

APH Services and Resources
for the 154th

APH Annual Meeting
of Ex Officio Trustees
2022 Conference



AMERICAN
PRINTING
HOUSE 

APH ConnectCenter



Welcome to the [APH ConnectCenter](#)! This website offers FREE curated advice and resources to assist children, parents, adults, and job seekers who are blind or low vision, and their associated professionals. Through this website, you are able to access these ConnectCenter resources and much more:

- [FamilyConnect](#): Offers support and resources for families of children who are blind or have low vision.
- [CareerConnect](#): Employment information, tools, and guidance for job seekers who are blind or have low vision.
- [VisionAware](#): Designed for adults and seniors who are living with vision loss.
- ConnectCalendar: For use by the entire blindness field to find and promote events, all in one place. [Promote and share](#) your organization's event by adding it to the Calendar or [discover upcoming events](#).
- [APH ConnectCenter Transition Hub](#): Planning for graduation and life after school brings up a lot of questions. Find information about transition programs that emphasize empowerment, career exploration, and work experiences for teens and young adults who are blind or have low vision.

Have questions related to blindness or vision loss? Call APH's Information & Referral Hotline: (800) 232-5463 or e-mail us at connectcenter@aph.org.

APH Hive

APH Hive

Buzz over to the [APH Hive](#), APH's FREE eLearning platform for educators and families that can be accessed at any time from the comfort of your home or office. With a growing course catalog covering categories like Early Childhood, Expanded Core Curriculum, and more, we want to give you the tools you need to support students. All you have to do is sign up, watch the course content at your leisure, and complete the follow up assignment to get your certificate for ACVREP credit! [Register and get started today.](#)



Tactile Graphic Image Library

Tactile Graphic Image Library (TGIL)

A tactile graphic is a representation of pictorial information, specifically designed for reading with fingertips, utilizing raised lines, textures, shapes, and braille labels. The purpose of a tactile illustration is to communicate an idea or information in a manner readily comprehensible to a braille reader. They are used to convey non-textual information (such as graphs, maps, and diagrams), vital for a complete and well-rounded learning experience—not to replicate a raised photocopy. Tactile graphics encourage critical thinking skills as learners read the data, interpret the data, and extend their insight beyond the data in a manner that only spatial representation can afford.

The TGIL is a free online resource provided by APH. Teachers, students, and transcribers can easily download over 2,000+ images and create stand-alone tactile graphics or graphics designed to supplement existing materials. Some images have complete graphics, including braille labels, but most simply provide a starting point for customization. These images are available in PDF format, along with .png and .stl files. Different types of graphics include maps, shapes, animals, diagrams, coloring pages, graphs, and more! Each graphic can be adapted to fit educational goals and make it readable in the tactile medium chosen. [Register today](#) and explore our image library!



Resource Services

Resource Services

APH's Resource Services provides access to accessible educational materials via the Louis, File Repository, Access Media Producers (AMP), and Migel Library databases.

Louis Database

The [Louis Database](#) contains information on over 200,000 accessible materials produced by organizations throughout the United States and Canada, in addition to a unified search of Louis, NIMAC, Bookshare, and Learning Ally. A wide range of educational and recreational materials are available in braille, large print, audio, and electronic file formats. There are close to 10,000 textbook files ready to download from the [APH File Repository](#), which contains student-ready electronic files in both braille and large print formats.

Accessible Media Producers Database (AMP)

The [Accessible Media Producers Database](#) is a self-listing directory of producers of accessible formats such as braille, tactile graphics, large print, e-files, and audio. The listings within AMP provide producers' contact information and expertise. Find your next media producer with AMP.

The M.C. Migel Library

The [Migel Library](#) is one of the largest collections of nonmedical information related to blindness in the world. Partnering with Internet Archive, APH has digitized thousands of full-text materials, which are publicly available through the Migel Library's online catalog.

Resource Services maintains a [Blind Musician's Collection](#) on Spotify as part of its library services, consisting of approximately 130 artists who are low vision, and 350 albums.

Have questions about a database? Looking for an accessible title? Contact Resource Services at 800-223-1839, ext. 705 or email us at resource@aph.org.

National Instructional Materials Access Center

National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC)

The [National Instructional Materials Access Center](#) was created by IDEA 2004 to assist states in the timely delivery of accessible formats when students are unable to utilize the textbook format being used in the classroom. The NIMAC provides access to over 66,000 source files for K-12 instructional materials. These files are used to produce formats such as braille, large print, digital audio, and digital text when students with visual impairments or print disabilities are not able to use the printed textbook (or in some cases the digital format) used in class.

