APH Products and Services for The 155th
APH Annual Meeting of Ex Officio Trustees
2023 Conference
The following products and services are featured in the 2023 APH Annual Meeting Solutions Showcase, held in the second floor Park Suite and first floor Aqueduct Room. For related products, please visit our shopping site and check out our catalogs.
**Braille Tales**

This product was born out of providing accessibility to the [Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL)](https://www.dollyparton.org/imagination-library). In partnership, APH’s free [Braille Tales program](https://www.aph.org/products/braille-tales) provides DPIL’s print books with clear braille labels over each page to children ages 0–5 who are blind or have low vision so they can experience the joy of reading alongside their sighted peers. The program is also open to families with parents/guardians who are blind or have low vision.

**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 Survey Monkey.

Subscribe to get a weekly, refreshing jolt to your inbox by sending your name, email, and braille-related title to [BrailleImprovement@aph.org](mailto:BrailleImprovement@aph.org).
**Music Braille Wheel**

This product was designed to help students learn the rhythmic value pattern in the music braille code.

**Feel the Beat**

The ability to “play music by ear” is an asset but is only one part of playing music. As part of braille literacy, braille readers should be introduced to braille music at the same time that sighted peers begin reading music in print (usually around third or fourth grade). The lessons in Feel the Beat teach the Music Braille Code, and focus on reading, playing, and memorizing measures through the use of a soprano recorder.

**Sports Courts**

This kit familiarizes students who are blind or low vision with a variety of common sports and encourages them to become active participants in athletic activities alongside their sighted peers. The included materials can also be enjoyed by adults or anyone eager to learn and engage in the meaning of a particular sport.

**Word PlayHouse**

Use Word PlayHouse to teach beginning phonics and reading skills, including: letter recognition, braille code recognition, decoding, vocabulary, and spelling skills.
OpticAware – Coming Soon

This wearable bracelet is programmed to vibrate when the user engages in eye pressing. This alerts the user and allows them to take control in building awareness independently. OpticAware is meant to be an empowering product for users who eye press so that they do not have to rely on a third party to curb eye pressing due to the negative medical ramifications associated with it.

OpticAware is user-friendly and the wearer manages the device through the use of an app, which also tracks data on the wearer's eye pressing. This data can be viewed by the user at any time. The device tracks each eye pressing incident and creates a graph in the app as an additional means of building awareness surrounding eye pressing as the targeted behavior.

BrailleBuzz

The FREE BrailleBuzz™ App for Android® and iOS® devices uses a fun environment to introduce young children who are blind or low vision to some of their first experiences with electronic braille. BrailleBuzz is now available in English and Spanish.

SENSEable Strips – Coming Soon

This wide assortment of adhesive-backed tactile strips has a plethora of uses, including: creating, adapting, or embellishing graphs, geographical maps, orientation and mobility maps, geometrical shapes, science diagrams, tactile art, and much more! The four main types of strips are: LINE PATH, SHAPE, TEXTURE, and BORDER.
Tactile Doodle
Use TactileDoodle and quickly generate tactile, raised-line graphics to convey a variety of concepts or art within the classroom or at home, including:

- Demonstrate a variety of concepts related to science, math, geography, etc.
- Illustrate spatial concepts and simple maps.
- Practice handwriting skills.
- Play interactive games (e.g. tic-tac-toe).
- Complete more open-ended, artistic drawing activities.
- Practice tracing skills (e.g. tracing within a stencil or around a 3D object).
- Provide tactile illustrations during teachable moments.

Tactile Shape Slate – Coming Soon
The Tactile Shape Slate can be used by teachers of students with visual impairments, braille transcribers, graphic artists, students, and blind adults to tool raised point symbols and shapes onto a variety of media (e.g., braille paper, vinyl/plastic, tactile drawing film, heavy-gauge aluminum foil, adhesive-backed sheets) during the preparation of raised-line graphs, maps, worksheets, artwork, and more. The intuitive design of the slate mimics that of traditional hinge-style braille slates.

