

**APH Products and Services
for the
California Transcribers
and Educators for the
Blind and Visually
Impaired (CTEBVI)
2024 Conference**



AMERICAN
PRINTING
HOUSE 

Braille Solutions

Monarch™

The [Monarch](#), a revolutionary multiline braille display, aims to revolutionize education for blind and low vision students, breaking down barriers and fostering inclusivity. Offering over 20000 searchable tactile graphics, it ignites curiosity and creativity while providing access to a built-in graphing calculator, enabling students to grasp complex mathematical concepts confidently. By significantly reducing the time needed to access braille textbooks, the Monarch ensures equality and independence, empowering students to lead their educational journey. More than just a device, it represents a key to unlocking endless possibilities and championing inclusivity in education.

Secure your spot on the [Monarch Waitlist](#) today to stay in the loop on important updates and be among the first to know when the Monarch is available for purchase.



Braille Solutions

PageBlaster™

APH and HumanWare have partnered to produce a portable and powerful braille embosser with a tractor-fed design that provides smooth paper handling and produces double-sided interpoint braille. Use [PageBlaster](#) to emboss PRN files from APH's Tactile Graphics Image Library or create your own using the included Firebird tactile graphics software.

PixBlaster™

The [PixBlaster](#) combines tactile graphics with braille text. This embosser allows users to easily produce double-sided interpoint braille with smooth, rounded dots for improved readability along with industry-leading, high-quality tactile graphics with seven variable dot heights for color representation. Connect to Wi-Fi to translate and emboss documents on the fly from your computer or mobile device using the included PIXie box.



Tactile Literacy and Educational Products

Accessible Code & Go[®] Robot Mouse

The [Accessible Code & Go Mouse](#) provides a hands-on introduction to coding concepts and tactile graphics as students program Colby the mouse to race through the maze toward the cheese. Students will learn problem-solving, critical thinking, if-then logic, O&M skills, route planning, and much more.

Music Braille Wheel

The [Music Braille Wheel](#) is the perfect resource for any student, instructor, or parent, who is not familiar with the music braille code. Each music braille note can be referenced by adjusting the top portion of the wheel. The wheel is backed with a non-slip material so that it stays firmly in place when being used on any flat surface.

Picture Maker

This fun, colorful kit can be used for numerous educational and recreational activities! The [Picture Maker](#) includes a felt covered board, and a variety of colorful hook-loop backed pieces that attach to the board in an infinite number of patterns. The guidebook has suggestions and example layouts in print and raised-line graphic form.

Reach & Match[®] Learning Kit & Alphabet Tiles

The [Reach & Match Learning Kit](#) provides toddler training for manual dexterity and identifying tactile patterns. It provides preschoolers with braille and print learning, motor development, direction, and spatial awareness training. Originally created for children with BVI, a preliminary review revealed that children with autism also enjoy playing and learning with Reach & Match.

Each Reach & Match Learning Kit includes four large puzzle piece mats, one side of each mat features a texture with a tactile pattern that matches corresponding alphabet tiles. The other side of the mats have the same texture but with a recessed white path. There are cut-out shapes that correspond to the same tiles.



Tactile Literacy and Educational Products

Additional [Alphabet Tiles](#) may be purchased as a supplement to the kit. Each of the 26 tiles has a corresponding shape, color, texture, sound, and tactile marking to represent a different letter in the English alphabet.

Reach and Match Light and Reach and Match Number Tiles coming soon to APH!

Quick Check

This handy reference contains the most commonly used literary braille contractions, such as alphabetic word signs, one-cell contractions, lower-cell contractions, short-forms, punctuation, and other UEB symbols. [Quick Check: Index of Literary Braille Signs](#) is perfect for anyone learning, teaching, or transcribing braille, modified to the UEB standard.

