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 21st 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/
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
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
“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
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
### AIM-VA Requests 2008

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<tr>
<th>Sept. 2008 Snapshot Requests</th>
<th>Audio</th>
<th>Large Print</th>
<th>PDF</th>
<th>Daisy E-TEXT</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>RTF</th>
<th>Braille</th>
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<td>69</td>
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## AIM-VA Production Requests
March 2010

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<th>Task</th>
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<th>Incomplete</th>
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<th>@FTP</th>
<th>Retained</th>
<th>Archive</th>
<th>Average/DRM</th>
<th>Average/Student</th>
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<td>PDF: Accessible</td>
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<td>800</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>14.14</td>
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AIM-VA PRODUCTION PROCESS

To Production
- Database Entry
- Production Task Direction

Print Shop
- Chopping
- Cover Copies

Scanning
- Volume Configuration
- Quality Control

Print Shop
- Rebind

Shipping
- Packaging
- UPS

Retained Orders
- PDF: Accessible / FTP
- Large Print / White Labels

2009-2010 Formats
- PDF: Accessible
  - Short OCR
  - FTP Server
- Large Print
  - Inventory
  - Grayscale

Additional Formats
- ABBYY OCR
- Structured WORD
- PDF- Fully Accessible
- DAISY 3

To Shipping
To Printer or Large Print Library
AIM-VA Production
Digital and Large Print Formats

- Currently can scan 8-10 books a day (1000 page)
  - Raw PDF
  - Accessible PDF 2-4 person days
  - Manual OCR – 10 person days
  - Structured Word - 30 person days
  - Daisy mark up – 5-10 person days

- 4 printing companies for Large Print
  - Print 10 B&W volumes a day each (color only electronic)
  - Most books have 3-8 volumes each
  - Cost $13-$65 per volume or $100-500 per book
DBVI

- 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
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?
AIM-VA & RFB&D -

- Significant progress from first year
  - 235% increase in DRMs: 670 vs. 200 last year
  - 152% increase in book orders: 1,200 this year vs. 476 last year
  - Online training and support webinars for educators
  - New exclusive webpage/Weekly metrics indicate:
    - Increased traffic
    - Excellent open and click-through rates; page views and downloading of information
  - Monthly informational E-blasts to DRMs with timely, relevant content updates and information
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.
Important Division Reminders

- SUPTS. MEMO NO. 123 - May 9, 2008
  - Appointment of Digital Rights Managers
  - Announcement of AIM-VA opening

- AIM-VA Policy Statement
  - Attorney General requirements
  - May 7, 2008
AIM-VA Issues

- Production time
  - Learning as we fly – changing requirements
  - Outside vendors charge over $1 page to scan
  - $2-3 a page to turn into e-text
    - 300 page text book would cost us $900
- Late or incorrect orders
- No history of systematic process for OI, LD community
- Printing companies
  - Not typical process and state requirements
- No additional federal funding to assist VDOE or AIM-VA
Solutions

- PDF copies of orders Available through FTP site as needed
- 4 new printing companies
- Push chapter requests instead of whole books
- Buying scanners and equipment as needed to expedite process
- Work with publishers
- LEAS change contracts and request NIMAS versions