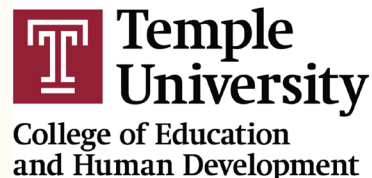


Assistive Technology Basics

Discussing supporting and enabling technologies to empower us all



Institute on Disabilities



Accessibility



Image
descriptions



ASL Interpreter



CART captions



Other
accommodations

Why We Are Here

- PA Tech Accelerator:
 - **Training and Resources:** Build capacity through trainings and resources for stakeholders.
 - **Readiness Evaluation:** Develop tools for successful adoption of remote supports and assistive tech.
 - **Statewide Assessment:** Plan and benchmark a Technology First Systems Change.
 - **Provider Survey:** Assess technology awareness and resources among 2,000 providers.
 - **Technology Summits:** Host 2025 summits to enhance awareness of tech solutions
- This project is made possible by Pennsylvania's Department Human Services through funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Tech Accelerator Webinar Series

- **Duration:**
 - July 2024 to December 2025
 - Every third Thursday of the month from 12-1 pm and from 4-5 pm
- **Accessibility:**
 - Screen reader accessible slides
 - ASL interpreters
 - CART captions
 - Verbal image descriptions
 - Ability to request more accommodations if needed
- **Recorded webinars published after event**

Topics to Expect from This Series

- **Confirmed Lectures:**

- Assistive Technology Basics (July 17th)
- Built-in Accessibility Tools for Everyday Tools (August 15th)
- A Day in the Life – Work, Home, and Community (September 19th)

- **Confirmed Topics:**

- Augmentative and Alternative Communication
- Remote Support
- Tools for Specific Needs for Employment, Independence and Socialization
- Recreation and Regulation in the Community

Presenters

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Assistive Technology Specialist
Alanna.raffel@temple.edu

Tom DiAgostino
Senior Assistive Technology
Coordinator
ThomasD@temple.edu



This webinar is designed to help you...

- Define the term "assistive technology"
- Identify assistive devices along a continuum for a variety of needs
- Identify a wide range of supportive technologies
- Use TechOWL programs and services



