Clark College

Board of Trustees Work Session Packet

Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 3:30 pm

https://clark-edu.zoom.us/j/84320321847?pwd=KzBuUkh2YUl3TkFVbzR3RkVsMDN3dz09

Meeting ID: 843 2032 1847

Passcode: 595657

Dial in: 1 (253) 215 8782

Physical Location:

Gaiser Hall, Room 213

Board of Trustee Work Session Packet, June 7, 2023, at 3:30 PM

I. Call to Order/Agenda Review – Chair Speer

II. Open Educational Resources (OER) Update
Presented by Dean of Class Julie Austad, Reference and Instruction Librarian Katy Anastasi, and OER Fellow Dr. Maggie Lynch

III. Accessibility and Assistive Technology at Clark College
Presented by Campus IT Accessibility Coordinator and Assistive Technology Specialist Zach Lattin

IV. Public Comment – Chair Speer
Public comment will be limited to two minutes each.

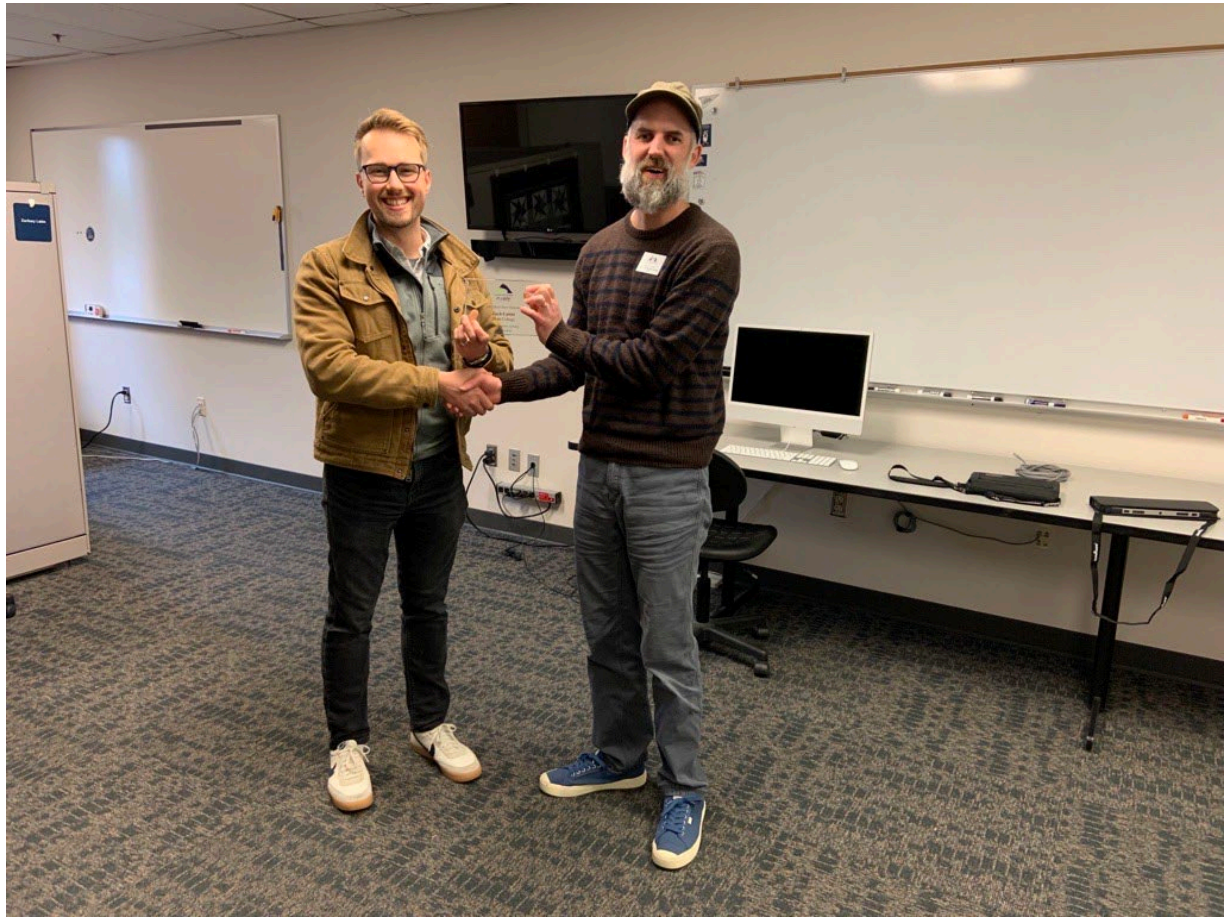
V. Adjournment – Chair Speer

Accessibility and Assistive Technology at Clark

Zach Lattin

June 7, 2023

Introducing Zach lattin



Assistive Technology

- People with disabilities use assistive technology (at) to access computers and content on computers and other devices, including resources and programs at Clark like online course materials in Canvas and other platforms, CtcLink, email, social media, etc.
- I think of assistive technology as: "any way that a user interfaces with a computer, phone, or tablet that adds a layer of interaction between the user and the device that isn't there for most users."
- Examples: screen-readers, speech-to-text software, sip-and-puff switches, Braille Note Touch, screen-magnification software

