

# Definitions

**Assistive Technology:** an umbrella term that includes assistive, adaptive, and rehabilitative devices for people with disabilities. AT promotes greater independence by using technology to enable people to perform tasks that they were formerly unable to accomplish, or had great difficulty accomplishing.

**Adaptive Technology:** an object or system that is specifically designed to increase or maintain the capabilities of people with disabilities.

**Discovering Assistive Technology** is an online tutorial brought to you by the California School Library Association, its Foundation, and TransAccess.

TransAccess is a community-based organization that provides persons with disabilities access to computer adaptive technology and career transition services so that they can achieve their desired education and employment, and improve their quality of life.

The California School Library Association and Foundation advocate, educate, and collaborate to ensure that all California students and educators are effective users of ideas and information.

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## Modules

- #1 **Types of Disabilities & Accommodations**
- #2 **Hardware Solutions**
- #3 **Software Solutions**
- #4 **Etiquette & Awareness**
- #5 **Curriculum Connections & Recommended Reading**



# DISCOVERING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

ACCESSIBILITY SOLUTIONS

*an online  
tutorial for students,  
teachers and parents*

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# Assistive Technology Who Needs It?

## WHO

You, and anybody with a disability that you can help

## WHAT

By doing anything related to computer-assisted technology

## WHEN

Anytime. People can always use help! This outlines the many kinds of devices, software, specialized organizations and stories related to persons with disabilities and the technology that makes life easier.

## WHERE

There are lots of resources introduced in this online tutorial. It's available to individuals across the world, thanks to the Internet.

## WHY

You need help, I need help, we all need help at one time or another. This tutorial empowers us all to help one another through advances in technology.



## Want to hear a good story?

Here are a few new good books that feature characters with a disability. Think about how assistive technology have — or could have — made life easier or different for these characters.

### **The Fault in our Stars**

by John Green. 2012. Grades 11 and above

Despite a tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, 16-year old cancer survivor Hazel has never been anything but terminal. One afternoon, high school basketball star Augustus Waters appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, and Hazel's story gets completely re-written.

### **Out of My Mind**

by Sharon M. Draper. 2010. Grades 6 and above

Eleven-year-old Melody is the smartest kid in her school, but no one knows it because her cerebral palsy makes her body jerk wildly and keeps her from communicating. Most people, including her doctors and teachers, think she cannot learn. Having her mind hidden is making Melody go "out of her mind" until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time in her life. But not everyone is ready to hear what she has to say.

### **The Junkyard Wonders**

by Patricia Palacco. 2010. Grades 2-5

Based on true events, this story celebrates the extraordinary influence a teacher can have on students. Trisha enters a new school and is assigned a class known as the junkyard. Fortunately, the teacher doesn't allow her students to feel like misfits, divides her "Junkyard Wonders" into tribes, takes them on a field trip to the local junkyard and has students work on a science fair project made from objects collected at the junkyard.

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