AMAC: Accommodations Made Easier

Presented by: Joe Tedesco, M.Ed. ,ATP
Alternative Media Access Center
at Georgia Tech

Themes / Topics

- **OMG! I have the student who has a print disability....what do I do with them?**

- **What are books in alternative format and what format options are available?**

- **Okay, so now I have my text in alternative format, what do I do with it?**

- **Services available through AMAC**

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AMAC; Accommodations Made Easier

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Alternative Media Accommodations: Ingredients for Success

Alt Formats

Technical Equipment

Trained Staff

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OMG! I have the student who has a print disability....what do I do with them?

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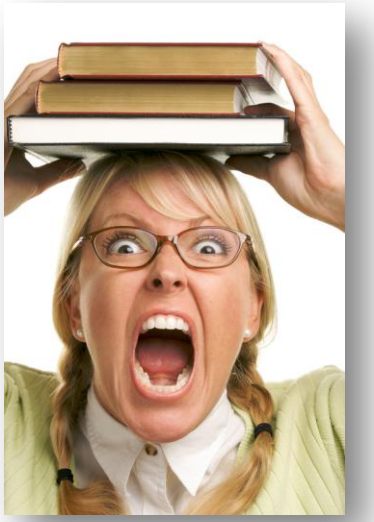

- Students with Qualified Print Related Disabilities
  - Qualified
  - Print Related Disabilities

- Explain the accommodation and the students responsibilities.
- Determine Format(s)
- Produce, order or acquire formatted text.

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Print Related Disabilities

A print disability can be a learning disability, a visual impairment or a physical disability. Although the manners in which the disability occurs are very different, they all share one characteristic: individuals diagnosed with a print disability cannot access print in the standard way.

(http://www.learningthroughlistening.org)

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Print Related Disabilities

AMAC Working Definition:
Students may need alternate formats for their original text files if they:

- Are blind or have visual impairment
- Have difficulty holding a book or turning pages
- Have a learning disability
- Have difficulty visually processing text
- Or have any other difficulty interacting with printed text

OMG! I have the student who has a print disability....what do I do with them?

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‘Qualified’

AMAC uses the National AHEAD 7 Essential for Documentation:

- The credentials of the evaluator(s)
- A diagnostic statement identifying the disability
- A description of the diagnostic methodology used
- A description of the current functional limitations [requiring alternative media and/or assistive technologies to access print]
- A description of the expected progression or stability of the disability
- A description of the current and past accommodations, services and/or medications
- Recommendations for accommodations, adaptive devices, assistive services, compensatory strategies, and/or items support services

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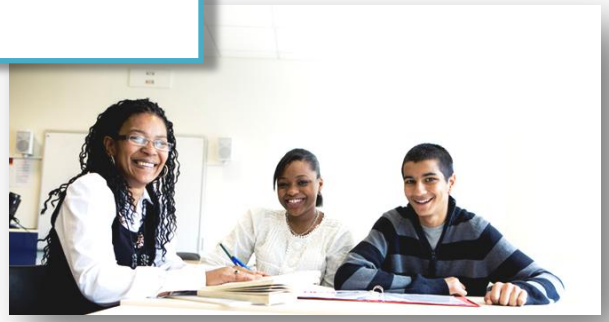
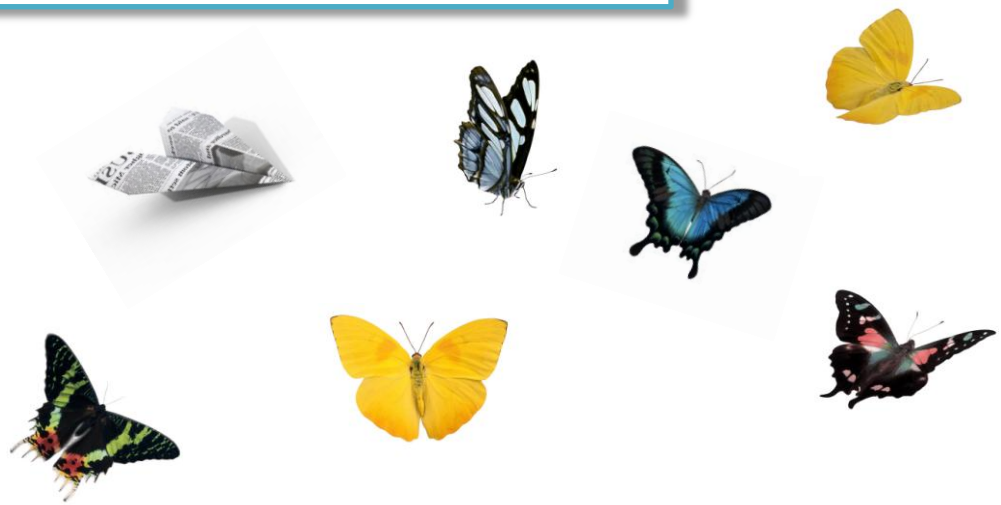
Explain the accommodation and the students responsibilities.



