

Current Applications of Assistive Technology

The annual Assistive Technology (AT) mini conference is planned for fall this year. We are offering two days of “mini” workshops centered around the use of assistive technology.

We’ve posted twelve sessions so participants may choose topics that will help meet their individual needs. Two events will be offered in Washington so you may choose the closest location. The first will be on October 18-19 at ESD 101 in Spokane. The program will also be offered at the WEA in Federal Way on November 1-2, 2011. Please review the short descriptions listed within this newsletter or visit our website for additional information on each of the sessions.

Don Johnston Free Presentation

Discover new resources for delivering accessible instructional materials (AIM) for students who struggle with print text. Proven tools and resources will be explored including: Read:OutLoud®, the Intel® Reader and a sneak peak at a new AIM tool being launched this fall by Don Johnston!

Spring Speaker

Gayl Bowser will be a guest speaker for SETC in the Spring. She will visit Federal Way on March 6, 2012 and Spokane on March 7. Her presentation will be on Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM). She will present on how to establish and implement a system in a school district for effectively supporting the use of AIM. Gayl is formerly of Oregon Technology Access Program (OTAP).

Visit our website where new information will be posted leading up to her presentation in March.

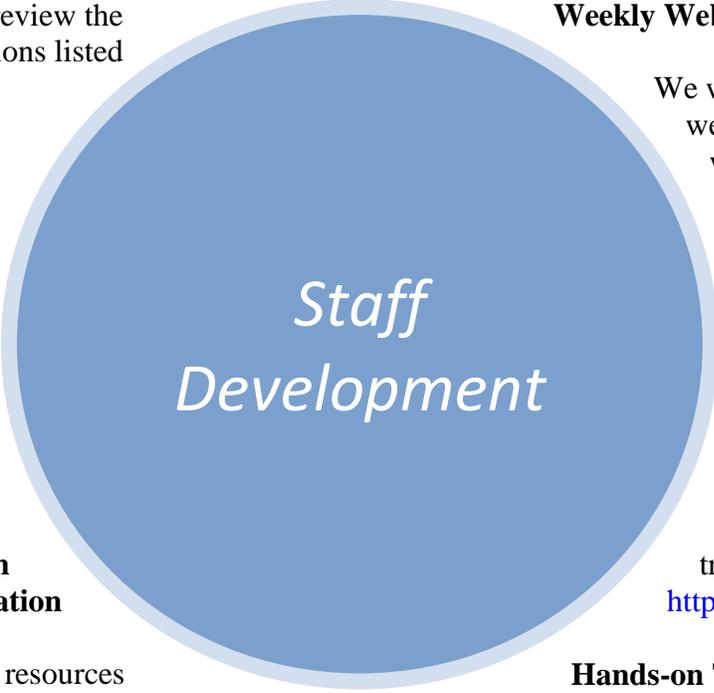
Weekly Webinars

We will continue to offer free webinars. Two or three webinars are scheduled each week. Most webinars are one hour in length and all are available for clock hours. A list of upcoming webinars are provided in this newsletter or you may choose to visit our website where additional trainings are posted.

<http://www.cwu.edu/~setc/>

Hands-on Technical Assistance

When you have student or classroom specific questions regarding the operation or customization of technology the SETC can provide support. Hands-on Technical Assistance is available at our three “home” sites, Ellensburg, Spokane, and Federal Way/Tacoma.



*Staff
Development*

Video Tutorials

Does this sound familiar, “I go to a conference and I understand it while I’m there. When I get back to work and sit down at the computer, I don’t remember anything!” We hear you! Sometimes you need a quick visual of how to download a photo into Boardmaker or how to create a talking book with Clicker 5. Other times, you would really like to view a short series of trainings at your own pace and be able to repeat sections of the training.

We invite you to explore the Special Education Technology Center’s new video tutorials! Video Tutorials are available at your convenience - anytime and anywhere, free of charge. Our pre-recorded demonstrations let you learn more about the specific software, hardware and applications commonly used in school settings. You can review and replay them as you wish. There’s no special software to download or install - all you need is your computer and the internet. These video tutorials run on both Windows and Mac platforms.

Here’s how it works:

Go to www.cwu.edu/~setc/

Scroll down the menu bar on the left and simply click on the link:

NEW Video Tutorials

Find the name of the tutorial you would like to view and click the Play icon.



Learning technology takes time. Time is precious and funding is limited. Technology is growing faster than your budget and staying informed on the “How To’s” of software products can seem like an impossible task. In our roles as teachers, therapists and para educators in the schools we are often expected to learn software and teach students, sometimes all in the same day. This can be overwhelming and is one of the reasons software remains in the box far too long. Use our tutorials to make implementing assistive technology easier.

SETC’s video tutorials are in their infancy phase. As the library continues to grow, we would like your interests and needs to help guide our inventory of video tutorials. Check out the tutorials we currently have available and let us know what you would like to learn more about. Let technology work for you, on your time frame, and at your pace.

