



AERizona View

JUNE 2006

ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION & REHABILITATION OF THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED—ARIZONA CHAPTER

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- AZ AER FALL
CONFERENCE
CALL FOR
PAPERS

President's Message

Dear Arizona AER Members and Friends,

Welcome to summer! June is a natural transition time for us all and a time to start thinking of the summer and fall.

A giant thank you to each of you who took time out of your busy spring schedule to attend the one-day workshop at ASDB on Social Skills. Over 100 of us enjoyed an amazing day with Karen Wolffe and Sharon Sacks as well as a fascinating panel of adults with visual impairment. Our one-day workshops have been very well attended in recent years; thank you for your continued support!

I hope many of you will join AZ AER at the International Conference in Snowbird, UT next month. The week of July 14-19 promises to be action-packed and fun-filled!

The board has decided to move ahead on a fall conference this year, since consensus could not be built regarding changing our format for 1-day and 2-day conferences/meetings. SO...

Be sure to pencil in **November 2-3, 2006, for this year's Fall AZ AER Conference**. The gala event will take place at the Hon-Dah Resort-Casino and Conference Center in the beautiful White Mountains. Call for Papers will be available online very soon.



Enjoy great summer adventures, wherever you may be.

Dorinda

CALENDAR

AER INTERNAT'L CONFERENCE

Snowbird, UT
July 13-19, 2006
www.aerbvi.org

ICEVE WORLD CONFERENCE

(International Council
for Education of
People with Visual
Impairment)
July 16-21, 2006
Malaysia
<http://www.mab.org.my/events/worldconference.html>

ENVISION 06

Kansas City, MO
Sept 21-24, 2006
www.envisionconference.org

AZ AER FALL CONFERENCE

Hon-Dah Resort
Pinetop, AZ
Nov 2-3, 2006
<http://www.ed.arizona.edu/azaer/>

VRATE 2006

Glendale Civic
Plaza
Nov 17, 2006
www.vrate.org

IMC 12

Hong Kong
Nov 27-Dec 1, 2006
<http://www.hksb.org.hk/>

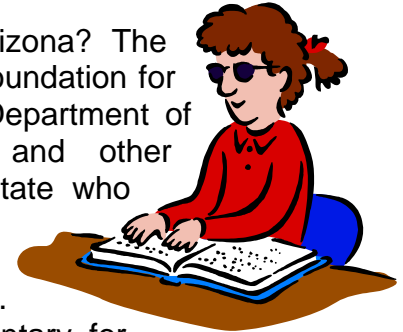
CTEVH

Santa Clara, CA
March 2-4, 2007
www.ctevh.org

AIRC REPORT: WHERE DOES BRAILLE COME FROM?

Inge Durre, Director ARIZONA INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE CENTER of FBC

Where do braille textbooks come from in Arizona? The Arizona Instructional Resource Center of the Foundation for Blind Children is designated by the Arizona Department of Education to provide adapted textbooks and other educational materials to all students in the state who have a visual impairment or are blind. Hence, the short answer for the state of Arizona is that braille textbooks typically come from the AIRC.



However, the AIRC's textbook service is voluntary for school districts. Any source other than the AIRC may be used to locate a copy of a textbook. If you want to know what avenues the AIRC takes to find existing braille transcriptions before deciding that a text needs to be transcribed, read on to learn about the steps AIRC's staff takes to determine if a book is in the AIRC's collection, can be purchased elsewhere, and if so, in which format (electronic braille file or hardcopy braille), before the determination is made that a title must be transcribed from scratch.

When the AIRC receives an order for a braille textbook, the first step for AIRC staff is to check for the availability of the book in the AIRC's repository. If the book is available on the shelf in hard copy braille, the search is complete. If the book is in the AIRC's collection, but no hard copy is available, the source of the braille transcription must be determined. If the book was transcribed by one of the AIRC's transcribers (in-house staff or volunteer transcriber), a copy can be produced by embossing from the braille files, or by thermoforming a master braille copy. In that case, the search ends.

If the book is not in our e-file or hard copy collection, and if a braille copy of the book was purchased from an outside source but is checked out, the search is extended to the American Printing House's online Central Catalog for adapted media, called LOUIS. If the book is found to be available from the APH's electronic file repository, we purchase the file from APH by downloading, embossing, collating and binding the pages into volumes. The search ends.

If the file is available only in a text file, as opposed to a braille file, e.g., in WORD, rtf, or ASCII format, the search may continue to look for other options before purchasing an e-file for in-house conversion to braille. In that case, a transcriber needs to be available to convert the file to a braille file, then proofread and edit the converted file to put it in a standard braille textbook format. This may be an appropriate solution to avoid the high cost of hard copy braille. If a transcriber is available, the search may end here.

