

# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY WEB SITES

The Web sites listed below are a sampling of resources offering information about technology that breaks down access barriers for those with visual or physical impairments. All those listed below also address Web access issues.

## ***The Adaptive Technology Resource Centre (ATRC)***

The ATRC is a department of the University of Toronto. The ATRC service philosophy is to "empower individuals by providing access to the tools and knowledge needed to meet personal goals." The aim of the service program is to provide information, support, and training that allows people to make informed decisions and build the skills required to optimally employ technical tools. The Web site includes: Library of research papers, publications, lectures, presentations, collection of conference slides, and research projects relating to: access to the World Wide Web, alternative computer display and control methods, computer-mediated access to teaching, and research projects archive. The technical glossary page is a rich resource for researching and evaluating new adaptive products.

[www.utoronto.ca/atrc](http://www.utoronto.ca/atrc)

## ***American Foundation for the Blind***

In addition to being a prime example of an accessible Web site, the AFB site provides visitors with tip sheets on topics such as "Designing an Accessible Web Site" and "Synthetic Speech Systems."

<http://afb.org>

## ***Adaptive technology for the Internet, making electronic resources accessible to all***

Provides the whys and the hows for making electronic information available for people with disabilities.

[www.ala.org/editions/openstacks/insidethecovers/mates/mates\\_toc.html](http://www.ala.org/editions/openstacks/insidethecovers/mates/mates_toc.html)

## ***Apple Education Disability Resources***

Provides information on accommodations and access solutions for users of Apple computers.

[www.apple.com/education/k12/disability](http://www.apple.com/education/k12/disability)

## ***California State University at Northridge (CSUN), Center on Disabilities***

CSUN's mission statement: "The Center is committed to providing outstanding student services to students with disabilities, and to making a contribution to the field of disabilities, in general, and to those who provide services to people with disabilities by the dissemination of information through training programs, conferences, workshops, seminars, and electronic media, and may also conduct applications-oriented research as a means of improving the lives of people with disabilities and the professional skills of those who work with them." CSUN hosts an annual confer-

[www.csun.edu/cod](http://www.csun.edu/cod)

ence that addresses all facets of access for those with disabilities. Abstracts of Conference papers may be accessed at CSUN's Web site.

### ***Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST)***

CAST is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to expand educational opportunities for people with disabilities through the development and innovative uses of technology that focuses on Universal Design. CAST developed and maintains Bobby, a Web-based program that helps designers make sites accessible to the largest possible number of people, including those with disabilities. Bobby identifies accessibility problems on Web pages and teaches designers how to correct these problems so their sites are more accessible. Bobby also illustrates how Web pages look via different browsers.

### ***Closing the Gap***

In addition to publishing a monthly periodical that addresses accessibility and disability issues, Closing the Gap organizes an annual conference for those with an interest in assistive technology. The Web site contains a list of useful bookmarks and a categorized library of archived articles.

### ***Cornucopia of Disability Information (CODI)***

CODI serves as a community resource for consumers and professionals by providing disability information in many areas. All disabilities are addressed (via links) in relation to topics such as statistics, employment, organizations, computing, and universal design.

### ***Disability Resources***

Disability Resources (DR) is a nonprofit organization that monitors, reviews, and reports on disability resources daily. DR disseminates information about the resources to libraries, disability organizations, health and social service professionals, consumers and family members, through: publications, such as the award-winning newsletter *Disability Resources Monthly* (edited by a librarian), online resources, including "The DRM WebWatcher," an easy-to-use online subject guide to the best disability resources on the Internet, and "The DRM Regional Resource Directory," a guide to state and local agencies and organizations. The Web site features Librarian Connections, a site for and by librarians interested and committed to serving people with disabilities.

### ***DO-IT Program***

The University of Washington oversees the DO-IT Program, which strives to make information available for people with disabilities. The site includes the presentation, "Universal Access: Electronic Resources in Libraries," which may be downloaded and used to promote access.