Early Braille Trade Books: Rigby Nonfiction Kits 4 & 5
APH’s Early Braille Trade Books combine commercially available books with braille labels for beginning readers. These kits include: books, braille labels, and access to an interactive website. The Rigby series provides nonfiction books that are aligned with national standards and provide motivating texts that systematically build high-frequency words and reading skills. Rigby Nonfiction Kit 4 and Kit 5 are offered in UEB contracted and uncontracted braille.
Polly

Created in partnership with ThinkerBell Labs, Polly is an electronic Wi-Fi enabled braille learning device that teaches reading, typing, writing, vocabulary, and spelling in both contracted and uncontracted braille. This device includes a Perkins-style keyboard, an electronic slate, a speaker for instruction and feedback, and an online teacher portal that allows remote access and progress monitoring for educators/parents.

Mantis™ Q40

No longer choose between a keyboard or a braille display! The Mantis Q40 has a refreshable braille display of 40-cells below its full QWERTY keyboard, providing the convenience of a keyboard with the precision of braille. Connect to other devices via USB or Bluetooth, or use the Mantis by itself to read books, edit and manage files, check the date and time, and make basic mathematical calculations.

APH and Executive Products, Inc. (EPI) have partnered to continue the tradition of creating functional, durable, and beautiful fitted cases. This luxury leather case is designed specifically for the APH Mantis Q40.

Chameleon™ 20

Developed specifically for education with students in mind, the Chameleon 20’s 20-cell refreshable braille display and Perkins-style keyboard provides a comfortable reading and writing experience. Use as a stand-alone notetaker, or as a braille display to edit assignments on the computer. 2.0 Software Update includes text-to-speech (TTS) in English and Spanish!

View our Refreshable Braille Comparison Chart to find out which refreshable braille display is right for you.
Monarch™

APH, HumanWare, and NFB have partnered to develop the Monarch, formally referred to as the DTD, a self-contained, standalone tactile tablet capable of running a multitude of apps optimized for enhancing the efficiency of a blind or low vision user. This device will also be capable of rendering multiple lines of braille and tactile graphics on the same tactile surface, which, in turn, will skyrocket braille literacy, efficiency, and accessibility. This tool will help level the playing field for students, enabling them to receive braille instructional materials at the touch of a download button instead of waiting weeks or months for embossed braille textbooks to be transcribed and shipped. To receive the latest announcements regarding APH’s Monarch, please sign up for our Mailing List.

In addition to running its own apps, APH and HumanWare will be working with strategic partners to utilize an SDK being developed, beginning in 2024, to create apps and experiences we haven’t yet thought of. If your organization is interested in developing for this exciting tool, please contact the team at: DTD@aph.org.

Braille Brain

Braille Brain promotes braille literacy for pre-service and in-service Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TVIs), paraprofessionals, parents, and educational team members.

The Braille Brain website consists of three main components: braille training materials that focus on UEB literary braille and Nemeth Braille, braille reading and writing assessment, and instructional materials and evidence-based practices that support braille literacy and STEM instruction.

Braille Brain is available FREE on the web here!
eBraille

eBRF development is moving along very quickly! Currently, over 90 people around the world, representing more than 40 organizations, are working together to create this new dynamic braille file standard that will meet the needs of braille users whether they are using an embosser, single, or multi-line display.

We’re not done! There’s still a lot of work left to do but we’re moving very deliberately toward a dynamic braille future! Join the eBRF mailing list to stay informed or check out our work with the DAISY Consortium. Together, we will continue the braille revolution!
Sensing and Learning
This expanded guidebook presents research-based, best-practice strategies that align with the common administrative practices in place in most special education programs.

This program increases sensory efficiency through activities designed to teach skills typically learned during the sensorimotor stage of cognitive development. It is the first in the sequence of products that comprise the APH Intervention Continuum for learners at the sensorimotor and preoperational stages.