What Does It Mean When something Is Accessible?

Digital content is accessible when:

- Any assistive technology user can perform all of the functions or read all of the content in the same way that a non assistive technology user with comparable skillset can.
- It meets certain testable technical accessibility standards.

Who are we talking about when we talk about people with accessibility needs at Clark?

- People who use assistive technology in some form, including but not limited to:
- Students who are Braille readers or screen-reader users
- Anyone who uses captioned videos in any way
- Users with limited short term memory, limited physical dexterity or strength, limited eye-hand coordination, etc.
- As we will see, younger AT users may have a completely different relationship with technology due to experiences in the remote learning / lockdown phase of the pandemic.

User Story Intro

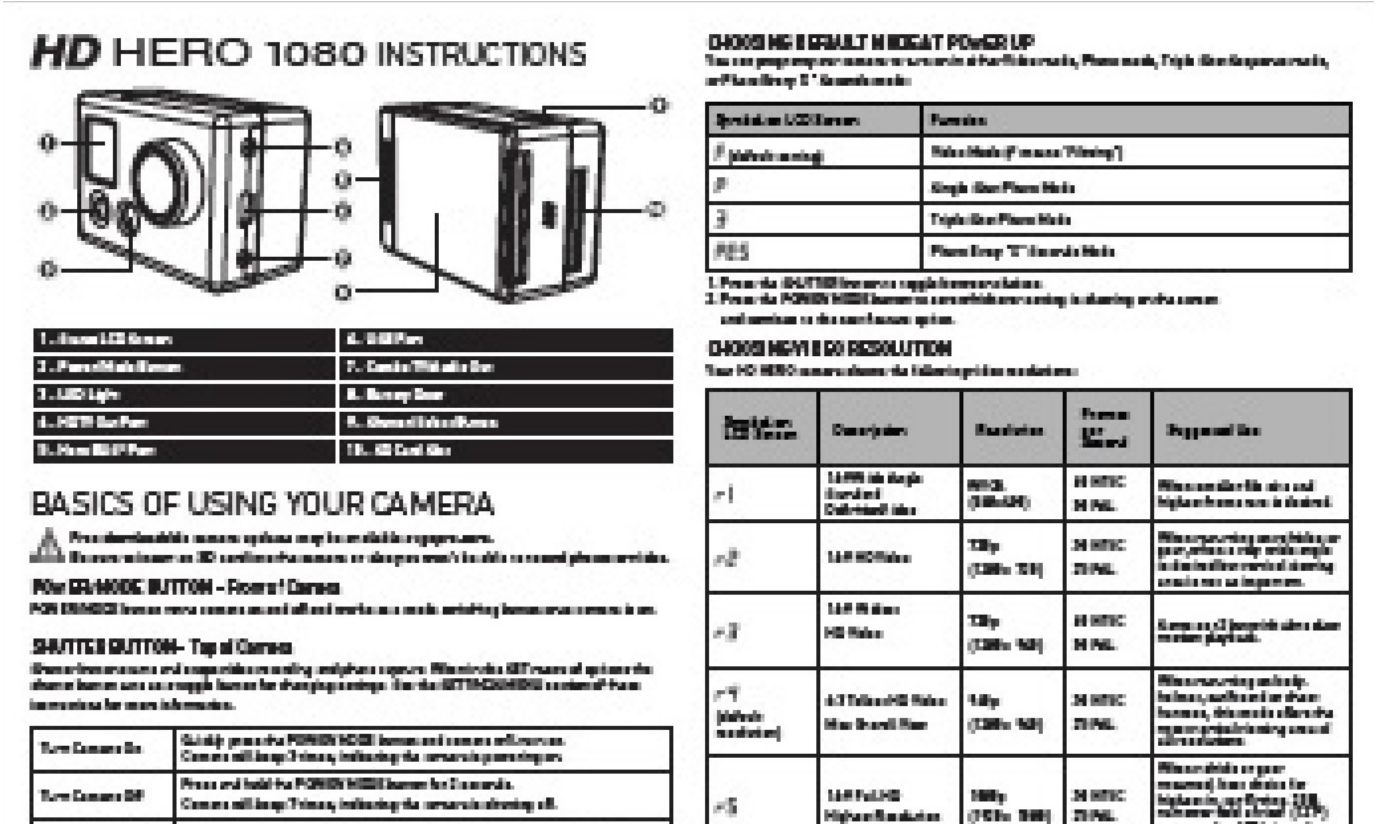
- In July of 2022, 19 blind and low vision students from the YES Program visited Clark college.
- Let me tell you, the sound of 19 canes confidently tapping in the hallway is an AMAZING thing!
- The YES Program "offers students - who need minimal assistance with their independent living and travel skills - the opportunity to explore their interests and aptitudes through different assessments, explore different careers possibilities, and visit work sites."
- I asked the group of middle and high school students to share a time when they couldn't access or use technology because of their disability. These are some of the experiences this AT-using cohort is bringing to higher ed with them.

