

GLOBAL ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS DAY 2021

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AMERICAN
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MOVING TOWARD AN ACCESSIBLE FUTURE

Celebrating Global Accessibility Awareness Day 2021



Learning Objectives

- Learn about items and software that improve accessibility for the blind and visually impaired
- Understand how to make social media posts more accessible
- Learn about resources for making photos, presentations, and documents more accessible
- Learn how to continue expanding your accessibility knowledge

Gratitude for Accessibility Strides

Overarching Laws:

- Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as amended
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 (amended)

Your Accessibility Questions Answered

- What accessibility questions do you have now?
- How can APH assist you with accessibility this year?



What Makes Life More Accessible for the BVI Community in 2021?

- Informal survey
- Blind and visually impaired friends said:
- APH Mantis/Chameleon braille displays
- Shipt, Instacard and Walmart grocery delivery apps
- Picture This (app for identifying plants)

What Makes Life More Accessible (2)

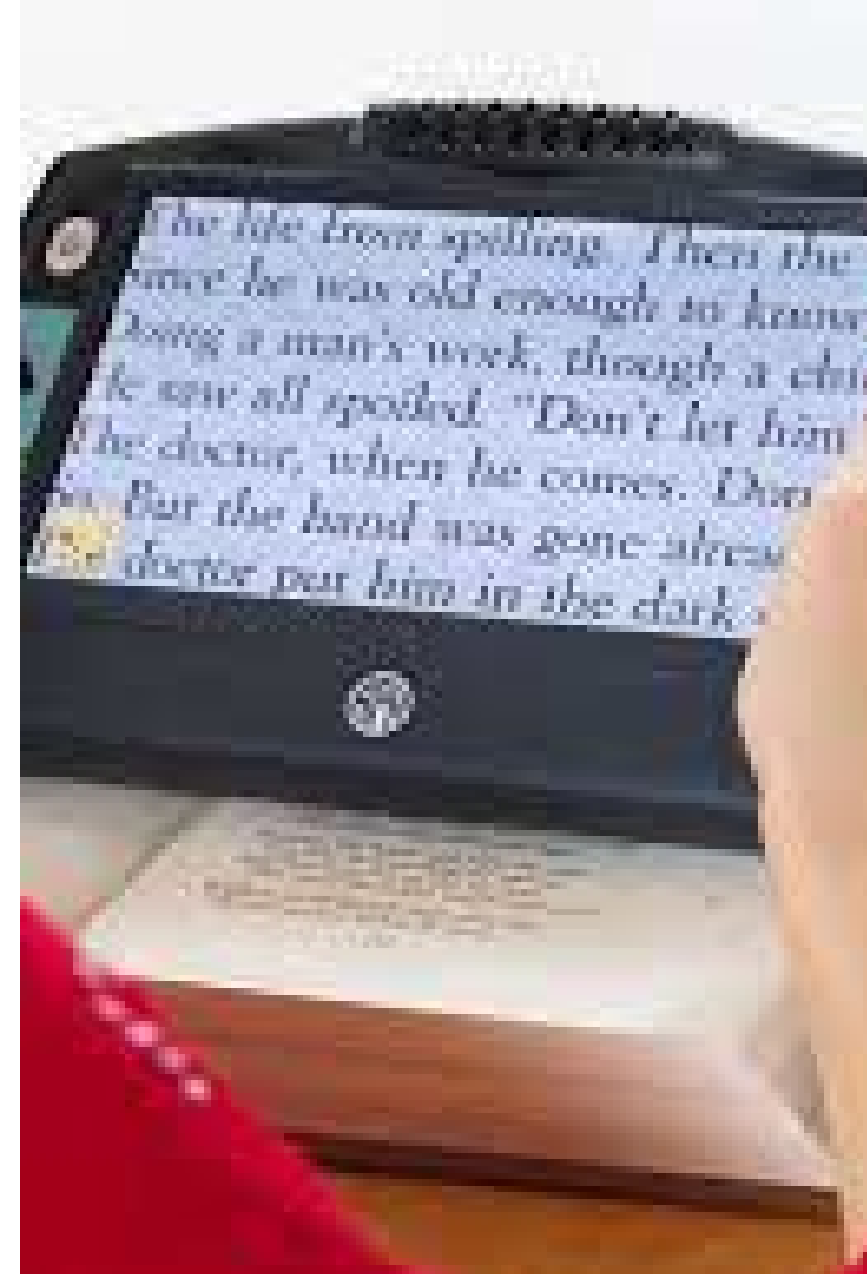
- Google Pixel phone
- Aira visual interpretation service
- Seeing AI app for identifying text and items (can sometimes identify handwriting on greeting cards!)
- WayAround labeling system

