

Technology Solutions for Reading, Writing & Organization

Sheila Simmons, Assistive Technology for Kansans

Session Roadmap

- Assistive technology devices and supports
- Technology for reading
- Technology for writing
- Technology for organization
- Resources

Assistive Technology

- Assistive technology is defined as any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.
- Universal design or usability is increasingly prioritized
- Range of technology solutions within any area should be considered
 - Individual's comfort level with technology
 - Activity requirements
 - Environmental demands

Assistive Technology Categories

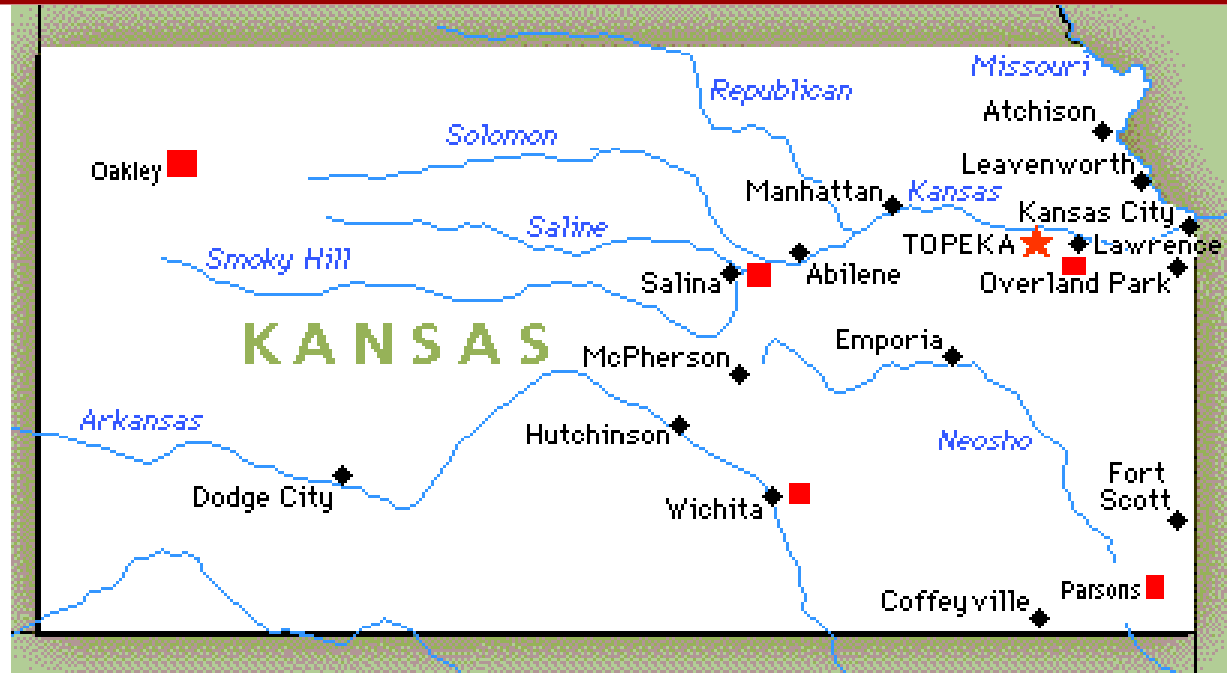
- Common categories of assistive technology are:
 - Positioning & mobility (scooters, wheelchairs, walkers)
 - Speech communication (voice amplifiers, electronic speech)
 - Hearing (signalers for phone, doorbell; hearing aids)
 - Vision (screen magnifiers, screen readers, video magnifiers)
 - Computers and software
 - Vehicle adaptations (lifts, hand controls)
 - Home & office modifications (ramps, ergonomic set-ups)

Assistive Technology for Kansans

- Lead agency is the KU Lifespan Institute at Parsons
 - Each state and territory has a Technology Act Program
 - All statewide AT programs provide four core services (device borrowing, device demonstration, device refurbish and reuse, financing activities) in addition to product information, public awareness, and training
- Statewide AT Expo, training workshops
- ATK Device Loan System
- Kansas has five AT Access Sites and one affiliate office