Tactile Town

This kit is inviting to both tactile and visual learners with attractive, customizable, and flexible pieces incorporating contrasting colors, textures, and recognizable features. [Tactile Town](#) assists in the development of cognitive mapping skills by helping students perceive and organize their physical environment specific to concepts such as street layouts, intersections, route patterns, and city block arrangements.

Crokato

Join [Crokato, the Creature Whose Skin Changes](#) on an enchanting adventure beyond his flowerpot home, exploring diverse textures and environments, where the heartwarming tale unfolds into a celebration of self-discovery that the best skin is the one you're already in.

Learn more and check out our other books in the [LDQR](#) series.

Five Little Speckled Frogs

Part of the On the Way to Literacy book series, [Five Little Speckled Frogs](#) is a fun and engaging early childhood book based on a familiar children's rhyme. This read-aloud tactile storybook incorporates both large print and contracted UEB text. It is designed to introduce early counting concepts, develop key literacy skills, and encourage imaginative play. Included in the book are a storyboard and pieces that can be used by the reader to bring the story to life with an additional layer of tactile exploration.

Laptime and Lullabies Storybooks

The [Laptime and Lullabies](#) storybooks use tactile, print, and braille elements to help to facilitate the skills necessary to build an understanding of language before beginning to read the written word, including evaluating one's environment, understanding reciprocal communication, developing listening skills, and more.

Tactile Book Builder Kit

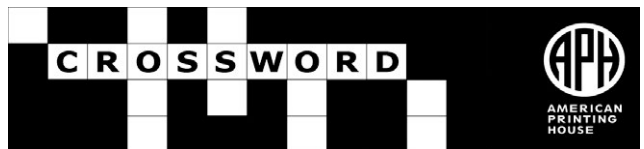
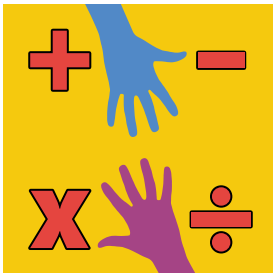
The [Tactile Book Builder Kit](#) contains a wide selection of materials like pre-cut pages and braille labels to enable users to quickly custom-make books of many kinds—personal storybooks, simple texture books, alphabet books, and more!



Apps and Games

Mobile/Desktop Apps, Skills/Actions

Enjoy hours of fun and learning with APH's variety of apps for desktop, Chromebook, and mobile devices. Amazon Alexa® users can also join the party by trying out these [APH skills and actions](#).



The [APH Press](#) carries on the legacy of AFB Press as the leading publisher in the field of blindness and visual impairment. APH Press publishes educational content, including textbooks for teacher preparatory programs, in the field of blindness and visual impairment to support teachers, families, and other professionals. Recent releases include:

- [Guidelines and Games for Teaching Efficient Braille Reading](#) is based on research in the areas of rapid reading and precision teaching. This second edition serves as an invaluable resource to both supplement and enrich early braille instruction for parents and teachers of those who are blind or visually impaired. 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 with visual impairments
- [Access Technology for Blind and Low vision Accessibility](#) emphasizes opportunities for independence, leadership, and timely access to information for people who are blind or low vision. Access Technology is a follow-up to the 2008 edition that gives an overview of currently available technologies and tools and presents a new process for technology evaluation that ensures every student is supported to build the toolbox they need to break down barriers to access. Rather than using pre-determined checklists to evaluate technology skills, authors Yue-Ting Siu and Ike Presley present an inquiry-based approach for identifying needs related to individual instruction, advocacy for accessible formats, and how to achieve equity in information-rich environments.



