

# 2016-2017 Student Technology Fee Proposal

*Enhancing Student Disability Resources Center Services through Technology*

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## Project Description

The mission of the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) is to collaborate with and empower students to create an accessible and inclusive environment by identifying, minimizing, and where possible, eliminating barriers to equal access while encouraging equal participation for students with disabilities. The SDRC was established to serve as an advocate for Florida State students with disabilities and ensure that reasonable accommodations are provided.

The SDRC staff works directly with faculty and staff to provide accommodations for the unique needs of students both in and out of the classroom. Technology resources are integral to our students' success. Some of the technology resources currently supported by the University include:

- Alternate Text
- Assistive listening devices on campus
- Computer lab services
- Network JAWS (Job Access With Speech) & MAGic Solutions (Computer Magnification program)
- Tegrity (Records class session)
- Read & Write Gold software (Literacy software)

**NOTE on growth and number fluctuations:** The SDRC has seen a significant rise in the number of students registered for services over the last two years, reflecting improved outreach and a raise in the quality of services provided. The significant drop in the number of students requesting alt-text services between 2013-2014 was due to changes made in procedures as well departmental stressors that impacted service. Students are once again using the alt-text services provided by the SDRC, The current drop in numbers for students requesting alt-text services for class readings versus the rise in number of textbooks in alternative formats request is attributed to the dual factors of A) the increased usage of Read & Write Gold text-to-speech software by students and B) raised awareness by faculty regarding how to provide classroom materials/readings in accessible formats.

Table 1.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 <i>(numbers to-date, approximate)</i>
SDRC # of registered students	1,957	1965	1571	1897	1972	1,322	1,700	2,578
# of Exams facilitated at the SDRC Testing Lab	3413	4315	5815	6433	7,773	8,150	8,505	8,738
# of students who requested alt-text services	61	93	138	128	156	75	45	63

# of alt-text texts provided (books/readings)	271	560	2412	1121	362/249	223/373	295/229	349/134
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\*Data prior to 2013 is estimated based off historical record keeping and is therefore approximate.

This proposal includes request for funding for:

- Software
- Hardware/Equipment

### Software request: \$195.00

**Tiger 6 Braille conversion suite:** The current version of Tiger Braille conversion software is Tiger 5, which only works with older, 32-bit versions of Microsoft Word. Upgrading is necessary to keep compatibility with Florida State computer systems used by the SDRC. The upgrade represents a switch from single-license to subscription-license, meaning that it is now an annual fee rather than a single large one-time payment. Renewal of the license next year will be absorbed into the regular operating budget.

### Hardware/Equipment: \$18,900

**Computers:** The full request for 10 new computers is to account for replacing the oldest machines in the AT lab.

*Note on replacement policy:* The AT department has transitioned to “rolling standard” requests for replacing student machines. The SDRC has approximately 30 computers in house, which includes the testing center machines. Replacing a set number every year will allow us to establish a four-to-five year maximum age on installed computers, which is the outer limit age-out as recommended by CTS.

**ViewPlus Max braille embosser:** The embosser currently in use at the SDRC was purchased in 2010 and is showing significant wear and tear during print runs. The current embosser is out of warranty, which would require the SDRC to package and ship the equipment out of state for any repairs. This requirement would prevent the department from Brailleing any documents during this time, and would leave the department out of ADA compliance. This request is for an upgraded version of the same model to replace the one being used, which could then be stored on hand as an emergency back-up as necessary.

**Digital Bulletin Board:** Digital signage is being implemented on college campuses across the country as a method to quickly and easily share information ranging from event times and dates to emergency broadcast alerts. The accessibility of such signage not only requires proper placement but that the content is easily and equitably accessible to all students, regardless of disability. One solution has been to use touch-screen boards that provide information in audible format when activated, in accordance with federal standards (Section 508 of the Workforce Rehabilitation Act). This request is for one board to test usability and accessibility in order to advise other departments on implementation and usage.

**Recessed Monitor Computer Dual Desk (three):** With the dramatic rise in the number of tests being administered online via Blackboard, MyMathLab, and ExamSoft, the SDRC testing center is constantly short of seats with computer access. In order to maintain ADA compliance in relation to provision of accommodated testing the SDRC must then close the AT Lab in order to provide the required number of computers. The desks requested here would replace three of the regular desks in the SDRC testing center

with desks that allow for computers to be used unobtrusively, adding six computers to the overall number of computers in the SDRC testing center, without sacrificing security or the ability to proctor appropriately.

**Talking scientific calculators (two):** Neither the assistive technology lab nor the SDRC testing center currently have "talking calculators" available for students with visual disabilities to use during study or testing. Online and computer calculators are often not as accessible as needed and do not have the full features of a scientific calculator. The calculators would not be available for "check out" and would only be used on-premises.

