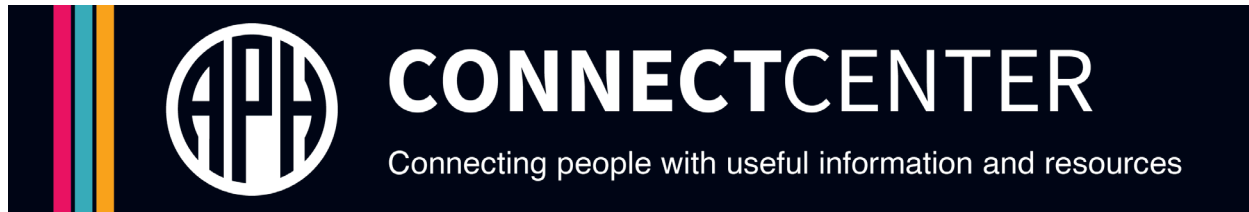# APH Services and Resources

for the 153rd

APH Annual Meeting
of Ex Officio Trustees
2021 Virtual Conference

AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE

APH ConnectCenter

Welcome to the APH ConnectCenter! Through this website, you are able to access these ConnectCenter resources, and much more:

- VisionAware: A website designed for adults and seniors who are visually impaired.
- FamilyConnect: A website built around the needs of a family of a visually impaired child.
- CareerConnect: A resource page for job seekers who are visually impaired or blind.
- ConnectCenter Events Calendar: 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 visually impaired.

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

APH Hive

The APH Hive offers a variety of free online courses for vision professionals and educators to increase their ability to respond to the needs of students with visual impairments. This "one-stop" for professional development offers ACVREP continuing education units upon successful completion of a course. The courses can also be taken by parents, students, and consumers to gain information related to students with visual impairments. Each course includes single or multiple videos that range in length from five minutes to several hours. The course catalog is divided into the following categories: Foundations, Assessment, Early Childhood, Core Curriculum, and Expanded Core Curriculum.

Register and get started today.

#APHhive

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.

TGIL, created by the American Printing House for the Blind, is a FREE online database that provides access to a wide variety of image templates. Over 2,000+ editable images can be found in categories that follow the core and expanded core curriculum. 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

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

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. The Louis Database includes a wide range of educational and recreational materials 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)

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

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.

Blind Musician's Collection

Resource Services maintains a Blind Musician's Collection on Spotify as part of its library services, consisting of approximately 130 artists who are visually impaired, 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 (NIMAC)

The National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) 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

An indoor mapping and navigation company born out of the American Printing House for the Blind, with a mission to further the cause of accessible indoor navigation for people who are blind or visually impaired. The GoodMaps solution utilizes LiDAR and 36Ø-degree camera technology to develop accurate maps of the indoors. From those maps, we can determine a user's location down to a few feet of accuracy within a building. GoodMaps is working to create unparalleled customizable user experiences for all people whether blind, hearing or mobility impaired, or any visitor entering the space.

Learn more by visiting the GoodMaps website and watching GoodMaps Company Snapshot.

Goodmaps

Maps with a mission

APH Huntington: Accessible Tech Initiatives in West Virginia

In July 2020, APH launched APH Huntington – a new program developed to provide national expertise and accessible technology and trainings to people who are blind and visually impaired 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 visually impaired 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.

Accessibility, Diversity, and Inclusion

Accessibility, Diversity, and Inclusion

At APH, we work hard to ensure that everyone has what they need to truly belong, both in our company and in the field of education for people who are blind and visually impaired. We center and amplify the voices of the blind and visually impaired community and all intersectional identities. We offer a wide variety of services related to accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion. We can customize trainings for your organization and will be expanding to provide accessibility consulting in the future. Please reach out to Tai Tomasi, Director of Accessibility, Diversity, and Inclusion, at ttomasi@aph.org with ideas or feedback for future initiatives.

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

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, the following: 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. Contact us at outreach@aph.org.

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