

## About the ARL

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) is a nonprofit organization of 125 research libraries at comprehensive, research institutions in the US and Canada that share similar research missions, aspirations, and achievements. The Association's importance and distinction is born from its membership and the nature of the institutions represented. Its mission and values shape these basic principles that are essential elements of the Association's success:

- Open and equitable access to information is a fundamental tenet to society.
- Research libraries are active agents central to the process of the transmission and creation of knowledge.
- Research libraries have a responsibility to anticipate and prepare for the information needs of present and future users.
- Collaboration among libraries improves prospects for individual library success in fulfilling local needs.

ARL member libraries make up a large portion of the academic and research library marketplace, spending more than \$1.4 billion every year on library materials.



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## Fostering an Inclusive Institution

The steps below are part of a larger toolkit created by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). The objectives of the toolkit is to:

“**PROMOTE** the principles of accessibility, universal design, and digital inclusion.

**HELP** research libraries achieve digital accessibility.

**CONNECT** research libraries with the tools, people, and examples they need to provide accessible digital content. Promote”

### Step 1: Make a plan

A successful accessibility plan should:

- Be created with input and support from high-level administrators (VPs, Dean, Directors, Provosts, etc.)
- Be publicly posted
- Have clear timelines and specific goals

**Include incentives for compliance and penalties for non-compliance**

### Set a Policy

We all want inclusive access to information to be a cultural value and a priority at our institutions. The first step to achieving this is creating a written, institution-wide accessibility policy and enforcement measures for making sure that everyone is compliant.

Sample accessibility policy from [Penn State University](#).

### Create a Timeline

Set clear deadlines with specific goals and **be transparent about progress**. Share publicly when goals are or are not met. Here is a sample timeline:

- 6 Months: complete accessibility audit
  - 9 Months: ensure that IT procurement and purchasing processes include accessibility
  - 12 Months: ensure that major web pages are accessible
  - 15 Months: goal to have 95% of online content accessible
- 18 months: major online processes (library catalog, e-reserves) are all accessible**

### Step 2: Determine your accessibility starting point

1 There are three ways to test all of your web services (your websites, instructional technology, online courses, LMS, finding aids, etc.) for accessibility:

1. Conduct an accessibility audit
2. Conduct accessibility testing
3. Conduct automated accessibility testing

To learn more about the steps in fostering an inclusive campus, click [here](#) OR visit the Association of Research Libraries resource page at <http://accessibility.arl.org/>



## Tech : Legal

On Tuesday, June 10, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York made a major ruling that emphasizes the legality of fair use for book digitization. In *Authors Guild v. HathiTrust*, a unanimous three-judge panel concluded that digitizing books in order to enhance research and provide access to individuals with print disabilities is lawful on the grounds of fair use—that is, a limitation and exception to the exclusive rights granted by copyright law to the author of a creative work (Section 107 of the U.S. copyright law). This is an immense victory for fair use as the basis of a balanced intellectual property system, and we, at Benetech, are delighted by it and by its tremendous positive implications for the public interest.

For more information, click [here](#) or visit, <http://benetech.blogspot.com/2014/06/fair-use-victory-advances-future-of.html>



Australian consumer and disability organizations have begun a campaign to reduce the use of CAPTCHA, the visual tests used by websites to distinguish human users from automated computer bots. CAPTCHA tests are generally not user friendly and they are often completely inaccessible to people who are blind or have low vision. While audio CAPTCHAs are available, many users find them even more difficult to understand. The official web standards body, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), has said CAPTCHA excludes people with disabilities. It proposes several alternative methods of proving web users are human. The "kill CAPTCHA" petition can be viewed at [Change.org](http://Change.org).



# Ai Squared and GW Micro Merger



Ai Squared, the maker of ZoomText has completed a merger deal with GW Micro, the maker of Window-Eyes. In the past, these two companies have partnered together on collaborative ventures. Now, both have merged to become a single company that truly has accessibility covered. Below is a select list of Q&A regarding the merger. For a complete list, click [here](#) OR visit [http://www.aisquared.com/about\\_us/more/merger](http://www.aisquared.com/about_us/more/merger)

### 1. Why did Ai Squared and GW Micro merge their companies?

We believe that we are stronger together versus just partnering as we have in the past. Our combined resources and technology will be focused on better serving the blind and low vision community.

