

Accessible &
Learning
Technologies for
Educators of
Reachable Digital
N A T I V E S



Bi - Weekly Resources for
Reaching & Teaching
"Digital Natives"
Volume 8, N 2
for 2/15 – 3/15/08

Compiled by David Grapka
Education (T.R.E.) Center

Technology Resources for
www.TRECenter.org

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

QUOTES OF THE WEEK:

'I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.' > Maya Angelou

People will not remember what you say. People will not remember what you do. People will always remember how you made them feel.
~Maya Angelou~

<http://www.quotationspage.com>
Site for citations — Mitch Krayton

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.edutopia.org/librivox-audiobooks>
free audiobooks?

<http://teachingeverystudent.blogspot.com/2007/06/free-technology-toolkit-for-udl-in-all.html>
Tech Toolkit for UDL in all Classrooms. It includes many links, ideas and strategies.

<http://www.classblogmeister.com>

David Warlick's Class Blogmeister: described as a "walled garden."

<http://thefischbowl.blogspot.com/2007/09/is-it-okay-to-be-technologically.html>

<http://www.justfreebooks.info>

Searches the gutenber sites, etc. for online books. (from Susan Jones)

<http://www.trld.com/sessions/sessionhandout.html>
TRL D conference handouts online.

The following sites come from ASCD SmartBrief Special Report: Teaching Students to Think, Pt 1

http://www.pz.harvard.edu/vt/VisibleThinking_html_files/VisibleThinking1.html

Visible Thinking is a flexible and systematic research-based approach to integrating the development of students' thinking with content learning across subject matters.

<http://www.pz.harvard.edu/at/index.cfm>

The goal of the Artful Thinking program is to help students develop thinking dispositions that support thoughtful learning – in the arts, and across school subjects.

<http://www.nctt.net/lessonsarticles.html>

The National Center for Teaching Thinking

<http://www.nationaldebateproject.org/>

Use debate as a foundation to promote student reason.

<http://www.teachablemoment.org/>

TeachableMoment aims to encourage critical thinking on issues of the day and foster a positive classroom environment.

<http://www.thinkingmaps.com/htthinkmapx.php>

3 Eight tools to help students categorize their thoughts

<http://www.criticalthinking.org/>

Offers research, professional development and assessment tools meant to improve thinking-based instruction.

<http://www.connsensebulletin.com/whatsup.htm>

feedback on particular software and devices at the ATIA Conference this year.

<http://oedb.org/library/beginning-online-learning/100-ways-to-use-your-ipod-to-learn-and-study-better>

ACCESS ALTERNATIVES:

<http://www.elotouch.com/Products/Touchscreen/s/default.asp> Touchscreen comparison chart

<http://teachinglearnerswithmultipleneeds.blogspot.com/2008/02/free-at> Slide show on free AT and high incidence disability.

<http://www.connsensebulletin.com/csb016.mp3> ToolFactory Podcast on the ConnSENSE Bulletin website

<http://atmac.org> Lots of AT for the Mac

<http://www.getatstuff.org> Keep your eye on get AT stuff

<http://www.assistivegaming.com>

Assistive Gaming has been created together with a team of assistive technology users. The site is updated regularly with new articles, reviews and short game descriptions.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT ALTERNATIVES:

<http://www.SourceForge.net> WordFlashReader helps the child to read e-text independently without eye or motor fatigue. It works by

flashing imported text one word or a word cluster at a time onto the screen following user-defined parameters for speed, font size/color, etc. It is AMAZING for people with limited motor control over their eyes and other vision issues, as it eliminates (or limits, your choice) the need for visual tracking. It's the one piece of text-reading software we couldn't be without! It doesn't speak, which is actually a benefit in our case, but this may be a drawback to others.

For writing, see GazeTalk5

<http://www.cogain.org/cogain/results/applications/gazetalk/about/view>
<http://www.cogain.org/cogain/results/applications/gazetalk/about/view> a predictive typing software that presents only 12 keys across the screen. Its predictive ability isn't as strong as Dasher's, but the large stationary keys are excellent for individuals with motor challenges. It also works beautifully with even beginner head mousers. (Rose-Marie Gallagher, mom to Angela, age 11)

ASSESSMENT ALTERNATIVES:

<http://ohioalternateassessment.wikispaces.com> You can find directions for making a reveal puzzle in PowerPoint here. Look on the General page under tutorials or on the Access Skills page. (Linda Pratt, AT Consultant)

