Assistive Technology and Older Adults

(Note: See also Home Design, Disabilities and Transportation)

Physical, cognitive and other forms of disabilities afflict individuals of all ages, and in their severest forms make it difficult for persons to perform even the most ordinary functions of daily living. While there are developmental differences across the age span, assistive aids originally designed for one age group frequently have applications for others. Financial support for assistive technology is often available for younger adults who are still seeking employment. Support for older adults is sometimes available under Medicare and Medicaid for medical conditions certified by physician. The Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, whose focus includes younger children, working age adults and older adults, supports many of the Internet sites listed below.

- What is Assistive Technology?
- Statistical Data
- Federal Programs
- Research Studies and Guidelines for Development
- Resource Centers and Associations
- State Sites
- International

_____

What is Assistive Technology?

Selecting and Obtaining Assistive Technology
(Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative, U. of Delaware)
http://www.asel.udel.edu/dati/selecting.html

An Introductory Guide to Providing Devices and Services for People with Special Needs
(Connecticut Tech Act Project)
http://www.techact.uconn.edu/guide.html

Assistive Technology for the Frail Elderly: An Introduction and Overview
(U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)
http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/daltcp/reports/Asttech.htm

Assistive Devices for Use with Personal Computers
(Library of Congress)
http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/assistive2001.html

Introduction to Computer Technology
(Lighthouse International)
http://www.lighthouse.org/resources_adaptive_tech.htm

Getting Affordable Durable Medical Equipment
(Medicare Rights Center)
http://www.medicarerights.org/factsandfaces4.html

Informed Consumer's Guide to Funding Assistive Technology
(AbleData)
http://www.abledata.com/text2/funding.htm

Federal Legislation Related to Assistive Technology
(Idaho Assistive Technology Project)
http://www.its.uidaho.edu/idatech/IATPlegis.asp

Statistical Data

Number of Persons Using Assistive Technology Devices by Age and Type of Device, 1994
(National Center for Health Statistics)
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nhis_dis/ad292tb1.htm

Trends and Differential Use of Assistive Technology Devices: United States, 1994
(National Center for Health Statistics)
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ad/ad292.pdf

Why Older People Accept or Reject Assistive Technology [reprint]
(Generations, American Society on Aging
http://www.homemods.org/library/pages/accept.html

Federal Programs

Federal Interagency Working Group on Assistive Technology Mobility Devices
http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/20030212-12.html

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research
(U.S. Department of Education)
http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/NIDRR/About/

ABLEDATA

http://www.abledata.com/

National Rehabilitation Information Center – Information for Independence
http://www.naric.com/

Center for Information Technology Accommodation
(U.S. General Services Administration)
http://www.section508.gov/

Assistive Devices – Medline Plus
(National Library of Medicine)
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/assistivedevices.html

Current and Emerging Assistive Technologies Online Resources for Persons with Disabilities
(U.S. Department of Energy)
http://cio.doe.gov/assistive/resource.html

Research and Guidelines for Development

Federal Policy Barriers to Assistive Technology
(National Council on Disability)
http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/assisttechnology.html

Guidelines for the Design of Consumer Products to Increase Their Accessibility to Persons with Disabilities or who are Aging
(Trace Center, U. of Wisconsin)
http://www.trace.wisc.edu/docs/consumer_product_guidelines/toc.htm

Study On the Financing of Assistive Technology Devices And Services For Individuals With Disabilities
(National Council on Disability)
http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/assistive.html

Resource Centers and Associations

AbilityHub.com
http://www.abilityhub.com/

Access-Able
http://www.access-able.org/

Accessibilty Equipment Manufacturers Association
http://www.aema.com/

Adaptive Environments
http://www.adaptenv.org/

Alliance for Technology Access
http://www.ataccess.org/

AZTech
(University of New York, Buffalo)
http://cosmos.ot.buffalo.edu/

Assistive Technology Industry Association
http://www.atia.org/

Assistive Technology Web Site
(Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association)
http://www.epvatech.org/

Assistive Technology [weekly column]
(Business Week)
http://www.businessweek.com/bwdaily/list/assist01.htm

Assistive Tech Net
http://www.assistivetech.net/

Center for Accessible Technology
http://www.cforat.org/

Center for Development and Disability
(University of New Mexico)
http://www.star.nm.org/at/

Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access
(Georgia Tech University)
http://www.catea.org/

Center for Assistive Technology
(University of Buffalo)
http://cat.buffalo.edu/index.htm

Infinitec – Infinite Potential Through Assistive Technology
http://www.infinitec.org/

Internet TV and Assistive Technology
(AT508.com)
http://www.at508.com/

Project ACTION Accessible Traveler's Database
http://www.projectaction.org/paweb/

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technology for Successful Aging
(University of Florida)
http://www.rerc.ufl.edu/

Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America
http://www.resna.org/

Tech Connections
http://www.techconnections.org/

Trace Center
(University of Wisconsin-Madison)
http://trace.wisc.edu/

State Sites

State Assistive Technology Loan Programs - Year: 2000
(Rehabilitation Engineering And Assistive Technology Society Of North America)
http://www.resna.org/AFTAP/library/matrixtb4.htm

State Affiliates of Alliance for Technology Access
http://www.ataccess.org/community/centers.lasso

California

ATNetwork
(California Foundation for Independent Living Centers)
http://www.atnet.org/

Delaware

Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative
(University of Delaware)
http://www.asel.udel.edu/dati/

Florida

Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology
http://www.faast.org/

Georgia

Georgia Project for Assistive Technology
http://www.gpat.org/

Georgia's Assistive Technology Equipment Exchange Program
http://www.gtradeonline.org/comment.htm

Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii
http://www.atrc.org/

Illinois

Illinois Assistive Technology Project
http://www.iltech.org/

Idaho

Idaho Assistive Technology Project
http://www.ets.uidaho.edu/idatech/

Iowa

IPAT – Infotech
(Iowa Program for Assistive Technology
http://www.uiowa.edu/infotech/InfoTech.htm

Kansas

Assistive Technology for Kansans
http://www.atk.lsi.ukans.edu/

Key Links for Assistive Technology
(The Northeast Kansas Education Service Center)
http://nekesc.org/kids/atech.html

Kentucky

Kentucky Assistive Technology Service
http://www.katsnet.org/

Louisiana

Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network
http://www.latan.org/

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Adaptive Technologies Center
(University of Massachusetts)
http://www.umass.edu/thepoint/support/disabilities/ds02.html

Minnesota

Minnesota Assistive Technology Network
http://www.state.mn.us/ebranch/admin/assistivetechnology/loan/at.htm

Missouri

Missouri Assistive Technology
http://www.dolir.state.mo.us/matp/index.htm

Nebraska

Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership
http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ATP/

New York

Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities
(New York State Office of Advocate for Persons with Disabilities)
http://www.advoc4disabled.state.ny.us/TRAID_Project/technlog.htm

North Carolina

North Carolina Adaptive Technologies Center
http://www.check-it-out.org/

Partnerships in Assistive Technology
http://www.pat.org/

North Dakota

Interagency Program for Assistive Technology
http://www.ndipat.org/

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Assistive Technology Center
http://w3.ouhsc.edu/oatc/

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Lending Library
(Temple University)
http://www.temple.edu/inst_disabilities/atlend/

South Dakota

Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired
(South Dakota Division of Rehabilitation Services)
http://www.state.sd.us/dhs/sbvi/assistiv.htm

Directory of Funding and Resources for Assistive Technology in South Dakota
(Dakota Link)
http://dakotalink.tie.net/Fundbktxt.html

Virginia

Virginia Assistive Technology System
http://www.vats.org/

Washington

Washington Assistive Technology Alliance
http://www.wata.org/

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Assistive Technology Network
http://www.wistech.state.wi.us/

International

International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence
(American Society on Aging)
http://www.asaging.org/icadi/03/index.cfm

The Adaptive Technology Resource Centre
Toronto, Canada
http://www.utoronto.ca/atrc/

Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe
http://www.fernuni-hagen.de/FTB/AAATE.html

Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association
http://www.e-bility.com/arata/

Foundation for Assistive Technology (UK)
http://www.fastuk.org/

BMC:04/09/03

Center for Communication and Consumer Services
U.S. Administration on Aging
Tel.   202-619-0724
FAX   202-357-3523
Internet: http://www.aoa.gov
Email: aoainfo@aoa.gov