About Us

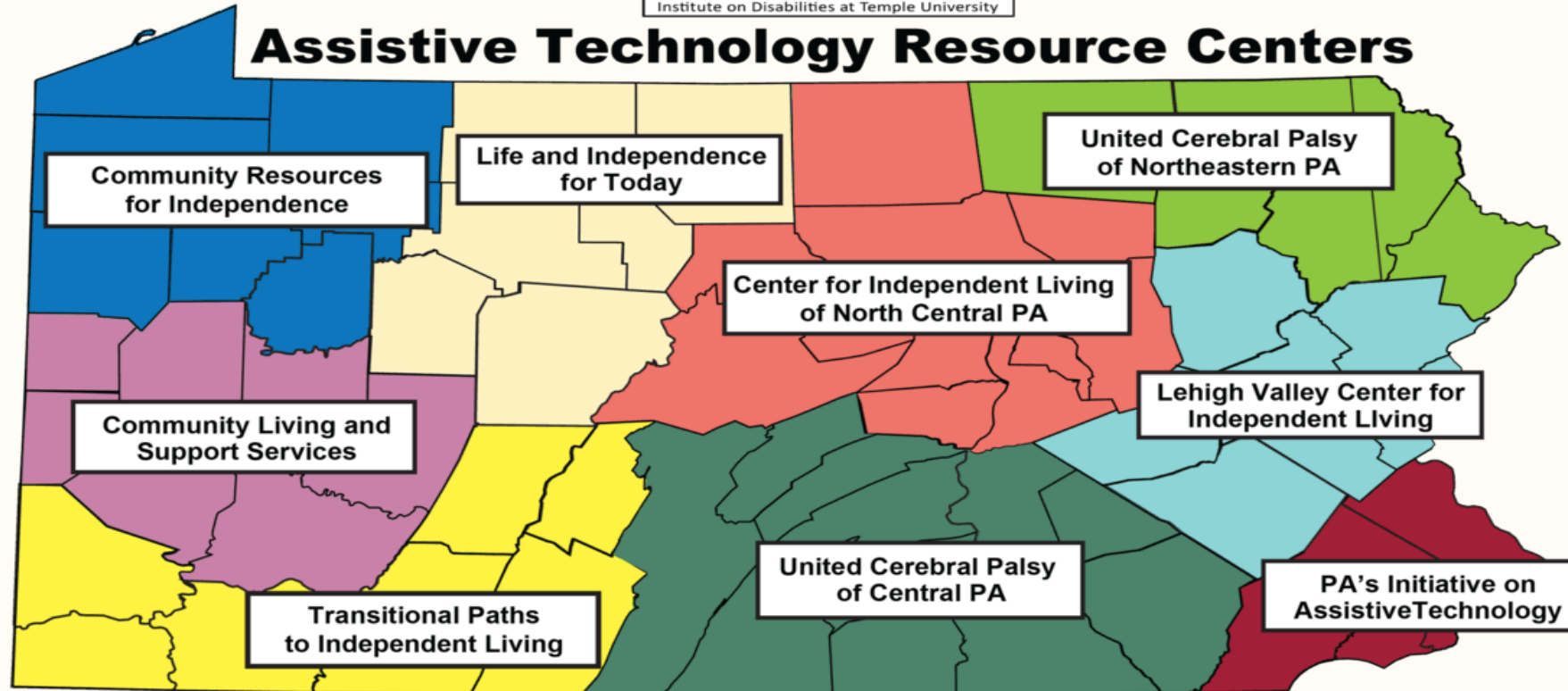
- Technology for **Our Whole Lives**
- We are the state assistive technology act program for Pennsylvania.
 - Find your state program at AT3center.net/stateprogram
- Based at the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

More about Tech0WL

- We are a federal and state funded non-profit organization.
- We view disability through social and holistic models.
- We believe in a user-centered experience.
- We educate, inform, and empower Pennsylvanians about assistive technology.



Assistive Technology Resource Centers



PA's Initiative on Assistive Technology,
 Institute on Disabilities at Temple University
 (Philadelphia)

- **Community Resources for Independence**
(Erie)
- **Community Living and Support Services**
(Pittsburgh)
- **Life and Independence for Today**
(St. Marys)
- **United Cerebral Palsy of Central PA**
(Camp Hill)

- **Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living**
(Allentown)
- **Center for Independent Living of North Central PA**
(Williamsport)
- **United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern PA**
(Scranton)
- **Transitional Paths to Independent Living**
(Washington)

Core Services of AT Act Programs



Device demonstrations



Equipment lending



Equipment donation



Presentations, training, and
technical assistance

What is "Assistive Technology"?

Also known as "supportive technology" or "enabling technology"

"Assistive Technology" Devices

- Definition:
 - An item or piece of equipment that “is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capacities of individuals with disabilities.”
- Basically:
 - Tools that make life easier, safer, or more independent!

Why Do We Say "Assistive Technology"?

- **Legislation:**

- Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988 (Tech Act)
 - This act provided a comprehensive definition of assistive technology and promoted its development and dissemination.
 - Most funding streams like insurance and waivers use this term and definition to financially support the purchase of assistive devices

- **Other terms:**

- People commonly use terms like "adaptive equipment", "assistive devices", "supporting technology", "enabling technology", "tools", "gadgets", etc.
- Language is a tool to communicate, so please use the terms that you feel comfortable using.

Considering Adaptive Devices

- What do you want or need to do? *Think about functional need versus diagnosis.*
- What routines and activities are working? Which ones are not?



Is this supportive technology?



Is this enabling technology?



Is this an adaptive device?



"Assistive Technology Continuum"

Also known as the "Continuum of Considerations"

Light Tech

- Free or inexpensive
- Readily available
- Doesn't require training and/or ongoing support
- Not overly complex

What are some other light tech tools?