If the book is found to be available in hard copy braille from another braille producer, and if all of AIRC's transcribers are busy with other transcriptions,

JVIB ONLINE!

As you all are aware, the "Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness" now comes to us online unless otherwise requested. Notification is sent via email that the journal is available live online.

In AERizona View MARCH 2006, incorrect instructions were given regarding JVIB online access. Here is the correct way to access JVIB as an ePublication:

Go to www.afb.org. Select the Quick Link for JVIB. Log in using your AER Member ID number preceded by the letters AER (eg. AER1234) as both user name and password.

a hard copy may be purchased from that source. If multiple sources for the particular text are available, a determination is made regarding which source to select, usually based on previous experience with the quality of the source's braille transcriptions and/or price differences. The search may end here.

When a source for a braille edition cannot be located by its ISBN, the search is extended to looking by title, author or other editions (newer or older, state or national editions). If the search is successful, a comparison follows of the original order with such other edition to determine classroom compatibility, a term used to describe the level of congruency between editions. For the comparison of two editions, a book in the AIRC's large print collection may be used, the AIRC may request a complimentary copy from the publisher, or another braille producer may be approached to help with the determination. Should the contents differ only slightly from the title requested, the AIRC may decide to purchase such a compatible edition. If the text available for purchase has additional chapters, the AIRC may opt to purchase the longer text, as long as the needed sections are compatible with the requested text. If compatibility is determined, the search ends. If the contents, page numbering, or text within chapters are clearly different, or if the quality of the braille is not satisfactory, the book will not be purchased and our own transcription process will start. This ends the search process.

However, if all of AIRC's transcribers are busy transcribing, this may not present itself as a viable option. In that case, we may order an existing transcription with the purpose of reviewing it upon receipt for quality control before deciding whether the transcription is usable or needs to be returned. If the purchased copy fails the spot checking test, the book is returned, and again an in-house transcription will be attempted. This may entail finding a transcriber who will take on another transcription assignment. Otherwise, the text will be put in line with other titles awaiting transcription. In rare cases, a commercial transcriber may be reverted to, if available, and only if a reasonable price can be negotiated. While other media centers have paid as much as \$27,000 for the transcription of one textbook, the AIRC has avoided such high prices. This completes the search, unless a book is put in the waiting queue. In that case, the search process will resume after several weeks of wait, to find if there may be a change in the availability from an out-of-state braille source.

At this point in time, braille producers do not usually make electronic braille files available to others. They only make braille hard copies available, and typically for a per-braille-page cost.

They typically will receive orders for braille textbooks from a vision resource teacher or other vision specialist when a student on his/her caseload needs a braille copy. In fact, anybody can order from the AIRC as long as the student is registered with prior agreement to pay the AIRC's annual textbook service fee.

...Continued on Page 6 : See "BRAILLE"

AWARENESS!

AZ AER Vice President Venetia Hayden is the NAPVI Region 5 Representative. Region 5 is comprised of Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and Texas. An electronic version of the 25th Anniversary Issue of "AWARENESS", the official newsletter magazine of the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairment (NAPVI) is available on the AZ AER website at www.ed.arizona.edu/azaer/.

HIGHLIGHTS: AERLIFT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE APRIL 21-23, 2006 ~SNOWBIRD, UTAH

Venetia Hayden, Vice President AZ AER

Dear AZ AER members! I would first like to report that the Snowbird Resort in Utah is BEAUTIFUL!!!! If you have the opportunity to attend the international AER conference there in July-GO! Meanwhile, a summary of the conference is as follows:

- New Executive Director for AER – The search for an executive director had been narrowed to three candidates after receiving many applications. The interviews for the final candidates will take place in late April.
- Online continuing education opportunities are available on the AER website for AER members only.
- The AER national office is moving to smaller space to save money.
- At the AER International Conference in Utah in July, AZ AER will need to name a carrier for the Arizona flag in the opening ceremonies (Dr. Jane Erin has agreed to do this at the Spring Workshop).
- There will be a silent auction at the International Conference (July 2006), and each AER chapter is asked to donate an item. (Call Venetia Hayden if you have an item to donate 520-498-1753)
- AER will continue to accept credit card payments for conferences and membership fees; however, they are not yet moving toward e-commerce such as pay pal.
- The highlight of the conference was the amount of time that state representatives were able to meet and discuss issues such as successful conference topics, membership recruitment, board of director constituency, newsletter content and electronic formats and how to keep a membership connected over large geographic areas.



ACVREP
CERTIFICATION
MARKS ARE
REGISTERED!

ACVREP is pleased to announce that our certifications marks are registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Certificants are encouraged to use the ® after your respective certification marks. To access and use this symbol, do the following:

In MS Word tool bar, select Insert. Select Symbols. In the dialogue box, find the ® symbol and highlight it. Click on Insert. Close the dialogue box, and ® will appear after your certification mark.

AZ AER BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Our Duly Elected (Part 2)

DIRECTOR Kerry Duncan is serving her second term as an AZ AER Board Member. She has coordinated vendors for past conferences and worked on fundraising projects. Kerry has lived the last nine years in Prescott where she works as a COMS for Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind through the North Central Region (NCR) Cooperative in Flagstaff. She also serves as a Parent Advisor for NCR's Early Childhood Education and contracts on a limited basis with the state to serve adults in the area.

DIRECTOR Michael Gordon has over twenty years experience in the administration and management of government and not-for-profit human service agencies in both Arizona and New York. He has held positions as executive director, area manager and program director. Since March 2005, Michael has served as Executive Director of the Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired in Tucson. Prior to this position, Michael worked for the Arizona Department of Economic Security/Division of Developmental Disabilities as District II Area Program Manager of Support Coordination for Adults. While in New York State, Michael directed a rural Community Action Agency and later the Poverty Services and Vocational Assessment and Employment programs for Unity House of Troy, a large human service agency located in Renesselear County, New York. Michael has a Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York in Psychology and a Master of Science degree from the College of Saint Rose in Education. He lives in Tucson with his wife and four young children.

DIRECTOR Christine Powers is serving her third consecutive term on the AZ AER board; acting as a Director in 2002-2003, Secretary in 2004-2005, and again as a Director for the 2006-2007 term. She is a graduate of the University of Arizona VI teacher training program, and has been working in the Prescott area as a TVI for twelve years for ASDB North Central Regional (NCR) Cooperative. Christine is currently preparing to take the ACVREP exam for VRT certification and hopes to combine her skills as a TVI and VRT to maximize her students' learning experiences.

DIRECTOR Rob Schulenburg lives in Tucson and has been a teacher at the ASDB Tucson Campus for seven years. He has just graduated the 28th grade, an educational career that has earned him a B.A. in History ('94) from Pepperdine University, an M.A. in Special Education ('99) and an Ed.S. in Special Education, minoring in Educational Leadership ('05), from the University of Arizona. He currently teaches writing in the High School at ASDB, but has also worked in the Elementary and Middle Schools with Life Skills and Functional Academics programs. Rob has been involved in recreation for the blind in Arizona since moving to Tucson ten years ago.

MEDICARE LOW
VISION
DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT

ACVREP has a special initiative to support the Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project in collaboration with Johns Hopkins Medical Center. As a resource to those who would like to become involved, a website has been created at www.lowvisionproject.org.

After entering the site, you will need to create a login name. A password will be emailed to you. After entering your login name and password, locate the link at the bottom of the page on the first screen after login occurs entitled

He currently serves as Chairman of the Arizona Association of Athletes who are Blind or Visually Impaired (AAABVI) and the state chapter of the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA). He is serving his 4th year as an AZ AER Director-At-Large. He lives with his companion of 14 years, a grumpy but loyal cat named Janis.

DIRECTOR Holly Lawson has been working with students with visual impairments since 1994. She first worked at TSBVI as a residential instructor and teacher's aide. Teaching at the school for the blind in Morocco as a Peace Corps Volunteer cultivated her interest in international education for the visually impaired. She moved to Tucson in 2000 to pursue a Master's Degree in VI and O&M at the University of Arizona. After growing to enjoy desert life, she stayed in Tucson and was employed at TUSD as a TVI / COMS. She recently returned to the University of Arizona as a doctoral student in the special education program.

DIRECTOR Amy Murillo (no bio available)

“**BRILLE**” Continued from Page 3...

AIRC's braille transcribers must be certified, and all transcriptions undergo proofreading by a certified proofreader. Transcribers proofread their own work two or three times before submitting their transcriptions to the AIRC. In the interest of time, braille transcriptions may be provided to a student, before they can be proofread by a professional proofreader. Braille volumes still in the production process are not entered into the repository until their completion. The completion of braille transcriptions of textbooks, depending to a large extent on the length and complexity of the original print, typically takes 4-12 months and occasionally longer. Thanks to a large pool of transcribers who volunteer their expertise and time, the AIRC can limit its purchases of braille transcriptions on demand. To offset the immense cost of braille textbooks, the AIRC works on a lending basis, excluding tests only. All educational materials, including textbooks, have to be returned no later than at the end of the school year. Extension may be granted upon request. The annual textbook service fee will be incurred when textbooks are not returned or renewed.

P.S. (acknowledgement of book donation in appreciation of AIRC support of AERizona View):

Hello Kartar and all,

Thank you so very much for the lovely note and the wonderful print braille books you and AZ AER gave us. My staff and I are all very touched by your kindness and I am really glad that their hard work is being acknowledged and appreciated. The books are all special and will make a great addition to our collection. Again, thank you all for this special recognition! It means a lot to all of us in the Media Center. Inge



"Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project — ACVREP." Once on the site, you will find a fact sheet about the project along with relevant links. The site is updated weekly.

Congratulations to UT AER member and AZ AER friend, Bryan Gerritsen CLVT®, who has been appointed ACVREP Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project Coordinator. Bryan can be reached at (801) 547-5903 or bryangerritsen@comcast.net.



ACVREP address update:

*ACVREP
3333 N. Campbell Avenue
Suite 11
Tucson, AZ 85719*

University of Arizona: A Busy Summer!

Dr. Jane Erin, Dr. Penny Rosenblum, Dr. Irene Topor, Dr. Ian Stewart and Ms. Pam de Steiguer ~ University of AZ Faculty & Staff

It has been a busy summer at The University of Arizona! We continue to thrive as we carry out activities included in our state and federal grants. We appreciate the support of so many professionals in the state! A special THANK YOU to...

- * Miriam Podrazik, AZ Department of Education, who was able to find additional funds for next year's O&M students to offset tuition increases.
- * Doctoral students Lisa Serino, Cheryl Hannan, Beth Harris, Holly Lawson and Eric Sticken; Educational Specialist student Christina Schoch; and TVI Jeanna Mora Dowse, who served as Teaching Assistants this year.
- * The Foundation for Blind Children, especially Elaine Baldrige, for arranging a site for our Phoenix courses and helping to find placements for our practicum students in Phoenix.
- * Dr. Tami Levinson, for her supervision of practicum students in Phoenix (and she'll be taking a well-deserved break while awaiting the arrival of her second child!).
- * All of you who served as cooperating teachers and practicum supervisors for our students.

- * Northern Arizona courses: Under our Federal grant, Irene Topor is coordinating the work of our Native American students, which included a summer course in Methods in Teaching Visually Impaired Students held in both Tucson and Flagstaff.
- * Technology: We held two technology courses for pre-service students, one in Las Cruces, NM in collaboration with New Mexico State University and one at ASDB. Cheryl Hannan, UofA doctoral student, served as instructor of both courses. (Congratulations to Cheryl, who will be assuming a faculty position at California State at LA in January, 2007).
- * TVI certification: Our federal and state grants supported two summer courses on campus. Orientation & Mobility for Teachers was taught by Ian Stewart, assisted by doctoral student Beth Harris. Introduction to Visual Impairments & Deafblindness was taught by Penny Rosenblum, assisted by doctoral student Eric Sticken.
- * Orientation & Mobility: This summer six students will complete our first summer program under federal grant, and six students will complete the full-time program supported by state grants.
- * Professional/parent survey: Penny, Irene, Pam, and Jane are putting the finishing touches on our national survey of parents of visually impaired children who became professionals. We'll be presenting it at the AER conference in Snowbird. Thanks to all the Arizona parent-professionals who participated. We hope to have some results to report for the next newsletter, and we will be submitting an article to JVIB sometime in the near future. Best wishes for a relaxing summer and a good school year to come!

Many thanks!
AERizona View
appreciates Inge
Durre, Venetia
Hayden, Dorinda
Rife and Jane Erin
for contributing to
make our
newsletter an
ongoing success!

Kartar Kaur Khalsa
Editor
AERizona View
KartarK@cox.net

TO DO:

☞ *Mark your
calendars for
the AZ AER
Fall
Conference!
It's November
2-3, 2006!
We're headed
to the WHITE
MOUNTAINS!*

☞ *Submit your
paper now for
the Fall
Conference!*

☞ *Apply for an
AZ AER
Consumer
Grant on
behalf of a VI
student or
client! It's
yours for the
asking!*

AZ AER CLASSIFIED ADS



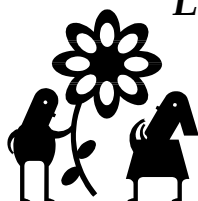
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION has positions open for Itinerant Rehabilitation Teachers and Orientation & Mobility Specialists working with blind and visually impaired adults. Requirements are: Master's Degree in each field or related, ACVREP Certification or certification eligibility. If you are interested in working in beautiful, sunny (!) Arizona, please contact: Joan Ellis at 602-266-9286 x7303 or email jellis@azdes.gov.

Set Your Sites

- <http://www.k12academics.com/> Nationally based Education & Disability Resource Center
- www.dancingdots.com Dancing Dots Music Software
- <http://www.tactilegraphics.org/> Information about tactile graphics.

People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered.

Love them anyway. Mother Theresa



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