Symbols and Meaning (SAM)
Use these SAM games to help develop a strong sensory foundation for concepts about people, objects, actions, and places so symbols are meaningful. Parents and older siblings make great game partners so the whole family can play!

Tactile Connections
This kit helps teachers create a tactile card system that is individualized or standardized for learners who are blind or low vision and have additional disabilities and/or lack a formal means of communication or literacy. SAM provides some of the essential components that assist in a system’s construction and application.

STACS: Standardized Tactile Augmentative Communication Symbols Kit
Tactile symbol systems are valuable tools that aid learners with conversations about people, places, events, and ideas. STACS helps learning partners (teachers, parents, peers, etc.) teach a beginning standardized vocabulary.
National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC)
The National Instructional Materials Access Center 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.

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

APH Library

The APH Library began as a collection of materials used or authored by the Research Department at APH. As a result, many of its 4,500 items are unique manuscripts that were researched and created at APH. Today, the Library primarily supports the research, business, and educational needs of APH staff. It secondarily supports visiting researchers and those pursuing careers in the education of the blind. The collection provides research services and resources related to Tactile Graphics, Braille, Low Vision, Early Childhood Development, Assistive Technology, Tests and Assessments, Multiple Disabilities, Accessibility, and Professional Development.

Additionally, the APH Library also provides access to several online journals and research databases. Materials cover a range of topics in the field of blindness and low vision and support the informational and professional development needs of APH staff.

The APH Library houses approximately 25,000 print, audio, video, and other resources, including 9,600 items digitized at Internet Archive and Open Library.
The APH Press carries on the legacy of AFB Press as the leading publisher in the field of blindness and low vision. APH Press publishes educational content, including textbooks for teacher preparatory programs in the field of blindness and low vision to support teachers, families, and other professionals. Recent releases include:

**Guidelines and Games for Teaching Efficient Braille Reading (Print and EPUB Editions)**

This book is based on research in the areas of rapid reading and precision teaching. The second edition of *Guidelines and Games* serves as an invaluable resource to both supplement and enrich early braille instruction for parents and teachers of those who are blind or low vision. The activities and games presented in the book enhance the traditional teaching of braille reading skills from the preschool level through Grade 3. The book was updated to reflect advances in technology that have made braille more accessible in a digital format, such as refreshable braille devices, digital notetakers, and translation software. The writers have also incorporated new research on teaching braille literacy, as well as current best practices for teachers of students who are blind or low vision.

**Babies with CVI: Nurturing Visual Abilities and Development in Early Childhood (Print and EPUB Editions)**

This is a guide through history and best practices related to the treatment of CVI in children from birth to 36 months. *Babies with CVI* presents specific approaches, strategies, and activity suggestions that families and low vision professionals can use to meet the unique learning needs of a child with CVI. It stresses the importance of early intervention, proper evaluation, and integrating teaching opportunities into the child’s daily routine.
APH Press Titles Coming Soon

Foundations of Orientation and Mobility, 4th Edition
Now in its fourth edition, Foundations of Orientation and Mobility remains the classic reference and textbook for O&M professionals and students alike.

An Itinerant Teacher’s Guide to an Effective and Efficient School Year
This comprehensive guidebook for the itinerant teacher of students who are blind or low vision is based on years of experience refining systems and practices for efficient and effective teaching.

Accessible Science Education for Students With Visual Impairments
The first title in APH Press’s STEM series, this title explores physics, biology, chemistry, geology, and astronomy, as well as arts-based and international science education for K-12 students.