Mid Tech

- Low cost or moderately priced
- May require some training and/or ongoing support
- Somewhat sophisticated

What are some other mid tech tools?



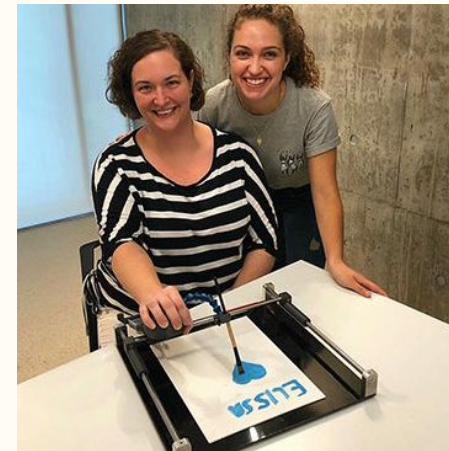
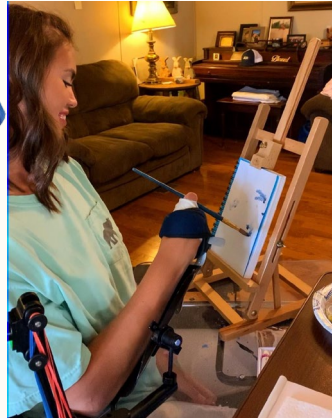
High Tech

- Expensive
- Require extensive training and/or ongoing support
- Usually more sophisticated

What are some other high tech tools?



AT Continuum: Art Making





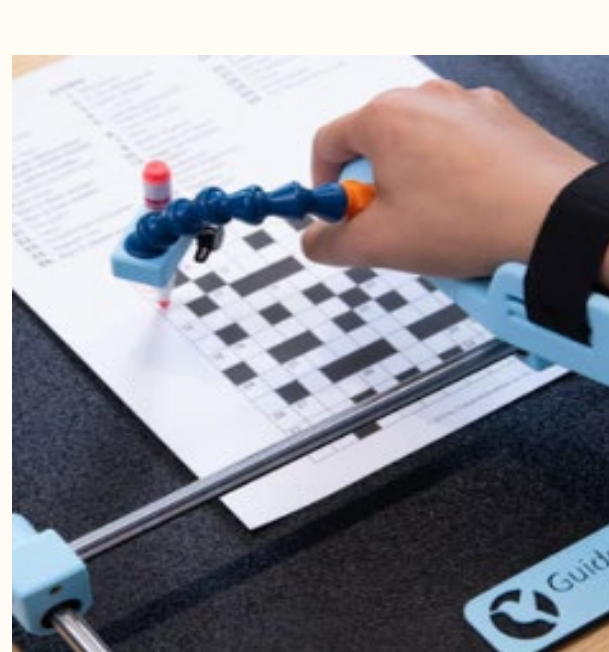
AT Continuum

We try to provide people with the most appropriate tool regardless of where it lands on the continuum.



Examples of Supportive Technology for Specific Needs

Featuring tools from the "Assistive Technology Lending Library"



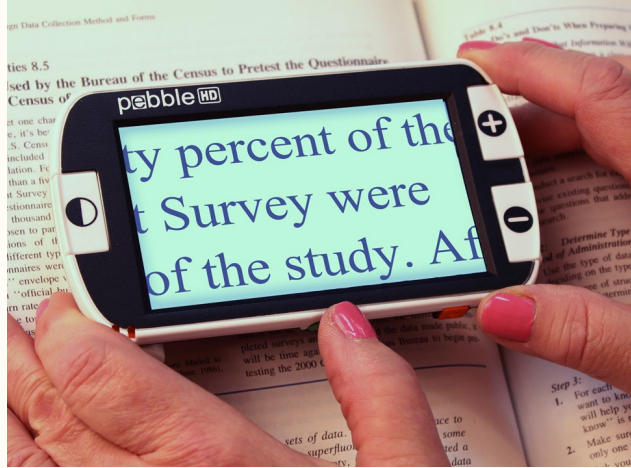
Moving and Controlling the Environment

- Guided Hands
- Smart home technology
- Obi Dining Robot
- Xbox adaptive controller
- Automatic nail clipper
- Liftware level spoon



