Beyond the Stacks:
Making Maryland Accessible

New Series No. 2, Issue 3 (July thru September 2018)

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From the Director's Desk:

It is hard to believe that 50 years ago, the citizens of Maryland finally started to receive books, magazines, and newspapers in an accessible format.   Due to the wonderful activism of people like Sharon Maneki of the Maryland Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind, the Maryland State LBPH was founded in 1968.   The employees of the Maryland State LBPH are so proud to be able to provide services and resources.   However, we all want to do more!   Thank you for your continued support as the staff offer programs by telephone, training by phone or email, newsletters, and everything else we can think of to provide. More information about that 50 years will be forthcoming!

-Leslie Bowman, Director, LBPH

ADA Compliance Workstations Shine in Maryland

It's been nearly two years since the Maryland State Library, previously the Division of Libraries and Development Services, worked with Branch Libraries, Regional Libraries, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to provide modern, easy to

use ADA Compliant Computer Workstations to over half of the public library branches in the state. This project began with a shared vision to provide those with visual, physical, and other print impairments easy to use and state-of-the-art accessible technology on public access computers.

The ADA Compliant workstations have been heavily used, as demonstrated at the Eldersburg Branch Library. Eldersburg Branch Library is located in Carroll County and is part of the Carroll County Public Library System. In the past year, the library has seen over 150 individuals use the ADA Workstation. Branch Manager Nadine Rosendale is enthusiastic about the devices. "We have a few customers that use it specifically because they have a visual impairment of varying degrees. They find the large screen and the large print keyboard to be very helpful. We've also had comments that the large print keyboard is helpful for those with arthritis in their hands and fingers." She continued to say that patrons have utilized the closed-circuit television to enlarge documents, making it easier to fill out. "They were grateful we could make the print bigger so they could understand what information to fill in."

One such patron is Charles Rachel. He is a frequent user of the library's ADA Workstation. "I love it. It's very easy to use. I have a visual impairment that has left me with sight in my right eye only,

and that makes reading standard print or using a standard keyboard very difficult. When I visit the library, I'm able to use the computer with Magic Screen Magnification and the Closed-Circuit Television to see printed documents. The keyboard is large and has buttons I can easily read. I am currently a client of ARC in Carroll County, and I trained to use similar machines there. It's helpful to have one at the library, especially while looking for employment. It is wonderful that they made this available to everyone, regardless of ability."
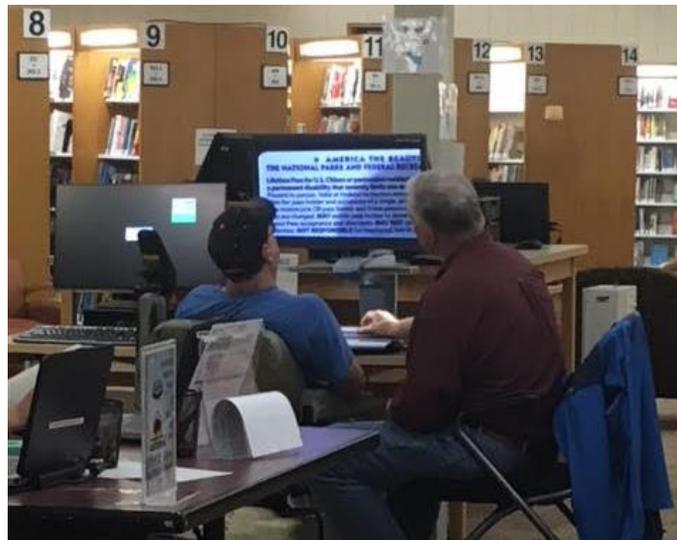
What is an ADA Complaint Workstation?

The ADA Compliant Workstations are three separate pieces of hardware to make the physical access of a public computer easier to those with mobility and visual impairments. Additionally, there are two specialized software programs to aid in the use of a Windows computer by the visually impaired.

The ADA Compliant Workstations have motorized tables, allowing for the entire workstation to be raised or lowered, depending on the needs of an individual. The desk is approximately 3 feet wide by 5 feet long and adjusts in height between 2 feet from the floor to 5 feet above the floor.