### ***Equal Access to Software and Information (EASI)***

Consider this site a primary resource. People interested in the subject of

[www.cast.org](http://www.cast.org)

**Direct URL for Bobby:**  
[www.cast.org/bobby](http://www.cast.org/bobby)

[www.closingthegap.com](http://www.closingthegap.com)

<http://codi.buffalo.edu>

[www.disabilityresources.org](http://www.disabilityresources.org)

[www.washington.edu/doi](http://www.washington.edu/doi)

[www.rit.edu/~easi](http://www.rit.edu/~easi)

equal access can spend hours following the links and reading the information sheets and papers posted on the site. EASI regularly hosts online workshops on subjects such as Web access.

### ***International Braille and Technology Center for the Blind***

Housed in the headquarters of the National Federation for the Blind, the Center is often at the cutting edge of assistive technology and frequently serves as a testing agency for innovations.

### ***Microsoft***

Microsoft provides guides by disability for accessing Microsoft products using adaptive technology. Each guide provides a list of accessibility aids and links to a step-by-step guide that helps customize computers to accommodate a person with a specific disability. The site publishes Accessibility Update Newsletter, available online and free-of-charge to subscribers.

### ***National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped***

The NLS prepared Assistive Technology: A Selective Bibliography in March 2000. This document, available in print or online, cites print and nonprint materials published since 1995 that present ways to make Web pages accessible to people with disabilities, evaluate products, provide information on funding, and suggest sources for tutorials.

### ***The New York Institute for Special Education***

The New York Institute for Special Education (NYISE) is a private, non-profit, nonsectarian educational facility that provides quality programs for children who are blind or visually, emotionally, or learning disabled, and preschoolers who are developmentally delayed. The Web site is an example of how alternate formats for Web site access can be offered. A rich links library pertaining to blindness, including adaptive technology, is maintained.

### ***Trace Institute***

Trace is a part of the College of Engineering, University of Wisconsin—Madison. The Trace Center Mission Statement reads “To prevent the barriers and capitalize on the opportunities presented by current and emerging information and telecommunication technologies...to create a world...as accessible and usable as possible for as many people as possible.” Trace’s goal is universal access and to that end, Trace collaborates with organizations with similar goals such as the WAI. The Web site provides myriad information on hot topics such as navigation and reading tools, digital books, distance education, print materials and alternative formats, World Wide Web and other electronic formats, governmental efforts, forums for discussing document accessibility issues, organizations, and projects and technologies addressing document access issues. It also provides relevant fact sheets.

[www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org)

[www.microsoft.com/enable/default.htm](http://www.microsoft.com/enable/default.htm)

[www.loc.gov/nls](http://www.loc.gov/nls)

[www.nyise.org](http://www.nyise.org)

<http://trace.wisc.edu>

[www.aware.hwg.org](http://www.aware.hwg.org)

<http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu>

[www.textmatters.com/guides](http://www.textmatters.com/guides)

[www.ibm.com/able/guidelines.htm](http://www.ibm.com/able/guidelines.htm)

[www.spry.org](http://www.spry.org)

[www.starlingweb.com](http://www.starlingweb.com)

[www.anybrowser.org/campaign/abtools.html](http://www.anybrowser.org/campaign/abtools.html)

[www.w3.org/WAI](http://www.w3.org/WAI)

## Web resource information

### ***Accessible Web Authoring Resources and Education Center (AWARE)***

AWARE is a division of the HTML writer's guild and serves as a centralized resource for learning about Web accessibility.

### ***Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Network and Clearing House***

Site hosts information on programs and research in the field of deaf studies and technologies.

### ***Designing To Meet the Needs of Visually Impaired People***

Typographical information that is practical and easily reproduced is available on this UK Web site. This consulting firm's information comes from years of experience of designing paper documents for people who are visually impaired.