Hearing Tools

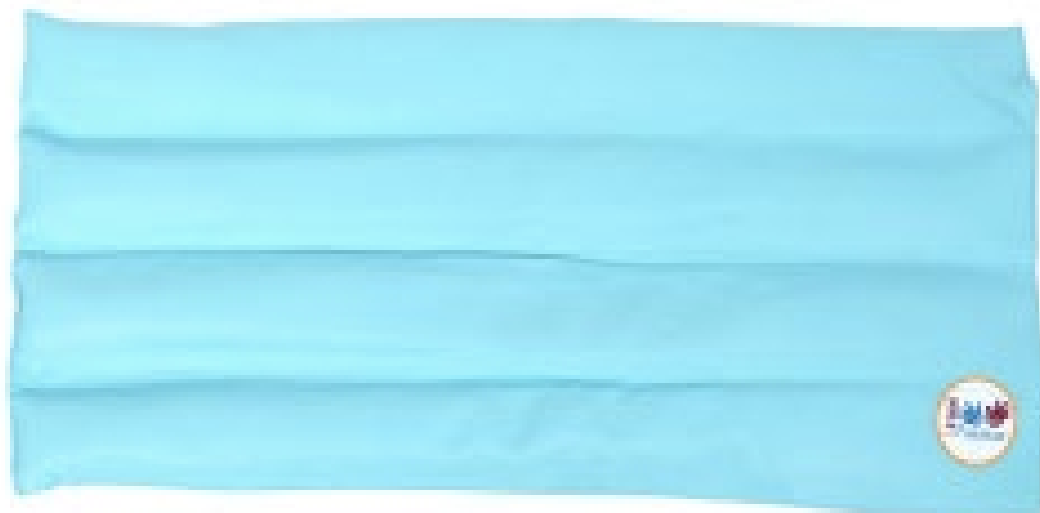
- Pocket Talker
- Amplified doorbell
- Contego listening system
- Bed shaker alarm clock
- BeHear personal amplifier
- Bone conduction headphones



Vision Tools

- BrailleSense
- Video magnifier
- OrCam MyEye
- White cane
- Braille labeler
- Envision Glasses





Sensory Tools

- Liquid motion bubbleblers
- Compression vests
- Noise-canceling headphones
- Fidgets
- Weighted lap pad

Get, Learn and Explore

Assistive devices with TechOWL

Explore Technology

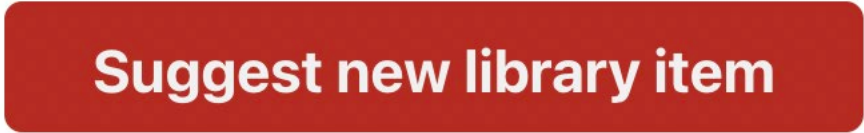
Assistive Technology Lending Library

- www.techowlpa.org/library
- Loans are 5-9 weeks long
 - Extensions will be granted if there is no wait list
- Free for Pennsylvanians
- Demonstrations to use the technology
- Don't live in PA? Find your lending library at www.at3center.net/state-at-programs



Suggest New Item

- If you want something we don't have, suggest it using the "suggest new library item" button.



Suggest new library item

TechOWL Community Space



1392 Cecil B. Moore Avenue

- Maker space
- Accessible gaming
- Demos
- Workshops
- Sensory space
- Used equipment drop off/pick up
- Mobility equipment loans

Learn about Technology

Consults and Demonstrations

- Visit us in Philly or connect with team member/s over Zoom to discuss options and pros/cons of different tools



AAC Services

- TechOWL speech-language pathologists provide virtual consultative services to PA residents
- General virtual consults
- Birth-3 EI consultations
- Adult populations
 - Just SO Speech Services for ODP consumers
 - Philly IDS Consumers



Find more information at: <https://aaccommunity.net/techowl-aac-services/>

Technical Assistance

- Website and digital accessibility
- Accessibility assessments and feedback for physical spaces and programs
- Emergency Preparedness
- General inquiries regarding assistive technology, accessibility, etc.



