



DISABILITY RESOURCE DIGEST

Volume 5 Issue 7 July-August 2005

CONTENTS

FOCUSSED COVERAGE

<u>ADA'S 15 ANNIVERSARY</u>	Page 2
-----------------------------------	--------

SELECTED TOPICS

<u>ACCESSIBILITY</u>	Page 4
<u>ADVOCACY</u>	Page 6
<u>EMPLOYMENT</u>	Page 7
<u>ENVIRONMENT</u>	Page 8
<u>ETHICS</u>	Page 9
<u>GENERAL INTEREST</u>	Page 9
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	Page 11
<u>HEALTH</u>	Page 13
<u>HIGHER EDUCATION</u>	Page 13
<u>LEGAL</u>	Page 14
<u>MEDICAL</u>	Page 14
<u>MEDIA</u>	Page 16
<u>POLICY/RESEARCH</u>	Page 17
<u>REHABILITATION</u>	Page 18
<u>SELF HELP</u>	Page 18
<u>TECHNOLOGY</u>	Page 19
<u>CONFERENCES</u>	Page 20

The Disability Resource Digest (DRD) is a special project of SMD Alliance. SMD Alliance is based in Manitoba, Canada and provides strategic vision and policy direction to four SMD corporations: SMD Clearinghouse; SMD Foundation; SMD Ventures; and SMD Services.

The vision shared among the corporations is of a "community that supports the independence, participation, and empowerment of persons of all abilities." Each SMD corporation pursues a complementary mandate in working toward this vision.

The DRD is prepared primarily as an informational resource for consumers, professionals and publics interested in remaining current in disability related issues. An archive of past editions of the DRD is maintained on SMD's web site (<http://www.smd.mb.ca>).

Published monthly (with a single summer edition for July and August), the DRD presents summaries of, and URL addresses for, notable disability-related content on the world-wide web (WWW). The DRD focuses on recently posted content but also includes coverage of other web pages of interest. The URL addresses cited in the DRD are current at the time of publication. But as those posting content on the web often revise URL addresses, the addresses in the DRD may not remain current.

The DRD is prepared for SMD Alliance by The Project Group (TPG) Consulting Cooperative Ltd., a Winnipeg-based consulting firm. Neither SMD nor TPG are responsible for the accuracy or reliability of the content cited in the DRD.

Readers interested in learning more about SMD Alliance are invited to visit: <http://www.smd.mb.ca> or to contact the agency by e-mail at info@smd.ca. Readers are also invited to send comments and suggestions regarding the DRD to this same e-mail address.

ADA's 15TH ANNIVERSARY

15th Anniversary of the American's with Disabilities Act - The ADA Home page focuses on the ADA's 15th Anniversary with a look at:

- [Project Civic Access Agreements](#)
- [Reaching Out to Customers with Disabilities](#) -- an online ADA course for businesses
- [ADA Status Reports](#)
- [Disability Rights Online News](#)
- [Signing of the ADA, July 26, 1990](#) (accessible streaming video)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm>

The ADA Celebrates 15 Years! - (*Disability Law Resource Project*). "On July 26th, the Americans with Disabilities Act will celebrate 15 years since being signed into law. 15 years ago people with disabilities had difficulty participating fully within society, today they have gained and/or retained employment, buildings and shopping centers are accessible, communication barriers have been resolved, and so much more. To commemorate the anniversary, this Web site has been developed by the Disability Law Resource Project to post celebration events happening around the nation, provide you with fun [ADA facts](#), provide a forum for you to share your story of how the ADA has/has not impacted your life, as well as a place to [test your knowledge of the ADA](#)."

<http://www.dlrp.org/html/whatsnew/ada15.html>

Americans With Disabilities Act: A job not done (yet) - by Jim McKay (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*). "In the 15 years since the Americans With Disabilities Act was signed into law, there have been major improvements in making public places and services more accessible to people who live with physical impairments. A group of people sit in their wheelchairs in front of the Capitol building in Washington on March 12, 1990, to show support for a bill that became the Americans with Disabilities Act. The law, intended to ensure equal rights for the disabled, has brought a host of changes in workplaces, transportation, communication and other areas. Companies must make reasonable attempts to accommodate workers with physical impairments, while buildings, transportation and other public facilities must be accessible to all. But even as the ADA is slowly driving changes enabling more people with significant mental and physical disabilities to live independently, the effects of exclusion are still felt, particularly in employment. That's because the ADA, which became law on July 26, 1990, is a significant yet imperfect piece of legislation, Mary A. Crossley, the new dean at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, said yesterday."

<http://www.aapd.com/News/adainthe/adayet.html>

Disabilities Act Marks 15th Anniversary - (*NPR*). "Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act 15 years ago, and it has since had a profound impact on the public's attitude toward people with disabilities. It's also playing a key role in the lives of wounded soldiers returning from Iraq. Joseph Shapiro and Steve Inskeep discuss the ADA." (audio interview)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4770936>

The Disability Rights Concert with Bruce Hornsby and Friends - "Comcast is televising their coverage of the Disability Rights Concert which celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and benefited ADA Watch and the National Coalition for Disability Rights. This event kicked off a series of ADA 15 events that included DREDF (also celebrating their 25th anniversary), National Disability Rights Network (formaly NAPAS), NCD, AAPD, National Organization on Disability and others. This segment features photos by Tom Olin, music and statements by Grammy Award winners Bruce Hornsby and Sweet Honey In the Rock, as well as Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Laura Dodd, Pat Wright, Curt Decker, Nancy Starnes, Janine Bertram Kemp, Judy Heuman, and Comcast's Craig Snedeker."

<http://adawatch.org/CNNHeadlineNews.htm>

<http://www.comcastnews.com/media/Partner/884075.wmv> (This is a Windows Media file)

Three Cheers -- Almost -- for the Americans with Disabilities Act - by Art Blaser (*Ragged Edge*). "It's that time of year when disability rights activists celebrate the July 26, 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This year is the fifteenth anniversary of the law's signing. Yes, activists cheer the law -- but what they're cheering is the law that passed in 1990, and as reflected in a rich legislative history. That's not the ADA as interpreted by the courts and media, which is quite a different thing. ADA legal scholar Ruth Colker, in her new book *The Disability Pendulum: the First Decade of the Americans with Disabilities Act*, gives two cheers for the ADA as written, but none for the law as interpreted by the media and the courts. Both of them, in her analysis, have given a very good law a thoroughly unfair drubbing."

