Apps and Technology Share - A Student Disability Services and Library Collaboration

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Apps and Technology Share

A Student Disability Services and Library Collaboration

6th Annual CUNY Accessibility Conference
Student Success in the Digital Age
Friday, May 1st, 2015
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
New York City
Presenters

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The Story

- Student Share and Students-on-the-Go
- Collaboration
- Technology
  - Assistive Technology
  - Productivity
- Accessibility of documents and software
- Going forward with universal design
Student Share
Students On-the-Go

- Successful collaborative student share event between the Office of Student Disability Services and the Library, early Spring 2015.
- Developed from a conversation about what apps and technology students use.
- To create a dialog about services available to students.
Mobile Apps (Applications)

- Usually are self-contained software programs
- Some apps can be linked to other apps [e.g. Voice Dream to Dropbox]
- Designed to be downloaded on a mobile phone or tablet
- Provide access to specific types of information
- What you do in the app, stays in the app
App Stores
Where to get apps by device - operating system

iOS (Apple) → App Store
Microsoft → Windows Store
Blackberry → Blackberry World
Android → Google Play and Play Store
Statistics

- 85% of Americans, 18-29, are smartphone owners
- 78% of college graduates are smartphone owners

April 1, 2015. PEW Research Center

- 85 billion apps downloaded - App Store (iOS)
- 50 billion apps downloaded - Google Play (Android)

iOS vs Android
Accessibility Features

iOS- Apple Devices
- Settings-general- accessibility
- Stronger text-to-speech readers
- Zoom Reader, Voiceover
- iPhone earphones/hearing aids
- Closed captions available for movies, tv shows, and podcasts.
- Assistive touch - hand gestures

Android – Google
- Accessibility features not mandatory
- Developer needs to implement features
- Mainly for visual impairments
Apps for Type of Disability

Visual Impairment
- Zoom text
- JAWS
- Screen reader

Motor Function
- Siri
- Dragon Naturally Speaking (DNS)

Learning Disability
- Audio note
- DNS
- Learning Ally
- VoiceDream

Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- DNS - transcribes audio lectures
Accounting Students and Accessibility
QuickBooks vs Peachtree

Recommendation:
- **QuickBooks** for accounting classes to replace Peachtree

Reason:
- Screen readers cannot read Peachtree software
- QuickBooks is accessible.
- Universal design for learning
Universal design of documents is essential.

Recommendation:
- Use **text** documents vs image documents
- Use **text** documents on BlackBoard and emails

Reason:
- ‘**Real text**’ docs – **can** be read by screen readers
- ‘**Image**’ docs – **can not** be read by screen readers
- ‘**Image**’ docs are not accessible
Optical Character Recognition
OCR Apps

Abby Fine Scanner Pro
($19.99)
Pros
- Functions as scanner and OCRs docs to make accessible
Cons
- Not as powerful as Abby Fine Reader
- Will not create a Word Doc
- Additional $ for text grabber

Learning Ally
Must have Institutional license
Pros
- Compatible with iOS and Android
- Books available in audio or voice text (books available based on agreements with publishers or if books are out of copyright.)
- Books broken up into chapters
Cons
- Not all books available – some books are audio only and no text available to follow along with audio
Voice Dream - $4.99

Text-to-speech-reader; specifically for iOS devices - Apple

Pros
- Highlights texts so you can follow along with audio
- Easier platform → Documents and books can be uploaded from Dropbox, Google Drive, Bookshare

Cons
- Not as powerful as Kurzweil → documents must be accessible before you upload them
- Not capable of reading large PDFs → recommend converting PDFs to Word Docs if file is large
- Must pay $ for different voices

Suggestion
- Run inaccessible documents through Fine Scanner Pro then upload to Voice Dream so it can read it
Text-to-Speech Apps

Say Text

- iOS only (use with VoiceOver)
- Tailored for visually impaired blind students
- OCRs images, Voiceover will read text