What Makes Life More Accessible (3)

- Voice Dream Reader for reading documents on iOS and Android smartphones
- Voice Dream Scanner for accessing scanned text from smartphones
- Zoom

Education

- APH Mantis
- APH Chameleon
- APH Juno



APH Mantis

- Full QWERTY keyboard
- Great for all, but particularly those who code
- 40-cell Braille display
- Can connect and switch between multiple Bluetooth devices
- Access Bookshare and NFB Newslines
- Use smartphone apps
- I love connecting to my iPhone and computer and easily switching between them

APH Chameleon

- 20-cell Braille display
- Colorful for kids, but great for everyone!
- Can connect and switch between multiple Bluetooth devices
- Connect and access apps on smartphones
- Access Bookshare and NFB Newslines

APH Juno

- Portable magnifier
- 7-inch LCD screen with 2x-30x magnification and 24 high-contrast color modes
- Optical character recognition
- Flexibility to magnify, read, and listen to text anywhere!



Entertainment

Apple TV

- Uses your voice to search for TV programming with Siri
- Voiceover screen reader
- Can set it to turn on audio description or close captioning whenever available
- Speech recognition allows you to quickly search without having to navigate the screen.

It has leveled the playing field with sighted peers, as I can now simply use my voice to search for a program or movie by name, as well as navigate the on-screen text to scroll through the list of programming options

Entertainment (continued)

- Sonos
- Accessible speakers and sound bars that can be controlled through an accessible app
- Sonos products work with Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant
- Multiple types of portable and home speakers
- Choose and play music from the accessible app
- Speakers can play in synch
- Affordable multi-room audio

Nutrition

Digit-eyes (Bar scanner app)

- Scan a barcode and receive product information via text and voice
- Access ingredients, cooking instructions, and nutrition information
- User can add information not already in the database



Home Life

- Phillips Hue lights
- August Smart Lock
- Simply Safe security system
- Nest thermostat
- Samsung TB
- Ecovacs Deebot Robotic Vacuum
 - Access device controls via the app
 - Adds voice commands capabilities with Alexa device

Can now control and customize mainstream devices in your home. Something not possible without sighted assistance just a few years back.





Shopping/Finances

Instacart and Shipt (grocery shopping apps)

- Shop and get food delivered
- Explore options and compare prices

Money Talks from APH

- Budgeting app that keeps track of expenses and balance

Do not have to schedule or ask for a ride to go to a store, in addition to asking for assistance to shop. Can now shop and control finances independently.

Trip Planning

Expedia and Southwest apps

- Compare flights from multiple airlines
- Read reviews and book hotel
- Get basic information about the destination