<http://www.raggededgemagazine.com/reviews/blasercolker0705.html>

Two steps forward, one step back in ADA's 15 years - by Chris Hilderbrant (*Rochester Democrat & Chronicle*). "This week, the Monroe County disability community is hosting a huge commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We have put together a series of events called 'Together for the Americans with Disabilities Act' to celebrate the passage of our civil rights law 15 years ago. But try as I might, I'm just not comfortable calling it a celebration. My apprehension is not due to the events we've planned. Nor is my apprehension because people with disabilities, as a community, have any trouble celebrating. We are a proud people and we have much to celebrate. My apprehension is due to the amount of work yet to be done to ensure that the intent of the ADA is fully realized. My apprehension also stems from damage that has already been done by the Supreme Court, the president's current nominee for a position on the Supreme Court bench and the potential for great harm in the immediate future."

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050726/OPINION02/507260310&SearchID=73216054935699>

Disabilities law's reach falls short - (*Billingsgazette*). "The landmark legislation [ADA], rooted in the Civil Rights Act, was life-changing for the disabled, said Beverly Edmon, an 80-year-old Ventura woman who uses a wheelchair. 'It's given us a base to operate from, because without that we're probably appealing to people's guilt or something, because people don't automatically give you your rights,' she said. However, the Americans With Disabilities Act has not done all that was envisioned. It has been less

effective in the workplace, stopping short of significantly opening the job market to the disabled. Only 35 percent of the disabled reported being employed last year, compared with 78 percent of people without disabilities, according to a survey by the National Organization on Disability."

<http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2005/07/31/build/business/75-disabilities-law.inc>

[Back to Contents Page](#)

ACCESSIBILITY

'Buddies' for disabled travelers - "Travel buddies' are trying to encourage more disabled people to use London's buses, trains and the Tube. The pilot scheme, run by Transport for London (TfL), offers advice on the most wheelchair-friendly trips. And for those who want some extra moral support, a 'buddy' can be requested to join them on their first low-floor bus, Tube or train journey. The free scheme is aimed at those who have recently become disabled, or who lack confidence on public transport."

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/4080594.stm>

Digital Talking-book Collection under Development for Blind and Physically

Handicapped Readers - "The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress is making steady progress toward converting its talking-book collection from an analog cassette format to digital. Four thousand digital talking books have been created to date, and five thousand will be added to the collection annually."

<http://www.loc.gov/nls/newsreleases/20050712.html>

FCC Adopts New Rules Covering Video Relay Services - (*Government Technology*).

"Today, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted rules moving the Video Relay Service (VRS) closer to the goal of providing deaf and hard of hearing persons functionally equivalent access to the nation's telephone system."

http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/94986

Georgia Teen Travels the Nation to Assess Accessibility - (*Ability Magazine*). "Darius Weems, a 15-year-old with muscular dystrophy, and 11 young men left Athens, Georgia, on a cross-country tour to assess just how accessible our country is for 54 million Americans with disabilities. The project – Darius Goes West – aims to raise awareness for people with disabilities across America. United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), through the generosity of national trustee Loreen Arbus, has given \$25,000 towards the Darius Goes West project in honor of the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act."

<http://www.abilitymagazine.com/Darius-Goes-West.html>

Harry Potter author's site goes accessible - (*Ouch*). "Childrens' author JK Rowling receives an access makeover of her website with help from vision and hearing impaired testers and others."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/weblog/200507/930.shtml>

Microsoft Accessibility Resource Centers Empower People with Disabilities - "For nearly 20 years, Microsoft has been committed to increasing the accessibility of its own products while providing a platform that enables other developers to create assistive software and devices that are compatible with Microsoft Windows operating systems and other Microsoft products. The Microsoft Accessibility Resource Centers (MARC) program is one of the company's latest efforts to empower people with disabilities. For the MARC program, Microsoft partnered with two nonprofit organizations -- the Alliance for Technology Access (ATA) and the Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) -- to select 26 centers in the United States that provide technology training and assistance for people with a variety of difficulties and disabilities that affect computer use, such as low vision, hand and wrist pain, and hearing loss."
<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/050726/sftu075.html?.v=18>
<http://www.microsoft.com/enable/centers/default.aspx>
<http://www.microsoft.com/enable/cd/>

NLS Factsheets: Web-Braille (2003) - "Web-Braille is an Internet, web-based service that provides, in an electronic format, many braille books, some music scores, and all braille magazines produced by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). The service also includes a growing collection of titles transcribed locally for cooperating network libraries. The Web-Braille site is password-protected, and all files are in an electronic form of contracted braille, requiring the use of special equipment for access."
<http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/factsheets/webbraille.html>

Tactile paving (and other bad inventions) - by Tanni Grey-Thompson (*Ouch*). "There are lots of wonderful inventions around that have made life easier for disabled people, enabling us to play an integrated and inclusive role in society with a fair degree of independence. I am all for that. However, there is one invention which I wish had never been thought of: tactile paving. I am probably about to offend loads of blind people, who without these textured surfaces underfoot might end up wandering the wrong way across roads with all the horrible consequences, but that's not going to stop me. In fact, I'll go further than simply saying that I don't like tactile paving - I loathe it. If I ever become ruler of the world then something will be done. I don't want to get rid of it, because that would be messy, but I would spend lots of money making a flat bit of lowered kerb alongside the bubbly surfaces so that I don't continue to embarrass myself when I cross the road."
http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/columnists/tanni/130605_index.shtml

WAT makes websites accessible - by Peter Abrahams (*Bloor Research*). "There is no spelling mistake in the title! IBM has developed a service called Web Adaptation Technology (WAT), which allows disabled users to make standard web pages (including those that are not W3C compliant) more accessible without having to delve into their desktop operating systems."
<http://www.it-director.com/article.php?articleid=12091>

Websites compliant yesterday but not today - by Peter Abrahams (*Bloor Research*). "Creating websites that comply with all the relevant standards and regulations is not easy, but, once you achieve it, ensuring that they remain compliant as the content and

structure changes is even more difficult. This has been borne out by a recent report from SiteMorse which looked at the websites of organisations that are involved either in defining or implementing such regulation or standards. The sites included the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) and the Guild of Accessible Web Designers (GAWDS) and many others that failed basic automated accessibility tests."

<http://www.it-director.com/article.php?articleid=12792>

[Back to Contents Page](#)

ADVOCACY

ADA Watch and the National Coalition for Disability Rights Opposes Supreme Court Nominee Judge John Roberts

- "ADA Watch/NCDR is opposed to the nomination of Judge John Roberts to a lifetime seat on the U.S. Supreme Court. At a time when our Nation could have greatly benefited from the selection of a mainstream consensus nominee, people with disabilities -- indeed all Americans -- should be saddened and disturbed by President Bush's choice of Judge John Roberts to fill Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's seat on the U.S. Supreme Court. With the selection of John Roberts, President Bush is making good on his stated intention to fill a Court vacancy with a nominee in the mold of Scalia or Thomas -- Justices who have consistently ruled against people with disabilities in these and other landmark cases. If confirmed, such 5-4 votes would surely go in the other direction and reverse the historic gains of people with disabilities."

