

Alternate Format Materials and Assistive Technology

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Development

Assistive Technology (AT)

Equipment that

- **Helps provide and/or improve access to learning for students with exceptionalities**
 - Devices (Computers, Tablets, Laptops)
 - Software & extensions (Text-to-Voice, Voice-to-Text, Word Prediction, Spell Check, Dictionary etc.)

Alternate Format Materials (AFM)

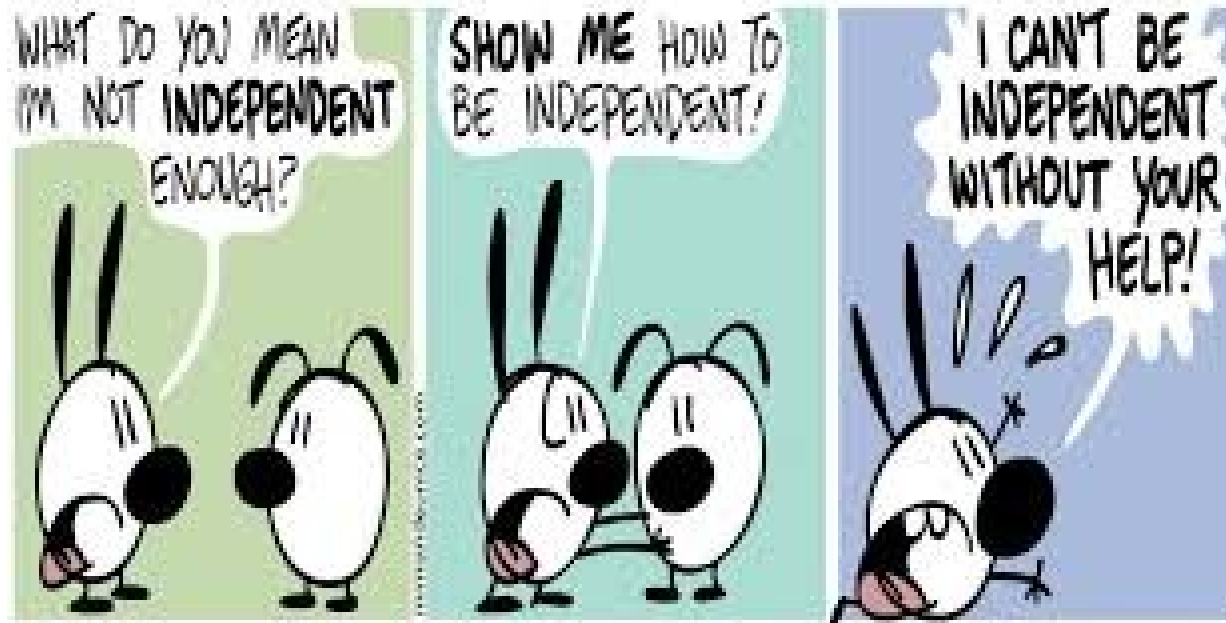
Learning resources in formats that

- **Help provide and/or improve access to learning for students with exceptionalities**
 - Are protected by copyright law
 - Are specifically created to meet the needs of individuals with print disabilities.



AFM & AT

Creating Independent Learners



Alternate Format Materials

Section 32 of Canadian Copyright Act allows individuals with a print disability or persons acting on their behalf, access to works protected by copyright in accessible formats such as braille, audio, and electronic text.

- Not permitted if the resource is already commercially available in an appropriate format.



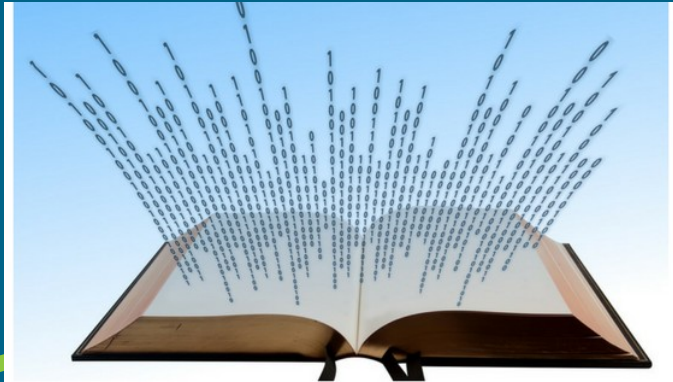
Print Disabilities

A print disability interferes with a person's ability to read traditional print materials & includes disabilities/exceptionalities which result in:

- Visual impairments
- The inability to hold or manipulate a book
- Impairments in reading comprehension



What are Alternate Formats?



