Recommended Assistive Technologies

Below is a list of software, hardware and applications recommended by the Office of Student Life's Disability Services:

Mac OS X

- **Mac OS Dictation -** Use your voice instead of typing text. No setup or special training is required.
  - More information: http://support.apple.com/kb/HT5449
- **Mac OS Text-to-Speech -** Have your Mac speak text that's on the screen when you press a key or set of keys.
  - More information: http://support.apple.com/kb/PH14230
- **Read and Write Gold -** A literacy tool that provides text-to-speech and various reading, writing and research tools. Available for free for all OSU students, staff and faculty and all OSU OCIO-managed computingsites on campus (e.g., Thompson Library).
  - More information: http://www.texthelp.com/North-America/Our-products/Readwrite/features-mac
  - For instructions on how to get Texthelp's Read and Write Gold, please contact Student Life Disability Services at slds@osu.edu

PC (Windows)

- **Windows Speech Recognition -** Use your voice to control your computer. You can say commands that the computer will respond to, and you can dictate text to the computer.
  - More information: http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/set-speech-recognition#1TC=windows-7
- **Balabolka -** Render text on your screen to speech. Balabolka also allow you to create MP3's that be listened to on any MP3-capable device.
  - More information: http://www.cross-plus-a.com/balabolka.htm
- **Read and Write Gold -** A literacy tool that provides text-to-speech and various reading, writing and reading tools. Available for free for all OSU students, staff and faculty and all OSU OCIO-managed computing sites on campus (e.g., Thompson Library).
  - More information: http://www.texthelp.com/North-America/Our-products/Readwrite/features-mac
  - For instructions on how to get Texthelp's Read and Write Gold, please contact Student Life Disability Services at slds@osu.edu

Web/iOS/Android

- ○ **Virtual assistants -** Employ artificial intelligence to get questions answered, set reminders, organize tasks and find information quickly. Depending on your device, several virtual assistants are available for free.
  - ○ Siri: http://www.siriuserguide.com/how-to-use-siri/
  - ○ Google Now: http://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/how-to-use-google-now/
  - ○ Cortana: http://www.windowsphone.com/en-us/how-to/wp8/cortana/meet-cortana
- ○ **Text-To-Speech/eReaders -** Have text and electronic books (e.g., PDF, ePub) read aloud with highlighting.
  - ○ MoonReader: http://www.moondownload.com
  - ○ iBooks: https://www.apple.com/ibooks/
  - ○ iOS text-to-speech: http://iosguides.net/speak-selection-iphone-ipad/
  - ○ Android text-to-speech: https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1062965?hl=en
- ○ **Zotero -** Manage bibliographic/research data.
  - ○ More information: https://www.zotero.org
- ○ **Diigo -** Bookmark/tag/mark up websites.
  - ○ More information: https://www.diigo.com
- ○ **Mindomo -** Free, powerful mind mapping tool.
  - ○ More information: https://www.mindomo.com
- ○ **Dragon -** Voice-to-text transcription tool for transcription.
  - ○ More information: Search for "Dragon" in the iOS or Google app store
- ○ **EverNote -** a suite of software and services for note taking.
  - ○ More information: www.evernote.com
- ○ **Notability -** Provides handwriting support on your iOS device (does not require stylus, but is recommended).
  - ○ More information: http://www.gingerlabs.com

Misc. Services and Tools

- o **Cloud Storage -** Store data (e.g., documents, videos, pictures) in the cloud for free and access it from any device.
    - ○ Google Drive (requires Google account)
        - ○ More information: https://www.google.com/drive/
    - ○ Apple iCloud (requires AppleID)
        - ○ More information: http://www.apple.com/icloud/
    - ○ DropBox
        - ○ More information: www.dropbox.com
    - ○ SugarSync
        - ○ More information: www.sugarsync.com
- o **Computational Knowledge Engines -** Use a sophisticated knowledge engine to answer user queries.
    - o WolframAlpha: http://www.wolframalpha.com/
- o **Massive open online courses (MOOC) -** Take courses for free.
    - ○ Coursera: https://www.coursera.org
    - ○ edX: http://www.edx.org
    - ○ MIT OpenCourseWare: http://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm
- o **Livescribe Smartpen (Echo, 3) -** Capture everything you hear and synchronize it with you write.
    - ○ More information: http://www.livescribe.com/en-us/
    - ○ Comparison of smartpen types: http://www.livescribe.com/en-us/media/pdf/ls_smartpens_comparison_chart.pdf
- o **Miscellaneous utilities**
    - ○ Online graphing calculator: https://www.desmos.com/calculator
    - ○ Citation Machine: http://www.citationmachine.net