Apple released the first iPad in April 2010, selling 14.8 million iPads in that year alone. By the end of 2011, the iPad is expected to take 83 percent of the tablet computing market share in the United States. The educational world represents a good share of those consumers, enthusiastically welcoming the iPad into the classroom. Special education in particular is recognizing its application for both student learning and as an affordable communication device. Yet, how accessible is the iPad to those with physical disabilities. How many apps are equipped with accessibility features? Currently there are very few Apps with built in accessibility features for switch users. Predictable by Therapy-Box is one such App. Predictable appears to be the first switch accessible communication App available for the iPad. It is suitable for students with CP, motor neuron disease, brain injury and other motor speech disorders.

While there are built in category pages and pre-programmed phrase banks, students must be able to sound out the beginning of words in order to use Predictable effectively. Auditory feedback for predicted word options is available to struggling readers. The newest version of Predictable magnifies categories upon selection for visual feedback.

Predictable has multiple access methods, which include:

1. Direct Touch mode
2. Switch Access mode (Requires RJ Cooper's Bluetooth Switch Interface)
3. Touch Anywhere mode. This method turns the iPad screen into a switch while Predictable is in auto-scan mode.

Our hope is that Predictable will challenge other AAC App developers to revise their Apps to include switch accessible features. Predictable is available on SETC iPads for preview.

- For additional information on RJ Cooper's Bluetooth Switch Interface (\$99) visit: www.rjcooper.com/bluetooth-switch-interface/index.html



- For additional information on the Predictable App (\$159.99), visit the following sites:
<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/predictable/id404445007?mt=8>
www.tboxapps.com
Reference: Wikipedia, iTunes Preview, Therapy Box, RJ Cooper

Communication Apps For the iPad:

We have several new communication apps for the iPad. We have the large vocabulary communication apps Proloquo2Go, and Touch Chat, a new communication app from Saltillo that uses the ChatPC software. The iCommunicate and iConverse are more basic level communication apps. TapSpeak records and replays message sequences. Question Builder is designed to teach students how to answer abstract questions. ArtikPix is an articulation app with flashcards and activities. We also have a couple of sign language apps: Sign 4 Me, and Sign Smith ASL Ultimate.

If you are concerned about your iPad being dropped, we have a great new mount from Wheelchair ADL Solutions that securely attaches the iPad to the table with suction cups. It enables you to change the angle for viewing and access.

What's New in Augmentative Communication at SETC

We have some new communication items in our lending library. Check them out!

Prox Talker

The Prox Talker is a speech generating device organized similarly to the Picture Exchange System (PECS) but with voice output. The picture cards included are easily programmed with the programming tags. The pictures stay programmed until you use a tag to re-record them. Students place the speech programmed picture cards on the device, touch the picture, and it speaks. They can be organized to say single words or a phrase in a sequence. It is a unique device and very user friendly.

Pragmatic Organization Dynamic (PODD)

The PODD communication system is a uniquely organized multiple page communication system. It is paper based, and incorporates pragmatic functions into the communication. We have some communication book examples in the lending library that you can check out to learn about this great communication system.

Alt Chat Plus

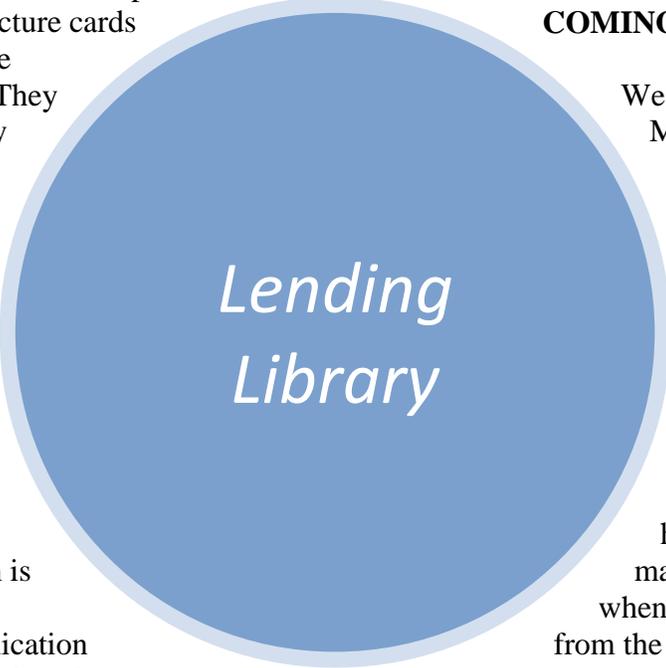
ALT-Chat Plus is a speech generating device that combines the power of the ChatPC software with Prentke Romich Company's popular Springboard Lite hardware. Although still very portable at 2.5 lbs., ALT-Chat offers a 7" display, switch scanning, text-to-speech synthesis and all of the other ChatPC features.

COMING SOON

We will acquire a MyTobii eye gaze speech generating device this fall. It utilizes the Tobii Communicator Software. This is a great eye gaze system that even works effectively with students having extraneous head movement. It maintains calibration when the user moves away from the screen.

Other Items

Go Talk 32
iPod Touch with speakers
iPad
iPad 2
iPad Mounting System



*Lending
Library*