For related texts and the entire suite of APH Press books, please visit our APH Press Catalog.
APH Studio

The Studio records talking books for the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS). According to Studio Director Maggie Davis, between recording and producing full books in the studios and converting commercial audio to accessible DTBs (digital talking books)—all for NLS—the APH Studio provides about 1,000 talking books per year. In addition, the Studio records audio descriptions for educational videos for the Digital Captioned Media Program (DCMP). Narrators also contribute their talents to many in-house projects and products in production at APH. Read more about the Studio.
**InSights Art**

This is an international competition showcasing art created by students and adults who are blind or low vision. This year, there were more than 300 InSights Art entries. The competition and showcase are open to all artists. There are six categories based on grade level for students, and three categories based on artistic medium (2-Dimensional, Sculpture, and Craft) for adults. Entries range from drawings, fibers, metal, paintings, print makings, and wood. View the amazing pieces of art in the InSights Art Showcase located in The Spire, or view the winning entries every day by purchasing an InSights Art Calendar.
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.

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.
Aqueduct – APH Solutions Layout
The Dot Experience

Designed to change perspectives about blindness and featuring an unprecedented set of applied inclusive design standards, The Dot Experience will share compelling first-person stories of blindness and the human experience that offer a view to the world of accessibility and APH’s role in that history. Experience cutting edge innovations of the past, present, and future, conceived and created by, and with people who are blind or low vision, as well as world-class treasures, such as: Helen Keller’s desk, Stevie Wonder’s piano, a book published by Louis Braille in 1829, and the first guide dog harness. This new attraction will embody the APH philosophy of “Welcome Everyone” and empower visitors to deconstruct their ideas about blindness and elevate important accessibility conversations.

We anticipate that The Dot Experience will raise the voices and highlight the lived experiences of the blind or low vision community, providing a platform to expand equality and opportunity for all people. This project aims to change the way we understand blindness and lead to a more open-minded society that includes people with disabilities more fully in the workforce, our schools, and communities. Learn more about getting involved in The Dot Experience by contacting Kristy Ashby, Advancement Coordinator, kashby@aph.org or 502.899.2361.

Please note: The Dot Experience is currently under construction and we anticipate opening in mid-2025. We are not offering tours at this time.
Build-A-Cell
The fundamental characteristics of, and differences between, various cell types have been known for a long time and are discussed in almost all biology textbooks. While all cells share certain structural parts, cells of different evolutionary origins have components that set them apart from each other. Build-A-Cell helps students who are blind or low vision understand these concepts by providing a full color, tactile, and interactive representation of the internal and external

Submersible Audio Light Sensor (SALS)
This device makes science activities more accessible than ever! SALS has a plastic-covered glass tube with a rectangular box on one end. The tip of the glass tube detects light, and the box converts light to a tone and sends the signal to an app (compatible with iOS, Android, and MATT Connect). Changes in tone notify the user that a chemical reaction has taken place or can help them identify objects of different colors or shades of gray.

Practice2Master Abacus
This app helps make abacus learning an interactive experience by allowing users to take lessons, practice skills, and monitor their progress by completing quizzes and drills, all at their own pace. The Practice2Master Abacus app can be used as a supplement to classroom instructions in which teachers can assign practice tasks or drills to students. Download Practice2Master Abacus for free for a limited time from the App Store or Google Play Store!

Graph Benders
Create/plot graphs and diagrams/charts that are tactile, visual, and durable! Graph Benders’ flexible strips and point symbols (triangles, circles, squares) can be applied directly to paper and are an excellent way for students to demonstrate their mastery of math or science concepts.
**Code Jumper™**

Originally designed by Microsoft® and developed by APH, Code Jumper teaches computer coding and programming skills through a unique, physical system. Code Jumper technology takes block coding off the screen and puts it on the table in front of you, making it accessible and fun for the whole class. Brightly colored plastic pods with oversized buttons and knobs are connected by “jumper cables” (thick cords) to physically create computer code that can tell stories, music, and even crack jokes.

