

Technology Resources

Check out these helpful new tools and resources for educators.

CATS Offers On-Line Learning Tools for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

The Center for Accessible Technology in Sign (CATS), in Atlanta, Georgia, is a joint project between the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

“CATS is dedicated to providing accessibility to learning via sign language. Its goal is to enhance language, literacy, and general world knowledge for deaf learners, particularly children. CATS has been awarded the American Library Association Grolier Foundation Award, 2004 for its contributions to children’s literacy,” states the website.

Learning tools included on the site are:

- **SMARTSign Dictionary**
- **SMARTSign Library** (to which students can make contributions)
- **Sign4Good**—Makes stories accessible in American Sign Language (ASL)
- **StAR ASL** (Storybook Augmented Reality ASL)
- **CAT-ASL Comprehension**
- **Sign app for android**
- **Elf** (Electric Language Factory)—Offers games that incorporate signers showing how specific vocabulary is signed
- **BRAVoE and BRAVoEKids** (Basic Reading and Vocabulary Enrichment)—Offers signed stories and games to improve on vocabulary

Also offered are research and publications as well as a Tools & Resources section related to accessibility, accessible technology, ASL, and education. For more information, visit www.cats.gatech.edu.

Center for Accessible Technology in Sign



Epic Bookworms: New On-line Resource for Deaf Educators

The Educational Resource Center on Deafness (ERCOD) has introduced a new literature resource called Epic Bookworms. This year-long project, which will encompass four complete units of study related to popular children’s and young adult books, is geared to teachers, parents, and students. It endeavors to provide supplementary literacy resources that are accessible to a wide range of deaf and hard of hearing students.

“Though we started with just one book, *Charlotte’s Web*, our goal is to add at least four books per year as well as to encourage other master teachers statewide to make contributions. And because our time and resources are always limited, we would love to see similar efforts made by other programs nationwide so we can all share our work via the web” said Twyla Loftin, ERCOD on-line resources teacher.

Each unit of study includes videos in American Sign Language, captions, and text transcripts. Materials include worksheets, vocabulary studies, extension activities, lesson plans coordinated with state standards, and both grade-level and adapted activities.

“Imagine the wealth of supplementary literacy resources we could build over time—and classes in different places and states working on a book together!” said Avonne Brooker-Rutowski, ERCOD program specialist. “We hope you’ll take a moment to check out the website and to envision how we can all work together to provide quality literacy support for deaf and hard of hearing students.”

For more information, check out www.epicbookworms.org.

myASLTech.com: On-Line Suite of Software Provides ASL Support for Instruction

The Institute for Disabilities Research and Training, Inc. (IDRT) has developed a unique on-line suite of eight assistive technology tools entitled *myASL Tech*. These tools enable users to efficiently create and archive American Sign Language (ASL)-supported educational materials and quizzes, support text with sign graphics and video in real time, build and share creations with other *myASL Tech* community members, and play games that reinforce ASL and English literacy.

The site offers low-cost memberships for children as well as individual, small group, and large group memberships. Members gain access to a central database of tens of thousands of words, phrases, symbols, idioms, and numbers and their representative sign language graphics and video clips. As the database expands (weekly), so do the capabilities of each assistive technology tool. The assistive technology tools include:

- **myASL Dictionary**—View sign graphics and video clips, conceptual graphics, and English and ASL definitions by inputting English text.
- **mySign Generator**—Translate English words, phrases, symbols, and idioms into ASL graphics and video clips in real time. Right-click to make selections for multiple sign words, hide sign graphics, or fingerspell. Type or paste any amount of text! You can save and print the graphics and play video clips of the sign sequence.
- **myConcept Generator**—Automatically support English words, phrases, symbols, and idioms with concept graphics. Just right-click to hide concept graphic supports for individual words.
- **myASL Games**—Play a variety of interactive learning games that can be used to reinforce sign language learning or just have fun. With many of the games, you can play by category or with the entire *myASL Tech* lexicon. Check out

Signing Science for Kids, a learning module about weather phenomena.

- **myASL Publisher**—Create instructional materials (e.g., posters, flash cards) using ASL and concept graphic clip art. You can draw, make shapes, and import your own graphics, too.
- **myASL Templates**—Create templates that automatically generate customizable, printable worksheets (e.g., fingerspelling scrambles, crossword puzzles, word finds).
- **myASL Quizmaker**—Create quizzes using six question templates with automatic sign graphic and video support. Have students take published quizzes online within prescribed constraints (e.g., due date, length of time). Score the quizzes and send the results back to the students. Generate statistical reports on student performance and quiz results.
- **myASL Thesaurus**—Identify signs by inputting descriptors (i.e., handshapes, locations, movements, palm orientations). View the resulting sign graphics and videos, corresponding English words, concept graphics, and ASL and English definitions in an expanding lexicon of root words.



When you become a *myASL Tech* community member, you automatically get “banks” into which you can save your products (e.g., quizzes, questions, posters, worksheets) on IDRT’s cloud-hosted server. By linking your banks with other members, you can share products with each other. Visit http://idrt.com/asltech_home.php to get started!

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