

## **Assistive Technology for Library Users**

Presented by Jennifer Baker, New England Assistive Technology Marketplace, Program Coordinator

Sponsored by CLA Children's Section

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On Tuesday, April 29, Jennifer Baker, program coordinator from the New England Assistive Technology (NEAT) Marketplace gave an introduction to adaptive technology for libraries. The NEAT Marketplace provides resources for individuals with permanent and temporary disabilities who are seeking access to assistive technology, providing equipment, training and resources to individuals and institutions. The types of technology ranged from the very low-tech (slant boards which can hold books up at different angles if patrons have limited neck, back or head mobility) to items such as touch screens, joysticks and i-pens, plus a variety of mice and keyboards. All of the items were available for examination at the time of the presentation, but more importantly, Baker informed all in attendance that everything she brought, plus many other types of hardware and software, is available on loan from the NEAT Marketplace if a library would like to test out something in particular before making an investment. In addition, libraries who become members of the NEAT Marketplace can take advantage of staff training either on-site or at the NEAT Marketplace in Hartford or at the satellite office in Stratford. Visit [www.neatmarketplace.org](http://www.neatmarketplace.org) for more information on the types of services and materials available.