Determine Format(s):
AMAC Screening Tool



OMG! I have the student who has a print disability....what do I do with them?

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Produce, order or acquire formatted text.

DIY: Chop & Scan (video)

Publisher Requests

AccessTextNetwork
Improving College Textbook Accessibility

Alternative Media Producers

Alternative Media Service Providers

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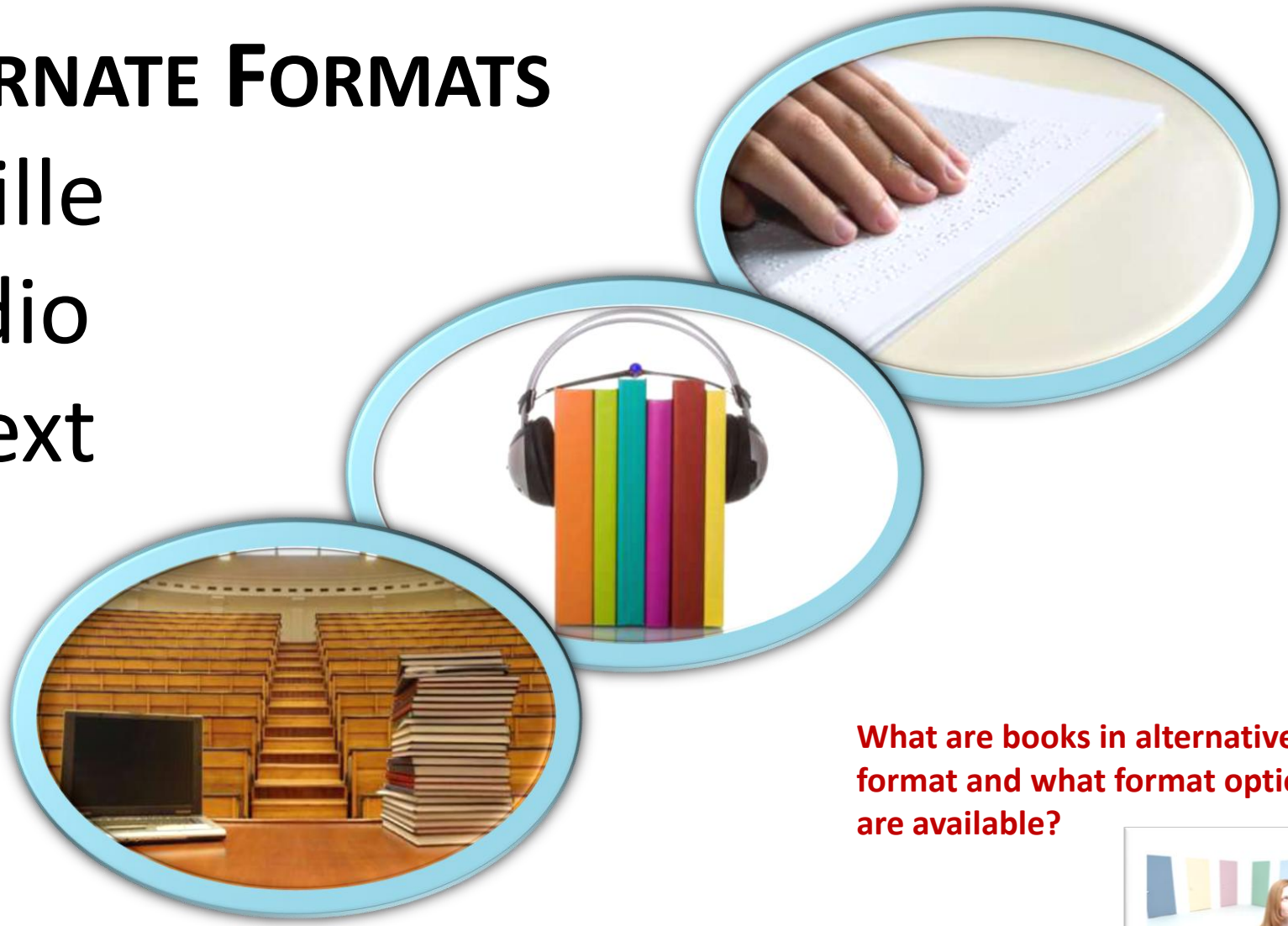
What are books in alternative format and what format options are available?

