



**Overview of Technology
for
People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired**

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What can technology do?

- It provides tools for
 - Accessing printed information
 - Accessing electronic information
 - Communicating through writing
 - Producing materials in alternate formats

Tools for Accessing Print - Visually

- Non-optical devices
 - Large print publications
 - Enlarging photo-copying machines
 - Lighting
 - Reading/book stands
- Optical devices
 - Spectacles
 - Contact lens
 - Hand-held magnifiers
 - Stand magnifiers
 - Clip-on or spectacle mounted
 - Telescopes
 - Hand-held
 - Spectacle mounted
- Electronic devices
 - Electronic magnifiers
 - Desktop video magnifiers
 - Flex-arm camera models
 - Portable models

- Head-mounted display models
- Specialized scanning systems
 - Kurzweil
 - OpenBook

Tools for Accessing Print - Tactually

- Braille
- Tactile graphics

Tools for Accessing Print – Auditorally

- Books on Tape – Talking Books
- Digital Talking Books (DTB)
- Specialized scanning systems
 - Kurzweil & OpenBook
 - Reading machines
- Talking calculators
- Talking dictionaries

Tools for Accessing Electronic Information - Visually

- Large monitors
- Flex-arm monitor stands
- Screen magnification software

Tools for Accessing Electronic Information - Tactually

- Refreshable braille displays
- Accessible Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs)

Tools for Accessing Electronic Information - Auditorally

- Screen reading software
- Accessible PDAs

Tools for Communicating Through Writing - Visually

- Handwriting tools
 - Bold & raised line paper
 - Bold markers
- Electronic tools
 - Dedicated word processors
 - Accessible computer with word processor

Tools for Communicating Through Writing - Tactually

- Manual tools
 - Slate & stylus
 - Braille writer
- Electronic tools
 - Accessible computer-based word processor
 - Accessible PDA
 - Mountbatten brailier

Tools for Communicating Through Writing - Auditorally

- Electronic tools

- Accessible computer-based word processor
- Accessible PDA

Tools for Producing Materials in Alternate Formats

- General and specialized scanning systems
- Producing large print
 - Computer-based word processor
 - Font and point size
 - APFont, Arial, Verdana, Tahoma
 - Proofread and check formatting
 - Columns, tabbed info, hanging indents
 - Print with laser printer
- Producing braille
 - Braille translation software
 - Formatting is big issue
 - Braille embossers

Thanks for Coming

For additional information see the Technology section of the American Foundation for the Blind web site at: www.afb.org .