**Get Devices with
Tech0WL Programs**

Used Equipment Program

- Locations across the state
- What we accept
 - Mobility devices
 - Wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes
 - Other DME
 - Shower chairs, commodes
 - Assorted assistive technology
- <https://techowlpa.org/reep/>



CreATe Together



3D Print Catalog



Individual Projects



Large maker events

Free Special Phone Program

- Serves residents who have:
 - Disability (hearing, vision, cognitive, or physical) which makes it difficult to use a typical phone, AND
 - Income below 200% of the federal poverty level
- **Applicant** is responsible for phone service
- Apply online at <https://techowlpa.org/tddp/> or ask for an application to be mailed to you



iCanConnect - DeafBlind

- Serves residents who have:
 - Both vision and hearing loss
 - Income below 400% of the federal poverty level (eg \$60,240 for a single person)
- Applicant will receive devices for distance communication
- Applicant will receive 1-on-1 support/training with devices
- Apply online at <https://techowlpa.org/deafblind-services/> or ask for an application to be mailed to you



Del Sordo Fund

- Last resort funding source that provides up to \$400 of financial assistance
- Serves residents who:
 - Need an assistive device and other funding sources (Medicaid/Medicare, insurance, other programs) cannot provide funding.
 - Have an income below 400% of the federal poverty level (eg \$60,240 for a single person)
- Apply online at <https://techowlpa.org/help-with-pay/> or email ATfund@temple.edu



Get in Touch and Follow Along

TechOWL

- Phone: 800-204-7428
- Email: TechOWL@temple.edu
- Web chat: <https://techowlpa.org>
- Community Space: 1392 Cecil B Moore Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19122

Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

- Phone: 215-204-1356
- Email: IOD@temple.edu
- <https://disabilities.temple.edu>



@TechOWLpa | @IODTempleU

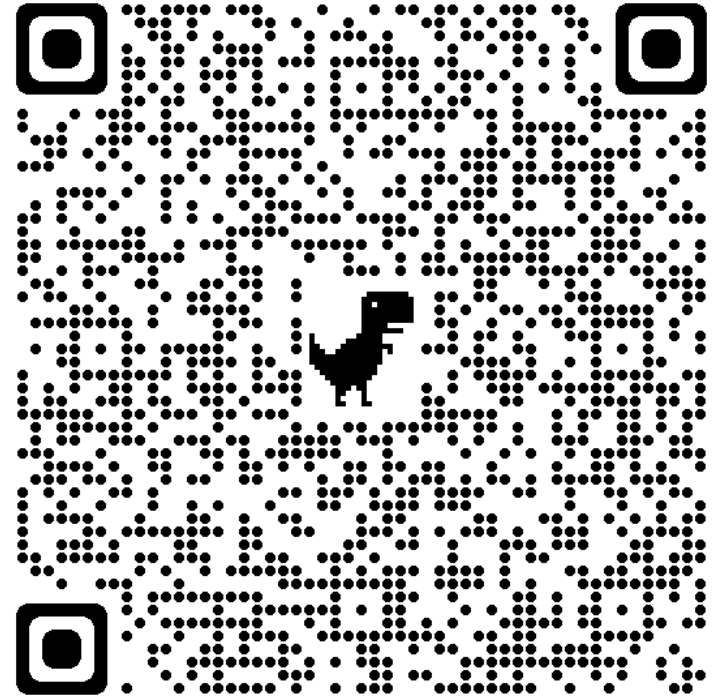
Survey

[Bit.ly/TechOWLSurvey](https://bit.ly/TechOWLSurvey)

Title of presentation: Assistive
Tech (AT) Basics

Presenters:

Tom & Alanna



Questions