<http://www.commondreams.org/news2005/0721-04.htm>

Disability Activists Blast PBS For ADA Anniversary Promotion Of "Better Dead Than Disabled" Film

- (*PRWEB*). "In an all-too-common feat of cultural insensitivity, PBS has chosen July 26th, the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), to air POV: The Self-Made Man. The documentary features the videotaped statements of Bob Stern, an elderly man deciding to commit suicide rather than face possible disability, medical uncertainty or complications."

<http://www.aapd.com/News/adainthe/pbsdisfilm.html>

Is Google Shutting Out The Blind? - by Susan Kuchinskas (*Internet News*). "Accessibility activists charge that search goliath Google shuts blind people out of many of its services. 'Google was the straw that broke the camel's back,' said Joanmarie Diggs, curriculum director for Carroll Tech, a program that teaches disabled people workarounds for barriers to their use of technology. 'How many cool things can Google come up with that block people who are blind?' The problem is the 'captcha,' the distorted letters that users must decipher and type into a box before they register for a service."

<http://www.internetnews.com/ent-news/article.php/3518741>

Massie: exclusion "more profound for disabled people" - "In a speech used to launch a national disability debate and website last week, Disability Rights Commission chairman Bert Massie sparked controversy when he appeared to say that disabled people experience more profound exclusion than black people. What was meant by these apparent 'we've got it worse than you' comments? And is the DRC jockeying for position

with the other minority groups before they move into one office block to create a single equality commission?"

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/news/btn/massie_exclusion.shtml

New Study Blames Government Policy For Homelessness In Disabled Population -

(*Canadian Housing and Renewal Corporation*). "A new broad-based study of homeless individuals with disabilities, undertaken by the Street Health Community Nursing Centre in Toronto, in conjunction with the Wellesley hospital, establishes that for the overwhelming majority of these individuals the 'slide' to homelessness began with a health crisis. This is the first study in Canada to document how individuals became homeless."

<http://www.chra-achru.ca/english/view.asp?x=654&id=320>

[Back to Contents Page](#)

EMPLOYMENT

H.R. 27, The Job Training Improvement Act of 2005: A Section-by-Section Analysis from a Disability Perspective

- by Robert Silverstein (*National Center on Workforce and Disability/Adult*). "This memorandum highlights the key disability-related provisions in H.R. 27, the Job Training Improvement Act of 2005. The House of Representatives passed H.R. 27 on March 2, 2005 by a vote of 224 to 220. Specifically, the memorandum focuses on Title I of the bill, which includes amendments to Title I of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), and Title IV of the bill, which includes amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Disability-related amendments to Title I of WIA and amendments to the Rehabilitation Act are highlighted in italics."

<http://www.onestops.info/word/hr27analysis.doc>

http://www.onestops.info/article.php?article_id=252&subcat_id=62

Making equal employment opportunity Mediation Accessible to People with

Disabilities - "The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the National Council on Disability (NCD), and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) jointly released two new publications addressing how to ensure that mediation of equal employment opportunity disputes is accessible to people with disabilities. The publications are available on all three agencies' Web sites at www.eeoc.gov, www.ncd.gov, and www.ada.gov."

http://www.abilitymagazine.com/EEO_Mediation.html

Neil Squire Society's Employ-Ability Program To Expand To Rural New Brunswick -

(*CNW*). "The Neil Squire Society today received a \$20,000 grant in support of the Employ-Ability program, which provides employment skills development to people with disabilities. The grant, presented as part of The Co-operators Community Economic Development Fund, will be used to expand the program to rural New Brunswick. The Employ-Ability program assists physically disabled adults in New Brunswick who are seeking employable skills, education and confidence, to prepare them for long-term employment. Operated by the Neil Squire Society, the program has succeeded in

helping 89% of its participants move into work-related activities at the completion of their programs."

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/June2005/14/c1527.html>

Secretary Chao Announces 2005 National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Theme - (*U.S. Newswire*). "Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao this week announced the official theme for October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month -- 'Workers with Disabilities: Ready for Tomorrow's Jobs Today.' 'This year's theme emphasizes that people with disabilities are a vital part of America's workforce -- they are important to our country's future economic success!' said Chao. 'The President's New Freedom Initiative recognizes the tremendous contributions and potential of persons with disabilities and promotes greater job opportunities in high growth sectors of the economy, such as healthcare and advanced manufacturing.' The theme will be used by the private sector, federal, state and local governments, and advocacy organizations to plan events and programs that showcase the abilities and skills of job candidates who have disabilities."

<http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=49162>

What Policymakers Need and Must Demand from Research Regarding the Employment Rate of Persons with Disabilities

- "This Journal article appears in *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, Volume 23, Issue 3, pages 399-448, June 2005. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. The article connects standard research methodology concepts with the complexities of evaluating disability policy in order to help policymakers and others guard against making unwarranted cause and effect policy conclusions based solely on, among other things, existing national data sets. The article concludes with a practical framework for assessing the adequacy of research regarding the employment rate of persons with disabilities."

<http://www.disabilitypolicycenter.org/news.htm>

http://www.disabilitypolicycenter.org/docs/BSL_v23_2005.pdf

[Back to Contents Page](#)

ENVIRONMENT

Allergic Living magazine - "The goal of Allergic Living is to engage and inform Canadians coping with food and environmental allergies. In a lively and visually appealing format, the magazine, which launches May 2005, will offer insightful articles about these conditions as well as useful tips and expert advice. In the case of food allergies, Allergic Living aims to help bolster the reader's sense of control and management by covering a range of issues from parenting to allergic teens to managing your lifestyle as an allergic adult. The magazine will draw upon the opinions of leading experts in the fields of immunology, pediatrics, nutrition and dermatology. In short, the intent of Allergic Living is to become an invaluable tool to the allergic community, and to assist its readers in leading safe and enjoyable lives."

<http://www.allergicliving.com/>

National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals - "The National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals provides an ongoing assessment of the U.S. population's exposure to environmental chemicals using

biomonitoring. Biomonitoring is the assessment of human exposure to chemicals by measuring the chemicals or their metabolites in human specimens such as blood or urine."

<http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/3rd/pdf/thirdreport.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/>

[Back to Contents Page](#)

ETHICS

California Disability Alliance Hails Defeat of Doctor-Assisted Suicide; LA Times Called Support, 'so weak in the Assembly' - (*U.S. Newswire*).

"Californians with disabilities and many others opposing AB 654, the bill to sanction doctor-assisted suicide in California, hailed its defeat on Thursday. The action by the bill's authors all but ends the imminent threat of doctor-assisted suicide in California. Although the bill is now dead, proponents announced they will amend the assisted suicide language into an Assembly bill already in the State Senate. The amended bill is expected to die in the Senate."

