Accessible Instructional Materials Center of Virginia: AIM-VA
AIM-VA

- John Eisenberg - VDOE
  - State Director of Accessible Instructional Materials
- Dr. Michael Behrmann – GMU- Kellar Center
  - Director of AIM-VA
- Joyce Sharp – GMU
  - Communications and Training Coordinator
- Cindy George – GMU
  - Production Coordinator
- Jackie Peterson and Frances Mitchem – GMU
  - Librarian and help desk
- Tipu Hashmi – GMU
  - Database manager and programmer
- YooSun Chung and Anna Evmenova
  - Research
Need for Accessible Instructional Materials

- Traditional print based curriculum materials can be one of the barriers to progress and access in the curriculum for students with print disabilities

- Differentiated instruction that can be tailored to individual student needs thus improving student outcomes

- Need to prepare students to be digital natives for the 21\textsuperscript{st} century

- Timely delivery and instant access to specialized formats
What is NIMAS?

- National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard
  34 CFR 300.172(d)(2): IDEIA 2004

- A recommendation developed in 2004 by consensus of an expert panel of 40 key stakeholders
  - Approved by US Dept. of Ed in July 2004
  - Published in Federal Register on July 19, 2006
  - Additional regulations published on August 14, 2006

- Based on the international DAISY Book Standard: XML
  - Digital Accessible Information System: Standard for producing accessible and navigable multimedia documents

- Purpose: “timely delivery” of high quality accessible specialized formats to students with print disabilities
What is the NIMAC?

National Instructional Materials Access Center
(IDEA Part D, Sec. 674)

- Establish and support a center at American Printing House for the Blind (APH)
- Receive and maintain a catalog of NIMAS instructional materials deposited by publishers
  - Does not have student ready versions
- Provide access to source files by accessible media producers
- Develop procedures to protect against copyright infringement

http://www.nimac.us/
Important Division Reminders

Superintendents Memos:

- **NO. 40 - Sept. 15, 2006**
  - LEAs will play an important role in obligating publishers to submit essential source materials to the NIMAC. This will be accomplished by contract or by including appropriate language in purchase orders that require publishers to submit NIMAS-conformant files to the NIMAC, or provide assurances that they have already done so, for a specific title and version that is to be purchased.
Goal and Challenge:

To build a system in Virginia that would:

- reduce teacher burden
- no cost to schools
- move toward high quality digital products, streamline the ordering process
- promote successful partnerships and
- provide students the books they need, in the formats they want, in a timely manner
“One Stop Shop”

All orders regardless of format or source obtained through AIM-VA

- Online library
- Online ordering system – database driven
- Password protected
- Control copyright through Digital Rights Managers – DRMs
Current Process

Virginia has developed a statewide library system to order, produce and deliver accessible instructional Materials (AIM-VA)

- Single point of entry system
- Library based system
- Digital production
- Partnerships with entities that can produce high quality accessible formats for students
- Faster turn around time
Partnerships

- Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D)
- Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI)
- AIM-VA, GMU (KIHd) Conversion Specialists
- Don Johnston, Inc.
- Bookshare.org
Library System

- Requested materials to date
- **3,000** Books in LP and PDF system
- Merged RFBD library of **58,299** titles
- Plan to merge DBVI’s Braille records
- Plan to merge Bookshare.com records
- Search by multiple features
  - ISBN
  - Format
  - Grade Level
  - Content Category
  - Title
Braille Formats

Obtained for purchase from contacts across US

If not available sent to production with transcribers

Moving toward digital production - .brf

DBVI Catalog integrated with AIM-VA Online Database

Overall cost for books in excess of $250,000

Does not include staffing costs, facility and equipment
Audio Recordings

One statewide membership giving access to all 1,960 K-12 schools (providing 58,000+ books)

Integrated RFBD library with AIM-VA database (update downloaded monthly)

Immediate order processing with typical 4-day delivery to schools.
Bookshare.org

- Free – No Cost Collaboration
- Unique single membership for All Schools
- Integrated ordering system with AIM-VA for K-12 materials
- Currently .brf files only
- Expansion to .html and Daisy 3 files in near future
Read OutLoud

- Statewide contract with Don Johnston Inc.
  - Every school in Virginia has an unlimited site license
    Ending in June 2011
  - Use only for students with IEPs/504 plans in any classroom
    on any computer
  - Can be installed on students’ home computer
  - Cost is $2 per every student with a disability in Virginia

- Divisions can use current software or
  Read:Outloud
  - AIM-VA electronic formats can be used with various leading text
    to speech software applications
Questions?
Contact AIM-VA:

AIM-VA Help Desk
The Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities
George Mason University
4400 University Drive, MS 1F2
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Toll Free: 866-926-1879
Phone: 703-993-5149
Fax: 703-993-3681
E-mail: aimva@gmu.edu