Assistive Technology Resources in New Hampshire Caroline Lambert, MS OTR/L, Occupational Therapy Trainee NH-ME LEND, Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire

Introduction

The Disability Rights Center – New Hampshire (DRC-NH) is a statewide non-profit organization that protects, advances, and strengthens the legal rights and advocacy interests of all people with disabilities across New Hampshire. In Collaboration with the DRC-NH, my leadership placement focused on developing a series of webpages that share information and resources about various types of assistive technology (AT), including individuals' rights to access AT and how the DRC-NH can help.

Assistive Technology (AT)

Assistive technology includes any item, piece of equipment, or product that increases, maintains, or improves the ability of individuals with disabilities or impairments to function. Increasing knowledge of and access to these devices plays a vital role in reducing barriers faced by individuals with disabilities.



*Images of DME and AT devices were taken at REM.

Information Sharing

Information sharing regarding assistive technology (AT) is crucial because it *empowers* individuals with disabilities, their families, and professionals to advocate for their needs, make informed decisions, and access appropriate AT devices, which can positively impact their participation in daily activities and improve overall quality of life.

"Rights to AT" Update

To ensure that individuals in New Hampshire can readily access and understand their rights to have and utilize assistive technology (AT) devices, we updated the "Rights to AT" section on the DRC-NH's website as part of this project. This section provides links to and a brief description of some of the key federal and state laws that exist to help people with disabilities access AT.

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Informational Pages

Developed content for over 20 types of durable medical equipment (DME) and assistive technology (AT) devices under the categories of Mobility, Activities of Daily Living, Sports and Leisure, Hearing/Speech/Communication, Vision, and Education.

All About Assistive Technology & Mobility Aids

Mobility aids include things like wheelchairs, walkers, canes, scooters, adaptive strollers, crutches, and orthopedic braces. Information about some of these items can be found below but is not meant as medical advice. Please consult your healthcare provider to determine if a mobility device is right for you.



ECEMBER 30, 2024 Wheelchairs READ MORE >



DECEMBER 30, 2024 Walkers READ MORE >

*Image is a screenshot from website

Resources: National & State

Through online research, I gathered links to relevant resources, both nationally and in New Hampshire. These links provide information and access to durable medical equipment (DME) and assistive technology (AT) devices through lending programs and opportunities for financial assistance. Links to other sources and media related to accessibility for individuals with disabilities are also included.



University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability



QR Code to Access Website



Canes READ MORE







Stakeholders in New Hampshire

To assist with the creation of these webpages and pooling of resources, I connected with various stakeholders in New Hampshire that work to provide information, as well as offer programs and services related to assistive technology. These stakeholders are major resources for individuals seeking knowledge and access to AT in New Hampshire and contributed to the content related to this project.

- >Assistive Technology in **New Hampshire** (ATinNH)
- **Refurbished Equipment** Marketplace (REM)
- >Northeast Passage

Summary

Creating these informational pages as part of the DRC-NH's website offers users a centralized location to begin learning about assistive technology (AT) and how they can access it in New Hampshire. With these updates, expansions, and bank of resources, the DRC-NH is better equipped to help individuals identify and acquire technology necessary to help students access their curriculum, assist individuals who want to work become employable and successful in the job market, and help people with disabilities enjoy life and stay engaged in their communities.

Sources

- ATinNH: <u>https://iod.unh.edu/ATinNH</u>
- REM: <u>https://shoprem.com/</u>



Assistive Technology in New Hampshire ATinNH.org





REM

Assistive Technology. DRC-NH. (2025, February 21). https://drcnh.org/disability-issue-areas/assistive-technology/

Disability Rights Center – New Hampshire: <u>https://drcnh.org/</u>

Northeast Passage: <u>https://www.nepassage.org/</u>



iod.unh.edu/nh-me-lend