. For questions about library checkout, contact Kim Philpott at 541-440-4759 or at kim.philpott@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

New in the OTAP Library



Proloquo2Go Communicator: Proloquo2Go™ is a new product from the Assistiveware Company that provides a full-featured communication solution on an itouch MP3 player. It brings natural sounding text-to-speech voices, up-to-date symbols, powerful automatic conjugations, a vocabulary of over 7000 items, full expandability and extreme ease of use. **Item # AC247.**

For more information about this product, the manufacturer website is:
<http://www.assistiveware.com>.



KReader: The Mobile Reader from knfb Reading Technology is activated and ready to use with the touch of a button on the phone. Developed under the direction of Assistive Technology pioneer Ray Kurzweil the kReader enables the user to take a photo of the print to be read and the character recognition software in conjunction with high quality text-to-speech will read the contents of the document aloud. At the same time, it can display the print on the phone's built-in screen and highlight each word as it is spoken. This is a truly portable solution to reading on the go, allowing users to read what they want wherever they happen to be. **Item #253.0**

For more information about this product, the manufacturer website is:
<http://www.knfbreader.com>

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