Additionally, the Workstation has a specialized closed-circuit television system that allows individuals to read printed and

handwritten documents in an enlarged format or allows for those same documents to be read out loud via synthesized voice. The branch purchased for branch libraries is known as the Optelec Clearview+ Speech. This machine has three components to ensure function. The first is a 24 inch, high-definition monitor (diagonal measurement) that is touch enabled. The intuitive design for menus and enlargement allows users to swipe and scroll with a finger or pointing device. The magnification is continuous, allowing a user to choose magnification ranges from 1x to 95x.

The second part of the machine to ensure ease of use is the document tray. This tray is designed to "glide" effortlessly, thus allowing the machine to capture the image without strain to the user. If a user has physical or visual impairments that prevent them centering the page directly under the main lens, the tray will electronically adjust to center the image on the monitor above. The "glide" feature also allows an individual who is unable to manipulate the tray to use a single finger or mobility service to move and adjust the tray.

Finally, the built-in software allows users to read the text in high-contrast while viewing pictures in original color, allow for changes in color contrast for printed and handwritten documents, brightness and light/dark contrasts, and intelligent document

layout, allowing a user to adjust reading preferences based on the document's design.   Finally, and probably one of the best features, the specialized software allowed for texts typed or handwritten in other languages to be recognized and read in the original language.

The third part of the ADA Compliant workstation is a dedicated Windows computer with both specialized software and hardware to make accessing the computer, navigating the Internet, and sustained use easier on patrons with visual and physical impairments.

The computer is a standard tower computer with an extra-large monitor, measuring approximately 27 inches diagonally. The computer also has an enlarged keyboard with feather-light press functions. Because it is larger than a standard keyboard, the black keys and white lettering are large enough to be compared to size 16 print font. The keys themselves are specially designed to

require almost no effort to press.

The software on the computer is part of a licensed package from Freedom Scientific. The software programs, JAWS, and Magic are designed to do two separate but equally important functions. JAWS, which stands for Job Access with Speech is one of the most popular screen readers of all time. It was developed specifically for those with vision loss that prevents them from seeing screen content or navigating with a mouse. JAWS provides speech and Braille output for most popular application, like Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Suite, and Internet Explorer. The program supports two multi-lingual synthesizers, OCR features for images files and inaccessible PDF documents, DAISY player support, and full compatibility with ZoomText, Fusion, Magic, and Open Book Scanning and Reading Software.

Magic Screen Magnification Software is also installed on the computer. The main focus of Magic is to allow users to enlarge their screen up to 10x, thus allowing them to view the screen without eye strain. Magic supports both keyboard and mouse function, which highlights icons, links, and mouse location, allowing users to navigate the screen. Magic also has limited voice-over functionality enabling for some HTML screens to be read by a synthesized voice, basic OCR functionality, and basic Point and Speak options for screen navigation.

Where Can I Find an ADA Compliant Computer Workstation Near Me?

Every county has at least one ADA Complaint Computer Workstation, located within the County Library System. For a full list of ADA Compliant Workstations and locations, please visit the library's website and click the link "ADA Complaint Workstations." You can also visit the following link to access a county by county listing: https://bit.ly/2NLHfh3.

Meet the LBPH Staff:

Larry Smith is the LBPH Technical Services Equipment Manager. He has attended college in North Carolina and Maryland and obtained his bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. He has worked with several companies over the years, from Wendy's and KFC as a Manager and General Manager to the University of Baltimore as an executive assistant to the Financial Aid Director. He has created, owned and operated two private businesses over the years and has settled here at LBPH. His primary focus is customer service in the Technical Services Department. The entire team works hard to complete any requests for equipment. The team inspects, cleans, and ships digital players within one to two business days. Larry works diligently to help LBPH become the best library not just here in Baltimore but in the State and the NLS (National Library Services) nationwide network. He loves working with the LBPH staff to give our patrons the greatest service possible. He enjoys playing chess, reading, and watching movies.

Library of Congress Honors Colorado and Michigan Libraries for Service to Blind Readers:

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) at the Library of Congress honored two of its cooperating libraries for their outstanding service in 2017 to readers who are visually or physically disabled.

