

Assistive Technology at India International Centre Library

Overview of Assistive Technology available at IIC

The following assistive technology products are available at IIC Library.

Clear View

Optelec's ClearView+ Desktop Video Magnifier system magnifies anything under the viewfinder from 2 to 50 times its original size, always maintaining perfect focus. It also features a specially designed monitor and lighting design for optimum visual enhancement. The entire unit can be controlled with a single button, and can be customized to exact needs of the user.



http://barrierbreak.com/assistivetechology_det.php?j=Visual&Cat_ID=6&id=015

Supernova

SuperNova Access Suite from Dolphin gives three ways to access Windows applications. The user can choose what works best for him/her- magnification, speech, Braille or a combination of all three. It makes common tasks such as writing documents, shopping online, sending emails or browsing the internet very easy for people who either cannot see the screen at or who have weak eyesight.

http://barrierbreak.com/assistivetechology_det.php?j=Visual&Cat_ID=1&id=001

Dragon Naturally Speaking

Dragon speech recognition software makes it easier for anyone to use a computer. You talk, and it types. Use your voice to create and edit documents or emails, launch applications, open files, control your mouse, and more. Quickly and easily capture your thoughts and ideas while Dragon helps you get more done faster.

<http://www.nuance.com/dragon/index.htm>

Plustek Optibook 3600 Bookedge Scanner

It is a flat bed document scanner with few additional features. The special edge of the OpticBook 3600 allows users to easily scan all the way to the book spine and the areas near the book binding do not get left out. This scanner is very fast – takes only 7 seconds for scanning a page. It is very useful for conversion of print material into digital format.



<http://plustek.com/uk/products/knowledge-office-series/opticbook-3600/introduction.html>

Benefits for the print impaired (persons with disabilities)

The assistive technology available at the IIC Library can provide the following benefits to persons with disabilities who may want to use the library resources.

Magnify and Read

The library now has the facility which will allow users to magnify all reading material for reading- whether printed, hand-written or saved in the computer.

The Clear View is a very good device for magnifying any print material for reading. It will greatly help people with weak eyesight or those who do not want to strain their eyes reading small print. It may be kept in the main reading room, so that anyone can use it. Even people with good eyesight may find it very useful for reading magazines or brochures which have small print. It can also show the document on the LCD screen in different colour combinations suitable for various eye conditions.

The Super Nova Access Suite software installed on the computer can magnify anything on the computer screen such as documents and web pages and make it easy to view for people who have low vision.

Scan & Read

The Plustek scanner in combination with the ABBYY Fine Reader OCR software installed on the computer can convert any printed material such as a book or a magazine into electronic text. The document can then be viewed on the computer screen and saved for later use. This facility can be of great use to persons with print impairment – people who cannot read standard print due to any disability. They can scan the book and then listen to it or magnify it for reading with the Super Nova software.

Read aloud web pages, documents

The Super Nova Access Suite is a very good screen reading software and can read aloud any text on the computer screen in a human like voice. It allows access to all common applications such as Microsoft Office, Email and Internet. This facility is critical for those who due to blindness or very weak eyesight cannot read the standard print at all. With little training they will be able to use the computer for all their reading and writing needs in English as well as Hindi.

Speak & type

The Dragon Naturally speaking software installed in the library is a high quality speech recognition software and allows users to take complete control of the computer only with their voice. It is very useful for people who due to disabilities cannot comfortably handle the keyboard and the mouse. They can speak into the attached microphone and make the computer open programs and files and dictate text for typing. With little practice people can achieve great accuracy and speed in operating the computer.

Alternative uses of the AT available at IIC Library

Scanning office documents

The Plustek 3600 scanner installed in the Library is a very fast scanner and can be used to scan important office documents such as notices, bills, orders etc. The electronic copy of these documents can then be preserved in the computer or sent easily by email when required. If all important documents are scanned then searching for a particular document becomes very easy and fast. It will also be easy to create backup of the data since computer files need negligible space as compared to hard copies. This will also help in saving stationery since documents can be viewed on the computer screen and sent by email thereby eliminating need for printing and photocopying.

Preserving delicate and rare books, magazines, pictures

The library may scan valuable books and magazines which are rare to find or which are in a bad condition and not suitable for frequent handling. They may be scanned and their digital copy can then be used for reading purposes. The Plustek scanner due to its bookedge design is ideally suited for this purpose.

Reading fine print

The Clear View magnifier available in the library can be used by anyone for reading very small print or documents which have poor printing. This device will magnify the text and make it convenient for reading.

Workshop for Library Members

A workshop may be arranged for library members and staff covering the following topics.

1. Library in the new age
 - a. E-books
 - b. Digital talking Books
 - c. New reading devices – Kindle, Ipad etc
 - d. Reading without seeing – not just for the visually impaired – good for people who want to relax their eyes, for people who are on the move
 - e. Technologies that may help – text to Speech, OCR
2. Concept of Inclusive Libraries – allowing access to everyone

It can be a half day workshop consisting of presentations, demonstrations of technology, hand-on session and discussion. Experts in the field of digital library and experts of assistive technology may be invited as resource persons.