The file format received by the NIMAC from publishers is the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard, or NIMAS. NIMAS is considered a “source file” format because it is intended to be converted into another format before use by the student (NIMAS files themselves are not appropriate for distribution directly to students). All 50 states and the six eligible outlying areas work with the NIMAC. Each state names authorized users who can download files or assign files for download by accessible media producers, such as APH. Once produced, the accessible materials can be distributed to any number of eligible students.

Under IDEA 2004, the only mechanism for requiring that publishers send files to the NIMAC is the adoption contract or purchase agreement for the instructional material. For this reason, it’s essential to the success of the NIMAC that states and districts always include the NIMAS requirement in their contracts when they purchase new programs. For more information and sample contract language, please visit the [National AEM Center’s website](#). To learn more about how your state works with the NIMAC, get in touch with your [NIMAC State Coordinator](#).

We encourage you to reach out to us with any questions, or for more information, via email at nimac@aph.org, or call 877-526-4622.



GoodMaps

This indoor mapping and accessibility company is focused on providing fully accessible and inclusive navigation experiences. [GoodMaps](#) is about enabling independence and facilitating navigation for anyone – whether blind, deaf, mobility impaired, or those just wanting the most efficient route in and out. Our mission is to make the indoors more accessible, welcoming, and safe by using LiDAR, AR/MR, and machine vision to revolutionize indoor mapping and navigation.

Find your way around APH Annual meeting with the GoodMaps Explore indoor navigation app! Explore provides turn-by-turn directions to meeting rooms, elevators, and common space. If you have questions on how to use the app or feedback about your experience, please visit the GoodMaps showcase at the Hyatt. You can download the app from the links below.

GoodMaps Explore is available on both [iOS](#) and [Android](#) for free.





ABIDE
Accessibility • Belonging •
Inclusion • Diversity • Equity

APH ABIDE: Accessibility. Belonging. Inclusion. Diversity. Equity

Accessibility. Belonging. Inclusion. Diversity. Equity. These are the tenets that guide the work we do at APH. We believe in them so deeply that we have created a department of dedicated individuals working to infuse these tenets into every aspect of our company. Led by Director, Tai Tomasi, the APH ABIDE Department hopes to increase awareness of accessibility and usability obstacles and teach others how to remedy those issues; highlight diverse trailblazers; help others understand why diversity and equity are essential; and foster a sense of belonging inhouse and throughout our community and the field of education. [Read more about ABIDE](#) and participate in our weekly virtual office hours.

Outreach Services

Outreach Services

[APH's Outreach Services](#) team strives to increase awareness about the many resources and services offered by APH. These include but are not limited to: distance learning and statewide/nationwide training opportunities; exhibits and presentations at regional, statewide, and national conferences; expanded core curriculum academies/professional learning communities, and parent and family training opportunities. Outreach Services consists of three branches:

- Outreach Specialists for regional support.
- APH Hive for professional development.
- Census for the federal quota program.

APH continues to expand its reach through our strategically placed Regional Specialists. Regional Specialists meet the unique needs of EOTs, professionals, families, and other service providers working with students who are blind or low vision by providing tailored support to communities. These experienced professionals are charged with sharing craft knowledge across the field, building local networks of support, assisting with APH products and services, and facilitating solutions. Regional Specialists are available to provide support at conferences, regional Braille Challenges, colleges/universities, public and private schools, rehabilitation centers and more.

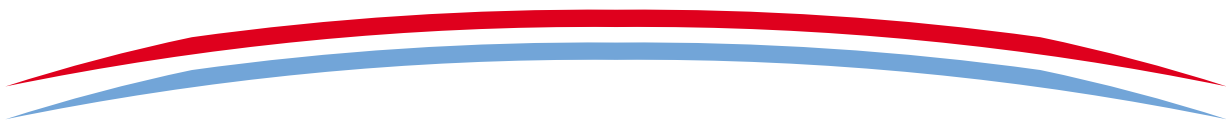
As part of APH's ongoing goal to provide regional support, we are working towards establishing regional centers for assistive technology training. The first established regional partnership, the Center for Assistive Technology Training (CATT), is a collaboration between APH and the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind (AIDB). Our team is here to build, train, and support our field and all those working for our students' success. Contact us at outreach@aph.org.

