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Bi - Weekly Resources for  
Reaching & Teaching  
"Digital Natives"  
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Education (T.R.E.) Center

Technology Resources for  
[www.TRECenter.org](http://www.TRECenter.org)

Note: Some links are time-sensitive. Access to some may require registration or free subscriptions.

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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "Good teachers empathize with kids, respect them, and believe that each one has something special that can be built upon." Ann Lieberman

### UDL ALTERNATIVES

"Universal Design for Learning is a concept or philosophy for designing and delivering products and services that are usable by people with the widest possible range of functional capabilities. It includes products and services that are directly usable (without requiring assistive technologies) and that are made usable with assistive technologies."

AT Act of 1998, P.L. 105-394, S.

<http://www.spokentext.net> This site allows you to record PDF, Word, plain text, PowerPoint files, ,RSS news feeds, emails and web pages, and converts them to speech automatically for FREE. (From Skip Stahl)

Crete interactive online activities for students:

MyGameBuilder:

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/apphost/MGB.html>

Sploder at <http://www.sploder.com/>

<http://www.gutenberg.org/> Audio Text available for download.

Education Week's "Technology Counts 2007" states:

"Meanwhile, the number of states that offer computerized statewide assessments is relatively small, with 14 states making that opportunity available on a limited basis, such as within certain districts, or for students retaking pencil-and-paper tests. And only nine states offer computer-based testing to all students."

See the report with a list of states here:

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2007/03/29/30trackingtrends.h26.html>

For a list of states that have approved Kurzweil as a testing accommodation, see this link:

[http://www.kurzweilededu.com/proof\\_educator\\_teststates.aspx](http://www.kurzweilededu.com/proof_educator_teststates.aspx)

### **ACCESS ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://services.alphaworks.ibm.com/coscripiter/browse/about>

A Firefox add-on that lets you record web browser actions so that they can be repeated easily (maybe with a switch/voice input etc? ) You can also download scripts that other people have developed. CoScripter is a system for recording, automating, and sharing processes performed in a web browser such as printing photos online, requesting vacation, hold for postal mail, or check bank account information.

## **FUNDING ALTERNATIVES:**

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.jhtml?id=188500008](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=188500008)

Posted on September 8, 2007. Deadline: November 12, 2007

NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education Announces Library Books Awards Program. The foundation will make approximately fifty awards of \$1,000 each. Funds may be used only to purchase books and other reading materials for public school libraries.

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.jhtml?id=188500041](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=188500041)

Primary Subject: Education Geographic Funding Area: National. Posted on September 7, 2007. Deadline: December 3, 2007

Character Education Partnership Accepting Applications for National Schools of Character Awards. To be eligible, a school must have been engaged in character education for a minimum of three full years, starting no later than December 2004 for the 2008 awards.

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.jhtml?id=188500044](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=188500044)

Posted on September 7, 2007. Deadline: December 7, 2007

Staples Foundation for Learning Offers Support for Education and Job Skills Programs. Applicant organizations must have nonprofit, tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and align with the Staples Foundation for Learning's mission and focus on job skills and education. The requested amount of each grant can be up to \$25,000. Most grants awarded by the foundation are in the \$5,000 to \$25,000 range. Grant decisions will be made three times a year. The next deadline is December 7, 2007.

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.jhtml?id=188500046](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=188500046)

Oracle Education Foundation Invites Students and Teachers to Take Part in ThinkQuest International 2008

The Oracle Education Foundation has announced the opening of ThinkQuest International 2008 and is inviting students and teachers from around the globe to take part in the international project learning competition.

ThinkQuest is open to students between the ages of 9 and 19 and their teacher-coaches worldwide. Students are encouraged to team with peers in other regions to develop Web sites on educational topics. Winners will receive prizes from the Oracle Education Foundation, including laptops and \$1,000 school grants for the top five teams in each age division, travel to the annual ThinkQuest Live event for the top three teams in each division, and digital cameras for the team that receives the Global Perspectives Award.

Not specifically for AT, but there are grants out there for technology – look here!

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/section/grants/index.html>

<http://www.techlearning.com/resources/grants.php>

<http://www.digitalwish.com>

Visit and register your classroom, and set up a "wish list" for technology products. Donors will be looking to contribute to classrooms this fall. There's a great free library of digital projects if you need some lesson plan ideas. You are welcome to circulate any of these articles:

<http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/articles>

## **MATH ALTERNATIVES:**

If you are on a Mac, try "Little Geometry". It is a free tool box with onscreen ruler, protractor, isosceles angle tool and a right angle tool.

<http://www.ios-software.com/?page=proj&quoi=30>

## **TEACHING ALTERNATIVES:**

Great time-lapse photos of the lunar eclipse last month. Feel free to share these with students.

<http://www.toolfactory.com/Press/Eclipse.htm>

The Library of Congress has a Roaring Twenties Webquest and lots of others in different curriculum areas.

<http://www.primarysourcelearning.org/teach/lq/013/index.htm> (from Beth Ross)

<http://www.podclass.com> is a new platform for you to teach your knowledge online. You can upload materials in many formats: PDF, PowerPoint, audio, video, etc. Nice, user-friendly wizards. This is set to grow exponentially, as they are now a Facebook application which means potential exposure to tens of millions.

### **VENDOR WEBSITES AND NEWS:**

<http://trecenter.org/vendors.htm>

<http://www.Axistive.com>

For an assistive technology news website

<http://www.cricksoft.com/us/accessibility/bundle.asp> The AT Bundle includes everything you need to get up and running in minutes - and you save money too!

### **Dear Friends and Colleagues:**

This biweekly, free email newsletter provides resources to people interested in the use of technology as a tool to help all students. If you have information to share that would be of value to members of our learning community, including job notices, please write and let us know. We'll be happy to share it here or at our web site. Contact, reprint, and subscription information is at the end of this document.

Thank you for your interest in the TRE Center and our work. We look forward to having you share your wisdom with the people on this list and with those you serve.

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\*Respond directly to the person posting an item.

\*To submit questions or items for consideration, send to: [David@TREcenter.org](mailto:David@TREcenter.org) If you know others who would like to receive ALTERNATIVES, please direct them to:

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