Alternate Formats

- Braille
- Audio
- E-Text



What are books in alternative format and what format options are available?

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ALTERNATE FORMATS

- Braille
  - Embossed or Electronic
  - Varying kinds/considerations of braille
    - Math ML / Nemeth: Equations
    - Tactile Graphic: by hand, embossed
    - Non-English
    - Subject matter expertise

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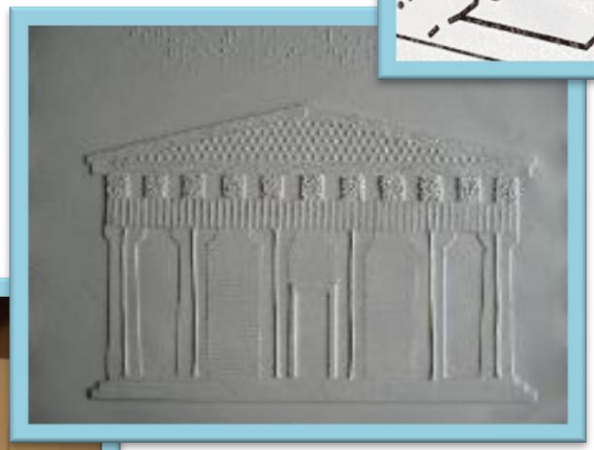

What are books in alternative format and what format options are available?

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ALTERNATE FORMATS

- Audio:
  - Human Recorded
  - Electronic Recorded

Examples:

Daisy, MP3, WAV

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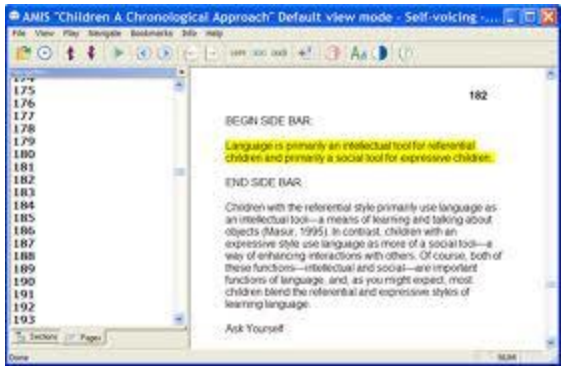

What are books in alternative format and what format options are available?

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ALTERNATE FORMATS

- Publisher Files, Basic Scan, OCR & Standardization (Tags, Alt Text , Pagination, etc.)

- E-Text

Examples:
PDF, DOC, RTF, Daisy, HTML

Features

- Text that can be displayed on a computer or electronic device
- Text may be saved on external storage devices (flash drive or CD)
- Computer uses software to “read” e-text out loud
- Uses software to aid in taking notes, reading, and highlighting text on the screen

What are books in alternative format and what format options are available?