The Colorado Talking Book Library (CTBL) in Denver will receive the Regional Library of the Year Award, while Braille and Talking Books at Taylor Community Library (BTBTCL) in Taylor, Michigan, will receive the Sub-regional Library/Advisory and Outreach Center of the Year Award.

The awards were presented at a luncheon in the historic Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., on May 17.

"Each year the Library of Congress recognizes the work of state and local libraries that provide braille and talking-book services over the previous year to people who cannot use print materials," said NLS director Karen Keninger. "The programs and services the Colorado and Michigan libraries offer are outstanding examples of the creativity regularly shown throughout our cooperating libraries nationwide, as well as their commitment to ensuring that all may read."

One of the Colorado Talking Book Library's strengths is its

volunteer program: more than 200 volunteers supplement the work of the library's 13 staff members, contributing 25,000 hours in patron services and facility support last year.

The library, which has more than 7,200 individual and institutional patrons, has achieved at least a 98 percent patron satisfaction score since 2004 as measured in biennial surveys. CTBL volunteers have recorded 256 books of regional interest to add to the national NLS collection, and the library last year partnered with the U.S. Department of State to host official visitors from Ukraine and Egypt.

CTBL has won recognition at home—it was named Library of the Year by the Colorado Association of Libraries in 2017.

"Our patrons tell us that we change the quality of their lives, they are less isolated and less depressed," said CTBL director Debbi MacLeod. "The work we do makes a difference in people's lives every day. We are deeply honored by the national recognition of the work we do at CTBL and in the NLS network."

Braille and Talking Books at Taylor Community Library—an advisory and outreach center of the Michigan Braille and Talking Book Library—was created in 2016 to meet the needs of more than 1,000 blind and disabled patrons when the Wayne County Braille and Talking Book Library closed.

Among its achievements in that short time, it has introduced a monthly book discussion, a support group for people with

visual impairments and a program that focuses on assistive technology instruction and developments. The library also installed a conference line so people who cannot attend events can participate remotely.

"Serving people, regardless of ability or disability, is our passion," said Vanessa Verdun-Morris, assistant library director at BTBTCL. "Anyone can walk through our doors and be sure staff will take the extra time to help them find materials or solutions that work for them."

The Network Library Awards were created by NLS in 2005. A committee of librarians and consumer-organization representatives select finalists from among nominated libraries based on mission support, creativity, innovation in providing service and demonstrated reader satisfaction. The winner is selected from finalists by the NLS director.

-adapted from NLS news release (5/17/18)

BARD Updates:
In June, the National Library Service released an update to BARD Mobile, allowing for advanced features and greater ease of use.

The BARD, which stands for the Braille and Audio Reading Download is a free mobile application provided to patrons of the National Library Service (and MD-LBPH patrons) that

allows for the download of eBraille and audiobooks to any iOS or Android device.

Both the iOS and Android users can expect to see the following enhancements:

- Previously downloaded books and magazines will be listed under a new category called My Previous Downloads on the Get Books screen.
- Also on the Get Books screen, there now is a new Most Popular category, which lists the most popular downloads on BARD.
- Users will be able to browse magazines by title with the new Browse Magazines category in the Get Books screen.

iOS users (iPhones and iPads) will expect to see the following improvements:

- For those using a refreshable braille display, once enabled in Settings, braille will reflow to break lines to match the display's length.
- New VoiceOver actions on Bookshelf items will allow users to delete or access items directly from the Bookshelf.
- Total reading time and some braille volumes will now appear in the item summary listings.
- Users will no longer need to tap "Load more" for long scrolling lists of results. The application will automatically reload the next 50 items.

- VoiceOver users will be able to use gestures to restore default settings for Tone and Speed.

Android users can expect to see the following improvements:

Total reading time will display below author's name in the Bookshelf screen.

- Users will be able to delete books and magazines more easily by swiping right for a delete feature in Bookshelf.
- On the Settings screen, a new global audio setting feature allows users to set Tone and Speed.
- -adapted from NLS news release

LBPH News & Updates:

LBPH Wins State Recognition at Annual Library Conference:
The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped was honored in May for its excellent customer service to the citizens of Maryland. The Library, which primarily focuses on providing accessible reading options to those with visual and physical impairments, has gained notice over the last few years for its dedication to "making Maryland accessible."

