ATRC Logo, Assistive Technology Resource Center, Colorado State University.
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# Alternate Format Continuum

## Basic Features

| Technology | MP3 | Learning Ally (Audio only Daisy) | Daisy | Rapid Reader – Speed Reading | Low-Cost Text to Speech SOFTWARE | Low-Cost Text to SpeechAPPS |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| User Interface | **Audio only**  Convert text into audio format using program Text Aloud. Student can select voice and speed (see list)  **Pro**: Portable  **Con**: Difficult to navigate, computer voice | **Audio only**  **Pro**: Real voice, easy to navigate  **Con**: Membership fee required annually – check for eligibility. Audio only – no text Requires use of a Daisy Player software, hardware or app. | **Visual display and audio**  **Pro:** Easy to navigate. Audio + visual display. Daisy files available to those who qualify for Bookshare.  **Con:** Requires use of a Daisy Player software, hardware or app. | **Visual Speed Reading Software**  **Pro:** Rapid Serial Visual Presentation (RSVP)  **Con:** No Audio,Costs money for Pro Version if not using on campus | **Audio and Visual display of text**  Text to Speech, Highlights as it reads  **Pro**: Free/low cost, on student’s personal computer. \*CAR supports MathML  **Con**: Computer voice, limited features | **Audio and Visual display of text**  Text to Speech, Highlights as it reads  **Pro**: Free/low cost, on student’s personal mobile device  **Con**: Computer voice, limited features |
| Voice | Computer | Real Voice | Computer | Computer | Computer | Computer |
| Readable Formats | .mp3 | .daisy | .daisy | .doc, .txt,.r2d,PDF  Copy from clipboard | .doc, PDF, .txt  \*MathML - CAR | PDF, .doc, .rtf, .html |
| Players | Windows Media,  I Tunes, Personal Mp3 Player | Daisy Players, Easy Reader, Link  **iOS apps** –Learning Ally, Read2Go  **Android apps –** GoRead, Learning Ally | Daisy Players, Easy Reader, etc.  **iOS apps** – Read2Go, Voice of Daisy, **Android apps -** GoRead | Rapid Reader  \* Equivalents available – Spritz, Spreeder, Flash Reader (iOS), Speed Reader (Android) | Built-ins, Natural Reader, Ghost Reader, Balabolka, Central Access Reader (CAR) | **iOS:** vBookz, Voice Dream Reader, ClaroSpeak, ClaroPDF, Built-ins  **Android:** ezPDF Reader |
| Location | Portable | Portable, On Campus | Portable, On Campus | On Campus  Free version available | On personal computer/device, on campus | On portable mobile device |

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## Comparison of Advanced Features – WYNN, Read & Write, Kurzweil 3000

|  | Shared Features |
| --- | --- |
| Reading | * Text-to-speech * Highlighting text during audio * Speed adjustment * Create audio files of text * Reads internet browsers * Optical character recognition (OCR) * DAISY support |
| Writing | * Dictionary * Thesaurus * Word prediction * Spell checkers * Homophone finders * Foreign language support |
| Study Tools | * Multi-color highlighting * Annotations * Audio/voice notes * Generate outlines from text |
| Visual Display | * Background and other color changes * Text magnification * Text and highlighting color options |

|  | WYNN | Read & Write | Kurzweil 3000 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unique Features | * Exact or text view display * Enhanced screen masking, font, color, and spacing * Skim reading feature * Bookmarks, sticky notes * Web annotations and masking * Notecards | * Single word display while reading * Vocab list * Screen shot reader * Speech Input/dictation (Windows version only) * Concept mapping * Web annotations * Screen overlay option * Fact Finder/Folder * iPad app for web reading | * Bookmarks, sticky notes * Concept mapping * Firefly – web/mobile access * Image Reader * Column and Foot Notes * Zone Editor |
| Notable Limitations | * No concept mapping * Not available for personal computers * Involved format conversion process (to Wynn format) | Missing features for Mac version:   * Speech Input * Limited screen   masking options | * Involved format conversion process (PDF to kes) * Missing Mac features – background color change, Image Reader |
| Voice | Computer | Computer | Computer |
| ReadableFormats | Wynn files, PDF, .doc  Read the web with WYNN browser | .doc and PDF  Reads IE, Chrome, Safarited features with Ps with PDaisy | PDF, .kes  .doc – formatting is off  Reads Firefox and IE |
| Players | Within WYNN program | Floating Tool-bar | Within Kurzweil Program |
| Location | On campus only | On Campus, Free installation on personal computer | On Campus, Free installation on personal |