

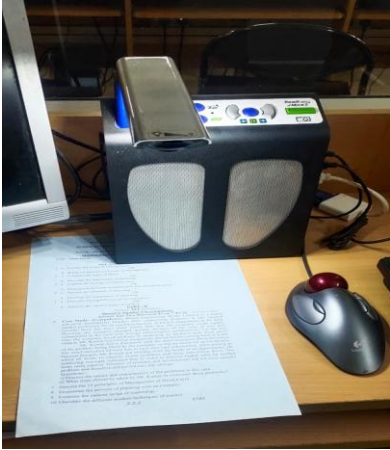


LIBRARY

Assistive Technology Implementation Resource Centre for Visually Challenged, College Library, PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore

Assistive Technology (AT) tools and software play vital role as enablers in higher education for persons with disabilities especially visually challenged by providing access to information and reading resources. In turn, they lead their path for equal employment and independent living opportunities after their graduation or post-graduation.

Below are the AT tools and software implemented along with Computers and Internet in the Resource Centre for Visually Challenged in the College Library. The facilities will be expanded for more requirements of the students and updates, more innovations happening in the future.

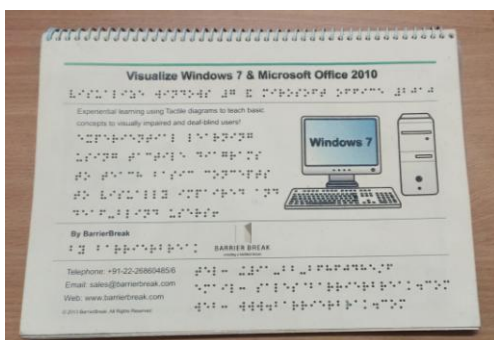
	<p>NVDA (Non-Visual Desktop Access), is an Open Source Screen Reader software that enables persons with visual impairments to work on Computers and its applications voice enabled. NVDA with Indian accent voice vocalizer installed provide a native support in understanding the computer spoken words clearly and operate with ease. NVDA is installed in the computers of resource centre for reading digital online resources, as well as other contents that are converted as reference reading materials for the course they are pursuing in the college.</p>
	<p>Read Easy Move, is a standalone, portable scan and read tool with. Any text information or books in English when placed in the camera focus space will be scanned and read fast through the integrated Scan, OCR and Screen Reading Text to Speech (TTS) technology. The tool has a clear voice that reads out information from the books and other printed materials at ease. The tool has tactile buttons for the visually challenged to operate independently by themselves whenever required. It has many voice options to choose from including Indian</p>



accent, variant speed rates at which the content is read, save the scanned text as RTF format files, and copy it later on to USB drives and bookmark and start from a read content. It also has a keypad feature to operate with ease exploring in a tactile manner through touch. It occupies less space, and weight to carry easily from one place to another in a case or without it. It gives instant access for reading content to visually challenged students. In a library, it support to read the titles for the visually challenged user and choose the books, then to read the inner page contents.



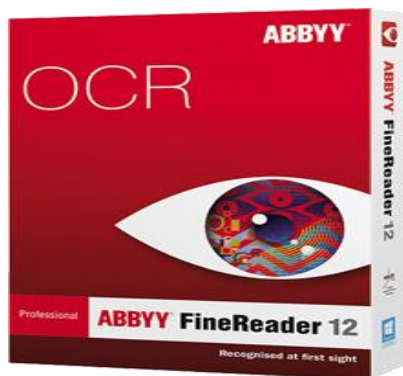
Dolphin Easy Converter software installed in the computer supports to convert printed or scanned text content into accessible format for visually challenged. It converts the printed or conventional formatted text content into a range of formats like large print for enlarged reading, MP3 for audio, DAISY for simultaneous text and audio, and Braille formats for printing in embossers according to the requirement of the users. It is very easy to use on demand by the visually challenged independently as it is voice enabled.



Tactile Book for Computer Operations, is a computer tutorials book as advanced tactile graphics that helps a visually challenged to visualize the content displayed in a monitor while operating the computer. It depicts, computer desktop, menus, applications like Word, Excel, Keyboard operations for them to initially know and learn through tactile explorations. This supports them, to operate the computer and its applications at ease when the screen reader navigates and reads at next level of learning.