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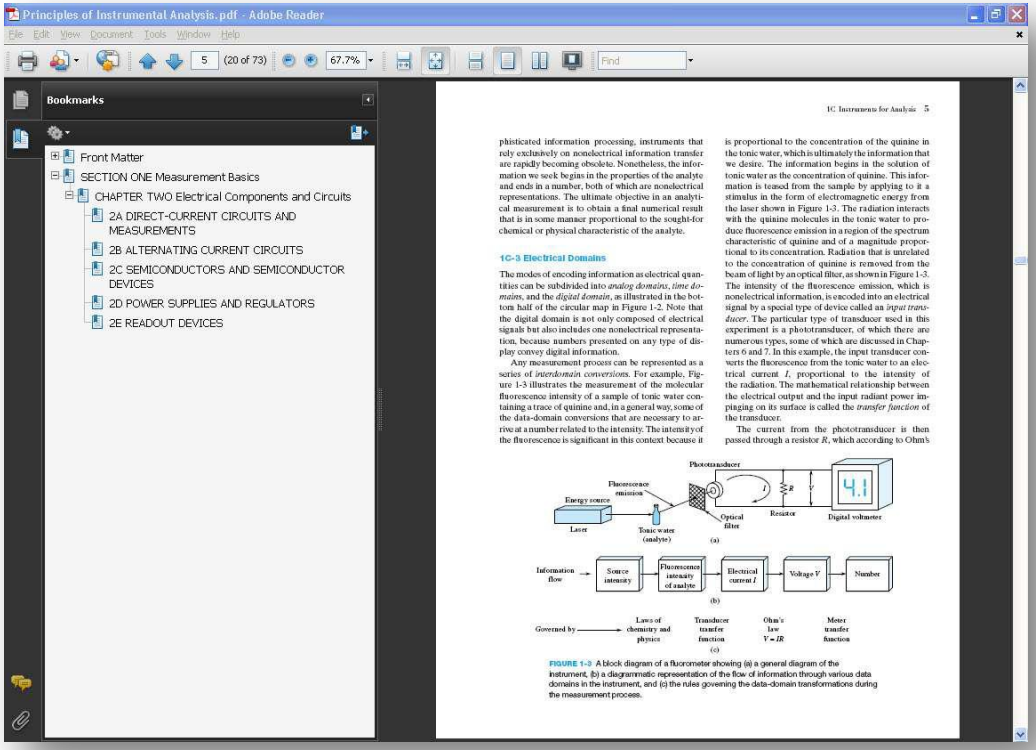
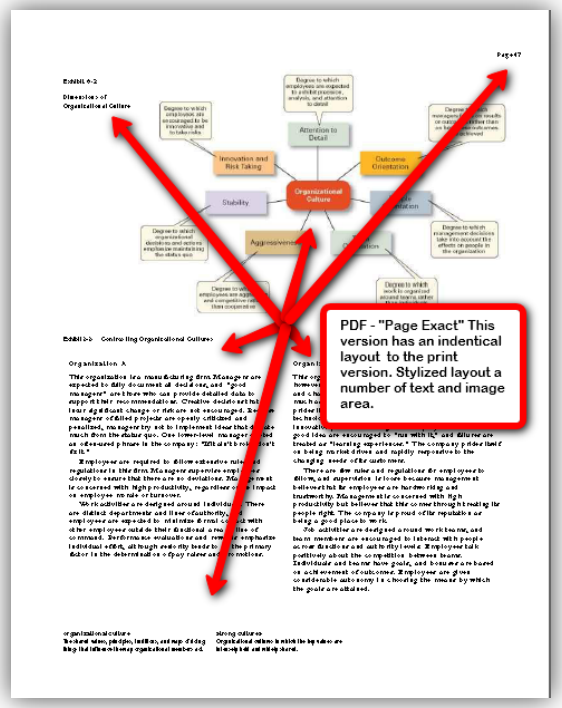
PDF

