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Indian Society & Ideology of Disability

October 2019

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Dr. Shivaji Wadchkar

Guest Editor

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Dr. V.B. Kulkarni

Dr. A.K. Jadhav

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ICT Facilities and Services for Visually Challenged

DR. ANANT B. SARKALE

LIBRARIAN, LRW(ACS) COLLEGE SONPETH



Abstract:

This paper highlights the state of the art ICT Facilities and services available in electronic form. Accessibility issues are at the forefront of library services as the number of students with disabilities attending colleges or universities continues to increase. Many areas where academic libraries can concentrate efforts to better meet the needs of these students are bibliographic instruction, web page design and various software like JAWS, Kurzweil, Magic Magnification, Zoom Ex instant Reader, Win Braille. OBR, Spell well Talking Teaching type pro have been procured in the Centre. Special equipment like Prisma for low vision SARA for instant text reading are also available in the Centre.

Keywords: Academic Library, Visually Challenged Persons ICT

Introduction:

Disability can be defined as a physical or mental condition that prohibits an individual from the use of his or her body to perform daily tasks. It can also be defined as meaning that one cannot learn easily.

It should be noted that in addition to the physical challenges, visually impaired and physically handicapped people face the ignorance barrier, a major prejudice and most harmful social discrimination. These difficulties are not compensated for by emotional speeches. Public awareness and equal opportunities are necessary conditions to integrate them into society (Todaro 2001)

It is already established that access to information is one of the most important human rights, it allows the individual to develop himself/herself and participate actively within democratic society, fully exercising his/her rights and duties (Todaro, 2001)

The www provides a great potential to the academic and research community as an instrumental tool that extends the content of the curriculum, enriches classroom discourse, remote communication and enhances learning opportunities. It has become possible to connect with learning resources located in libraries and information centers across the globe. So students can understand different learning styles, improved quality

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of library services to better enable students to conduct research independently and easier access to information.

Objective: To know about computer assistive reading facility of visually challenged students.

Provision of the following latest assistive technologies is critical to the quality of teaching and learning is computer training Centre's for the visually impaired

1. JAWA Pro Talking Software

For conversion of a normal PC into a Talking PC to enable the blind to operate computers independently including internet Access and also to train blind persons on using the computer.

2. Kurzweil 1008 OCR reading software

An excellent support for blind students to read any printed books from the library to have independent access to not only their text-books but also other general reading. It is used with a combination of a scanner and a PC.

Magic Magnification Software Pro

Useful for enlarging the screen from 2x to 16x enabling Low vision students to view the monitor screen as well as use the add on support tools for enhancing visibility.

3. Talking Typing Teacher Pro:

Talking Typing tutorials specially designed for the blind with complete guidance and practice lessons for learning keyboarding skill and developing typing speed in a systematic manner. Since the program also has a complete display of all lessons even the low vision students can read and learn to type.

4. Braille Scanning Software – OBR (Optical Braille Recognition)

Optical Braille Recognition (OBR) is a Windows software program that allows you to 'read' single and double sided Braille documents on a standard A4 scanner. It scans the Braille document analyses the dot pattern, and translates it into normal text that it presents on the computer screen.

5. Prisms Magnification Device for low Vision:

Prisms is a full color video magnifier with a stylish, adjustable camera stand and integral table that allows a tremendous range of magnification in a convenient size. The simple controls allow you to view in full color or enhanced reading modes. Magnification is achieved by raising or lowering the camera and re-focusing with the

large focus control located on the top. Prisma uses a standard TV for display, so you can take it just anywhere. The clearance under the camera allows you to write easily and even perform hand tasks such as needlework or carving (With the help of a VGA converter it can also be connected for computer screen to be procured separately

6. **Zoom Ex instant Text Reader:**

Zoom -Ex is a small portable device that uses the new generation motion Sensor technology in combination with its proprietary Zoom office software to make scanning and instant reading of text fast and easy. Place a book under the highly sensitive camera and start reading or listing instantly and that too with an Indian Accent Voice and with every turn of a page the camera takes a snapshot of the page automatically. It then converts these photographic images to readable text. A book of 200 pages is ready in 8 to ten minutes. Now read it at your own palace for long hours.

7. **Index basic D Braille Embosser:**

Index Basic D low cost, High Speed, Double sided Tractor feed continuous sheet, new generation technology Braille embosser, important features are" it produces 2 pages i.e. front and back at the same time uses tractor Feed paper which can be spiral bound using plastic wire making it very economical does not require any special binding equipment supplied with an acoustic cabinet. The acoustic cabinet is very important for reduction of noise level during printing as well as protection of the printer from heat and dust. It also enables collection of the paper in an orderly manner.

8. **Freedom Scientific's SARA:**

Freedom Scientific's SARA (Scanning and Reading Appliance) is an affordable and easy-to-use solution for reading a wide variety of printed material including books, mail, newspapers, magazines and so much more SARA uses the latest in advanced optical character recognition technology to scan text and then read it aloud in crisp clear speech, SARA automatically stores and remembers the contents of hundreds of thousands of scanned pages.

9. **Dspace Digital Archive:**

A separate digital archive has been maintained in the Dspace Digital Library portal where all the essential reading materials required by visually challenged students are digitized and maintained in the archive

Infrastructure Facilities:

