Electronic Reading & Study Systems

What are Electronic Reading & Study Systems?
- Text to Speech Processors
- Features that Support Studying including Highlighting & Note-taking
- Built-in Scanning and Conversion Software

Purpose
- To provide auditory, visual & interactive accommodations to print based materials
- To support the use and development of study skills for reading comprehension

Features

- Platform (Mac/Win) & Memory Requirements
- Compatibility with Hardware Scanners
- Transparent or Dedicated

Functionality Version
- Scan & Read
- Read Only
- Single User
- Multiple User
- Color
- Black & White

Input Features
- Text Source input options (type in, built-in OCR, internet, text files, PDF files)
- Navigation between pages/documents (page turning, book marks)

Processing Features
- Highlighting (color options, listing/extraction, hierarchical)
- Create new file with highlights or bookmarks
- Word Prediction
- Outlining
- Word Features (Dictionary, Syllabication, Spelling, Thesaurus)

Annotation
- Text Notes (moveable, footnotes, built-in questions)
- Voice Notes

Test Accessibility
- Disable certain functions/options/buttons
- Automatically place fields on blanks, Create multiple choice/true and false markers

Output Features
- Visual Feedback (text highlighting while reading, color of text, size of text, formatting, background color, masking)
- Auditory Feedback (speed, voice options, language options, digitized sound)

Other Features:
- Ability for other languages
- Talking menus
- Voice recognition

Electronic Reading & Study Systems

Limitations of OCR Software
- If you can't read it the system can't
- Designed to recognize type not handwriting
- Carbon copies or copies of copies will not work well
- Faxes transmitted in standard resolution are hard to recognize

Format/Condition
- What format/condition is the information
  - »Textbook
  - »Handout
  - »Text file
  - »Mimeograph
  - »PDF file
  - »Extraneous markings or notes
  - »Graphics

Assessment - Feature Match

Student
- Needs
- Abilities
- Expectations of Environment

Technology
- Interface/Input
- Processing
- Output
- Properties

Abilities & Needs of the Student
- Motor
- Cognition
- Language/ Processing
- Sensory

Match to Product Features
- Visual Presentation Options
- Auditory Presentation Options
- Scanning Options
- Others: Study Skills, Writing

Web Resources:

- ASCD: Assoc.for Supervision & Curriculum Dev. www.ascd.org
- Center for Applied Special Technology   www.cast.org
- Center for Literacy and Disabilities Study   www.med.unc.edu/ahs/clds/
- Cliff Notes   www.cliffnotes.com
- Closing The Gap   www.closingthegap.com
- Computer-based Study Strategies   cbss.uoregon.edu
- Division for Learning Disabilities of CEC   www.TeachingLD.org
- Family Education   www.familyeducation.com
- Foundation for Critical Thinking   www.criticalthinking.org
- Guided Reading for Comprehension   www.thefourblocks.org
- International Society for Technology in Educ. www.iste.org
- LD OnLine   www.ldonline.org
- Makes Sense Strategies   www.GraphicOrganizers.com
- Sedita Learning Strategies   www.seditalearning.com
- Spark Notes   www.sparknotes.com
- Special Education Technology Practice   www.knowledgebydesign.org
- Tech 4 Learning   www.tech4learning.com

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Products/Companies

AspireReader – Aequus Technologies, Corp. www.aequustehnologies.com/learn

eClispeReader – Innovative Rehabilitiation Technology, Inc. www.eclipsereader.com

E-Text Reader – Premier Assistive Technology www.readingmadeeasy.com
Scan and Read Pro
Universal Reader Plus

ghPlayer – GH, LLC   www.gh-accessiblity.com

Kurzweil 3000 - Kurzweil Educational Systems, Inc. www.kurzweiledu.com

Read and Write Gold – TextHelp Systems, Inc. www.texthelp.com
WordSmith

Solo – Don Johnston Inc. www.donjohnston.com

WYNN – Freedom Scientific Learning Systems Group www.freedomScientific.com/lsg
TestTalker