"The last three years have seen exceptional advances in the daily and long-term operations of the Library," Leslie Bowman, Director, stated. "Our staff took on the overwhelming task of purging the library's patron database of inaccurate and inactive patron files – resulting in calling nearly 10, 000 patrons to ensure we have the most accurate

information." This process, she said, had the added benefit of reconnecting with inactive and underserved patrons. "We were able to ensure that we are still meeting their needs and update them on the events of the library."

The National Federation of the Blind partnered with the Friends of the Maryland Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to lobby (and win) sustained state funding, ensuring that the library's future. With the guaranteed funding, the State Librarian, Irene Padilla, was able to move forward with long-delayed repairs to the library. These projects included replacing the original roof from 1992, updating the original telephone system that often dropped calls and confused staff and patrons, and finally, the guaranteed funding provided for modern modular workstations for both staff and patrons. Probably the best use of the funding came in the expansion of staffing. For many years, an extreme staffing shortage limited services and prevented the library from reaching Marylanders who were unaware they qualified for services. In 2016, the library pushed the envelope to reach out to blind and physically impaired patrons in every county of Maryland. With funding from the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Library Service Technology Act (LSTA), the library partnered with branch libraries across the state to provide a cutting-edge, high-tech ADA compliant workstation in over 100 libraries. The station, which has a specialized computer, a closed-circuit, speech-enabled television, and an adjustable work table provides adaptive technology

"This is amazing to see," Mrs. Bowman stated. "As new staff has been hired and trained, we have increased outreach to public libraries, schools, caregivers, senior centers, and community action groups. The commitment and enthusiasm of the library's staff, in general, is very striking. Everywhere you look, we have new projects being started that are designed to increase efficiency and awareness of our library."

The award, given every year at the Maryland Library Association/Delaware Library Association joint meeting is known as the President's Customer Service Award and is specifically designed to recognize outstanding achievement in offering customer service and providing community leadership. To be recognized, the Maryland Library Association President nominates organizations that they feel embodies superior customer service to the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee then chooses the library that stood out in the previous calendar year.

-adapted from LBPH Press Release (5/14/18)

LBPH to Host Teleconferences in July:
Fraud Prevention:
When: July 10 at 6:00 PM
In partnership with the Better Business Bureau of Greater Maryland, the Library is hosting a FREE teleconference event focused on Fraud Prevention. The program is open to all Maryland residents but will have a particular focus on those with visual or physical

impairments.

This program designed is to provide information on common scams and fraudulent activities that many Americans fall victim to each year. Many people believe that fraud and scams only happen online or over the telephone; or that victims are only those who are unaware of scams and fraudulent businesses. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Learn how to spot and report scams; learn how to protect yourself from fraudulent businesses. In the last year, the BBB of Maryland answered 1.8 Million inquiries about Maryland firms and their services; 455 scams were tracked online; and 10, 000 complaints were handled by their office with an 81% resolution rate.

To join the program, please dial:

(515) 604-9516 and enter the code: 202933

The program will be recorded and made available in the days following the event.

This program is presented by Jody Thomas. Jody has an extensive career spanning communications, marketing, and management for non-profit, for-profit, and higher-ed. As BBB of Greater Maryland's VP of Communications & Marketing, Jody is responsible for

brand management, as well as, messaging through traditional and digital channels to key stakeholders including consumers, businesses, and the media. Jody has a degree in Mass Communication from Towson University and lives in Annapolis, MD with her husband and their Doberman Pinscher.

Music Therapy
When: July 17 at 6:00 PM
In partnership with Annapolis Music Therapy Service, the library will host a FREE teleconference for those wanting to more about Music Therapy. Music Therapy is a researched based system of clinical techniques for sensorimotor training, speech and language, and cognitive training. This program is open to all Marylanders but will have a particular emphasis on the visually and physically impaired communities.

The focus of this program will be to explain the basics of music therapy, how it can benefit many people, and how, in particular, it impacts the visually impaired community.

This program is being held via teleconference:
Dial-in: 515-604-9516, enter access code: 202933

This program is being presented by C.J. Shiloh, MT-BC, founder of Annapolis Music Therapy Service. Ms.