- Accessible formats such as
 - Digital Audio
 - DAISY
 - Digital text files such as accessible PDF, accessible Word and accessible E-Pub

Digital Audio



Includes audiobooks, MP3 files, and DAISY MP3 files

- Many are commercially available and readily available in libraries, schools, homes for access **by any student**
- Students with print disabilities also have access to wide selection of these resources that are not commercially available but have been specifically created for

DAISY



- Digital Accessible Information System or DAISY Books
 - ◆ Are digital audio books with advanced navigational aids
 - ◆ Allow readers to easily move around book by page, chapter or sentence
 - ◆ Like other digital audio resources, they can be used on computers, mobile phones, tablets and MP3 players

Accessible Digital Text Files

- ❖ Are similar to E-books but are unlocked and tagged to allow use with text to voice software
- ❖ Many contain navigational aids to help users move easily from page to page or section to section
- ❖ Come in formats such as PDF, Word & E-Pub

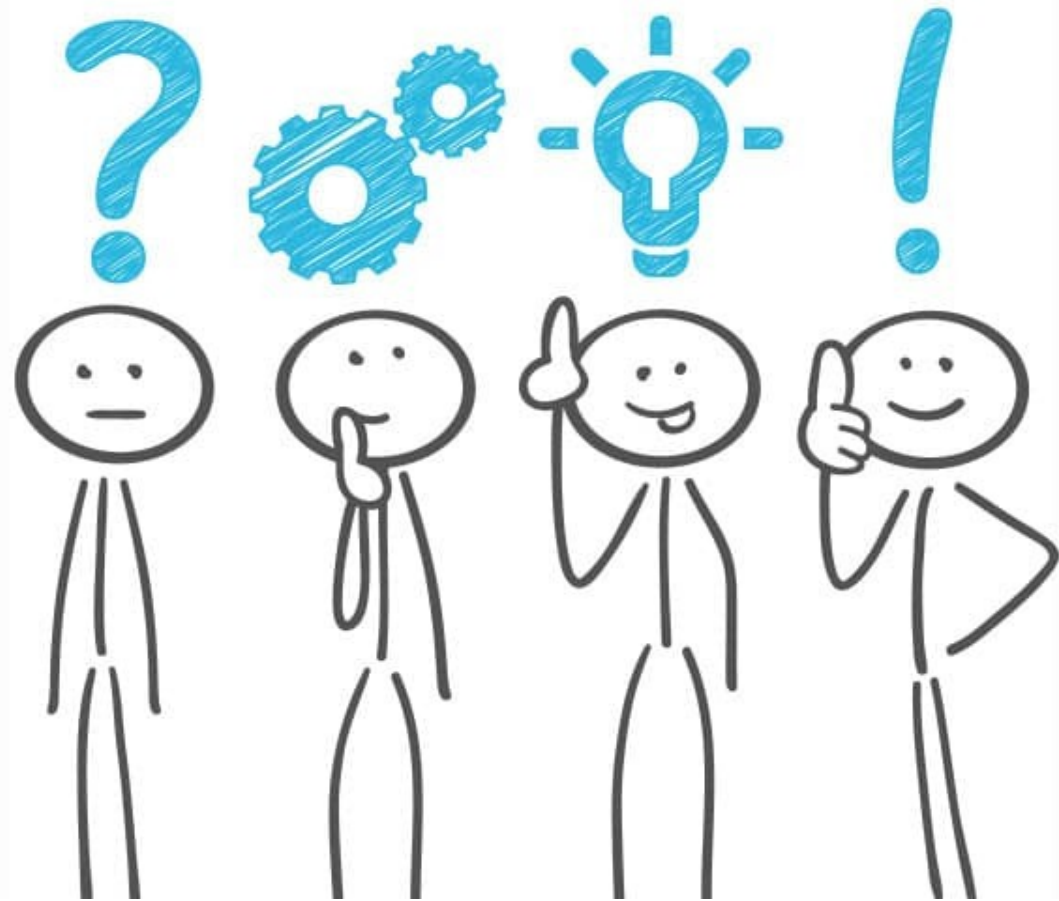


New Kid on the Block



Accessible E-Pub

- Newer format which contain many accessibility features such as advanced navigational aids.
- E-Pub files are starting to replace DAISY as a preferred format for AFM.
- Like DAISY, they require playback software which can be acquired for free



Access to Assistive Technology & Alternate Format Materials

Provincial Gov't (EECD)

Sch

Community Groups

Publ

National Libraries



Working Together

- ★ Collaborating
- ★ Providing Resources
- ★ Enabling Access
- ★ Empowering Students, Teachers and Parents
- ★ Problem Solving
- ★ Identifying and Attempting to Fill Gaps

CHOICE

Library

COPYRIGHT

Collections

Online

Resources

Reading

ACCESS

AFM-NL

Exceptionality

AWARENESS

VARIETY

NNELS

CELA

What Assistive Technology Is Available to Students in K-12 from EECD?