### 2. Will this merger change the focus and commitment to products developed by Ai Squared and GW Micro?

Only in a positive way. Among the primary goals of this merger are: (1) to combine our strengths and expertise to deliver better versions of our existing product lines as well as to develop new products; and (2) to deliver a robust family of products covering the complete spectrum of vision loss—i.e. from slight vision loss to total blindness.

### 3. Will there be a new company name for the merged companies?

The merged companies will be known as Ai Squared. However, the GW Micro name will remain on the GW Micro website, products and other existing materials until they are rebranded with the Ai Squared name later this year.

### 4. Who should customers call to purchase Ai Squared and GW Micro products?

For the immediate future, customers wanting to purchase Ai Squared products will need to contact the Ai Squared sales team (800-859-0270 or 802-362-3612 option #2), while customers wanting to purchase GW Micro products will need to contact the GW Micro sales team (260-489-3671). Ai Squared and GW Micro products will ship separately from their respective facilities. The two sales teams and shipping departments will be combined in the near future, allowing customers to conveniently contact one team to order all Ai Squared products and receive these products in one shipment from one location.

### 5. Do ZoomText and Window-Eyes work together?

Yes, the current versions of ZoomText and Window-Eyes can already be used together. There are a few issues where ZoomText does not track what Window-Eyes is reading in web browsers and Microsoft Word, and some hotkey conflicts between the ZoomText and Window-Eyes, but we are working to fix those issues as quickly as possible.

Note: GW Micro has a knowledge base article that provides instructions for resolving the ZoomText/Window-Eyes hotkey conflicts: [http://www.gwmicro.com/Support/Knowledge\\_Base/?kbnnumber=GWKB1089](http://www.gwmicro.com/Support/Knowledge_Base/?kbnnumber=GWKB1089).

### 6. Will Window Eyes features be added to ZoomText and/or ZoomText features added to Window Eyes?

We do have plans to leverage technologies and features in ZoomText and Window-Eyes, but we are not providing any details at this time.

### 7. Will Ai Squared and GW Micro be introducing new products?

Yes, new product offerings have been defined and will be in development soon. Information about these new product offerings will be provided at a future date.

### 8. Will training be offered for using ZoomText and Window-Eyes together?

Yes, we are developing training materials and courses on how to use ZoomText and Window-Eyes together. We do currently offer training for both products separately through [ZoomText University](#) and [GW Micro's Training Program](#).

### 9. Will the Window-Eyes Offer for Users of Microsoft Office change as a result of the Ai Squared / GW Micro merger?

Not at all. Ai Squared, GW Micro and Microsoft are fully committed to the Window-Eyes Offer for Users of Microsoft Office.

### 8. Is Ai Squared going to make a similar deal with Microsoft to provide a free version of ZoomText?

Microsoft and Ai Squared have had no discussions about such a deal and there are no future intentions by Ai Squared to offer ZoomText free to users of Microsoft Office.

## SOFTWARE PICKS

### Window-Eyes for MS Office Users

GW Micro, in collaboration with Microsoft, is excited to provide people who are blind, visually impaired, or print disabled with a completely functional\* and free license of GW Micro's Window-Eyes screen reader. Microsoft is offering customers who have a licensed\*\* version of Office 2010 or later the ability to download Window-Eyes, a screen reader for Windows PCs, free of charge.

#### Key Features:

- **Supported Operating Systems:** Windows 8.1, Windows 8, Windows 7, Windows Vista, Windows XP
- **Supported Windows Servers:** 2012, 2008 R2, 2008, 2003
- **Available in multiple languages**
- **Compatible with Microsoft Office 2010 and 2013**

For more information or to download, visit <http://www.windoweyesforoffice.com/>

## Housing Designed with Deaf-Space and UD Features



A recent article in the *Washington Post* examines two housing projects in the works in Washington, DC that are incorporating features specifically for people with sensory disabilities. The Justice Park affordable-housing apartment complex is actively marketing itself as a "deaf-friendly" space, while the Hurt Home condo-building is including features that respect the building's former life as a school for the blind.