<http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=48312>

Leave No Embryo Behind: The coming war over in vitro fertilization. - by William Saletan (*Slate*). "Last week at the White House, President Bush [showcased embryo adoption](#) as an alternative to embryonic stem-cell research. The event alarmed the in vitro fertilization industry. Proponents of embryo adoption 'have an explicit political agenda to actually take away choices from infertility patients,' an industry spokesman [told](#) the *New York Times*."

<http://www.slate.com/id/2120222/>

[Back to Contents Page](#)

GENERAL INTEREST

Ability, not disability, at heart of yacht trek - "A crew of six sailors challenged by such physical disabilities as quadriplegia and blindness--and their able-bodied skipper--embarked today on a 2,225-mile competitive race from Calif. to Hawaii, the sailing crucible known as the Transpac. The boat, a customized 40-foot racing yacht named B'Quest, has been outfitted with specially designed equipment – including secured cockpit seats engineered by college students at San Diego State University (SDSU). The devices will enable every member of the B'Quest crew to compete with able-bodied crews in a field with 75 other vessels."

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2005-07/nsf-and071205.php

Disabled sailor to honour Nelson - "A disabled boatman is planning to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar by sailing on his own around the British Isles. Keith White, who lost the use of his left arm in a motorbike accident 14 years ago, will set sail this week from Gillingham Marina in Kent."

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/kent/4615733.stm>

Girl travels to Canada to learn about her fatal illness - by Romina Maurino (*CP*).

"Teenagers who are forced to confront the cruel reality of a terminal illness will typically find some solace in childhood's usual creature comforts: an Xbox, a trip to Disneyland or a handshake with a hockey player. Kelly Clarke chose to visit the one man who holds her future in his hands. When the Make-A-Wish Foundation offered to grant her a wish, the 16-year-old Clarke, who suffers from a rare and terminal form of adolescent epilepsy, asked to meet a Toronto doctor whose pioneering research represents her best hope for a better life."

http://chealth.canoe.ca/health_news_details.asp?news_id=14786&news_channel_id=0

EnabledOnline.com Volume 1 Issue 1 July 2005 - "It's in the News! The official newsletter of EnabledOnline.com is compiled from agency press releases and information resources of disability related non profits."

http://enabledonline.com/newsletter/EOL_July_Newsletter.pdf

The H word - by John James (*The Guardian*). "Mixing and matching cultures can be messy: never mind French unease about the EU's alleged Anglo-Saxon bias, even a single word borrowed by one culture from another can bring problems. The British arm of a French-founded international charity for disabled people is being criticised for political incorrectness by some campaigners in the UK for using the name chosen by its French founders: Handicap International. The problem is that the French have no word for disabled, and so imported 'handicapped'. But now that the term is out of favour it poses a problem for Samantha Rennie, director of HI, which operates as an independent charity in Britain, raising £1m a year, mostly to train personnel to deal with the victims of landmines and cluster bombs."

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/societyguardian/story/0,,1501054,00.html>

Kate finds her way home - by Kate Ansell (*Ouch*). "Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Kate, and I'm spatially unaware: I cannot tell my left from my right, I can rarely find my way home, I can't tell you the route I took to where I am sitting right now and a map won't help me. In short, I have no sense of direction whatsoever. . . . There are all kinds of highly scientific theories about why it happens. Whatever. For me, it's by far the biggest disability I have, the part of my crip-ness which presents the most practical problems on a day to day basis. . . . As a public service to spatially-challenged crips, kind of, please indulge me while I describe the various ways one might get home, and what happens when we attempt them."

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/features/ansell_direction.shtml

New Toys Help Children Understand Disability - "New cuddly characters that are designed to help children understand disability from a young age will be joining the National Young Disabled Persons' Day fun and celebrations at this year's Mobility Roadshow from 7th - 9th July at Donington Park, near Derby. Exhibitor Rackety's hopes cute Tilly doll and funky Jonathan teddy will help children to understand disability in society - a subject they are often unsure or awkward about. Each toy, named after and inspired by local disabled children, comes complete with wheelchair and are being launched at the Roadshow. Rackety's range of cool clothing for disabled kids includes t-

shirts with slogans such as 'Wicked on Wheels' and 'There's no need to stare I know I'm cool' – helping disabled kids look fab and feel great."

http://www.pressbox.co.uk/detailed/Consumer/New_Toys_Help_Children_Understand_Disability_31174.html

Oh, those abled disabled - "The Ms. Wheelchair America organization should certainly be free to set the rules dictating who can compete for that title. But it acted unwisely in stripping the title of Ms. Wheelchair Wisconsin from Janeal Lee of Appleton and has, as a result, ill-served its noble cause of being an advocate for the disabled."

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/editorials/apr05/315932.asp>

Whatever Happened to Polio? - "Most young people in the United States have no memory of polio, a devastating viral infection. Those over 55 years of age probably remember summers when whole communities shut down as families kept children home out of fear of exposure to polio. Today, transmission of polio worldwide has nearly ended. The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History will mark the 50th anniversary of Jonas Salk's introduction of a successful polio vaccination with 'Whatever Happened to Polio?', a one-year display scheduled to open on April 12, 2005, the anniversary of the announcement of an effective vaccine. The March of Dimes is the presenting sponsor of the exhibition, with additional funding from Rotary International and the Salk Institute for Biological Studies."

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/news/pressrelease.cfm?key=29&newskey=174>

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/polio/>

[Back to Contents Page](#)

Government

CANADA

Canadians Invited To Provide Views On Programs For Persons With Disabilities -

"Minister of Social Development, Ken Dryden, today launched online consultations on the topic of persons with disabilities. The consultations, which are on the department's website, will give Canadians an opportunity to share their stories and provide feedback into Social Development Canada's effort to advance the full social participation and well-being of persons with disabilities."

http://www.halifaxlive.com/artman/publish/disabilities_290605_671.shtml

Disability Advisory Committee of the Canada Revenue Agency - "The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) created the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) as a result of recommendation 2.12 made by the Technical Advisory Committee on Tax Measures for Persons with Disabilities. The DAC will report directly to the Minister of National Revenue on all administrative aspects of the tax system related to persons with disabilities. The DAC will promote overall awareness of the Disability Tax Credit to ensure that information is communicated within the disability community at large and that important legislative and administrative changes are communicated in a timely manner, and to increase take-up rates for eligible clients."

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/newsroom/factsheets/2005/july/disability-e.html>

McGuinty Government Boosts Support for Adults with a Developmental Disability -

"The McGuinty government is helping families support loved ones that have a developmental disability by expanding community-based services, improving care and substantially cutting waiting lists for more than 2,000 people waiting for support, Minister of Community and Social Services Sandra Pupatello announced today. 'We are taking action to make sure individuals who need our help the most get the supports and services they require,' Pupatello said. 'This investment will really help families to support their loved ones with daily living activities and help our community agencies to provide even better care for their clients.'"

