



Collection: [Technology for Students Who are Visually Impaired](#)

Organizations Supporting the Visually Impaired

The following is a compilation of organizations that support users who are visually impaired. [Last updated September 1998]

Access Unlimited/SPEECH Enterprises

3535 Briarpark Drive #102

Houston, TX 77042

(713) 781-7441

(800) 848-0311

<http://www.accessunlimited.com>

Distributes large print and voice output software for use with other products. Free information packet can be generated for each inquirer. Catalog of products available in print.

Alliance for Technology Access

(formerly: National Special Education Alliance)

1307 Solano Avenue

Albany, CA 94706-1888

(415) 528-0747

or

217 Massachusetts Avenue

Lexington, MA 02173

(617) 863-9966

<http://www.ataccess.org>

Provides information on microcomputer technology to aid children and adults with disabilities.

American Association of the Deaf-Blind

814 Thayer Avenue

Third Floor

Silver Spring, MD 20910

(301) 588-6545 TDD

<http://www.tr.wosc.osshe.edu/dblink/aadb.htm>

Provides advocacy and makes referrals to advance the economic, educational, and social welfare of deaf-blind persons. Helps assure independence and integration into the community. Sponsors an annual convention. Serves deaf-blind persons only, all ages. Charges fees for membership.

American Council of the Blind

1155 15th Street, Suite 720

Washington, DC 20005

(202) 467-5081

(202) 467-5085 (FAX)

<http://acb.org/>

Publishes computer resource about various devices and where to buy them. Visually Impaired Data Processors International, a computer users' special interested group, is part of ACB.

American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)

15 West 16th Street

New York, NY 10011

(212) 620-2080

(800) AFB-LIND

(212) 620-2137 (Fax)

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

Catalog lists informational books and pamphlets on and for the visually impaired. Single copies free for some pamphlets. Maintains technology database, evaluates products, and does research and development.

American Printing House for the Blind

P.O. Box 6085

1839 Frankfort Avenue

Louisville, KY 40206-0085

(502) 895-2405

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

Catalog lists books for children (print / braille, braille, and large type). Also lists learning materials for visually impaired children: tactile, multisensory, and other materials.

Apple Computer Inc.

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation

20525 Mariani Avenue

Cupertino, CA 95014

(408) 974-7910

<http://www.apple.com/education/k12/disability/>

Increases awareness of computer solutions for persons with disabilities through print and electronic material and develops accessible personal computers.

Baruch College

Computer Center for the Visually Impaired

17 Lexington Avenue

Box 515

New York, NY 10010

(212) 447-3070

<http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/ccvip/index.html>

Offers training and information exchange and dissemination. Serves as a model center and test facility for specialized computer equipment.

Blinded Veterans Association

477 H Street NW

Washington, DC 20001-2694

(202) 371-8880

800-669-7079

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

A membership organization for veterans blinded during or after their military service. Has two major programs. The Field Service Program counsels blinded veterans and assists them in obtaining benefits from the Veterans Administration. The Outreach Employment Program helps veterans prepare resumes and keeps them informed of potential job opportunities.

Braille Institute

741 N. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90029
(213) 663-1111

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

This is an educational organization for persons who are blind, deaf-blind, or partially sighted. It has technological resources, a talking book library, and a large community outreach program. A subsidy program for funding equipment is available to person who are currently employed and legally blind.

The Blind Children's Center

4120 Marathon Street
P.O. Box 29159 Los Angeles, CA 90029
(213) 664-2153

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

Pamphlets on blind infants, some of which are available in Spanish. Single copies free.

Carroll Center for the Blind.

70 Centre Street
Newton, MA 02158
(617) 969-6200

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

Various publications and educational programs are available for persons who are blind or visually impaired. A computer training program, Project CABLE, provides computer assessment, training on adaptive devices and software, and word processing training. Summer training program for special education professionals are also offered.

Also offers:

Project CABLE Resource Manual, 2nd edition.

Project CABLE (Computer Access for the Blind in Education and Employment)

This manual includes curriculum, evaluation forms, lesson plans, and other resources to assist in setting up or running an employment program for persons who are blind or visually impaired. Other topics include funding and staffing.

Council for Exceptional Children

Center for Special Education Technology
1920 Association Drive
Reston, VA 22091-1589
(703) 620-3360
(800) 873-8255

<http://www.cec.sped.org/>

Maintains a national information center; distributed information about assistive technology and its use in special education.