- Page Exact: Retains the layout of the page





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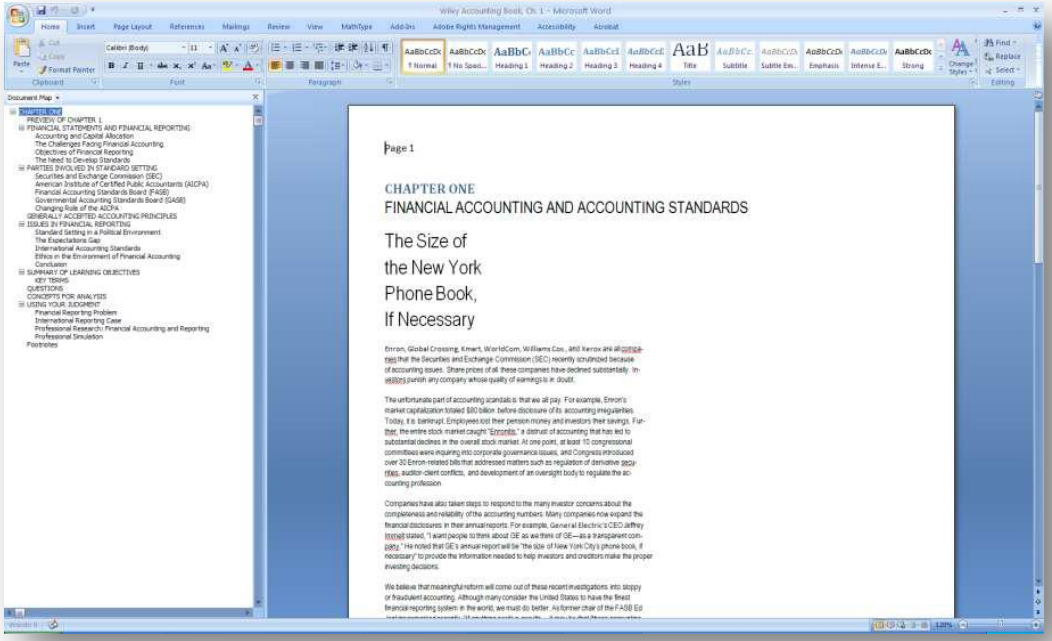
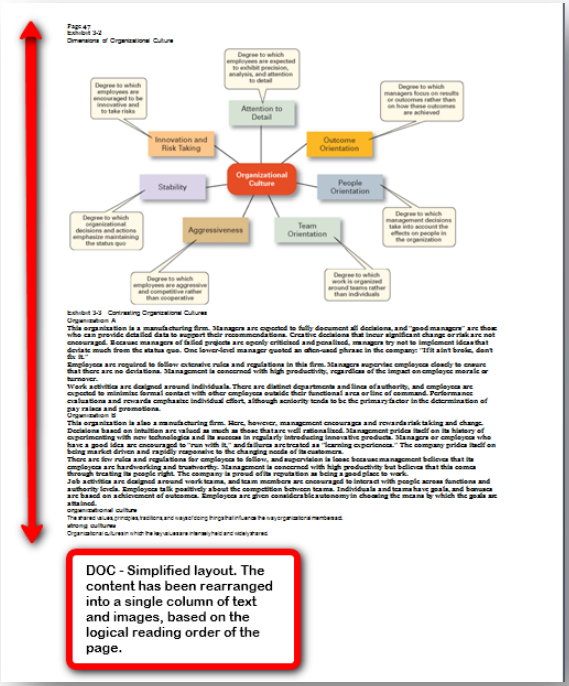
DOC

- Similar to .txt and .rtf
- Opens in standard word processing programs
- AMAC DOC: Single column based on reading order.





DOC - Simplified layout. The content has been rearranged into a single column of text and images, based on the logical reading order of the page.

What are books in alternative format and what format options are available?

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Okay, so now I have my text in alternative format, what do I do with it?

File Management

Storage

Delivery

Security

Okay, so now I have my text in alternative format, what do I do with it?

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File Use

Assistive Technology

Training

Support

Okay, so now I have my text in alternative format, what do I do with it?

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Assistive Technology

READ IT!

- Text-to-Speech
- Screen Readers
- Magnify

Mark It Up!