<http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/CFCS/en/newsRoom/newsReleases/050715.htm>

Rae Review Roundtable on Disability Issues - by Mahadeo Sukhai (*NEADS, Newsletter*

57). "In late Summer 2004, the provincial Government of Ontario appointed former Premier, the Honourable Bob Rae, to chair a commission to review the state of post-secondary education in the province. The Commission developed a discussion paper, released on October 01, 2004, entitled Higher Expectations (<http://www.raereview.on.ca>). Following the release of the discussion paper, Mr. Rae, and members of his Commission panel held a variety of public consultations with key stakeholders: Roundtable dialogues, town hall meetings, individual and small group discussions. As part of the consultation process, a specific roundtable dialogue on disability issues was held in Toronto in early December 2004. Participating organizations included the Canadian Hearing Society, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the Ontario March of Dimes, the Ontarians with Disabilities Act Committee, the Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians (AEBC), and NEADS, among others. Jason Mitschele and I attended as the NEADS delegates to the Roundtable; what follows are highlighted themes arising from our discussion."

<http://www.neads.ca/en/about/newsletter/article.php?id=75> (article)

<http://www.neads.ca/en/about/newsletter/index.php?id=57> (Newsletter 57 index)

UNITED STATES

NCD Reissues Assisted Suicide Paper - "On June 9, NCD reissued its statement opposing the legalization of assisted suicide. In 1997, NCD issued Assisted Suicide: A Disability Perspective (<http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/1997/suicide.htm>), as part of its role as the principal agency within the Federal Government charged with the responsibility of providing cross-disability policy analysis and recommendations regarding government programs and policies that affect people with disabilities. At the time the position paper was issued, the U.S. Supreme Court was preparing to rule on appeals from the Second and Ninth Circuit Courts, each of which had declared assisted suicide a constitutional right. After a thorough review of the forms of discrimination people with disabilities experience in American society, the Council decided to oppose legalization of assisted suicide."

<http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/bulletins/2005/b0605.htm> (About 1/2 down the page)

NCD Releases Transportation Report - "On June 13, NCD released its report *The Current State of Transportation for People with Disabilities* (http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2005/current_state.doc), stating that improvements have been made in transportation for people with disabilities, but more remains to be done. The report was developed with the input of individuals with disabilities and transportation professionals from around the country. The purpose of this project was to develop a better understanding of access to transportation and mobility for people with disabilities, including access to traditional public transportation systems, private transportation services, alternative transportation initiatives, and the pedestrian environment; to identify transportation barriers as well as promising practices and models; and to develop recommendations in keeping with the goals of President Bush's New Freedom Initiative to 'expand transportation opportunities for people with disabilities'."

<http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/bulletins/2005/b0605.htm>

[Back to Contents Page](#)

Health

CCSD's Disability Information Sheet: Number 20, 2005 - Children with Disabilities: Medication and Health Care Patterns - "In this 20th edition of the CCSD's Disability Research Information Sheets, we provide information from the 2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey of Children (PALS).¹ We focus on patterns of medication use, health services, and the coordination of care by parents/guardians."

<http://www.ccsd.ca/drip/research/drip20/index.htm>

Deadly Immunity: Robert F. Kennedy Jr. investigates the government cover-up of a mercury/autism scandal - by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (*Rolling Stone*). "In June 2000, a group of top government scientists and health officials gathered for a meeting at the isolated Simpsonwood conference center in Norcross, Georgia. Convened by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the meeting was held at this Methodist retreat center, nestled in wooded farmland next to the Chattahoochee River, to ensure complete secrecy. The agency had issued no public announcement of the session -- only private invitations to fifty-two attendees. There were high-level officials from the CDC and the Food and Drug Administration, the top vaccine specialist from the World Health Organization in Geneva and representatives of every major vaccine manufacturer, including GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, Wyeth and Aventis Pasteur. All of the scientific data under discussion, CDC officials repeatedly reminded the participants, was strictly 'embargoed.' There would be no making photocopies of documents, no taking papers with them when they left."

http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/story/_/id/7395411?pageid=rs.Politics&pageregion=single4

[Back to Contents Page](#)

Higher Education

Landmark College Offers Programs for Students with Learning Disabilities and AD/HD on The CollegeBound Network - "Rising Results Inc., announces a new marketing partnership with Landmark College offering Associate of Arts degrees exclusively for

students with learning disabilities and AD/HD. Rising Results publishing partner, The CollegeBound Network, operates sites reaching over 3 million students per academic year. Visit Landmark College on The CollegeBound Network at <http://www.collegebound.net/college/landmark-college/index.htm> ."
<http://www.icdri.org/News/LMC.htm>

Making Extra-Curricular Activities Inclusive - by Chris Gaulin and Jennifer Dunn (NEADS). "In 2004, the National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS) launched a groundbreaking project recognizing the need for a more inclusive campus life for post-secondary students with disabilities. Funded by the Government of Canada, through the Social Development Partnerships Program, the project investigated issues of concern to students and graduates with disabilities in accessing extracurricular activities on their campuses."
<http://www.neads.ca/en/about/projects/inclusion/guide/>
http://www.neads.ca/en/getpdf.php?pdf_file=/en/about/projects/inclusion/guide/inclusion_reference_guide.pdf (pdf)
<http://www.neads.ca/en/about/projects/inclusion/guide/index.php?m=PF&id=> (html)

[Back to Contents Page](#)

LEGAL

Court Reluctantly Trims Wal-Mart Penalty - by Michael Bobelian (*New York Law Journal*). "A federal magistrate judge Wednesday reduced a jury verdict by \$4.7 million in a disabilities discrimination case against Wal-Mart. In doing so, Eastern District of New York Magistrate Judge James Orenstein said that the \$300,000 federal cap on punitive damages in the Americans with Disabilities Act would have little impact on changing the behavior of a 'commercial titan' like Wal-Mart."
<http://www.law.com/jsp/printerfriendly.jsp?c=LawArticle&t=PrinterFriendlyArticle&cid=1119431119763>

[Back to Contents Page](#)

MEDICAL

NEWS

Diabetes groups worry about looming lack of insulin options - (CBC.ca). "Some Canadians with diabetes are calling on the federal government to guarantee supplies of animal-based insulin, saying they face potentially fatal consequences if they can't get it. Earlier this month, the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly announced it's pulling four types of insulin off the Canadian market, including the last animal-based form of the hormone. Synthetic insulin works in the majority of diabetics, but some people have reported having serious medical problems with the synthetics, including comas, seizures, convulsions and hypoglycemia."
<http://www.cbc.ca/story/science/national/2005/07/22/insulin-animal050722.html?print>

'Double diabetes' a new phenomenon - "Having one type of diabetes is bad enough, but two? Doctors are seeing a new phenomenon dubbed double diabetes that makes it harder to diagnose and treat patients — especially children. The mix can strike at any age, and comes in various forms: Children who depend on insulin injections because of Type 1 diabetes gain weight and then get the Type 2 form in which their bodies become insulin resistant, for example."

