

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH

LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

WHO WE ARE

- Part of a federally mandated service for people with any disability that makes reading difficult
- We serve the whole state of Pennsylvania, mostly through the mail for free
- Patrons must be eligible for our service
- Materials and services for people of all ages and backgrounds
- Events and programs for local audience
- In House Technology
- **EVERYTHING WE DO IS FREE!**

WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECH?

- Assistive technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, software program, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities.
- Assistive technology helps people who have difficulty speaking, typing, writing, remembering, pointing, seeing, hearing, learning, walking, and many other things. Different disabilities require different assistive technologies.

* [Definition from ATIA \(Assistive Technology Industry Association\)](#)

OUR USERS AND ASSISTIVE TECH

- Reading tech
- Navigation
- Special devices
- Our tech training
- Braille printing
- Other resources and agencies

ASSISTIVE DEVICES

- Phones, tablets, laptops/pcs
- Refreshable braille
- Magnifiers (From high tech to old fashioned)
- Currency readers (available through the Bureau of Engraving and Printing)
- Our audiobook player
- Braille printers input/output
- Audio Bibles (Aurora Ministries)

NAVIGATION APPS

- Blindsight
- [Video](#)
- Be My Eyes
- [Video](#)
- Nav-Cog
 - [Video](#) (This is available at Pittsburgh International Airport)
- There are lots of apps we didn't mention, new ones are being developed all the time.

ASSISTIVE READING TECHNOLOGY

- Screen readers
 - Apple – VoiceOver
 - Microsoft – Narrator
 - Android – TalkBack
 - NVDA
 - JAWS
- On screen magnifiers
 - Desktop magnifier
 - MAGic Screen Magnification Software
- BARD Mobile
 - Must be a member of NLS service
 - Compatible with many devices
- Bookshare
 - Through our service you can access Bookshare for free
- NLS Talking Book Player
 - Large buttons, easy to use for visually impaired or people with low mobility

THE LANGUAGE OF ASSISTIVE TECH



ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR LIBRARY

HOW YOU CAN SET UP TECHNOLOGY FOR YOUR PATRONS

- iPad/iPhone
 - VoiceOver
- Android
 - TalkBack

ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR LIBRARY

HOW YOU CAN SET UP TECHNOLOGY FOR YOUR PATRONS

- Windows Accessibility Features

- To launch the Ease of Access Center, hold down  and press "u"
- Screen magnifier (shortcut  and press + or -)
- Narrator
- Contrast
- Closed Captions

ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR LIBRARY

HOW YOU CAN SET UP TECHNOLOGY FOR YOUR PATRONS

- Third party software
 - JAWS – All libraries in Allegheny county have Jaws - \$\$\$ cost is consideration
 - MAGic Screen Enlargement Software – Also available on all Allegheny county library computers
 - NVDA (Non Visual Desktop Access) – Free and open source, better than Microsoft standard Narrator, not as extensive as JAWS.

OTHER AGENCIES IN PA

- BVRS - Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh
- BBVS – Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services – Offices throughout the state
- OVR – Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- PA Association for the Blind (pablind.org)

CONTACT INFORMATION

- For Outreach or general questions
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QUESTIONS?