RWG

EquatiO

Kurzweil

Dragon

WordQ SpeakQ

Surface Devices

Chromebook

ProBooks

Access to Professional Learning

What's Involved?

- ❖ Program Planning Team determines need
- ❖ Investigate, experiment & problem solve at school level
- ❖ Request resources/equipment
- ❖ Develop implementation plan
- ❖ Continued collaboration

What Alternate Format Materials Are Available to Students in K-12?

- Alternate Format Materials Library, Government of NL (AFM-NL)
- National Alternate Format Materials Libraries

Resources Available to Students All Students in K-12


Universal Design for Learning

- Curriculum resources
- Resources provided by school and district
- Library resources





AFM-NL

- Alternate format materials library managed by the EECD
- Provides AFM to NL students unable to use traditional print material
- Anyone can browse content listing to search for AFM resources
- Approved students are  access to resources

<https://cmaf.gov.nl.ca>

Access to AFM-NL

Schools apply to AFM-NL for student access

- Initial application
- Each year - Request to continue access
- Teachers provide approved students access to AFM-NL resources
- Teachers can request resources currently not available

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/eecd/forms/studentsupport/applications>

Promoting Access and Choice

Additional resources can be made available to students throughout the school year

- ❖ Teachers encouraged to collaborate with other teachers, student and parents/guardians throughout the school year
- ❖ Students & parents/guardians encouraged to communicate with teachers throughout school year to request resources

Student Access to Resources

- Login to AFM-NL to access resources
 - <https://cmaf.gov.nl.ca>
- Folder on AT device
- Flash Drive
- Google Classroom
- Access to AT and AFM wherever required



Accessing AFM Resources Involves

Applying for access to AFM-NL

Enabling access to resources

- ❖ Identifying resources required
- ❖ Accessing resources from AFM-NL
- ❖ Adding resources throughout school year
- ❖ Requesting any & all resources required/desired
- ❖ Helping student use resources



How do you read?



There are so many ways to read a book.

Traditional print not an option for you or someone you know? Talk to your librarian about accessible formats.



Educator Access from CELA Connect students with print disabilities to great books

If you are a Canadian Educator supporting students with print disabilities such as vision loss or learning disabilities, you can receive free access to an entire library of professionally produced reading materials for your students through the CELA Educator Access Program. CELA will help you level the playing field in the classroom for your students with print disabilities

What can CELA offer you and your students?

- 450,000+ accessible books in audio, braille or accessible e-book formats.
- Books for reading levels K-12.
- Award winners, best sellers and classroom favourites for kids and teens.
- Academic and leisure reading for post-secondary students.
- Free Bookshare organizational account for your school.
- Free DAISY direct to player apps for iOS or Android devices.
- Professional development resources for teachers about CELA, Bookshare and accessible reading technologies.

"Other kids have lots of choices in their reading material, and CELA gave my student with print disabilities that same type of selection. Choice made a huge difference in her reading."

Resource Teacher Antonia Del Monaco

CELA

<https://celalibrary.ca/>

<https://celalibrary.ca/educators>

- ❖ Anyone can browse content listings
- ❖ Access to login and download resources - Print Disability & Public library card required
- ❖ Educator access
- ❖ Access to CELA resources through AFM-NL

NNELS

<https://nnels.ca/>

<https://nnels.ca/help/download>

- ❖ Anyone can browse content listings
- ❖ Access to NNELS resources through AFM-NL
- ❖ Educator access - Contact Anna Powell
(annapowell@gov.nl.ca) .

Choice of Reading Materials

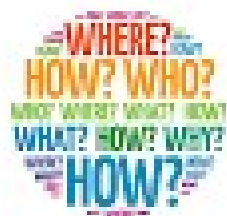
Other students have access to a wide variety of reading materials. Help provide students with print disabilities access to the same variety of reading selections!



Start where
you are.
Use what
you have.
Do what
you can.

- Arthur Ashe





- Thank you for your attention!

