eReaders and Tablet Computers — Patron Access and Protection *(6/13)*

Entities receiving federal funds are obligated, under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to provide an equal opportunity to individuals with disabilities to participate in, and receive the benefits of, the educational program, and to provide accommodations or modifications when necessary to ensure equal treatment.

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) also requires particular entities to filter content accessed via any Internet-accessible device, including e-readers and tablet computers.

Specific to the competitive grant programs of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, entities wanting to purchase e-readers or tablet computers must provide a device that is accessible to patrons and students who have visual, cognitive, mobility, and hearing disabilities. They must also put into place mechanisms to filter content accessed on the Internet by those devices.

Patron Access

Selection

Ideally, libraries should purchase accessible e-book readers at the outset. However, if you are purchasing devices that are not accessible, you must also purchase accessible e-book readers to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities. Purchases must be *in sufficient numbers* to loan them to patrons with visual impairments under the same terms and conditions as the library provides the e-book readers to sighted patrons. In the cases where devices will be used to train patrons on their use but not loaned, the devices will still need to be accessible in order for the library to provide equal services. TSLAC staff will be happy to help you determine the number of accessible e-readers you need in relation to number of other readers available to the public.

Accessibility

Each reader has different accessibility options. While no e-reader has all of the features that would make it 100 percent accessible, some do better than others. At the very least, a device should have text-to-speech (TTS) functionality, preferably for device navigation and operation as well as content. TTS applications are available for download on many devices; and some devices require publisher permission for TTS functionality with certain content.

Accessibility of Popular Devices for Individuals with Visual Disabilities

Reasonably accessible	Somewhat accessible	Not accessible
iPad/iPhone/iPod touch (Nook and Kindle apps are available)	Kindle Keyboard/3; Kindle Touch*; Kindle DX* **if publisher allows*	Nook (all); Sony eReader; Kindle Fire —TTS apps are available for many

Source: Diagram Center, "Product Matrices – Complete, e-book Hardware," http://diagramcenter.org/research/product-matrices-complete.html#eb_hardware, October 17, 2012.

Opportunity
We encourage libraries to incorporate the following technology "best practices" into their programs:

- Build an accessible program from the outset:
    - Make accessibility a key program criterion.
    - Ask specific questions of vendors, and have vendors demonstrate and document their responses.
- Periodically assess community needs, including through surveys and outreach.
- Provide all library users (including individuals with disabilities) with the opportunity to access the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services and experiences with substantially equivalent ease of use.

Patron Protection

Internet connectivity and CIPA
Public libraries and schools purchasing tablet computers and e-readers that are capable of accessing the Internet must comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). This requires the ability to filter content accessed on the library's network, and should also be considered when devices are allowed to connect to other networks "off-campus." This may require filters to be placed directly onto all Internet-capable devices and/or the administrative rights to be disabled on each device.

Additional resources

Accessibility

- Accessibility of ebook readers http://lib.colostate.edu/publicwiki/images/4/42/2011-02-07_FINAL_Report_--_Accessiblity_of_eBook_Readers.pdf
- Frequently Asked Questions about the June 29, 2010, Dear Colleague Letter [on access to electronic book readers] http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-ebook-faq-201105.pdf
- Hardware accessibility matrix http://diagramcenter.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=24&Itemid=28#eb_hardware
- Making ebooks accessible http://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/e-content/making-ebooks-accessible
- Supplemental: Accessibility Issues in e-books and e-book readers http://wac.osu.edu/ebook-access-overview/

CIPA

- Children's Internet Protection Act Fact Sheet for Public Libraries https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/consulting/tech/cipa.html
- Filters & Filtering https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/pubs/filters/filtering.html
- FCC consumer Guide to CIPA http://transition.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.pdf