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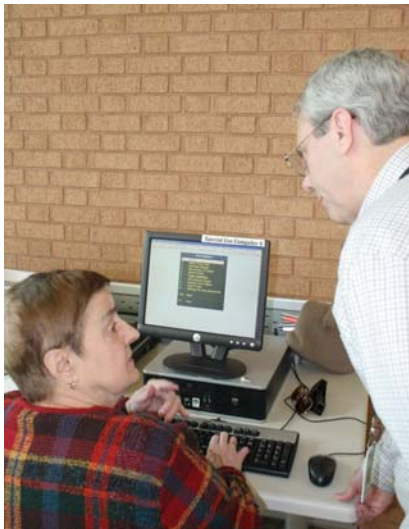
Greenville County Library System Acquires Assistive Technologies Station

Greenville, SC – The Greenville County Library System has acquired three new computer programs for the visually impaired, available at the Technology Center at the Hughes Main Library.

GUIDE includes a synthesized voice feature for screen reading, offering an easy way to perform computer tasks such as email, internet browsing, word processing, document scanning and playing music. GUIDE is particularly helpful for visually impaired users, as well as seniors and others with limited computer experience.

ZOOMTEXT, a program for high definition screen magnification, also uses screen reading. It works within applications, email and the internet.

JAWS, a program for screen reading and screen magnification, uses a more complex system of keystroke commands along with the mouse to enable the visually impaired to use applications, email and the internet.



Regular library patrons are already using the software. Ann Babasick has been using the GUIDE software on her own for several years and is thrilled that the library has acquired the new system. As an active senior, she uses GUIDE to maintain her collection of recipes and to keep track of the lyrics to her favorite songs. "I love to cook," says Babasick, who recently demonstrated the system for staff at the library. Although she can no longer see the screen, she is able to use arrow buttons on the keypad to navigate the surprisingly simple system. "I am used to being active," said Babasick, who serves with her husband as a Legislative Volunteer for AARP. "I learned the system in 90 minutes." Babasick

doesn't miss a chance to tell visually impaired individuals about the options available to them, including the new software available at the Hughes Main Library and library's audio book collection.

The new Assistive Technology station also includes two new computers and a scanner and is located in the Technology Center on the second floor of the Hughes Main Library.

Founded in 1921, the Greenville County Library System operates 12 facilities, a bookmobile and a website that provide information, materials and engaging programs delivered with world-class technology and a customer-centric approach. The Library System offers free access to resources and experiences and continually strives to be the community's destination of choice for exploring the world. For more information, visit the Library's website at www.greenvillelibrary.org.

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