Center for Assistive Technology Training

Center for Assistive Technology Training (CATT)

The [CATT Project](#) is a collaboration between the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) and the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB). Our mission is to provide assistive technology training to teachers of the visually impaired, utilizing a “train the trainer” model, while also providing training for students and families. Devices are provided through APH and training is provided through AIDB employed trainers serving a nine-state region: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee, as well as Puerto Rico and the American Virgin Islands. For more information or to schedule a training, please email CATT@aidb.org.

CATT



CENTER FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

APH Huntington: Accessible Tech Initiatives

APH Huntington: Accessible Tech Initiatives in West Virginia

In July 2020, APH launched APH Huntington – a program developed to provide national expertise and accessible technology and trainings to people who are blind or low vision in Cabell and Wayne Counties, WV. In 2020, APH Huntington, in cooperation with Cabell Wayne Association of the Blind, conducted interviews with people who are blind or low vision to learn about the needs of the regional blind and visually impaired community. A great deal of insight was gleaned through these surveys and conversations. Learn more by reading our [APH Huntington: Accessible Tech Initiatives in West Virginia blog](#).



Museum

The Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind

A museum dedicated to ordinary people doing extraordinary things, [the Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind](#) features the contributions of those, both blind and sighted, who made the world a more accessible place. We work, every day, to break down barriers and promote tolerance and fairness.

Have You Heard the News? Our Museum is Moving!

We are reinventing our museum experience and renovating our building. Reimagining an established museum isn't easy. The story of the field of blindness, the lives of people who are blind or low vision, and the 160+ year history of the American Printing House for the Blind fascinates us, but it's complex. APH's goal is to create the most inclusive museum in the world, setting the standard for others to follow. Rather than just a museum, APH's vision is for an engaging and educational learning center that embodies the organization's prevailing philosophy:

Welcome Everyone.

Stay up-to-date on the latest Museum news and activities by following us on Facebook and Twitter at @APHMUSEUM.



Additional Services and Resources

Braille Refresher Questions

Braille Refresher Questions is an APH program in its second year, and is designed to refresh your braille knowledge with a weekly nugget of braille instruction in the form of a no-stakes question that gives immediate feedback. The questions are created and responded to in SurveyMonkey.

Subscribe to get a weekly, refreshing jolt to your inbox by sending your name, email, and braille-related title to BrailleImprovement@aph.org.

Change Makers: A Podcast from APH

APH has a big goal: a future that belongs to everyone. For more than 160 years, APH has created products that provide access for people who are blind or low vision. To create a world that welcomes everyone, we know it's going to take a lot of change makers. Join us as we highlight the people who are making the biggest difference in our field. We'll talk to everyone from CEOs to students. Know someone we should highlight? Email communications@aph.org.

- [Listen and subscribe now.](#)
- [Listen to previous episodes.](#)

APH Community Relations

This group exhibits APH's message that "the future belongs to everyone" in the Greater Louisville Community through strategic partnerships, consistent neighborhood involvement, and community education. If you are interested in learning more about, or getting involved in, Community Relations efforts in Louisville, KY, please contact Erin Sigmund, Community Relations and Policy Advisor, at esigmund@aph.org or 502-515-9128.

Additional Services

Increasing Support for Students Who are Blind or Low Vision

Since The Act to Promote the Education of the Blind was first passed in 1879, Congress appropriates funding to APH to provide students who are blind or low vision with the books, technology, and products they need to succeed. If you are interested in learning more about The Act and how telling your story can persuade Congress to better meet the needs of those you serve, please contact Paul Schroeder, VP of Impact and Outreach, at pschroeder@aph.org.

Federal Quota and EOT — What Does it all Mean?

If you spend any amount of time around APH, you'll hear people talking about EOTs, the Federal Quota, and even census data. What does it all mean? They have to do with how APH works with the federal government to provide students with the resources they need.

[Learn more by reading this blog.](#)



Supporting APH



As a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, APH values our thoughtful, informed donors who ensure that we are able to serve a growing population of people of all ages who are blind or low vision – across the nation and around the world. Our programs, initiatives, services, and products empower people with vision loss to live as independently as possible. Your contribution makes that happen. You are a part of the APH community – and we are truly grateful for your partnership. Please donate at bit.ly/donateaph or contact the APH Development Department by phone at 502-899-2291 or email at development@aph.org.

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