- [Beginning with Braille: Firsthand Experiences with a Balanced Approach to Literacy](#) includes creative and practical strategies for designing and delivering quality braille instruction and offers teacher-friendly suggestions for many areas, such as reading aloud to young children, selecting and making early tactile books, and teaching tactile and hand movement skills. This text also addresses guidelines for individualizing instruction, the literacy needs of students with additional disabilities, and assessment of student progress in developing literacy skills.
- [Burns Braille Guide: A Quick Reference to Unified English Braille](#) is a revised and updated edition of The Burns Braille Transcription Dictionary that reflects the range of changes introduced in the transition from English Braille American Edition (EBAE) to UEB. This easy-to-use reference guide includes braille-to-print conversions; print-to-braille conversions; punctuation, symbols, and indicators; new UEB contractions; general rules and terminology; and short forms list.
- [Reading Connections: Strategies for Teaching Students with Visual Impairments](#) is an in-depth and user-friendly guide for understanding reading instruction for teachers and professionals seeking to improve the reading skills of their students who are visually impaired. This text addresses on detail the essential components of reading-phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension, as well as other key reading components and subskills.
- [I-M-ABLE: Individualized Meaning-Centered Approach to Braille Literacy Education](#) is an innovative, individualized, student-centered method for teaching braille and making it exciting for students who have difficulties learning braille. Instruction in this text is centered on continuously analyzing the strengths and needs of students, placing emphasis on engaging them using key vocabulary words and phrases based on their experiences and interests.

The Dot Experience

A New Global Attraction

The The Dot Experience is an all-new destination being designed by American Printing House for the Blind (APH) and scheduled to open early 2026. The Dot Experience is on a mission to change perspectives about blindness, spur insight and action that welcomes everyone, and lead as model museum of inclusivity and accessibility. Part museum, attraction, factory tour, and center of education, this Louisville-based facility is the intersection of innovation, insight, and opportunity. The Dot Experience will share compelling first-person stories, cutting edge innovations created by and with people who are blind or low vision, and world-class treasures like the Helen Keller's desk, the piano Stevie Wonder played on as a child, the first guide dog harness, and a rare book by Louie Braille published in 1829.

Everything is being created with an unprecedented set of applied inclusive design standards that puts disability access front and center. Museums worldwide are thinking about disability inclusion, but too often as something additive to an already designed or built experience. Every step of the design process is fully focused on an inclusive experience that makes sure there is access to all meetings and materials. An inclusive prototyping team comprised of local individuals of varying backgrounds and disability are meeting monthly with the exhibit design firm to inform each step of the design and fabrication process.

Learn more about getting involved in [The Dot Experience](#) by contacting Jo Haas, *VP of Advancement and The Dot Experience*, at jhaas@aph.org or 502-515-9136.





**FREE, self-paced
online braille
tutorials!**



SCAN ME

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!

National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC)

The [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

Services/Resources

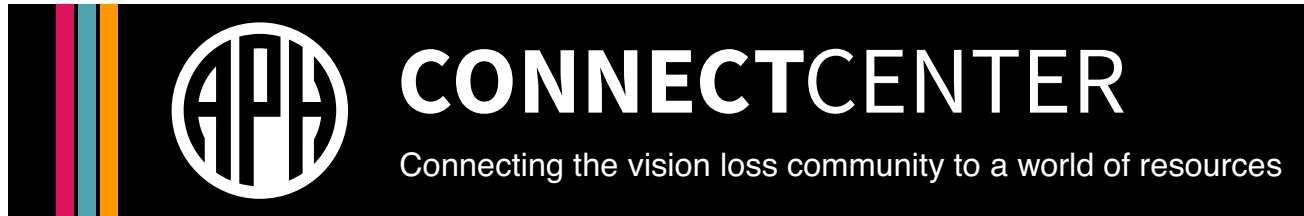
users who can download files or assign files for download by accessible media producers, such as APH. Once produced, the accessible materials can be distributed to any number of eligible students.

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.

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.



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 low vision.
- [CareerConnect](#): Employment information, tools, and guidance for job seekers 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.



