

WISD Assistive Tech Triannual

January 2018, vol 1 issue 1

Announcements:

Happy New Year!

Welcome back! It's a new year: time to reflect and reset. To coincide with this new start, the Assistive Technology, Augmentative Communication (ATAC) Lab has created this triannual newsletter to keep you up-to-date and informed about the happenings in the lab.

The ATAC Lab is here to serve your student's assistive technology needs. This newsletter will include announcements and reminders about initiatives and current goings-on in the lab; tips for using our online catalog, Destiny; introductions to new equipment; and highlights about existing equipment, tests, and apps you may not know the lab owns. We hope you enjoy this information and wish you the best of luck as you enter the second half of the school year!

Reminders:

Update Your Destiny Account Information

When you change schools, your contact information needs to be updated in Destiny. If you checkout an item and your information is not up-to-date, your item will be sent to the wrong location and potentially lost indefinitely. Update your school and contact information by filling out the Destiny registration form with your new information:

[Destiny Registration Form](http://www.washtenawisd.org/special-education/assistive-technology/registration-destiny-library)

(<http://www.washtenawisd.org/special-education/assistive-technology/registration-destiny-library>)

In addition, many patrons in our system have **overdue items** on their account. Please help us keep our system up-to-date by returning items you are no longer using, renewing items, or reporting items as lost or broken. You can submit a renewal request or a notification about missing/broken items by emailing library@washtenawisd.org.

A weekly email will be sent to your account until all items are renewed or returned.

Quick Tip:

Avoid Getting Kicked Out of Destiny

Is our online catalog, Destiny, logging you out of the system before you place an item on hold?

Destiny and Google Chrome are not getting along. If you have the option to use a different browser when searching the catalog, such as Internet Explorer or Safari, do so. These browsers work much better with the Destiny system and should not kick you out.*

To place an item on hold:

1. Log in to Destiny.
2. Click the "Catalog" tab in the upper left corner (do not "Browse by Collection").
3. Click on the "Details" of the item you would like to check out.
4. Select "Hold It" in the bottom right corner.

If your item is available, it will be delivered to you on the following Wednesday. Please email library@washtenawisd.org if you would like to pick up your item.

*If your name no longer appears in the upper right corner of the page, you have been kicked out of the system.

New Equipment: MegaBee Communicator

The ATAC Lab purchased a new communication device: the MegaBee Communicator. This partner-assisted writing tablet uses eye movement and blinking as a method to select letters, phrases, or pictures displayed around the screen. It is fully portable with the option of Bluetooth wireless connection to a PC or larger screen.



Test Highlight: Developmentally Appropriate Treatment for Autism

The Developmentally Appropriate Treatment for Autism (DATA): Model for Teaching Preschoolers with Autism (ages 3–5) is available for checkout in the ATAC Lab.

The DATA model contains photocopiable materials for behavior specialists, SLPs, and early childhood special educators to produce lesson plans, develop instructional strategies, and monitor the progress of young children with autism. The program is an “all-in-one” model looking to aid student success both in and outside the classroom.

The Happenings: Accessible Materials Made Right

Assistive/instructional technology staff from around the county attended Alt + Shift’s Accessible Materials Made Right (AMMR) workshop at the WISD in October. The AMMR workshop is designed to train school district employees about how to create and transform public website documents (PDF, PowerPoint, and Word documents) to meet basic-level accessibility standards.

Many documents on public-facing sites fail to meet the accessibility needs of people with disabilities. The workshop outlined simple steps staff can take to when creating documents that are easier to read visually as well as with screen readers. Alt + Shift hosts AMMR workshops across the state, and the information is beneficial to anyone who manages or creates documents for websites.

To find a workshop, please visit [Alt + Shift’s website](https://www.altshift.education) (<https://www.altshift.education>). For a quick reference, review the ATAC Lab’s [Making Accessible Word Documents](http://www.washtenawisd.org/departments/special-education/assistive-technology/resources) how-to guide (<http://www.washtenawisd.org/departments/special-education/assistive-technology/resources>).

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Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 am—4:30 pm*

*Items are van delivered to school districts every Wednesday. If you would like to pick up your item from the WISD, please send an email request to library@washtenawisd.org.