During the remote learning phase of the pandemic, a teacher sent a student a math worksheet that had been saved as an inaccessible pdf. The student was unable to complete the worksheet because their assistive technology couldn't read the content and no sighted assistance was available to the student.

A screen magnification user was provided with notes that had been photographed with a phone. Upon zooming in so the text was big enough for the student, the image of text became too blurry and pixelated to read.

Magnified but illegible

This screenshot of text has been magnified but does not scale up and instead cannot be read.



A student's screen-reader became locked in 40-minute demo mode right before a huge math exam. The student, who was already stressed about the exam, had to restart their computer 35 minutes into the exam in order to continue using their screen-reader. (This wasn't shared as part of the student's story, but this likely occurred because school district staff forgot to renew the license for the student's screen-reader.)

JAWS demo times out

After 40 minutes of using JAWS demo version it times out and requires a reboot of the computer to use it once again.

How does Clark Help AT users now?

- In collaboration with DSS, I provide ongoing assistive technology consults and training to any student who asks for it.
- This year averaged two to four students per week when combining new and recurring appointments.
- Examples of trainings I've done over the past year: How to use built-in Windows 10 speech-to-text and how to use it more effectively, how to use jaws and built-in Gmail keyboard shortcuts to manage the many many emails that come to a student's Clark email inbox, and how to use the NVDA screen-reader to build formulas in Microsoft Excel.

- Many standard assistive technologies like Jaws, Dragon Naturally Speaking, and Zoomtext magnifier are available on most Clark lab machines.
- New this year: I work with Clark IT and Clark Library staff to coordinate checkouts of laptops with assistive technology pre-loaded for the student’s needs upon request. Examples: NVDA screen-reader, Dragon naturally Speaking.

Clark Accessibility Policy

- Clark implements a robust accessibility policy that insures Clark information technology can be used by all users. This policy was revised in 2022 as part of the OCR resolution process.
- (Think of a technology platform like a public building which needs to meet certain building standards like wheelchair ramps, braille on doors, etc.)
- Visit www.clark.edu/accessibility for this accessibility policy, accessible tech procurement procedure and more.

How will Clark help AT Users and other people with disabilities in the future?

- Clark IT Change Advisory Committee will vet all prospective software for adherence to accessibility policies, and security and interoperability standards.
- Clark IT is creating a new assistive technology lab for student training and accessibility testing. The lab will include:
- Several Macs and PCs running the most up-to-date assistive technologies
- Specialized hardware like refreshable braille displays, switches, scanners, braille embossers
- On-site training and walk-in consults for students and staff

Questions?

- Please don’t hesitate to contact me; you don’t even have to pay me to talk about this stuff:
- Email: zlattin@clark.edu
- On-campus phone: (360)-992-2016
- Stop by APH 206