- Highlight
- Bookmark

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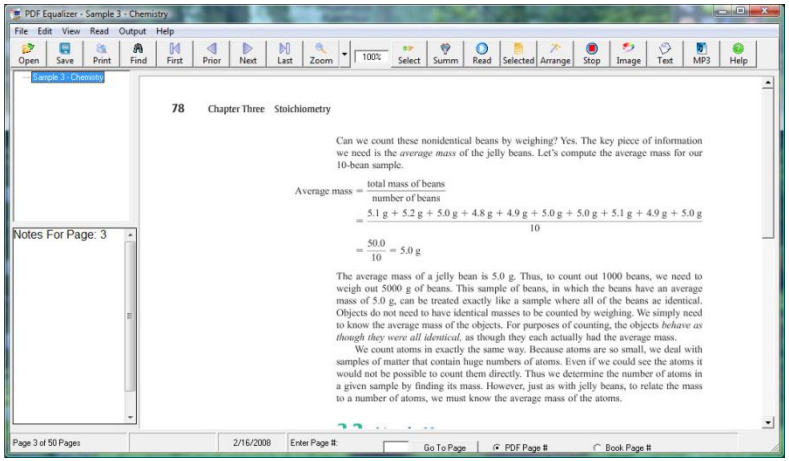
Assistive Technology

Types of E-Text Readers

- Stand Alone Apps
- Toolbar Style
- Embedded

Either Way…

Get the student started!



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Georgia and Beyond!
Services available through AMAC

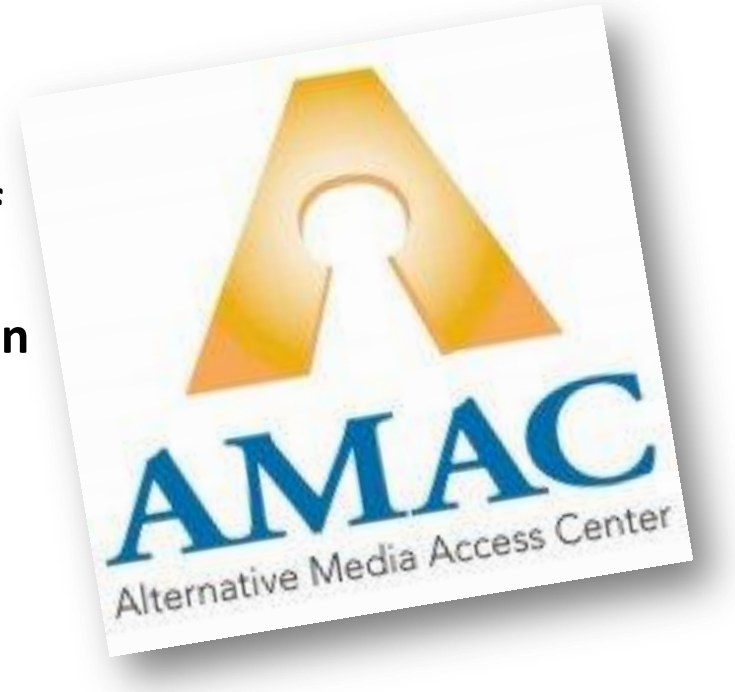
Brief History….

AMAC: a GA BOR Project

- Save $
- Standard Need / Accommodation
- Produce Alt Text / Reuse / Compliance
- Revealed more needs…
  - Technical Support
  - Training
  - Assistive Technology

Brief History….con't

- **Tech and Private Schools**
- **AAP – National Project / Exposure**
- **AMAC National**
- **AMAC – Leverage the buying power of members to make available more accommodation services and drive down cost.**



Alternative Media Access Center

is committed to removing barriers and providing access to knowledge for individuals with physical, sensory, and learning print-related disabilities.

We offer postsecondary institutions a vehicle to serve and lower costs through leveraging centralized institutional accommodation resources.

