Applied Technology Methods for Students with Visual Impairments

Learning Station

NVDA screen reader

NVDA (NonVisual Desktop Access) is a free "screen reader" which enables blind and vision impaired people to use computers. It reads the text on the screen in a computerized voice. You can control what is read to you by moving the cursor to the relevant area of text with a mouse or the arrows on your keyboard.

NVDA can also convert the text into braille if the computer user owns a device called a "braille display".

Turn on NVDA using the keyboard only, read several paragraphs on different web pages by lines. Adjust the speech slower/faster; read the links on the page. Use the command "cheatsheet to the right".

Write your observations in the study guide.

Command	Description
"NVDA" key	Insert / Caps Lock
Stop	Ctrl
Open	Ctrl + Alt + N
Quit	NVDA + Q
Faster/Slower	Ctrl + NVDA + ↑/↓
Read previous/next line	↑/↓
Re-read current line	NVDA + .
Read all	NVDA + ↓
Forms/Links	Tab
Headings	H, 1 - 6
Forms	F
Buttons	B
Links	L
Landmarks	D
Tables	T
Table Cells	Ctrl + Alt + ↑/↓/←/→
Navigate Backwards	Shift (+ Tab, H, etc.)
Toggle forms mode	NVDA + Space

Update April 5: Added the ↑ and NVDA + ↑ commands