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/print/CTVNews/1121775212248_109/?hub=Health&subhub=PrintStory

Elan shares slump on fresh worries over drug to treat MS - by David Teather (*The Guardian*). "US health officials are investigating a fourth suspected case of a deadly brain disease in a patient taking a multiple sclerosis drug co-developed by Dublin-based drugs firm Elan. The US food and drug administration confirmed a report in the Boston Globe that a possible fourth case of the brain infection had been found in a person taking the drug, Tysabri."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/story/0,,1498200,00.html>

Keep taking the tablets? - by Tom Shakespeare (*Ouch*). "Everyone knows that pharmaceuticals can have side effects. For example, a sizeable minority of people are allergic to penicillin or to anaesthetics, coming out in a rash or even developing liver damage and other complications if they are wrongly prescribed. . . . A study in a medical journal this month highlights another unexpected drug side effect. Patients with Parkinson's - which affects some 120,000 people in the UK - suffer from a lack of the neurotransmitter dopamine. This causes their characteristic tremors and rigidity. A class of drugs called dopamine agonists compensate for the lack of natural dopamine and reduce early symptoms. However, a team of researchers in Minnesota have now found that these drugs - particularly a type called pramipexole - also turn some patients into compulsive gamblers."

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/columnists/tom/250705_index.shtml

'Knife edge' surgery for epilepsy - "It's like a high stakes poker game, but when you win, you win big," says neurosurgeon Chris Chandler. He is one of the few surgeons in the UK who is able to perform delicate, but potentially life changing operations for young people with epilepsy. He and his team at King's College Hospital in London use cutting-edge technology to pinpoint the precise area of the brain that is misfiring and remove it surgically."

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4719181.stm>

Should deadly viruses be used to treat cystic fibrosis? - by Sam Jaffe (*NewScientist.com news service*). "Regulators in the US could soon be asked to approve a human trial of gene therapy for cystic fibrosis that uses a hybrid of the HIV and Ebola viruses. Tests on monkeys show the hybrid virus delivers genes to the lungs far more efficiently than any other method developed so far. And while the idea of combining two killer viruses sounds horrifying, the risks should be low."

<http://www.newscientist.com/channel/health/mg18625034.600>

[Back to Contents Page](#)

RESEARCH

Canada's first two embryonic stem cell lines developed - by Helen Branswell (CP). "A team of scientists at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto has produced Canada's first two human embryonic stem cell lines, a development that has scientists across this country lined up to gain access to the material needed to explore the vast potential of stem cells. 'It's a kind of coming of age, if you like, of stem cell research in Canada,' said Mark Bisby, vice-president of research for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, which, through its stem cell oversight committee must approve all stem cell research."
http://chealth.canoe.ca/health_news_details.asp?news_id=14776&news_channel_id=0

'Watch and wait' seizure advice - "There is no need to rush to put people on drugs if they have only infrequent seizures, say UK doctors. Delaying medication does not increase the risk of chronic epilepsy or have a negative impact on quality of life, a study in the Lancet shows. Waiting until treatment is absolutely necessary also avoids unnecessary drug side effects, say the Liverpool University authors."
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4076210.stm>

[Back to Contents Page](#)

MEDIA

Breath & Shadow - A Journal of Disability Culture and Literature - "Breath & Shadow is a monthly journal of disability culture and literature. A project of AbilityMaine, Breath & Shadow is the only online literary journal with a focus on disability. It is also unique in being the sole cross-disability literature and culture magazine written and edited entirely by people with disabilities. While some literary journals may devote one issue in a year — or ten years — to the disability experience, in Breath & Shadow you will find poetry, fiction, essays, interviews, drama, and other writing that examines the human experience of living with disability — in every single issue."
<http://www.abilitymaine.org/breath/whatis.html>

Disability News & Views Radio Show - A subsidiary of Power Advocates, and founded by Monica Moshenko this show aims to "be a voice that will build and maintain a leadership position in the media for people with disabilities as we promote awareness, educate and inspire." On this site is an extensive listing of past shows, with most available through real audio. Included are interviews with W. Roy Grizzard, Jr., Ed.D. Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy U. S. Dept. of Labor, Temple Grandin and Douglas A. Platt, Project Coordinator and Lynn Beman, Director, The Museum of disABILITY History.
http://www.disabilitynewsradio.com/past_shows.htm

Disability Writer Publishes First Novel - "Freelance writer, Robert Bennett, is taking the next step in his literary career. His new novel, 'Blind Traveler Down A Dark River' will be released later this year by Publish America LLP, a Maryland-based publishing company.

New Sci-fi/mystery book written about blind man using high tech equipment who solves a series of murders in 2021 NYC."

<http://press.xtvworld.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=5450>

The Making of 'Murderball' - "The new documentary Murderball looks at the rough-and-tumble world of quad rugby -- otherwise known as 'murderball.' Participants in the sport must have a combination of upper- and lower-body impairment. They compete in specially outfitted wheelchairs on a basketball court in four, eight-minute quarters. The film, which won the audience award at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, begins with a look at the 2002 World Championship in Sweden."

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4715570>

National Center on Disability and Journalism - "National Center on Disability and Journalism (NCDJ) is an independent journalism organization. Our mission is to educate journalists and educators about disability reporting issues in order to produce more accurate, fair and diverse news reporting. The mission is realized through research, development and distribution of educational resources."

<http://www.ncdj.org/index.php>

Stars lend support to film festival on disability (LEAD) - "Bollywood and South Indian stars joined India's first festival of films focussing on disability that began here Thursday. The five-day AbilityFest 2005, which focuses on stories of people who have overcome trials and fought discrimination, was inaugurated by Anuradha Mohit of the National Human Rights Commission."

<http://www.newkerala.com/news.php?action=fullnews&id=5473>

[Back to Contents Page](#)

POLICY/RESEARCH

Disability, Substance Abuse & Addiction - by Roxanne Van Duzee Furlong "Scarce are the comprehensive studies or statistics on substance abuse among the disabled population--in fact the professionals we spoke with knew of none--though some rehabilitation facilities have surveyed injured individuals about their alcohol intake pre- and post-injury. According to Wright State University's Substance Abuse Resources and Disability Issues program in Dayton, Ohio, alcohol abuse rates for Americans with disabilities are twice as high as for those with no disability."

http://www.newmobility.com/review_article.cfm?id=1043&action=browse

Policy And Guidelines On Disability And The Duty To Accommodate - by Dr. Liam Kilmurray and Neil Faba, with support from Laurie Alphonse (NEADS). "This report is the outcome of a number of phases of the project work: consultations with our steering committee members, research into the 'current state' of the provision of academic materials in alternate formats across Canada, and the soliciting of submissions from non-governmental organizations. . . . An important component of the project was survey

research involving two groups of respondents in post-secondary institutions: students with print disabilities, and disability service providers."