#### Did You Know!?

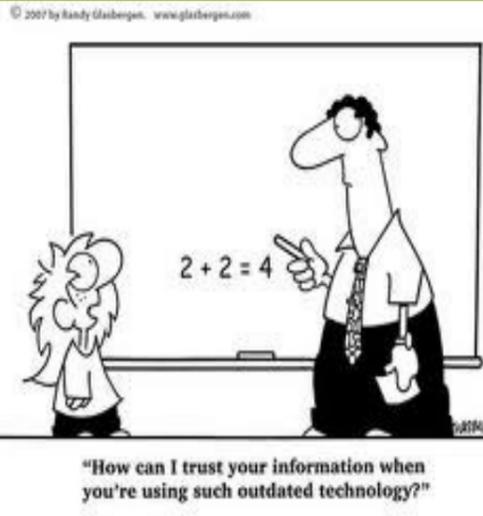
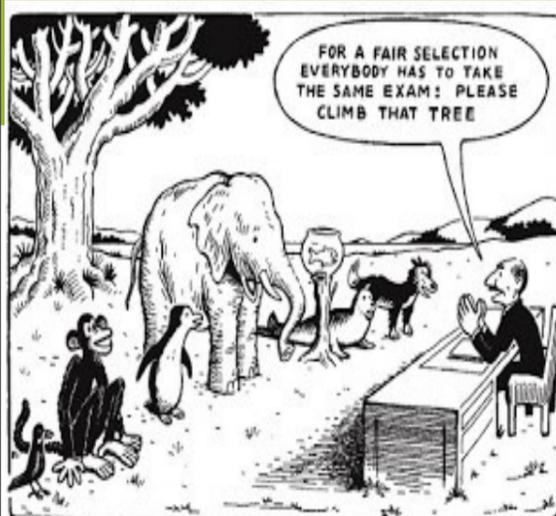
You can work with your I.T. group to have window-eyes installed in entire computer labs running MS Office? You will need to request a special installation CD from GW Micro.

Justice Park, an affordable-housing building that will be located in Columbia Heights, will include features useful to people who are deaf and hard of hearing. The building will include a video door buzzer, visual fire and carbon monoxide alarms, and open floor plans and wide hallways that will facilitate sign language conversations. The building will have 28 units and will be available to qualified lessees with an income of \$60,000 a year or less, though the developers are actively marketing the advantages that the property will have to people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The Hurt Home, a former school for the blind in Georgetown, is being modified into a condo-building that has an eye for Universal Design. In keeping with the building's history, the architectural firm in charge of the project is including elements like bright overhead lights, appliances with manual rather than digital controls, braille signage throughout the building, and contrasting colors and textures for the flooring materials of different spaces to aid individuals with wayfinding.

For more information, click [here](http://www.universaldesign.com/2013-08-16-19-05-11/residential/1450-housing-designed-for-sensory-disabilities.html) or visit, <http://www.universaldesign.com/2013-08-16-19-05-11/residential/1450-housing-designed-for-sensory-disabilities.html>

Source: <http://www.universaldesign.com>



## 3D Printing at the 2012 Paralympics Games



During the London 2012 Paralympics some of Great Britain's wheelchair basketball players sported new 3D printed seats that were tailor-made to fit their individual bodies. The wheelchair seats were developed with UK Sport funding at Loughborough University's Sports Technology Institute, which is supported by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). The customized seats consist of foam interiors and plastic shells, and are a kilogram lighter than conventional wheelchair basketball seats. The athletes underwent 3D body scans that recorded their movements and positions in their existing wheelchairs. Using computer-aided design technologies, the researchers designed each seat's outer shell to perfectly match the player's individual body and particular disability.

3D printing allowed the seats to be built up layer by layer, so that the finished product would perfectly match the computer model. This manufacturing technique also made it easy to build prototypes of each seat to be tested by the athletes and then further refined. This same technology could be applied to wheelchair users in general. A fully customized wheelchair seat would be better able to address each person's unique body and disability, increasing comfort and mobility while reduce problems like pressure sores.

For more information on 3D printed wheelchairs or to watch a video of the process, click [here](http://www.universaldesign.com/2012-06-11-16-52-25/assistive-technology/1409-3d-printed-wheelchair-seats.html) or visit, <http://www.universaldesign.com/2012-06-11-16-52-25/assistive-technology/1409-3d-printed-wheelchair-seats.html>

Source: <http://www.universaldesign.com>

## Deaf Tech

### Hearing Impaired Students Use New Signs to Learn Science



Learning a new concept like science can be challenging without the spoken word. Science is a field that requires the comprehension of many words like "organism" and "photosynthesis", which American Sign Language does not necessarily include. The traditional way of learning for deaf students is to use a charades-like game to understand words, however, having to act out and finger spell make for a less speedy learning process for non-hearing students. To remedy this, deaf students are putting the internet to use as a main resource for learning science.

