DisabilityCampaign.org

Smartphone Apps for the Blind

Four Recommended Apps for iPhone Users and Four Recommended Apps for Android Users

Best iPhone Apps for the Blind

1. Ariadne GPS
   a. "This app is completely accessible using VoiceOver and gives you access to information that is normally unavailable to people using the speech synthesizer and can therefore be especially useful to blind and partially sighted people." – iTunes Store
   b. GPS helps us to navigate our way through the city or even on a solo walk. Ariadne GPS is a brilliant app that meets the needs of the blind in a simple user interface. The app, which makes use of Google maps, provides audible directions, vibrates when crossing the street, and can announce stops on the bus or train.

2. LookTel Money Reader
   a. "LookTel Money Reader instantly recognizes currency and speaks the denomination, enabling people experiencing visual impairments or blindness to quickly and easily identify and count bills. Point the camera of your iOS device at a bill and the application will tell you the denomination in real-time." – iTunes Store

3. Color ID Free

    a. "Color Identifier uses the camera on your iPhone or iPod touch to speak the names of colors in real-time. It's an Augmented Reality app for discovering the names of the colors around you!" – iTunes Store

    b. The visually impaired user will appreciate the helpful functionality of this app: simply point the iPhone camera at your selected item and it will announce the color for you.

4. Voice Brief

    a. "How can we stay on top of all that information without spending time? How can we use our incredible iPhone the right way? How about hiring someone to read them one by one while you are driving, eating, or brushing your teeth? Voice brief reads them all with clear voice, lets you fully customize the content from your email, weather, calendar, Gmail, news feeds, stock price, Twitter and Facebook..." – iTunes Store

    b. Voice Brief is an app that any user would enjoy but it is especially useful for the visually impaired.

Best Android Apps for the Blind

1. Scanlife Barcode and QR Reader

    a. "ScanLife turns your camera phone into an all-in-one, lightning fast QR and barcode reader! Newly enhanced with Facebook to make it easy to share what you find and see what ScanLife users recommend as you're scanning. This is the only barcode scanner you need because it scans it all!" - Google Play Store

    b. This app will help the blind read barcodes and related information simply by snapping a picture with their camera phone.

2. **TalkBack (by Google)**

    a. "TalkBack is an Accessibility Service that helps blind and vision-impaired users interact with their devices more easily. This application adds spoken, audible, and vibration feedback to your device. It is a system application that was pre-installed on most devices and is updated when the accessibility service is improved." – Google Play Store

    b. This accessibility app talks out-loud whatever action the user performs. The app reads text aloud and can be enabled under the phone settings.

3. **Magnify**

    a. "Turn your Android phone into a digital magnifying glass with built-in flashlight. It's great for when you need to read tiny print and for when you just can't be bothered to put on your glasses or contacts. You can even use it at restaurants, movie theaters, or anywhere else with low light." – Google Play Store

    b. With the help of the camera phone, this app can help the visually impaired read print that is otherwise too small.

4. **IDEAL Accessible App Installer**

    a. "This application, an IDEAL 'Accessible Application Installer,' is designed to make it easy to install IDEAL Group applications that are accessible, useful, educational, and entertaining for everyone ... including individuals with print disabilities." – Google Play Store

    b. This app can be used to install the many Accessibility apps that Google offers, including SoundBack, KickBack and TalkBack apps.