

## **Accessibility to information and resources:**

### **▪ Accessibility to printed out Text:**

There are ways to get printed out text:

1. Scanning Info: You can scan printed out text on the scanner and then store it at your computer.
2. There are two ways to get text printed out into Braille:
  - Instant printing on the Braille.
  - Use the Braille printer and Braille printing program.It should be noted that info must be modified in a special way to be printed out into Braille.
3. Large Prints: This way is mainly used with persons with low vision. Text Size is modified according to the abilities of the person with low vision.
4. Recorded Material: Info can be also accessed by recording it audio on tapes and CDs. This way they can listen back to it anytime later.

### **▪ Accessibility to electronic Info:**

There are two ways to access information electronically:

1. Screen Reader
  2. Braille sense
1. The best way to reach information electronically is by using screen reader:
    - What is a screen reader?

A screen reader is an application to the windows of the computer and all it does is read verbally everything that is on the screen of the computer since the blind person can't read it himself.

There is another type of screen reader for persons with low vision, it enhances the size and quality of images and text on the screen. A person can use both the audio and the enlarging features of the screen reader at the same time.
    - How does the screen reader work?

The screen reader keeps track of all what the computer does and it reads or enlarges all the necessary information that the user needs to use the computer independently. If you are a sighted person and you are using the computer you don't read the whole screen you just instinctively on a small section that is active and has to do with what you're working on. A screen reader does the same thing, it

doesn't read everything that is available on the screen otherwise it would be very boring. It scans the screen and tells the blind only the most important info about what is happening on the screen right now.

A person who is totally blind cannot use the mouse of the computer but rather uses the keyboard shortcuts to use all the computer programs.

▪ **What can a visually impaired use the computer for?**

A visually impaired does various things in his daily life, thus there are quite a bit list of applications they can do on the computer:

- Internet browsing
- Accessing newspapers
- E- shopping
- Chatting and audio conversations online.
- Internet access
- Using the internet to access radio stations and entertainment.
- Emails
- Personal notes and keeping track of personal info.
- School and university assignments (assays and papers)
- Report writing
- Accounting

This is a list of stuff both the sighted and the visually impaired can do using the computer.

▪ **What a visually impaired cannot do using a computer?**

- Perform anything related to drawing or includes animations.
- Use a mouse.
- Read pictures.
- Access an excel file as a unity and not as separate entities.  
The screen reader reads each cell by itself.

2. Braille sense:

A Braille sense is a small computer device for the blind. It is enabled with a reader and a Braille screen. This device is portable and small.

Information can be saved on the Braille sense itself. It can be connected to a computer and it facilitates the access of the blind to technology.