4 Sights Network

(Upshaw Institute for the Blind)
16625 Grand River

Detroit, MI 48227

<http://www.upshawinst.org>

This network provides bulletin boards, teleconferencing, and database information for blind and visually impaired individuals and those working with them. The database information covers such topics as rehabilitation resources, training facilities, software descriptions, and assertive technology devices.

Electronic Industries Foundation

Rehabilitation Engineering Center

1901 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Suite 700

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 955-5810

<http://www.eia.org/eif/>

Provides information on assistive devices for persons with disabilities, on application of these devices, and on funding and financing.

Helen Keller National Center

111 Middleneck Road

Sands Point, NY 11050

(516) 944-8900

Center for training youths and adults who are deaf and blind. A variety of skill training is available, including working with computers.

Regional offices:

Great Plains Region

5920 Nall Avenue

Suite 311

Mission, KS 66202

(913) 677-4562

New England Region

89 Broad Street

Suite 1135

Boston, MA 02110-8702

(617) 350-8702 (voice and TDD)

North Central Region

35 East Wacker Drive

Suite 772

Chicago, IL 60601-2109

(312) 726-2090

Northwest Region

2366 Eastlake Avenue, East

Suite 209

Seattle, WA 98102-3366

(206) 324-9120 (voice and TDD)

South Central Region

4455 LBJ Freeway

LB No.3

Dallas, TX 75244-5998
(214) 490-9677

Southeast Region

1005 Virginia Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30354
(404) 766-9625 (voice and TDD)

Southwest Region

6851 Lennox Avenue
Van Nuys, CA 94105-4097
(818) 782-9935
(818) 782-9936 (TDD)

International Braille and Technology Center for the Blind

National Federation for the Blind
1800 Johnson Street
Baltimore, MD 21230
(410) 659-9314

<http://www.blind.net/bons0000.html>

Provides hand-on access to a variety of assistive technology for would-be purchasers, consumers, and interested professionals.

**International Federation of Library Associations
and Institutions (IFLA)**

Section of Libraries for the Blind
c/o Helen Perry, Executive Secretary
CNIB National Library Division
1929 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, Ontario, M4G 3E8
CANADA

<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/>

Promotes national and international cooperation in the field of library services for blind and visually impaired readers and encourages research and development in all aspects of this area. Concerned with reading aids for the visually impaired and with a variety of library materials: large print, braille production and the impact of new technology on braille, braille music, and tactile maps.

National Association for Visually Handicapped

22 West 21st Street
New York, NY 10010
(212) 889-3141

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

Organization dealing with the needs of people who are partially sighted. Contact for information about computer access. Also a San Francisco office at 3201 Balboa Street, San Francisco CA 94121.

National Braille Association

Three Townline Circle
Rochester, NY 14623-2513
(716) 427-8260
(716) 427-0263 Fax

Coordinates volunteer services in the production and distribution of reading materials in braille, recorded format, and large print. The Reader-Transcriber Registry accepts requests for the production of general-interest materials. The Braille Textbook Assignment Service transcribes, on request, college texts other than mathematics and science texts that are transcribed by the Braille Book Bank (BBB). The BBB has titles for immediate thermoform duplication, and the Braille Technical Tables Bank has braille masters of standard tables for duplication. The association offers workshops for transcribers and manuals for producing reading materials for persons with visual impairments.

National Braille Press, Inc.

88 St. Stephen Street
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 266-6160

<http://kiosk.std.com/Newbury/nbp/>

Print/Braille books at the same price as the print edition. Children's Braille Book Club features a different print/braille book each month. Interest level of books: preschool to grade 3.

National Easter Seal Society

Computer Assistive Technology Services (CATS)
5120 South Hyde Park Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60615
(312) 667-8400

<http://www.easter-seals.org/>

Maintains information and technical support centers for people with disabilities, their families, and agencies serving them.

National Eye Institute

National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 6A32
Bethesda, MD 20892
(301) 496-5248

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/>

Conducts and supports research on the eye and visual system and on the causes, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of visual disorders. Promotes the application of research findings to clinical practice and heightens public awareness of vision problems. Publishes fact sheets and booklets.

National Federation of the Blind

1800 Johnson Street
Baltimore, MD 21230
(410) 659-9314

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

Largest national consumer group of blind persons. Programs include: Committee on Evaluation of Technology (which evaluates current and proposed technology for people who are blind or visually impaired); International Braille and Technology Center for the Blind (a demonstration and evaluation center for computer technology for blind and visually impaired users); and NFB in Computer Science (a nationwide computer user's group which publishes an annual newsletter).