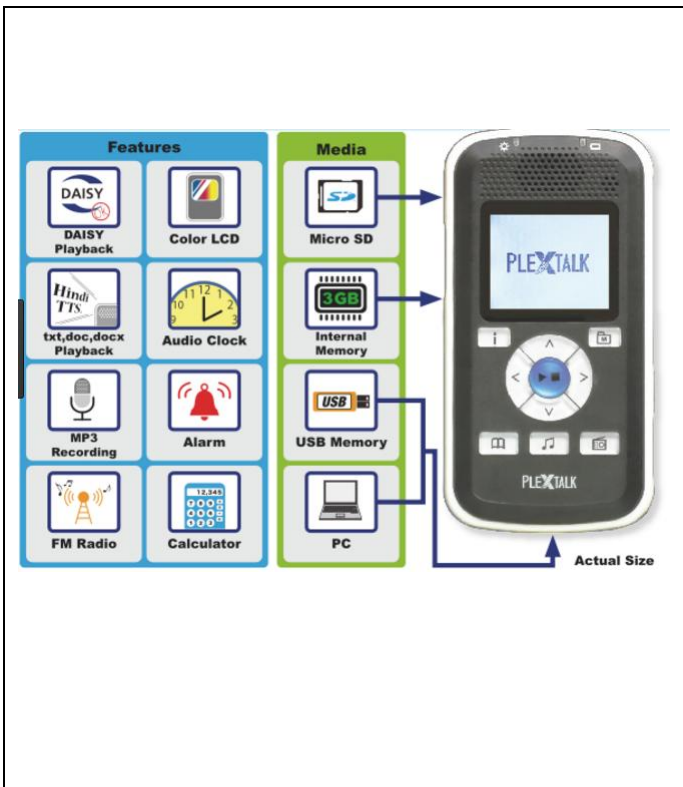
Digital Video Magnifier, is a tool for students with low vision to read the printed book content magnified / enlarged at 2 to 16 times. It has an advanced imaging technology with a powerful camera. It has features to be connected to TV or Monitor, smooth magnification for higher ranges, freeing the frame for no movement reading, different colour modes like black letters on white, white letters on black (inverse mode), blue on yellow, yellow on blue modes, recharge battery for continuous use. It can also be used for writing at magnified level of the underneath paper by the user too. This provides confident reading, see graphics or picture with more details, without strain for the users with low vision for long hours and more content at a stretch. This also support to maintain the visual capabilities without adding strain otherwise, if read without a magnifier, or with fixed magnification handheld lens magnifiers.



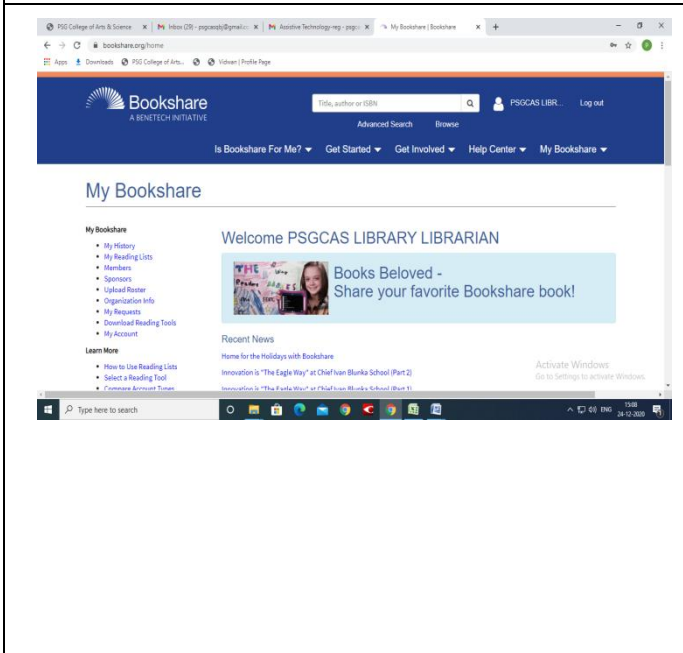
Abby Fine Reader, as an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software installed in computers of the centre supports instant conversion of printed book content into screen readable text content in voice. Once converted into text, NVDA reads content. The software has a higher precision with lesser amount of proof reading required and quality conversion of old as well as new printed books.



Plex Talk DAISY Player, is a device to read aloud digital text, html, accessible PDF, DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) content. It can also play audio books in MP3, WAV (PCM) formats for the users. It support navigation from page to page, chapter to chapter with bookmarking for a DAISY formatted book. It has a recording facility for classes and any knowledge sessions content recording as a note taking tool. It has an internal memory of 3 GB and support additionally 32 GB external memory card. It has a



audio calculator, FM Radio for news and other information, Alarm, volume adjustments, variant speed rates while reading aloud, and saving features. It also has a display with 12/16/24 points for Low vision user to check the content before audio reading, and also to check the file name, content read in case of DAISY books. Content can be easily transferred from computers as well as vice versa by a micro USB cable. It has a higher battery life for long reading at Library hours and power recharge backup provisions. A visually challenged user can independently operate with ease as the keys are read aloud and at Library they are given practical training. The users can also avail these devices from the Central Government on Assistance for Disabled Persons (ADIP) scheme for working at home.



Bookshare Online Library:

Bookshare is an ebook library that makes reading easier. Members can access a huge collection of ebooks and *read their way* with the most customizable ebooks for people with reading barriers. The library has 702,036 titles and is the most extensive collection of accessible ebooks in the world. It includes books for school, career, and reading pleasure, as well as titles in over 34 languages. The collection is supported by a dedicated volunteer community and partnerships with over 820 US and international publishers.



Talking Clock, a device that reads out time aloud on pressing the read key, as well as alarm with voice. In a library, it supports the visually challenged user to independently know the time and plan his reading schedule.