

Check Out New and Exciting AT Equipment

Judie Lee, IPAT Executive Director

IPAT is always adding devices to the IPAT Equipment Loan Library inventory. This is done so that North Dakotans have the opportunity to 'check-out' new and/or updated assistive technology (AT) devices to explore options and try before they buy. Some of IPAT's favorite new additions are described below.

LEARNING

Kindle- A portable e-book reading device from Amazon.com.; on some models, font size can be adjusted and the text can be read aloud.

StudentMate- A low-cost, laptop alternative from *One2One*; features wireless connectivity and built-in applications (word processing and spreadsheets). Text reader options are available.

LiveScribe SmartPen- A pen that "records sounds (your voice, or that of a lecturer) then creates audio notes that it 'ties' to your written notes" using a special notebook.

Read & Write Gold 9- A software solution by TextHelp that offers several reading and writing aids (text reader, talking word processor, and word prediction). Also available on a flash drive, *Gold Mobile 9*.

RECREATION

Wii Adapted Remote and Wii Console- A switch adapted Wii remote that provides an alternative way to play Wii games.

COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Proloquo-to-Go on Ipod Touch- Picture based communication software which interfaces with the Ipod Touch; creating a low-cost hand-held speech generating device.

LightWriter SL40- An upgrade from Tobii ATI; a text-to-speech device with environmental controls, increased message storage and improved word prediction.

iTalk2- A communication device from Ablenet with 3 levels and 2 minutes of record time.

Chat-PC-Silk+- A handheld speech generating device with dynamic display from *Saltillo*, housed in a Pocket PC with a durable rubber casing and built-in speaker.

ALT-Chat+- See *Chat-PC-Silk+* and add a 7" display.

COMPUTER ACCESS

Rollermouse Free- A computer pointing device that eliminates reaching for a mouse as it allows a user to keep their hands in a position close to the keyboard.

VISION

Clearview+- A video magnifier that magnifies from 2X to over 50X the original size.

DAILY LIVING

Moshi Clock- A voice activated clock.

Contact IPAT staff at 1-800-895-4728 to make arrangements to see and/or borrow these new devices.

What's an eBook? How is it Read? Where are they Found?

Attention all readers – whether you read for pleasure, to complete classroom assignments, or engage in work-related research activities, there is an ever growing inventory of eBooks available providing another way to read. An eBook is a general term used to describe an electronic version of a traditional print book. eBooks can be read using a personal computer and/or other electronic devices.

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If you want to try reading an eBook and have a computer, go to one of the sites above and try out a free eBook, or drop in to one of IPAT's Technology Access Centers and explore a Kindle.

Telephone Program Update

The Aging Services Division of the North Dakota Department of Human Services has again awarded IPAT the contract to provide the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Service for our state.

Under this program, eligible individuals may receive a free telephone and needed accessories to meet their particular speech, hearing, vision, or physical challenges in using a standard telephone. If you or someone you know over the age of five has difficulty making, receiving, or participating in telephone calls, contact IPAT at 1-800-265-4728 or visit our website at www.ndipat.org to get further information.

CONSUMER CONNECTION

IPAT's CAC Meets

Once again, September found members of IPAT's Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) meeting in Bismarck. They spent time together involved in face-to-face discussion, enjoying an evening picnic, and catching-up on all things IPAT. The majority of the members of this Council are people with a disability, or those representing a family member with a disability, along with some state agency personnel serving individuals with disabilities.

One of the activities the CAC members participated in as part of their meeting, was an assistive technology (AT) equipment update, led by IPAT staff. IPAT's two Technology Access Centers (TAC's) have recently increased their equipment inventory, and some of these new AT devices were described and demonstrated. There were devices for vision, hearing, communication, computer access, environmental-control, writing, and activities of daily living. Remember, everyone is welcome to drop in to the TAC's in Bismarck or Fargo to see the range of AT devices first-hand, or organize a video-conference for device demonstration.

The CAC provides consumer-responsive, consumer-driven advice to IPAT to assist in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the activities the Program carries out.

This Council strives to be geographically representative of the State while reflecting diversity. At this time, IPAT is looking for CAC members residing in the northwest and north-central parts of North Dakota, as current members from these areas are soon to complete their term of service. If you are interested, please e-mail the CAC President, Bob Puyear, 44digits@bis.midco.net or call IPAT at 800-365-4728 and ask to speak with Judie Lee.

FUNDING NEWS

Technology Assistance Program (TAP)

Did you know that any North Dakota resident who has an identified disability and would like to purchase assistive technology (AT) devices or services may be eligible to receive financial assistance through the Technology Assistance Program (TAP)? If a state resident with a disability has been denied or found ineligible for funding from other sources, TAP may be a funding avenue.

TAP funds can be used to purchase any assistive technology device or service that meets the federal definition of such devices and services. If the definition is met, there are no limits on what devices can be purchased and/or repaired, or the services requested. There are no caps set on TAP funds, but typical requests are thought to come in around \$1,000. TAP will partner with other funding entities and/or accept personal sources to help fund AT purchases. TAP funds received by eligible individuals are treated as a grant and would not be expected to be repaid.

TAP funding assistance is viewed as a 'last resort' option and TAP anticipates applicants have pursued other means of support, both public and private. To apply for TAP funds, go to ndtaf.org and download an application or call 1-800-895-4728 to request one. If you have questions, e-mail taf@integra.net or write to Technology Access Foundation – 3509 Interstate Boulevard, Suite B – Fargo, ND 58103.

EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT



Livescribe Pulse Smart Pen

The unknowing user who picks up the Pulse Smart Pen will find that it writes like any other. What that user does not know, is that the pen is a powerful device that may help in school and everyday life.

The Smart Pen in short is able to digitally record everything that you write and hear. With a camera and microphone built into the pen the Smart Pen records to its built in memory. The user can then listen to the recording on the pen or transfer the recording and notes to a computer. The beauty of the pen is that the notes and recording are synced so that you can tap on a portion of your notes and the recording will pick up at the exact moment that note was being written. So even though you may have missed something during a lecture, you can go back to the recording and catch everything.

The equipment spotlight has only scratched the surface of the features of this pen. Go online and check out the Pulse Smart Pen for yourself at www.livescribe.com. If you would like to rent this item from the IPAT loan library, please call 1-800-895-4728 or email: ipatinfo@ndipat.org

Mark Your Calendar

27th Annual AT Conference
Closing the Gap
October 13-17, 2009
Sheraton Bloomington Hotel-Hotel Soffitel
Minneapolis, MN
(507) 248-3294
www.closingthegap.com

Self-Advocacy Conference
October 30-31, 2009
Moorhead Courtyard
Moorhead, MN
www.selfadvocacyconference.evenbrite.com

Autism Spectrum Disorder & Employment
December 1, 2009
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Videoconference - \$30.00 fee per site
Peter Gerhardt, Ed.D.
1-800-233-1737
Vickie.brabandt@mintostateu.edu

Supporting Language & Communication for Individuals with Autism
December 4, 2009
Innovis Health – 3000-32nd Ave
Fargo, ND
www.dynavotech.com/training/onlocation/details.aspx?id-1066