Shiloh is a Board Certified Music Therapist, is a founding member of the Online Conference for Music Therapy and is currently serving as the Government Relations Chair-Elect of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Music Therapy Association. She has over 20 years of experience, is a bold advocate for those with disabilities.

Summer Reading Program for Children and Young Adults

The Library's Summer Reading Program for Children and Young Adults is in full swing! Youth Services Librarian, LaShawn Myles, has issued a challenge to all participants to collectively read at least 50, 000 minutes. Those who reach their individual reading goals will be entered into a drawing for great prizes, like Orioles Tickets, iFly Passes, and more!

Participants of the program have multiple ways to track their minutes. The first and the easiest is to register for an account with Beanstack. Beanstack is an easy to use tracking tools that allow parents and children to keep up with the total amount of minutes read and provides automatic entry into all the library's drawings for prizes.

For those wanting to track by paper, visit the library's website (www.lbph.maryland.gov). There you will find instructions to download and use an accessible PDF that allow you to track your minutes. Once completed, return them to the library:

Return in the mail:

Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Attn: LaShawn Myles

415 Park Avenue

Baltimore, MD 212101

By Fax: 410-333-2095

By Email: reference.desk@maryland.gov

Reading logs are due every Wednesday from July 13th thru August 24th.

Making College Accessible:

The Maryland Accessible Textbook Program (MAT) is a division of LBPH that provides accessible college textbooks to Maryland students in need. In the last quarter, the MAT Program has begun serving students at Hood, McDaniel, and Frederick Community Colleges. The Program is now serving between four and six new students this upcoming school year. Currently, the program serves hundreds of students across the state by converting traditional print textbooks for qualifying college students to MP3 or Large Print (and in some cases, both). To increase productivity and turnaround time, the MAT Program has added two high-end scanners, the most comprehensive text conversion software available, and a team of four to convert materials manually.

If you or someone you know could benefit from using the Maryland Accessible Textbook Program, please send an email to accessible.textbook@maryland.gov, or call 410-230-2453.

Assistive Technology Help:
If you would like assistance in learning to use accessible technology such as:

- iOS mobile devices
- Android mobile devices
- iOS and PC Computers
- JAWS Screen Reader/Magic Screen Enhancer
- Alexa/Amazon Produces

Please contact Jerry Price. Jerry Price is the library's Assistive Technology Education Coordinator and works one on one with patrons of the library to learn how to navigate and use the ever-growing world of accessible technology. Appointments come in one-hour increments and can be done either in person at the library or over the phone.

To schedule an appointment, please contact Jerry Price, 410-230-2446 or via email at jerry.price1@maryland.gov.

Technology User Group Meeting:
       July Meeting – Social Media
              July 14 at 10:00 AM

              Location: Library for the Blind, 415 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201

Are you curious about social media? What is Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and how do you use them? Well, now is your chance to find out. The Technology User Group will be meeting this month to discuss how to navigate the world of social media - everything from setting up an account to using Assistive Technology and Alt-Text to your advantage.

Social media is one of the ways that individuals can connect with friends, family, and community. Using these apps effectively can make the experience a positive venture. Learn how to install, activate, and utilize the various components in each app. Facebook, Twitter, and others will be discussed.

August Meeting – Overdrive, Kindle, Audible, BARD

August 14 at 10:152 AM

Location: East Columbia Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

Looking to expand your reading options? Want to use the FREE resources from your local library or purchase books you can keep from Audible? How do they compare to BARD? This is the class for you! In this TUG meeting, the library will discuss the pros, the cons, and the how-tos of using Overdrive, Kindle, and Audible apps on your mobile devices.

September Meeting – Apple Computers Make Sense

September 8 at 10:00 AM

Location: Library for the Blind, 415 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201

Are you looking at purchasing a new computer? Torn between Windows and Apple? TUG explores why buying an Apple may be the way to go. Learn about the benefits of using an Apple computer, including the built-in Accessibility features that make a computer easy to use. **Presented by Lou Smith, of WTC and DoIT.**

LBPH F.A.Q.:

When did the program begin?