<http://www.neads.ca/en/about/projects/atam/>

http://www.neads.ca/en/about/projects/atam/atam_report_final_en.pdf

http://www.neads.ca/en/about/projects/atam/atam_report_final_en.doc

[Back to Contents Page](#)

REHABILITATION

"75% Rule" Will Force People with Disabilities into Nursing Homes - by Peter W.

Thomas, Esq. "Two weeks ago, Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt dealt a serious blow to the disability and rehabilitation community by deciding to move forward with implementation of the so-called '75% Rule' for inpatient medical rehabilitation. It is unlikely that anyone other than rehabilitation providers noticed. But the fact remains that the 75% Rule and other potentially deleterious policies impacting medical rehabilitation, such as local coverage determinations and outpatient therapy caps, are combining to force Medicare beneficiaries and other people with disabilities into nursing homes and less intensive settings of rehabilitation care. This decision could deprive people with disabilities access to the most medically intensive and appropriate rehabilitation services and, over the longer term, cause decreased levels of function and independent living."

<http://www.aapd.com/News/health/rule75.html>

[Back to Contents Page](#)

SELF HELP

The NDI Foundation - "Nephrogenic diabetes insipidus (NDI) is a kidney disorder characterized by the kidney's inability to respond to the antidiuretic hormone, arginine vasopressin (AVP). In NDI, the proper amount of water cannot be reabsorbed. This water, which is meant for and needed by the body, is instead voided in large quantities as dilute urine, leaving NDI patients chronically thirsty and in danger of dehydration. (The urine is called dilute because it has a high ratio of water to particles - such as minerals and salts - due to the unabsorbed water.) NDI patients require a steady supply of water to alleviate their thirst and prevent dehydration. NDI may be either acquired or hereditary (congenital).. .The NDI Foundation was formed to support education, research, treatment and cure for Nephrogenic Diabetes Insipidus. Our goal is to create a communication channel to serve the entire NDI community: patients and their families, researchers, physicians and other health care providers. In recent years much progress has been made in determining the causes of both the acquired and familial forms of Nephrogenic Diabetes Insipidus and in developing treatment options. We feel that by providing communication resources to the researchers they can increase the pace of their discoveries."

<http://www.ndif.org/about.html>

Reach Canada - "Since 1981, Reach has successfully brought public and private sector forces together to address equality and justice issues that have been identified by community members who have a disability. Reach offers a process for change that builds partnerships, mobilizes community resources, and empowers individuals to work together in a spirit of inclusion."
<http://www.reach.ca/>

[Back to Contents Page](#)

TECHNOLOGY

AssistiveWare Updates Abound - by Michael Philips (*InsideMacGames*). "Assistive technology developer, AssistiveWare, has released major updates for both SwitchXS and KeyStrokes, their popular software which allows users with physical disabilities to access their Macs via methods other than a standard keyboard and mouse. Both updates include specific enhancements for gamers, including substantially increased performance, as well as improved compatibility with various games."
<http://www.insidemacgames.com/news/story.php?ID=11593>

We can rebuild him -- Australian fitted with new-generation bionic arm - (AFP). "An Australian has become the first person in the world to be fitted with a new-generation German-made bionic arm capable of lifting six times as much as earlier versions. Train driver Peter Eberle lost his arm when it was crushed between two carriages 10 years ago and was originally told he could never wear a prosthetic limb because his amputation was too high up the arm."
<http://dsc.discovery.com/news/afp/20050704/bionicarm.html>

Call me HAL: Japan looks to robots for elderly care - by Masayuki Kitano (*Reuters*). "They won't be leaping tall buildings in a single bound, but Japan's growing number of elderly may someday have a new lease of life that allows them to care for themselves -- and maybe even pump a little iron. As the country's population ages rapidly and its workforce shrinks, care workers may be hard to come by, so researchers are trying to develop the ultimate personal care givers: robots."
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/T286100.htm>

Get smart with virtual reality 'brain helmet' - by Lee U-Wen (*MediaCorp*). "An Israeli researcher has claimed that he has developed a virtual reality (VR) device that can make people smarter. The 48-year-old's goal is simple: To help children and adults of all ages and abilities learn better and faster. He has since tested the silver-coloured device on hearing-impaired children, who traditionally perform poorly on IQ tests. When the helmet is worn and the visor completely covers the eyes, the children, some as young as nine, are temporarily taken out of their physical surroundings and transported into a 'virtual room.' They are then asked to perform various exercises that last about 20 minutes, such as solving mathematical problems and learning to assemble and take apart three-dimensional objects. After doing the exercises daily over a period of three months, the children's measured IQ rose by as much as 20 per cent, claimed Dr Passig."
<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/160048/1/.html>

Ontario Government Exploring New Technologies To Protect People At Risk Of

Wandering - "The Ontario government is launching a project to test the effectiveness of new technologies in protecting vulnerable people who are at risk of wandering from their caregivers, Community and Social Services Minister Sandra Pupatello announced today. 'For some people, inadvertent wandering is a reality and fear that their caregivers must contend with,' said Pupatello. 'We all have a responsibility to help protect vulnerable people, and we welcome any suggestions that can improve their health and safety'."
<http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/CFCS/en/newsRoom/newsReleases/050630.htm>

Smiles all around - "Five-year-old Melissa Sephton gets a giggle out of her new, customized Eeyore which—thanks to the University of Victoria Assistive Technology Team (UVATT)—flaps his ears and sings a song when activated by an infrared remote. The Victoria youngster has cerebral palsy with very limited control of her movements. UVATT was asked to design a device that would enable Melissa to learn how particular actions will elicit a response. Since she can't point or use a hand switch, the team—in consultation with Special Education Technology BC—opted for a device she can operate with her head."
<http://ring.uvic.ca/05jul07/features/eeyore.html>

Wheelchair bike is star of show - by Geoff Adams-Spink (*BBC News*). "A new British-made motorcycle for wheelchair users was the start of this year's Mobility Roadshow in the UK. The Conquest is based on BMW 850 or 1150 motorbikes which have been integrated into a racing car-type aluminium body shell."
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/4665489.stm>

Wizzard Software and IBM Extend IBM ViaVoice(R) Agreement for Two Additional Years - "Wizzard Software (OTCBB:WIZD) to sell and support IBM ViaVoice speech recognition and text-to-speech toolkits and IBM ViaVoice runtime distribution licenses. This extension provides Wizzard with the continued ability to distribute IBM ViaVoice developer products to a broad-based development community."
http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20050719005632&newsLang=en