<http://cte.jhu.edu/MATN> MATN Online! One of the features of the site is our new AT Cycle. The AT Cycle includes four phases: Consider AT, Choose and Trial AT, Implement AT, and Monitor AT. With each phase of the AT Cycle there is a Planning Form, a How to Guide and a "QIAT Check". An IEP team can use these national indicators to see if they are on the right track planning, implementing and evaluating AT. During each phase of the AT Cycle, you can measure the quality of the team's work by reviewing the Quality Indicators. All the forms and how to guides are writable PDF's and can be printed for individual use. jdwyer@JHU.EDU

CONSULTING ALTERNATIVES:

<http://www.stservicemovie.com/> Inspirational message. Found by Stacy Springer

<http://www.kennethcole.com/thinkers/bio3.asp>
<http://www.kennethcole.com/thinkers/bio1.asp>

Take a minute to review the whole ad campaign for people with disabilities

COST SAVINGS ALTERNATIVES

<http://www.efofex.com/empower.php> free software for students with special needs

http://thedoylereport.com/default_article.aspx?page_id=&id=1924

Update on Medicaid... According to the Doyle Report this is a critical time in congress for Medicaid...

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY ALTERNATIVES

<https://pol.pyd.org/phpBB2/login.php> Partners for Youth Online which matches up young people with disabilities with mentors with disabilities for online exchanges.

<http://www.cepstral.com/demos> Test out use the Cepstral Spanish voices "Marta" and "Miguel."

<http://comiqs.com> Use comic book stories to teach literacy. This is web based so platform is not an issue. Student/staff could take pictures and then create social stories. (Sharon Eilts <sharon.eilts@GMAIL.COM>

<http://www.edutopia.org/librivox-audiobooks>
Resource of free audiobooks?

MATH ALTERNATIVES:

<http://directmath.com/about/about.html> For algebra only, you can't beat the price of direct math. All it does is let you type equations. Nothing fancy. \$20.

<http://www.efofex.com/empower.php> Free software for students with special needs.

TEACHING ALTERNATIVES:

http://www.teachermagazine.org/tm/articles/2007/10/10/07tln_cody_web.h19.html?print=1
"Bad Testing Drives Out Good Learning"

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!

LINKS to CLOSING THE GAP:

Solutions – Convenient and Easy to Use!
About Closing The Gap - 5 minutes
Solutions Demonstration - 10 minutes

<http://closingthegap.com/ctg2/solutions/youtube.lasso>

Request a DVD be mailed to you
<http://closingthegap.com/ctg2/requests/index.lasso>

Try the 14-day Free Trial Now
<http://closingthegap.com/ctg2/trial22/customerindex.lasso>

Order Now

<http://closingthegap.com/ctg2/orders/indexSub.lasso>

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.

Sincerely,
David Grapka, ATP, ATS,
Project Coordinator, T.R.E. Center
Maywood School, 1979 Central Avenue,
Albany, NY 12205. Ph: 518-464-6348
Toll free in NY: 1-800-248-9873.
URL: <http://trecenter.org>

ABOUT ALTERNATIVES:

*Respond directly to the person posting an item.

*To submit questions or items for consideration, send to: Dgrapka@gw.neric.org If you know others who would like to receive ALTERNatives, please direct them to:

<http://www.trecenter.org/news.htm> for subscription information. To speak to a human about newsletter issues, please contact TRE toll free in NY 800-248-9873.

*Copyright 2008, ALTERNATIVES. Permission must be granted to reprint any Item (other than your own posting). Submission of an e-mail message or art work affirms that you are able to and have given THE EDITOR nonexclusive permission to reprint the content of your message in all forms, electronic or otherwise, in all languages throughout the world.

Our archives serve many purposes for you.

- handy reference guide for clients and audiences hungry for technology tips.
- access to our newsletter articles with permission to reprint.
- We hope that your access and distribution of these reprints will encourage new subscribers and provide great publicity for all the good work that you do.
- represent an "information rich" website that serves as a history of our site for potential clients to review
- prove that subscribers receive valuable information on a consistent basis.

DISCLAIMER:

ALTERNATIVES is published by the T.R.E. Center, Capital Region BOCES. Mention of dot

Com companies and resources is not an endorsement by the TRE Center or the New York State Education Department. We take no responsibility for the accuracy of the postings except our own. All contents of the postings are the responsibility of the posting party.