



ATBC Report for CILS Advisory Meeting

June 16, 2011

During the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011, ATBC received 418 referrals from students that would be classified as having a potential print impairment.

Print Impairments	# of Students
Learning Disability	126
Visual Impairment	112
Neurological	100
Mobility	80
total	418

Highlights:

- ATBC saw an increasing number of print impaired students (sighted and non-sighted) choosing to use a Mac computer and its built-in VoiceOver screen reader as their reading accommodation. These systems provide basic screen reading and magnification.
- Students are starting to ask for iPad's and iPod's for reading tools. ATBC has evaluated these new devices in the context of reading tools for alternate text materials, and has concluded that these devices fall significantly short as compared to other alternatives available to students such as the Victor Reader, BookSense, and speech enabled laptops.
- There are an increasing number of digital camera-type OCR technologies coming to market such as the Intel Reader, KNFB Reader, Pearl Camera, and ZoomReader. These devices work with varying degrees of functionality, and have yet to provide the accuracy of a traditional flat-bed scanner. The Pearl Camera, and soon others, that attach to a laptop and feed images to OCR software like OpenBook provide a significant advantage of image capturing speed as compared to a traditional flat-bed scanner. For the moment there is a trade-off between accuracy and speed.