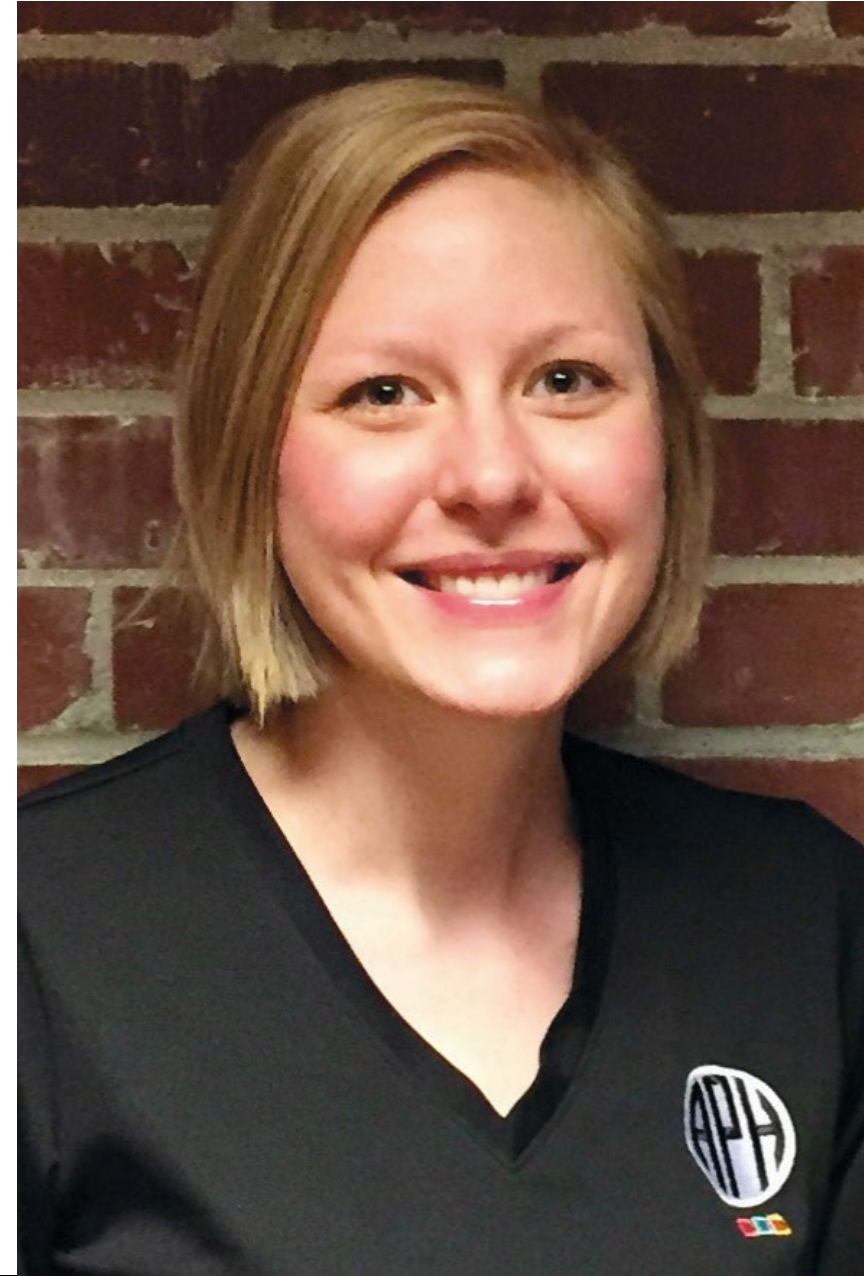
No more waiting on hold with multiple airlines. These apps allow accessible price comparison and ticket holds.



Travel

Soundscape from Microsoft

- Navigation app announces shops, bus stops, roads, and intersections
- Describes user's current location and direction
- Explores and locates specific landmarks by holding the phone flat and pointing
- "I no longer have to ask someone sighted where the bus stop is, or what stores are around as I walk by. I can choose where I want to go and get there myself."



Travel (continued)

- GoodMaps
- More precise positioning than other options
- No installation of costly beacons necessary
- Uses LiDAR and image recognition to provide fast and accurate maps of indoor spaces

Making Social Media More Accessible

- [Here is a recent blog post](#) from APH with info on making social media posts accessible.



Making Presentations More Accessible

[Here is a recent webinar](#)

from APH with info on making PowerPoint presentations accessible.



Making Documents More Accessible

Coming soon to the [APH](#)
[Hive](#), the recorded webinar
on how to make documents
accessible.





Disabled Innovators Promoting Universal Access

- Braille was created by Louis Braille, a blind person
- Text Messaging (SMS) was created by a Deaf person
- Wheelchair Ramps were installed thanks to advocacy of the physically disabled community and benefit everyone!
- Extra-Capacity Bathroom Stalls
- App/Webpage Design
- Truncated Domes

POLL QUESTION: WHAT APH RESOURCES AND MATERIALS CAN HELP YOU, YOUR STUDENTS, AND YOUR CLIENTS?

1. Accessibility Hub
2. Connect Center
3. Migel Library
4. All of the above

APH RESOURCES

- [APH At Home webinar series](#)
- [Playlist on YouTube](#) featuring some of our products.
- [APH Accessibility hub](#) website featuring Accessibility and Inclusion training, document accessibility checklists, tutorials, Best Practices, videos and blog
- [APH ConnectCenter](#) free information hotline on every aspect of vision loss. Call 1-800-232-5463 or email connectcenter@aph.org
- [CareerConnect](#) resources to start and maintain a career

APH RESOURCES CONTINUED

- [FamilyConnect](#) useful resources for parents and children with visual impairments
- [VisionAware](#) resources to maintain a more independent life
- [Miguel Library](#) full of history and articles online about Helen Keller
- [At Home with APH Resources](#) page linking to blogs posts with activities that can be done at home
- [Podcast called Change Makers](#) featuring people who have created change in the field of visual impairment. Currently covering the Coronavirus and how people are coping.



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