[Back to Contents Page](#)

CONFERENCES

 **Conferences listed for the first time in DRD)**

CANADIAN

CAG 2005 Aging Navigating the Winds of Change - October 20-22, 2005 | Halifax, Nova Scotia. "The theme for this years conference was inspired by an anonymous quote - 'We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sail.' We cannot change the reality of a rapidly aging society. The demographics of the future are well known. However, there is much that all disciplines in the field of gerontology, government, the non-profit sector and

individuals, including seniors and baby-boomers, can do to have a direct impact on aging in Canada."

http://www.cagacg.ca/conferences/410_e.php

- ✿ **9th World Down Syndrome Congress** - August 22-26, 2006 | Vancouver, British Columbia. "Welcome to the home page of the 9th World Down Syndrome Congress, being held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, from August 22 - 26, 2006. At present, you will find details in regards to the City of Vancouver. Further information will be available shortly. Please visit the site often for updates and additional information."
<http://www.venuewest.com/2006/wdsc/>

- ✿ **7th National Conference on Shared Mental Health Care** - May 11-13, 2006 | Calgary, Alberta. "Our conference focus is on case studies and learning from our success as we plan for the future. This is a hands on conference and you will bring home practical tools and learnings that you can use in your daily work. Conference Highlight: The Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Initiative will be sharing results from two years of research on the current state of CMHC and presenting a series of interactive toolkits for providers, educators, consumers, family/caregivers and policy makers. CCMHI will also be unveiling an action plan to implement CMHC principles outlined in the Collaborative Mental Health Charter."
http://www.shared-care.ca/calgary_conf.shtml

- ✿ **TRANSED 2007 - 11th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons** - June 18-21, 2007 | Montreal, Quebec. "Canada is proud to host the 11th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED), to be held June 18-21, 2007, at the Palais des Congrès in Montréal under the theme 'Benchmarking, Evaluation and Vision for the Future'. The conference will review advances in research, evoke international break throughs and explore perspectives for technological innovations in order to respond to the mobility challenges of an aging population and of persons with disabilities, as part of an inclusive society."
http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/transed2007/message_TC_e.asp?IsIncrease=No

Festival of International Conferences on Disability, Aging & Technology - June 16-19, 2007 | Toronto, Ontario. "Welcome to the site of the Festival of International Conferences on Disability, Aging and Technology. FICDAT will include four important conferences running concurrently as well as many joint events."
<http://www.ficdat.ca/en/festival.php>

[Back to Contents Page](#)

U.S.

AHEAD 2005 - August 2-6, 2005 | Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "Meeting the Profession"
http://www.ahead.org/training/conference/2005_conf/index.htm

Workplace Accommodations: State of the Science Conference - September 15-16, 2005 | Atlanta, Georgia. "This conference will establish a national dialogue on the current state and future directions of workplace accommodations. The conference format will include plenary sessions, paper presentations in breakout sessions, and extensive opportunity for networking and discussion. A goal of the conference will be to develop an agenda for future directions in research, service delivery, and product development based on user needs for workplace accommodations."
<http://www.workplacerc.org/sos/>

Alliance for Full Participation 2005 Summit - September 22-23, 2005 | Washington, D.C. "The Alliance for Full Participation will host a 2005 Summit: Many Voices, One Vision in Washington DC to bring together those committed to making the promises inherent in the Developmental Disabilities Act for Americans a reality. Over twelve hundred individuals are expected to attend to help craft a new strategic policy and social agenda in support of full participation, and to carry that agenda forward in their communities following the Summit. Please join us in making full participation a reality."
This first time conference has met its registration cap and registration is now closed.
<http://www.allianceforfullparticipation.org/public/summit2005.main.asp>

The Seventh International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility – October 9-12, 2005 | Baltimore, Maryland. "Computer and Information Technologies have redesigned the way modern society operates. In particular, they have identified new avenues to assist individuals with special needs and provided tools and resources to alleviate the traditional barriers encountered by persons with disabilities. For example, speech generation systems have assisted persons with visual disabilities, voice recognition has helped people with motor impairments, multi-modal presentations have been shown to be effective in helping people with learning disabilities understand information."
<http://www.acm.org/sigaccess/assets05/>

Accessible Emergency Communication Conference - November 2-3, 2005. | Washington, D.C. "The goals of this conference are to identify needs and gather possible solutions for accessible emergency notification and communication; to encourage interaction among industry, government, and consumer experts so that accessibility considerations are more likely to be built into notification and communication products and procedures, and to create a literature on the state of the science in this area."
<http://tap.gallaudet.edu/emergencycommconf.htm>

2005 TASH Conference Call for Presentations - November 9-12, 2005 | Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "The TASH Conference mobilizes vast numbers of folks from around the world together in a common experience of belief ~ belief in the presumed competence of every person, and in the powerful role that every person can play in empowering people with disabilities and their families to build the life of their choosing. Each presenter and attendee comes to the scene with a personal perspective to share ~ and each leaves with a renewed sense of energy and commitment towards the great space of possibility for people labeled with the most significant disabilities. The TASH conference is the

largest and most progressive conference in the United States that focuses on strategies for achieving full inclusion for people with disabilities."

<http://www.tash.org/tash2005/index.htm>

IDA 56th Annual Conference - November 9-12, 2005 | Denver, Colorado.

http://www.interdys.org/servlet/compose?section_id=7&page_id=213



Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion, & Disability. 6th Annual Conference - April 17-18, 2006 | The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. "As a modern land grant university an important part of Ohio State University's mission is outreach and engagement, serving the community through a variety of activities. During the tenth anniversary year of the Americans With Disabilities Act the Multiple Perspectives On Access, Inclusion And Disability conference was created to help fulfill this mission."

<http://ada.osu.edu/conferences/default.htm>

[Back to Contents Page](#)

OVERSEAS



Accessible Design in the Digital World - August 23-25, 2005 | Dundee, Scotland. "The conference will explore the frontiers of inclusive design in the real world. It will examine some of the challenges in both implementing guidelines and meeting legal responsibilities. There will be opportunities for discussion and debate among those at the front-line of design and development work and those providing guidance regarding accessible and inclusive design."

<http://www.accessinthedigitalworld.org/2005/default.asp>

Assistive technology from virtuality to reality 8th European conference for the advancement of assistive technology in Europe - September 6-9, 2005 | Lille, France. "The Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe (AAATE) is organising its 8th conference in Lille, France, in 2005. This biannual conference is an opportunity for people to discuss new developments, trends and research in the field of assistive technology. Following successful conferences held in Ireland, Slovenia, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Sweden and Netherlands, over 200 papers were selected and published at the last AAATE conference in 2003."

<http://www.aaate2005.com/html/aboutaaate.html>

[Back to Contents Page](#)