



Reading Technology Options For Disability Services Students

Any student who uses Disability Services may use Reading Technology resources. Currently, DS offers the following reading technology:

1. Recordings for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D): (www.rfbd.org)

What is this? RFB&D is a private non-profit organization. They currently have the largest selection of educational texts. DS has an institutional membership by which students can borrow audio texts. In order to play RFB&D audio books, you will need to use specially adapted CD players, software. RFB&D offers a complete line of players, software and accessories for nonprofit sale.

- ^ CD's are easy to navigate from chapter to chapter.
- ^ large selection of college level textbooks.
- ^ free to borrow.
- ^ copyright laws prevent users from duplicating texts. Therefore, recordings are password protected and require special equipment (provided only by RFB&D) to use them
- ^ Do not work in regular tape/CD players.
- ^ student is responsible for purchasing RFB&D player or software.
- ^ cost of playback software begins at \$79.00.
- ^ cost of playback devices begins at \$199.00.

2. Reading Technology or Screen Reading Software

What is this? Screen reading software has the ability to read digital text documents out loud to the user. In some cases, this allows for a combination of auditory and visual processing of information, which can increase comprehension. Through scanning, virtually any text can be converted to a digital format that can then be used with this technology. DS will have documents scanned and provide students with access to this technology free of charge. *Please see reverse side for information about the Carroll Hall computer lab and the Reading Technology Pilot program.*

Two Options:

- A) Obtaining text directly from publishers
- Some publishing companies will provide alternative formats of their texts to students with disabilities.
 - Outcome can be unpredictable- some companies will provide while others will not.

See reverse side

ALTERNATE FORMATS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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- B) Scanning Text and recording to a CD
- must give permission to break the binding on your textbook to allow for scanning.
 - allows for more flexibility and independence.
 - recommend borrowing a copy of the book for use while scanning takes place.

Learning Technology Lab- 213 Carroll Hall

Did you know?? The Counseling Center/Disability Services has a computer lab! One of the main purposes of this lab is to house Assistive Technology (AT), namely screen reading software. There are six (6) computers available for students to use in any way that they may need. In addition to reading technology each computer has the standard Meredith load (Office, IE, etc). It is located in 213 Carroll Hall and will be available any time the student needs access to it. After 11:00pm, students may access the lab by calling Campus Security. They will require that you have a friend with you to remain in the building.

Reading Technology Pilot Program

In conjunction with the Assistive Technology available through the LTL, Disability Services is conducting a pilot program to train students on the use of reading technology and to get valuable feedback about the products available to students. We highly encourage any interested student to participate. Our hope is that this information will be used to support future funding of additional software and other AT. If you would like to participate, please contact Jill Triana at trianaj@meredith.edu.

Software currently available in the Carroll Hall computer lab:

Wynn

- ^ Easy to use.
- ^ Can change voice, speed, tone, font size, colors, etc.
- ^ Four (4) color coded toolbars to assist students with many tasks including; file management, reading styles, study tools, and writing tools.
- ^ Can take notes or record a voice notes.
- ^ Can download as an mp3 file to any portable audio device (ipods, etc).
- ^ Can read web sites with ease.

ReadPlease

- ^ Very simple and easy to use, but not as broad in its application.
- ^ No study, file management, or writing tools. Cannot convert to mp3 files.
- ^ Can change voice, speed, tone, font size, colors, etc.
- ^ Must copy and paste into program to use.
- ^ Not as easy to read web sites.
- ^ Can purchase individual license for your own computer for as low as \$49.95.

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