Bridging Cultures:

Exploring the Intersection of Disability and Assistive Technology Across Diverse Communities

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Objectives

- Define Disability and Assistive Technology (AT)
- Explore Cultural Perspectives on Disability
- Highlight Success Stories
- Discuss Future Directions

Defining Disability

- Definition of Disability
- Types of Disabilities

Understanding Assistive Technology (AT)

- What is Assistive Technology?
  - An assistive technology device is any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals…" (21st Century AT Act)
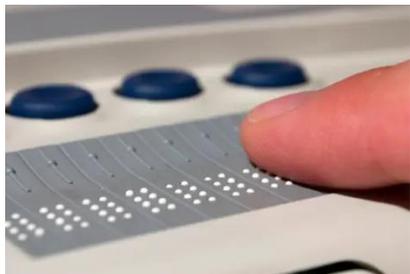
AT Addresses Functional Needs

- Vision
- Hearing
- Speech communication
- Learning, cognition, and development
- Mobility, seating, and positioning
- Daily living
- Environmental adaptations
- Vehicle modifications and transportation
- Computers and automated home
- Recreation, sports, and leisure

Cultural Perspectives on Disability

- Cultural influences on perceptions on disability

- Stigma and discrimination
  - Identifying barriers to access and adoption of AT in different cultural contexts

- Exploring the impact of cultural perspectives on the use of AT

Success Stories

- Collaboration and partnerships
  - Catholic Community Services
  - Students with language barriers
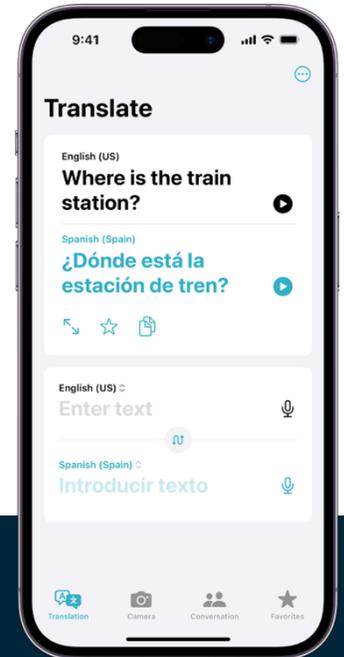
Future Directions

- Advancement in AT
  - Collaborative approaches to design and develop culturally sensitive assistive technologies

- Advocacy and policy changes
  - Leveraging technology to bridge cultural gaps in support

- Building inclusive communities
  - The role of education and advocacy in promoting inclusivity, empowering diverse communities through inclusive technology solutions

Contact Information

Utah Assistive Technology Program

www.usu.edu/uatp

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Find the AT Act program in your state or territory

www.at3center.net/state-at-programs