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ATIC Mission

The IS&T Assistive Technology Information Center helps MIT students and staff with their information technology needs. Our mission is to match individuals with technology solutions that facilitate independent study and work at MIT. Because each individual has a unique set of skills and preferences, ATIC customers play an active role in selecting technology and solutions.

As part of the IS&T Customer Support Accessibility and Usability Team, ATIC also advocates for users in the design and development of IT products and services. **Products that have accessibility built in** reach the widest audience, interact well with assistive technologies, and minimize time and money spent to support them.

Making MIT Academic Courses Accessible

ATIC works with faculty and staff to make course materials accessible to all students, which includes:

- Training staff in how to publish accessible PDF
- Requesting accessible books from publishers
- Converting materials using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software from image to text
- Braille embossing

In Spring 2011, ATIC converted over 250 materials, delivering a total of 500 individual articles, books, problem-sets or lecture notes in various formats.

Student Computing Lab

The ATIC "Lab" was formed in 1992 to provide specialized equipment for MIT students with disabilities. Now in Room 7-143, the facility is open 24/7 for student users who are approved by Student Disability Services. Equipment includes:

- 4 scanners
- 1 Braille embosser
- 1 Video Magnifier
- 8 desktop computers (6 Windows, 1 Macintosh, 1 DebAthena)
- 25+ assistive software applications

Example of Assistive Technology

An assistive technology assists a user with a disability or temporary injury in completing a **task** not easily performed with mainstream resources or tools. This grid provides some examples of assistive technologies ATIC can demonstrate to anyone at MIT. It is not a comprehensive list.

Task	Disability	Possible Assistive Technology solution
Reading Written Materials	Dyslexia	Scanning and Reading software: Kurzweil 3000
	Visual Impairment	Scanning and Reading software: Kurzweil 1000
Typing on a keyboard or Using a mouse	Repetitive Strain Injury	Alternative Keyboard: Kinesis Alternative Pointing Device: Trackball
	Physical Impairment	Speech Recognition software: Dragon
Reading a Computer Display	Visual Impairment	Screen Magnification: ZoomText
	Blindness	Screen Reading software: JAWS



Ergonomic Computing

ATIC houses a large inventory of *alternative keyboards and pointing devices* for MIT staff and students to try out and borrow. This prevents Repetitive Strain Injuries and reduces equipment costs at MIT. EHS and Medical regularly refer individuals to ATIC for this program.