**Snap Circuits Jr 130 Access Kit**

This kit teaches children eight and older about circuits, current, resistance, switches, motors, and other basic electronics concepts. Sold in stores, Snap Circuits Jr. is widely used in classrooms because the parts are durable, colorful, and easy to assemble into projects that illuminate, make sounds, and more. The Snap Circuits Jr. 130 Access Kit, which is sold exclusively through APH, includes the commercial product, and makes it accessible to users who are blind and low vision by providing parts labeled in braille, along with written project instructions in braille and large print.

The kit gives instructions for building 130 projects, but inventive students can create more! All the parts snap together on the building surface, called the “breadboard,” to form circuits with a perceptible result.
**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. Their 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 the APH Annual Meeting with the GoodMaps Explore indoor navigation app! Explore provides turn-by-turn directions to meeting rooms, elevators, and common spaces. If you have questions on how to use the app or feedback about your experience, please visit the GoodMaps booth in the Solutions Showcase. You can download the app from the links below.

GoodMaps Explore is available on both iOS and Android for free.
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**: Find support and resources for families of children who are blind or low vision.

- **CareerConnect**: Find employment information, tools, and guidance for job seekers who are blind or low vision, or, for employers who work with individuals who are blind or 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 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.
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 those who are blind or low vision, 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.

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.
Regional Outreach

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.

Contact us at: outreach@aph.org.
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.
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.
The National Coding Symposium provides an overview of what coding is, and how it can be made accessible to users who rely on screen access software. We hope students in attendance will be motivated and encouraged to either consider a career in coding, or, will be inspired to learn more about coding and programming.

The symposium will be offered completely virtually on the Zoom platform, enabling more students, teachers, and family members nationwide to attend than an in-person event would have allowed. The inspirational keynote addresses, educational presentations, and speaker panels will take place across five days, each day focusing on a different skill level from beginner to career preparation. All sessions and information will be recorded and available online after the symposium.
APH Virtual Learning Resources

Access Academy
From product tutorials, to information on resources, services, and programs, our goal is to give you the information you need for home, classroom, and workplace settings. Access Academy provides the meaningful education and training webinars you need to get the most out of APH products and services. Most webinars also provide ACVREP credit. Visit aph.org/educational-resources/training/access-academy to access past and upcoming webinars.

APH ConnectCenter Webinars
The majority of APH ConnectCenter webinars offer ACVREP and CRCC credit. Webinar topics vary and connect people with useful independent-living information and resources for children, parents, adults, and job seekers who are blind or low vision, including their associated professionals. Visit aphconnectcenter.org/webinars for upcoming and previously recorded webinars offering ACVREP and CRCC credit.

Change Makers Podcast
APH has a big goal: creating a future that belongs to everyone. For more than 165 years, APH has created products and services that provide access for people who are blind or low vision. The Change Makers Podcast highlights everyone from CEOs to students who are making the biggest difference in our field. To date, Change Makers episodes have been downloaded 15,000 times throughout 64 countries. Listen and subscribe by visiting the Change Makers Podcast page.

For over 165 years, APH has worked to level the playing field for students who are blind or low vision. In 2021, APH renewed its commitment to equity by establishing the department of Accessibility, Belonging, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity, known as ABIDE.

ABIDE enhances APH’s efforts to welcome everyone - both internally for employees, as well as externally to serve as a resource to the field of education for the blind or low vision, and for all professionals in public, private, and non-profit sectors.

ABIDE’s goal is to amplify underrepresented voices and empower marginalized groups through equitable educational experiences. To provide those equitable experiences, professionals in the field of education must come to understand the lived experiences and perspectives of people whose voices have not been heard.

Trainings highlight intersectional identities and help attendees develop empathy and an understanding that we have more commonalities than differences. ABIDE looks forward to customizing trainings to meet your needs and the needs of your students and clients.

To learn more or request a training, please email us at: abide@aph.org.
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 us at: development@aph.org.
We’re meeting in a new location next year!

Join us at the Louisville Marriott Downtown,
280 W. Jefferson Street, Louisville, KY.