**Spiral Comb Binder Machine:** There has been a rise in specialty-published textbooks that are spiral bound by the publisher and are not available from the copyright holder in digital format. In these situations the SDRC alt-text team must scan the books manually which is time intensive and results in poor quality scans due to the bulky nature of spiral bindings. This purchase would allow the alternative text team to unbind the books, scan them quickly but at high resolution, and then re-bind them using spiral-comb binds.

**Smart pens and carrying cases:** Smart pens are loaned out to students on a per-term basis and remain one of the most utilized accommodation instruments offered. The SDRC currently has 70 pens available; however, due to demand there is a consistent waiting list. The pens have a three-to-four year lifespan; therefore, each semester a few quit working and must be replaced. The costs indicated are to replace pens that are no longer available for student use and to increase the inventory.

**Combination microphone/Headphones:** The four requested combination microphones/headphones are to replace older and damaged equipment. Combination microphone/headphone sets are utilized by students who either use transcription software (such as Dragon Naturally Speaking) or for recording class projects/assignments.

**Headphones:** Headphones are highly used items in the AT Lab. They are used most often by students who are assigned videos, music, or recorded lectures as homework or for tests. The ten requested headphones are to replace broken and damaged items.

**Student Scanner:** Students often use the student-use scanner to make digital copies of their notes or to create images for projects/assignments. The current scanner is over five years old, out of warranty, and has been experiencing technical difficulties. The request is to replace our current model with a newer version.

## Impact of Project on Instruction

The requests for computers, talking calculators, and an upgraded Braille embosser will directly impact the ability for students to maximize the services provided at SDRC, and ensure full accessibility to all class materials. Students with visual disabilities often struggle academically because the technologies needed to ensure access are not always readily available. The SDRC wants to ensure that FSU students do not face such challenges.

The smart pens are the most popular tools utilized by our students to help them succeed academically. Smart pens are available for students to checkout and utilize in their classrooms, for studying and/or for testing. For students with ADHD and learning disabilities, smart pens allow them to fill in the gaps of information captured during a lecture. Students continue to be engaged in the academic process by taking notes during class but they have the reassurance that the lecture is being simultaneously recorded so they are able to retrieve any information not fully captured within the daily class notes. For some students smart pens are

preferred to the student volunteer note taking system and these students rely solely on the smart pen to ensure class content is captured.

The computer desks for the SDRC testing center, the spiral comb binder machine, and the digital bulletin board would be used to further the ability of the SDRC to directly fulfill service needs for students by expanding the scale and abilities of services in the testing center and the alt-text department. The digital bulletin board allows the SDRC to test and experiment with accessibility for students with disabilities as bulletin boards are a popular means of communicating information across campus, and digital boards would ensure that all students have equal access to all information.

## Project Plan

All materials would be purchased upon the receipt of funding designated for these purposes. The Student Disability Resource Center would work with Information Technology Services to plan the best time for installation of hardware and equipment to minimize disruption to student services. Additionally, the SDRC will work with campus partners to market these services to the university community.

## Project Reach

The SDRC staff work directly with academic colleges and departments to serve students. These technology requests will fund integral tools used by faculty and students across the university to provide appropriate accommodations for student learning, as well as provide support for staff to meet student needs. The positive impact cannot be overstated.

## Description of the project team

SDRC Director Dr. Shelley Ducatt is responsible for providing supervision and leadership to the Student Disability Resource Center. Kim Boo York, Assistive Technology Coordinator for the SDRC and the entire SDRC team will be involved in the implementation of these initiatives.

SDRC Team:

Dr. Shelley Ducatt, Director  
Jennifer Mitchell, Assistant Director  
Spencer Scruggs, Disability Specialist  
Kim Boo York, Assistive Technology Coordinator  
Ann Clutter, Exam Coordinator  
Tiffani Johnson, Sign Language Interpreter  
Marshaun Jackson, Program Assistant  
Dexter Taylor, Van Driver

## 2016-2017 Student Technology Fee Proposal Budget Overview

### Costs

Please note that amounts have been rounded up to the nearest ten-dollar amount, and that exact prices may change slightly as they are based on estimates generated within the last couple of months.

### Software

Tiger 6 Braille conversion software ( <i>upgrade</i> )	\$195.00
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### Hardware/Equipment

Computers (10 @ \$1200 ea.)	\$12,000.00
ViewPlus Max braille embosser	\$5,995.00
Digital Bulletin Board, touchscreen	\$5,500.00
Recessed Monitor Computer Desks (duo) (3 @ \$750)	\$2,250.00
Talking scientific calculators (2 @ \$400 ea.)	\$800.00
Spiral comb binder machine	\$600.00
Smart Pens (10 @ \$120 ea.)	\$1,200.00
Smart Pen carrying cases (10 @ \$25 ea.)	\$250.00
Microphone/Headphone USB (4 @ \$25 ea.)	\$100.00
Headphones (10 @ \$9)	\$90.00
Small Flatbed Scanner	\$100.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$28,885.00</b>

### Combined Totals

Software	\$195.00
Equipment	\$28,885.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$29,080.00</b>