

Making Text Accessible

adapted from the ISTE presentation
by Dave Edyburn, Ph.D.

Kathy Parker-Jones

Purpose and Objectives:

- Share tools and strategies to modify text
- Help struggling students to access information
- Differentiate instruction and materials
- Shift intervention focus from instruction to compensation (assistive technology)

Obtaining Digital Text

Digital texts would allow you to convert it to an audio file so students could listen to text.

Obtain digital texts from national repositories: <http://www.bookshare.org> (requires membership)

Convert printed text into digital text by converting to OCR.

- You can scan to OCR or use Free OCR (<http://www.free-ocr.com>) to convert printed text.
- You can also use Natural Soft (<http://www.naturalreaders.com/index.htm>)

Converting Text to Audio

USB Microphone or built-in microphone (using *GarageBand* or *Audacity*)

SpokenText (web-based, free)

<http://spokentext.net/>

VozMe

<http://vozme.com/index.php?lang=en>

Changing Text Characteristics

Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) determine the way text on a website looks. This can greatly affect the way readers access the information on a webpage.

For example: <http://www.csszengarden.com>

Put your students in charge of CSS by using: <https://www.readability.com/bookmarklets>

Find Appropriate Levels of Text

Search by readability:

Google (Advanced Search)

http://www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en

Kids Click! (Advanced Search)

<http://www.kidsclick.org/search.html>

Find Appropriate Levels of Text

Use Specialized Sites:

42explore

<http://42explore.com>

Simple Wikipedia

<http://simple.wikipedia.org>

Summarize Text

Text Compactor

<http://www.textcompactor.com>

Mac OSX Summary Service

Tiered Text

Some websites provide information in a tiered text format providing a one-stop access point to information at different levels.

Examples:

Ben's Guide to U.S. Government

Star Child

The Brain

Create your own tiered text webpage (fee) <http://www.tieredwebpages.com>

Questions?