Alternative Media Accommodations

Alternative Media Service Provider

Membership Organization

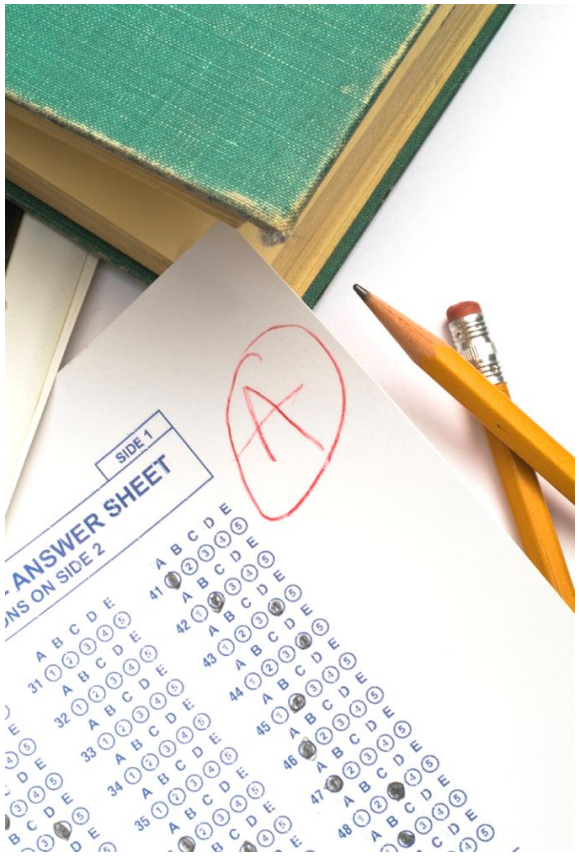
- **Post-Secondary Schools**
- **Disability Service Offices**
- **Compliance**

AMP: Alternative Media Producer

- **Order, Secure, Track, Deliver**

Alt Media Services

- **Assistive Technology Distribution**
- **Training Support**
- **Technical Assistance / Support**



Services available through AMAC

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Alternative Media Service Provider

Deaf & HH Services (2012)

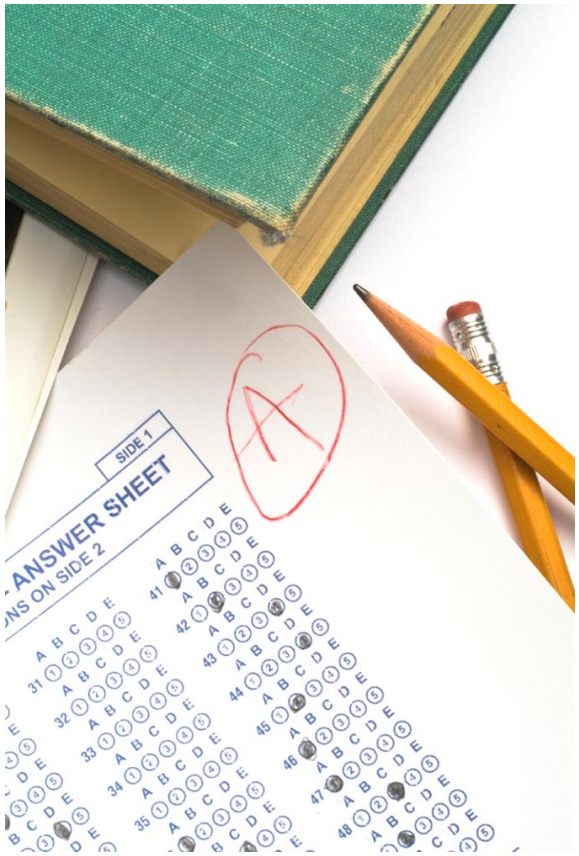
- **Captioned Media**
- **Remote Captioning**

AT Co-Op (GA)

- **Assistive Technology bulk purchase program**

Learning and Development

- **Development of programs and services to promote; Student Success!**



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Annual Membership Summary

1) Basic:

- **No annual fee. Pay the full / regular cost of alt media production**

<u>DOES NOT</u> include:

- **Publisher request services**
- **Access to national repositories**
- **Member ordering, tracking and reporting applications (NEON)**
- **Compliance Forms (Student , DSS)**
- **A reduced cost for braille**
- **Compliance forms**
- **Student textbook delivery center**
- **Assistive Technology**
- **Training (some)**
- **Technical Support (some)**

Services available through AMAC

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Annual Membership Summary

2) Premium:

- **Flat annual fee based on total student enrollment. Fee recoverable over the year in alt media services**

3) Deluxe:

- **$1,500.00 annually + the Cost of Production**

The annual membership fee covers:

- **Publisher request services**
- **Access to national repositories**
- **Member ordering, tracking and reporting applications (NEON)**
- **Compliance Forms (Student , DSS)**
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THANK YOU!

Questions