Lydia Callis, a professional sign language interpreter, developed new signs for science that seek to enhance the learning process for non-hearing students. Several universities across the nation are also seeking ways to enhance the learning experiences for deaf students, such as Gallaudet University, in which a wiki has been set up to allow open suggestions for new signs pertaining to science, math, technology, and engineering.

For more information, [please click here](#).

Source: <http://www.universaldesign.com>

## App Will Help People Who are Visually Impaired Navigate Streets



Researchers at the University of Minnesota are developing an app that would assist people who are blind and visually-impaired cross the street, informing users which direction they're going, and how many lanes they have to cross. The app will tell users the name of a street when they tap the phone and points in it the direction of the street. Users could request a walk signal by tapping the phone again, instead of having to find a button located near the intersection. The app will then tell the users when it is safe to cross, and how long they have to get to the other side.

Eventually the app might even be able to alert drivers that pedestrians who are blind or visually-impaired are nearby. The app could also be used to provide door-to-door guidance that would help users get to bus stops, provide arrival times for buses, and identify which bus is approaching the bus stop.

Research on the prototype continues, as researchers look for ways to help pedestrians walk within the crosswalk instead of veering while crossing the road. There isn't yet a launch date for the app, but when it's finally available it will be free for download.

[More information on app for pedestrians who are blind.](#)

Source: <http://www.universaldesign.com>

## UpSense Brings Braille-Like Typing to Touchscreens

Developed by Israeli Company Inpris, [UpSense](#) is mobile app that provides a gesture based keyboard that works similarly to Braille typing. Each character has its own gesture, which adjusts to the user's hands and can even be customizable. It is very similar to another [app](#) designed by researchers at Georgia Tech. Both apps would be useful for users who already know how to type in Braille, however, could it become a more widespread technology? With more Universally Designed options on the market, like voice control and advanced [predictive typing apps](#), is there still a need for something like UpSense? Most likely, the answer is yes, but as information technology becomes more prevalent in everyday life the categories of assistive technology and mainstream technology are overlapping more and more.

For more information and to watch a video demonstration, click [here](#) or visit, <http://www.universaldesign.com/2012-06-11-16-52-25/information-technology/1797-upsense-brings-braille-like-typing-to-touchscreens.html>

Source: <http://www.universaldesign.com>

## Proloquo2go



**Proloquo2go** - This app gives the gift of speech to those who have difficulty or are unable to speak. Advanced features on this app include automatic verb conjugation, automatic plural and possessive nouns, over 7,000 vocabulary items, a typing view for full paragraphs and a recently spoken tab that searches phrases from 15 minutes ago to things you said a week ago. It is also easy to change viewing settings to ensure the user's ease in every aspect of this life changing tool.

*Optimized for:* iPod Touch, iPhone 3.0 or later and iPad  
*Price:* \$189.99

*Link:* [www.proloquo2go.com](http://www.proloquo2go.com)

Source: <http://www.christopherreeve.org>



## Faculty/Staff Training Links

- Certificate in Universal Design: Technology Integration  
<http://www.landmark.edu>
- EASI Equal Access to Software and Information WEBINARS  
<http://easi.cc/clinic.htm>
- CSU Professional Development for Accessible Technology  
<http://teachingcommons.cdl.edu/access/index.html>
- National Center on Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM)  
[http://aim.cast.org/learn/post-secondary/higher\\_ed](http://aim.cast.org/learn/post-secondary/higher_ed)
- JISC TechDis  
<http://www.jisctechdis.ac.uk/techdis/home>

## Upcoming Events

### [17th Annual Accessing Higher Grounds Conference](http://accessinghigherground.org/)

November 17-21, 2014  
Westminster, CO  
<http://accessinghigherground.org/>

### [The Assistive Technology Conference of New England](http://assistivetechconference.com)

November 20th, 2014  
Warwick, RI  
<http://assistivetechconference.com>

### [2014 AHEAD Conference](http://ahead.org/meet/conferences/2014)

July 14-19  
Sacramento, CA  
<http://ahead.org/meet/conferences/2014>

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