Pros:
- Great OCR recognition of image text
- Text grabber available (copy text)
## Note-Taking Apps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>App</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Operating System</th>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evernote</strong></td>
<td>$4.99/month</td>
<td>iOS &amp; Android</td>
<td>- Syncs across all devices</td>
<td>- Free version only 60MB a month of cloud storage</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- access notes through phone, computer, tablet</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Integrates audio and images to your notes</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Webclipper feature</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Notability option - iOS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Many apps link to Evernote</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CamScanner</strong></td>
<td>$0.99</td>
<td>iOS &amp; Android</td>
<td>- Easy to scan doc using phone or tablet camera</td>
<td>- Poor OCR recognition</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- email instantly for sharing notes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Cloud Space</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Audionote</strong></td>
<td>$4.99</td>
<td>Notepad and Voice Recorder for iOS and Android</td>
<td>- Similar to Evernote</td>
<td>- Recording issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Notability option - iOS</td>
<td>- Fewer features than Evernote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Integrates audio and images to notepad in one place</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cloud Storage and Apps

Cloud Storage
- saves files that can be accessed
- add files from any computer device

Dropbox  OneDrive  GoogleDrive
Choosing Apps
AppCrawlr - appcrawlr.com

- app discovery search engine
- filters searches by - Device, Category, Topic, Audience
Collaboration
Library
Library

- Assistive Technology Center - located in the library
- Collaborate
- Library supports accessibility of digital tools for all students
- Lend out devices - iPads and iPad Minis, laptops
- Students choose one day in-house loan or three day external loan.
Library – Apps

- iPads preloaded - over 30 apps [dictionaries, encyclopedias, databases, faculty recommended]
- User survey – student feedback
- Which apps do librarians choose?
- We think about - what students do in college
- Conduct research, write papers, PPT, class presentations
- Find articles, books, videos, government docs
- Cite references - in some format
EasyBib

**EasyBib App**
- Citation manager - formats, alphabetizes
- e-mail citations
- APA, MLA, CHICAGO formats on app

**EasyBib Website**
- Access through library databases
- Create an account to save citations, notes
- Creates a formatted bibliography on MS Word
- AMA, ASA, Harvard, Chicago Author-Date, CSE
- 7,000 formats to choose
eBooks
 Devices need programs to download eBooks

OverDrive
- Digital library of eBooks, audiobooks and videos
- Public libraries
- Offers a font for dyslexic readers

This Is an example of the Open Dyslexic Typeface

Adobe Digital Editions
- Used to download electronic, digitized books
- You’ll need to create an Adobe ID
- Compatible with screen readers, Windows, Mac

BlueFire Reader
- Used to download secured books
- Compatible – iPad, iPhone, Android
Productivity Apps

**Linked In**
- Opportunities, Network
- Create connections
- Engage with professional content
- Requires iOS 7.0 or later
- Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch
- Android and Windows app version
- Free unless you upgrade to Premium ($29.95/mo)

**iStudieze Pro**
- Combines tracking schedule, homework and grades
- Compatibility: Requires iOS 7.0 or later, iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch
- $4.99 for iOS, $9.99 for Windows,
- iStudies lite: Free
Course Hack

- **Course Hack** - [http://www.coursehack.it/](http://www.coursehack.it/)
- Website: App currently not available
- Organizational tool - helps students stay on top of class schedules.
- Organizes course assignments into electronic calendars
- Uploads students’ electronic syllabus into iCal or Google Cal
Going Forward
What we learned from the Student Share
Next Steps
Universal Design

- Engage students in more “Shares”
- Liaise with departments, professors for compliance
- Create a compliance video for faculty
- Use Social Media, email to communicate with students
- Consult with university administration to create initiatives promoting universal learning and design
- Initiatives will take time
Next Steps For Universal Design

Student Perspective

- Update school websites and databases
- Quick fix - students can help students format course readings to be accessible
- All campus parties move forward to make all documents accessible
- If all responsibility lies on the student they will get frustrated and may even give up
- Acquire institutional licenses of Adobe Acrobat for faculty and staff labs
Resources

- eBrary Downloads
  http://libguides.lehman.edu/ebooks/ebrary/downloading

- Chronicle of Higher Education
  http://chronicle.com/search/?search_siteId=5&contextId=&action=rem&searchQueryString=apps

- Android vs. iOS
  http://www.diffen.com/difference/Android_vs_iOS

- iOS Accessibility
  https://www.apple.com/accessibility/ios/

- NYPL
  https://sites.google.com/a/nypl.org/techconnect/course-materials/ipadbasics
Any Questions?

So much info!

Do you have app recommendations?
Thank You from Lehman College!
Office of Student Disability Services and Leonard Lief Library

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