Services/Resources

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.](#)

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. Outreach Services consists of three branches:

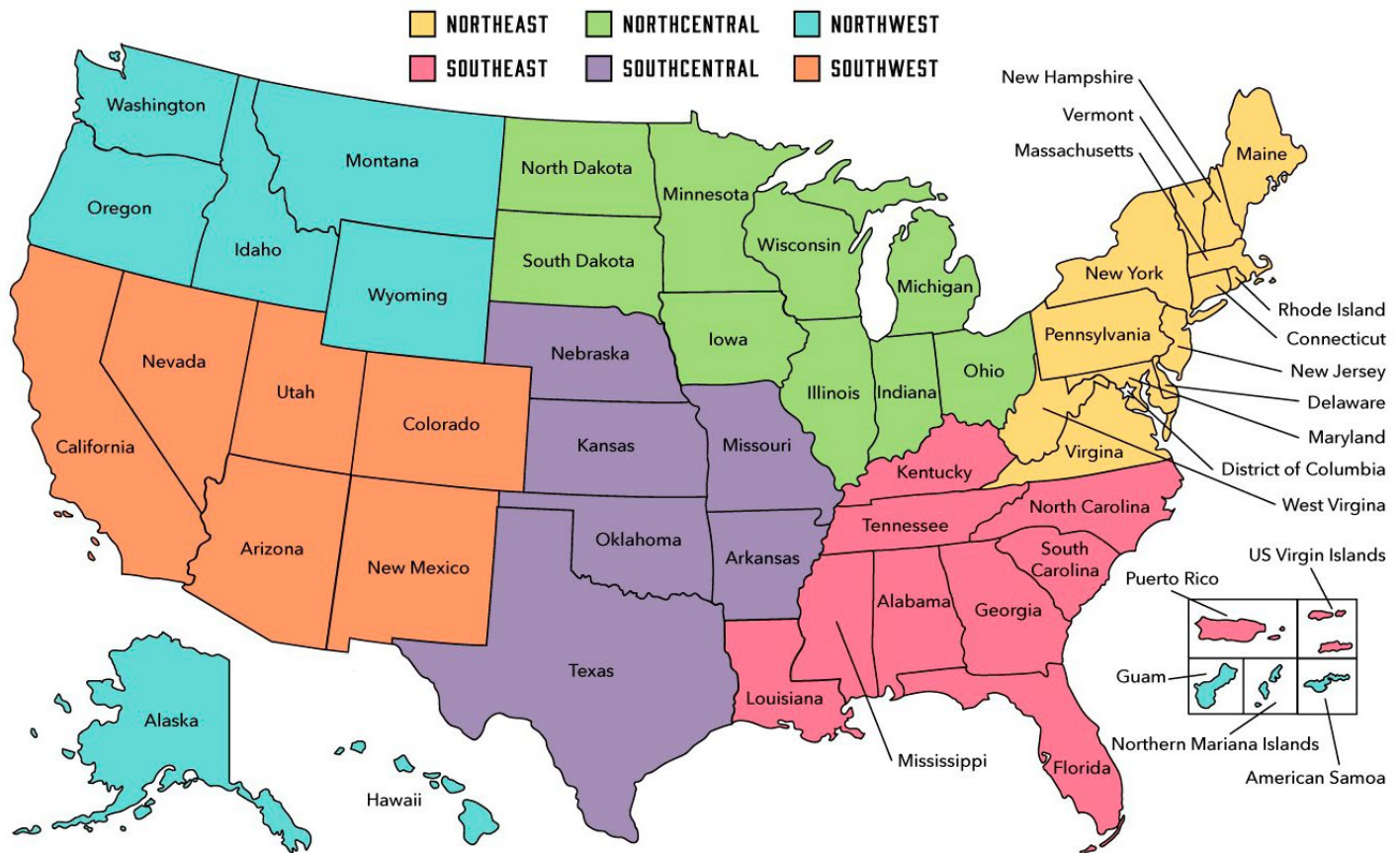
- Outreach Specialists for regional support.
- APH Hive for professional development.
- Census for the federal quota program.

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.

Services/Resources

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.





**Thank
You for
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 502-899-2351 or email at development@aph.org.



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