Also offers:

- **Committee on Evaluation of Technology:** Committee evaluates current and proposed technology for people who are blind or visually impaired

National Library Services Division for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

1291 Taylor St., NW
Washington, DC 20542
1-800-424-9100
(202) 707-5100

Administers a free national library program of braille and recorded books and magazines for visually impaired and physically disabled persons. Reading materials and playback machines are distributed through cooperating regional and subregional (local) libraries to eligible borrowers. Music materials are loaned directly from the Music Section of the National Library Service. The music collection consists of scores in braille and large print; music magazines and books about music and musicians in braille, large print, and recorded format; and elementary instruction in voice and instruments in recorded format.

National Rehabilitation Information Center (NARIC)

8455 Colesville Road
Suite 935
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(310) 588-9284

<http://www.cais.net/naric/>

Provides reference and referral on topics of disability and rehabilitation. Produces the REHABDATA database that contains bibliographic records of the material in the NARIC library.

Overbrook School for the Blind

64th Street and Malvern Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19151
(215) 877-0313

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

Publishes The Overbrook Parent Early Childhood Education Series, a series of print sheets on various aspects of early childhood development and learning. Free. Contact Dr. Bernadette Kappen.

Reader Project

2631 Garfield Street NW
Washington, DC 20008
(202) 667-7323

Organization involved in publishing books in electronic format for people with disabilities.

Recording for the Blind, Inc.

20 Roszel Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
(609) 452-0606
800-221-4792
(609) 987-8116 Fax

Lends recorded educational books that range in educational level from late elementary through graduate school and beyond. The services are available to persons with a verified visual, physical, or specific learning disability that substantially limits reading. A registration fee of \$25 is required of all applicants.

RESNA

1101 Connecticut Avenue NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 857-1199

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

Promotes and supports the research, development, and dissemination of knowledge in rehabilitation technology to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

Sensory Aids Foundation

C-TEC (Computer Training and Evaluation Center)

385 Sherman Avenue, Suite 2

Palo Alto, CA 94306

(415) 329-0430 (voice)

(415) 329-0433 (TDD)

Compiles and publishes consumer information on technology, including computer adaptations, for blind and visually impaired people. Assists in career placement for people who have visual or hearing impairments. Publishes a newsletter and has a technology training center.

Also offers:

- **Technology Update:** Bimonthly newsletter with information regarding technology and vision impairment. Includes new product announcements, product reviews, and consumer information. Available in print and audio tapes.

Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute

Rehabilitation Engineering Center

2232 Webster Street

San Francisco, CA 94115

(415) 561-1619

(415) 561-1610 (fax)

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

Research and development center on assistive technology (including work on computer access devices) for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Telephone Pioneers of America

22 Cortlandt Street, Room C-2575

New York, NY 10007

(212) 393-3252

<http://www.telephone-pioneers.org/>

Maintains a directory of senior and retired telephone employees who repair and service record players and cassette machines of the talking-books program of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Pioneers may visit homes of new readers to demonstrate use of the equipment and may help library staffs inspect returned talking books for damage before the books are loaned to other readers.

Trace Research and Development Center

University of Wisconsin, Madison

S-151 Waisman Center

1500 Highland Avenue

Madison, WI 53705-2280

(608) 262-6966

<http://trace.wisc.edu/>

Evaluates adaptive devices. Sells publications on communication system and computer-related applications.

World Blind Union

(Union Mondiale des Aveugles)

58, avenue Bosquet

75007 Paris

FRANCE

<http://www.who.int/ina-ngo/ngo/ngo160.htm>

An international nongovernmental coalition composed of representatives from various associations of blind people and from agencies providing services to them. The members are grouped into seven geographical unions: Africa, Asia, Europe, East Asia/Pacific, Latin America, Middle East, and North America/Caribbean. Works for the prevention of blindness, promotes the well-being of blind and visually impaired people, and serves as an international forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of blindness.

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This material was developed by the [National Center to Improve Practice \(NCIP\)](#), located at Education Development Center, Inc. in Newton, Massachusetts. NCIP was funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs from October 1, 1992 - September 30, 1998, Grant #H180N20013. Permission is granted to copy and disseminate this information. If you do so, please cite NCIP. Contents do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of Education, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by NCIP, EDC, or the U.S. Government. This site was last updated in September 1998.

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