### ***IBM's Accessibility Center***

IBM contributes its insights concerning access to information and is the author of the IBM Homepage reader.

### ***SPRY Foundation***

The foundation's mission is to be a leader in research and education to achieve successful aging. Realizing the role intellectual pursuits play in the quest for successful aging, the foundation developed "Older Adults and the World Wide Web: A Guide for Web Site Creators." The guide gives designers practical nontechnical advice on how to design Web sites that are easily accessible to older adults, as well as to those using adaptive equipment. The downloadable document is free.

### ***Starling***

Starling is an accessibility consultant. Information provided on the site is easy to understand and useful.

### ***Viewable With Any Browser***

Use the right tools when designing a Web site that is accessible to all browsers and all other access tools. This site provides Web designers with Web site editing and management tools, as well as links to the traditional Web testing sites.

### ***Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)***

WAI, in coordination with organizations around the world, pursues accessibility of the Web through five primary areas of work: technology, guidelines, tools, education and outreach, and research and development. The most up-to-date information on Web page accessibility is found at this site.

### ***Web Accessibility in Mind (WebAim)***

WebAim is administered through a grant from the Learning Anytime Program Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. The organization's goal is to improve accessibility to online learning for all people, in particular people with disabilities. The site includes extensive tutorials such as "How to Create Accessible PowerPoint Slides on the Web," "Clarify Natural Language Usage," and a sample HTML markup cheat sheet that can be used to quickly fix common markup errors.

<http://webaim.org>

## **Other resources**

### ***American Foundation of the Blind***

Resource center for information on blindness, and assistive technology. The foundation publishes *Access World Technology for Consumers with Visual Impairments*, a monthly journal that addresses the humanity of assistive technology and the technical side of technology, and *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*, a journal that discusses issues concerning the blind and visually impaired.

[www.afb.org](http://www.afb.org)

### ***Assistive Devices for Use with Personal Computers***

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped compiled a reference circular, identifying products and vendors of assistive technology products.

[www.loc/nls](http://www.loc/nls)

### ***Exceptional Parent***

Although designed to address the needs of parents with children who have disabilities, helpful and timely information concerning legislation and resources are covered.

[www.eparent.com](http://www.eparent.com)

### ***John Williams Assistive Technology Column***

BW Online Daily Briefing posts John Williams' column of Assistive Technology every Wednesday. Williams covers issues concerning disabled people in relation to technology. The site also archives previous columns.

[www.businessweek.com/bwdaily/dnflash/astecharc.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/bwdaily/dnflash/astecharc.htm)

### ***Independent Living Research Utilization Program***

A site that focuses on services, as well as assistive devices, for a wide range of people with disabilities.

[www.ilru.org](http://www.ilru.org)

### ***LD Resources***

Web site focuses on resources that aid people with learning disabilities. Often features reviews of new technologies and resources.

[www.ldresources.com](http://www.ldresources.com)

### ***Learning Disabilities Association of America***

Useful site to locate information on technologies and resources that help

[www.ldanatl.org](http://www.ldanatl.org)

people with learning disabilities achieve equity. The site also provides a venue to share information.

### ***National Easter Seal Society***

Information provided on programs and services of the National Easter Seal Society. The society provides grants for the purchase of adaptive computer equipment.

### ***TASH (Association for People with Severe Handicaps)***

Although libraries may not be able to provide the tools for physical access, a visit to the site will enlighten staff to the various switches and interfaces people with severe disabilities use to interface with technology and the world. For many with physical impairment the Internet means freedom from their physical impairment.

### ***United Cerebral Palsy Association (UCPA)***

The United Cerebral Palsy Association provides grants and oversees programs for people with physical disabilities. Some chapters provide free placement of people with disabilities and equipment. Libraries may seek to partner with UCPA to hire adaptive technology trainers.

[www.easter-seals.org](http://www.easter-seals.org)

[www.tash.org](http://www.tash.org)

[www.ucpa.org](http://www.ucpa.org)