



APEL promotes student independence with BrowseAloud

APEL Education Consultancy LLC, located in Durango, Colorado, USA, is the creator of reading support systems for individuals who have reading difficulties. Their SLICE Program is a web-based system (patent # 6,075,968) that can deliver the digital version of any textbook along with the reading support solution BrowseAloud to students who have a documented "print disability". Students access their books with unique usernames and passwords, view the printed text on a computer screen or hand-held device and rely on BrowseAloud to read the content to them through personal headphones. Student reading activity is automatically tracked and all titles and chapters they have opened as well as the date, time and duration of their sessions can be printed out as individual or group reports.

Lynda Morris, PhD, Founder of APEL Education Consultancy states, "We have been delivering digitized, reader-ready textbooks and novels to students with print disabilities since 1995. SLICE is a research-based, evidence-supported system that fosters independence, full inclusion and academic achievement for this group of learners. At the present time, we primarily serve Native American youngsters attending school on the Navajo, Hopi and Pueblo reservations. Their schools are typically very remote, have limited technological infrastructure and must comply with extremely high security requirements. BrowseAloud---its versatility, ease of use, spot-on assistive features, dependability and excellent support staff ---has allowed APEL to successfully overcome all these obstacles.

One teacher reported, "T" is a 9th grader, a very, very low reader, a real pitiful situation. Now, he is able to keep up with his assignments in Earth Science and Literature. I think he feels independent and, for the first time ever, enjoys being able to read without feeling so inadequate." Another teacher recently sent us this message. "B" got his laptop yesterday and used BrowseAloud to read online during most of the evening tutorial. He was so excited. He kept saying, 'Man, wow, I can't believe it!'"

SLICE, an acronym for **S**pecial **L**earners **I**ncluded through **C**omputers in **E**ducation, was developed to enhance the independence, inclusion and performance of individuals from upper elementary school age through adulthood who have "print disabilities". [Story Spinners™](#) are collections of books selected for pleasure reading that students from grades 3-12 can read with the help of audio files loaded on mp3 players.

For more information or a quote:

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