The free library service was established by an Act of Congress in 1931 to provide blind adults with books in an embossed format. The Act was amended in 1934 to include sound recordings (talking books), expanded in 1952 to include children and in 1962 to provide music materials, and again in 1966, to include individuals with physical limitations that prevent reading regular print.

Who can certify people as eligible?

A competent authority, as defined by Public Law 89-522 which governs the program, must certify applicants as eligible for the free braille and talking book service. In cases of blindness, visual impairment, or physical limitations, competent authority include doctors of medicine; doctors of osteopathy; ophthalmologists; optometrists; registered nurses; therapists; and professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or private welfare agencies (e.g., social workers, case workers, counselors, rehabilitation teachers, and superintendents). In the absence of any of these, certification may be made by professional librarians or

by any person whose competence under specific circumstances is acceptable to the Library of Congress. In the case of reading disability from organic dysfunction, the competent authority is defined as doctors of medicine and doctors of osteopathy who may consult with colleagues in associated disciplines.

Is the program available to people who are illiterate or who are learning English as a second language?
Individuals who do not have a visual or physical disability are not eligible to use the service. Public libraries are an excellent source of information about local literacy and English-language programs.

News You Can Use:

Blind Elkridge student heads to California for national Braille Challenge
When Khloe DeLeon-Talbert's vision teacher suggested that the Ducketts Lane Elementary School student compete in a national contest for Braille literacy, Khloe's mom figured: Well, why not?

After all, her daughter, who was diagnosed with eye cancer as an infant and lost both eyes by age 3, is a voracious reader and loves writing stories on her braillewriter.

"Khloe learns very quickly and reads so well," says Apollonia DeLeon. "She excels at everything she does, and she's very smart."

Khloe was set to compete last year, but came down with a fever before the contest and had to cancel. But earlier this year, the 8-year-old from Elkridge blew away the field at a regional competition in Baltimore, a performance that won her a trip to California for the finals of the Braille Institute of America's 2018 Braille Challenge.

"I was super excited," an exuberant Khloe says of her Baltimore triumph, adding that she "can't wait" to compete in the finals on June 15 and 16.

The Braille Institute started its annual challenge 19 years ago to encourage blind students to learn Braille literacy skills, which are considered essential to the academic and employment success of the visually impaired.

Students from first to 12th grade take part in regional competitions across the nation, participating in contests that test such skills as reading comprehension, spelling, and proofreading. The top 10 finishers in each of five age groups advance to the finals.

The competition is fierce: Khloe competed against 288 other competitors nationwide in her age group of first- and second-graders, according to Sergio Oliva, director of National Programs and Youth Services for the Braille Institute.

Besides boosting invaluable Braille skills, Oliva says, the

challenge provides a competitive and social outlet for a population that often lacks both.

"A lot of parents tell us, 'This is our kid's Olympics,' " Oliva says. "And the sense of community they get is strong — it's a place where the children can make friends."

Apollonia DeLeon seconds that notion. Her daughter, she said, is the only blind student at Ducketts Lane in Elkridge. But at the Baltimore competition, held at the Maryland School for the Blind, she spent time with scores of her peers — and loved it.

"She was just so happy," Apollonia says. "She told me, 'I want to go to this school. I want to be around people like me.' "

Winners in all age groups at the California finals will get a special mini-iPad valued at $3,800, Oliva said. But every competitor, he said, gets a swag bag of goodies and, perhaps, the social and competitive experience of a lifetime.

Win or lose, Team Khloe — which will also include her 10-year-old brother, Jayden, and her godmother — can't wait for the trip.

"It's still hard for me to get used to the fact that she's blind," Apollonia says. "But when something like this happens, and she shows me how smart she is, I'm like, 'Why am I sad that she's blind when she's doing all of this?'"

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MIT Hackathon Seeks to Improve Assistive Tech

MIT's annual Assistive Technology Hackathon, pairs students with individuals who have disabilities to create innovative, technology-based solutions for their challenges.

This year's winner of the Functionality Prize was a wearable armband that vibrates to alert a person with impaired hearing that the doorbell is ringing. A portable chair device, created to help an individual comfortably use a shower when traveling, captured a Co-Designer Collaboration Prize.

