

Adaptive Technologies Room

Bluford Library has updated and enhanced one of its small computer laboratories to accommodate those who are blind or visually disabled. Called the Adaptive Technologies Room, the Library has:

- ◆ Updated the computer so that they all have at least a Pentium III micro-processor and 256 MB RAM.
- ◆ Purchased and installed the Kurzweil 1000 Version 9 software application, which:
 - Allows printed or electronic text to be readily available
 - Creates audio files
 - Contains optical character recognition (OCR)
 - Interfaces with MP3 players such as iPOD, Rio, etc.
- ◆ Purchased and installed a scanner to interface with the Kurzweil software, creating scanning optimization enhancements such as thresholding, rightness, resolution, and speckle removal, all providing the ability to obtain better recognition results.
- ◆ In consultation with the Director of Veteran and Disability Support, implemented a Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), which greatly magnifies the text in books, journals, and newspapers,. It can also be used to do work which requires magnification such as writing papers, and allows the viewer to view a document in color, black and white, or grayscale.
- ◆ The “Dragon” Naturally Speaking software is now available. Basically the opposite of the Kurzweil program , this software allows users the ability to turn speech into text—at up to 160 words per minute. One can also create email, instant messages, and surf the World Wide Web—simply by speaking.