AT Access Sites & Affiliate

800-KAN DO IT
800-526-3648



- Western AT Access Site, NW Educational Service Center, Oakley
 - SW Kansas sector, Center for Independent Living of SW Kansas, 800-295-4122
- North Central AT Access Site, OCCK, Salina
- South Central AT Access Site, SKIL, Wichita
- Northeast AT Access Site, Independence Inc., Lawrence
- SE AT Access Site, SKIL, Parsons
- Management, Kansas University Center on Disabilities – Parsons

Culinary Student



- High school student with average grades, great social skills, and unreported difficulties with reading and writing
- Recognized that her strategies of studying with friends, borrowing notes, and collaborating with learning partners on assignments might not be available to her in culinary school
- Concerned that the amount of time it took to read textbook assignments would result in not being able to keep up
- Concerned that her writing skills without peer support would not be acceptable in post-secondary school

Seminary Student

- Senior in small high school with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that identified supports and services for reading, writing, and organization
 - Peer note-taking
 - Graphic organizer & PDA
 - Additional time to take tests
 - Talking dictionary & calculator



AT for Reading



- Online, digital text resources
 - Project Gutenberg – provides educators with downloadable digital books free of charge
 - Bookshare – similar service for copyrighted material
 - Victor Reader Soft or ReadOutLoud Bookshare Version – text to speech application for eligible students
 - Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic – library of books in audio books plus format (digital books on CD)
 - AudioAccess – members allowed to download audio textbooks and literature directly to a Windows-compatible machine & played on MP3

AT for Reading

- Software
 - WYNN
 - Read & Write Gold
- Screen Readers



- Zoomtext
- JAWS
- Mac OS X – VoiceOver
- Accessibility features of Microsoft Office

AT for Writing



- Portable note takers
 - AlphaSmart NEO 2,
 - Dana
 - The Writer and Writer Fusion
- Netbooks (write, access internet, conduct research, can run text to speech software)
- Voice activation software
 - Dragon Dictate Naturally Speaking
 - MacSpeech



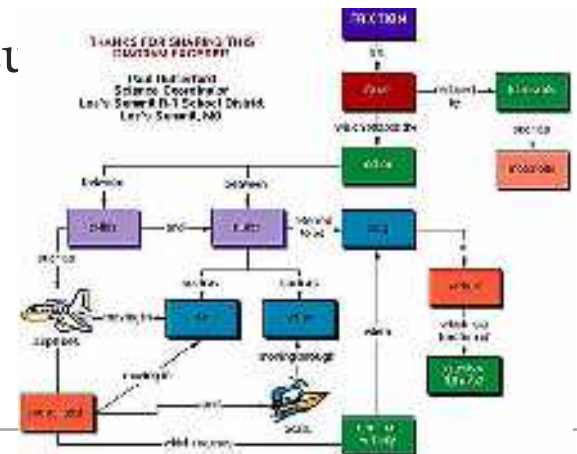
AT for Writing

- Talking word processors & word prediction/spelling tools
 - Write Outloud
 - Read & Write Gold
 - Co:Writer
- Livescribe Pulse Pen
- USB software
 - Read & Write Gold
 - WinZoom



AT for Organization, Memory

- Digital devices for schedules, appointments, assignments, exams, project deadlines
 - Personal Digital Assistants (PDA)
 - Smartphones (Blackberry, iPhone)
 - iPod Touch
- Concept mapping and webs to support comprehension and planning
 - Inspiration



Selected AT Solutions

- Culinary student
 - Read & Write Gold for assignments & reading excerpts
 - Allows for extra time for reading assignments
 - Livescribe pen – important for new terms and upload to her laptop
 - Note-taking partner
 - iPhone - assignments
 - Extra time for tests
- Seminary student
 - Inspiration for organizing and outlining written assignments and projects

Resources

- Assistive Technology for Kansans (www.atk.ku.edu)
 - 800 KAN DO IT (800-526-3648)
- Center for Applied Special Technology (www.cast.org)
- Center for Implementing Technology in Education (CITEd) (www.cited.org)
- Family Center on Technology and Disability (fact sheets to CEU studies for educators)
 - www.fctd.info/show/home
- LD Online – basic information on AT

Questions

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- AT Access Sites
 - 800 KAN DO IT (800-526-3648)