Some participants choose to share their designs online for others to replicate. One group, which created a device that allows a co-designer with cochlear implants to use wired and wireless earbuds, published its work on the DIY Instructables platform.

Along the same lines, ATHack organizers have compiled a database of hackathon projects, which they hope to share online in the next few months.

"After every event, we've added all the projects to the website. It's usually just a short description," says Jaya Narain, a doctoral student at MIT who helped launch ATHack as an undergrad. "We asked teams this year to submit

sketches of what they were working on. We're compiling it in a way for someone else who has a similar challenge to use."

Insights Blossom into Functional Assistive Tech Designs

Approximately 75 students worked on 15 projects at this year's ATHack, held March 3 at the MIT Lincoln Laboratory Beaver Works Center in Cambridge, Mass. By the end of the event, eight or nine of those projects were complete, says Narain.

Given the 11-hour timeframe, the founders of the ATHack don't expect participants to produce usable products by the end of the event, says Narain. But because participants — who may be students, designers or community members — first meet at a dinner two weeks beforehand, many arrive at the event ready to go, and sometimes a good project does emerge.

"We've had a lot of projects that have been successful just within the span of the hackathon," Narain says.

In the five years since the attack began, more than 300 participants have worked on upwards of 70 projects. At least one has led to a business launch: Massachusetts-based tech startup Puffin Innovations, founded by 2015 ATHack participants who developed a portable Bluetooth joystick mouse to provide smart device access in mobile settings.

"Co-designers have ideas and projects they're excited about, whether it's a way to do a hobby or something to help them go about day-to-day life," says Narain. "You're working closely with that person. You get a better understanding of the challenges they may be faced with. That experience can be eye-opening."

-Taken from HealthScienceMagazine.Net

Before the Film:
From Jerry Price, Assistive Technology Librarian

Here are great films that have started life as great reads!

How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
By Dr. Seuss
DB047536, BR012020

He's mean, he's green, and he's doesn't like the Yuletide season one bit -- Jim Carrey stars in this live-action adaptation of the classic children's story by Dr. Seuss (aka Theodore Geisel). High atop Mt. Crumpet, the Grinch (Carrey) observes the residents of Woodville joyously preparing to celebrate Christmas. The Grinch was born in Whoville years ago but was shunned due to his scary appearance, and his unrequited love for Martha May Whovier has turned him bitter; the good cheer of the Whos has been a thorn in his side ever since. RATED PG

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
by J.K. Rowling
DB052451, BR013499

A special edition of an approved textbook used by Harry Potter at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.   An A-to-Z listing of magical beasts, it briefly describes such creatures as the centaur, hippogriff, troll, unicorn, and ten breeds of dragon. For grades 4-7.   Bestseller. 2001.

Mary Poppins Returns
by P. L. Travers

DB050917, BR012972

(Film based on the P. L. Travers books)

An extraordinary English woman blows in on the East Wind with her parrot-headed umbrella and magic carpetbag to become the Banks family's new nanny. Mary Poppins introduces her elder charges, Jane and Michael, to some delightful people and experiences. For grades 4-7. 1934.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
by Annie Barrows and Mary Ann Shaffer

DB067526, BR021120

London, 1946. Writer Juliet Ashton corresponds with Dawsey Adams and other members of a literary society created as a front during the Nazi occupation of a British channel island, Guernsey. Through letters, Juliet learns about their wartime experiences. Intrigued, Juliet sails to Guernsey, where she finds new inspiration. Bestseller.   2008.

Special Announcements:

Library Closings:
- The library will be closed July 4th, in honor of Independence Day.
- The Library will be closed September 3rd, in honor of Labor Day.

Contact Us:
Library Telephone:
Main: 410-230-2424

Reference: 410-230-2443

Email: Reference.desk@maryland.gov

Address: 415 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201

Current Hours:
Monday   8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

Tuesday   8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

Wednesday   8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

Thursday   8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

Friday   8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

2nd Sat.   10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Reference Help Hours:
Monday thru Friday   9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Maryland State Library LBPH

2nd Saturday   10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Website: www.marylandlibraries.org

Social Media:

www.facebook.com/mdlbph

www.twitter.com/md_lbph

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