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Digital capital and inclusion: an exploration of the technology and e-learning experiences of disabled university and college students

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http://hdl.handle.net/10026.1/13483
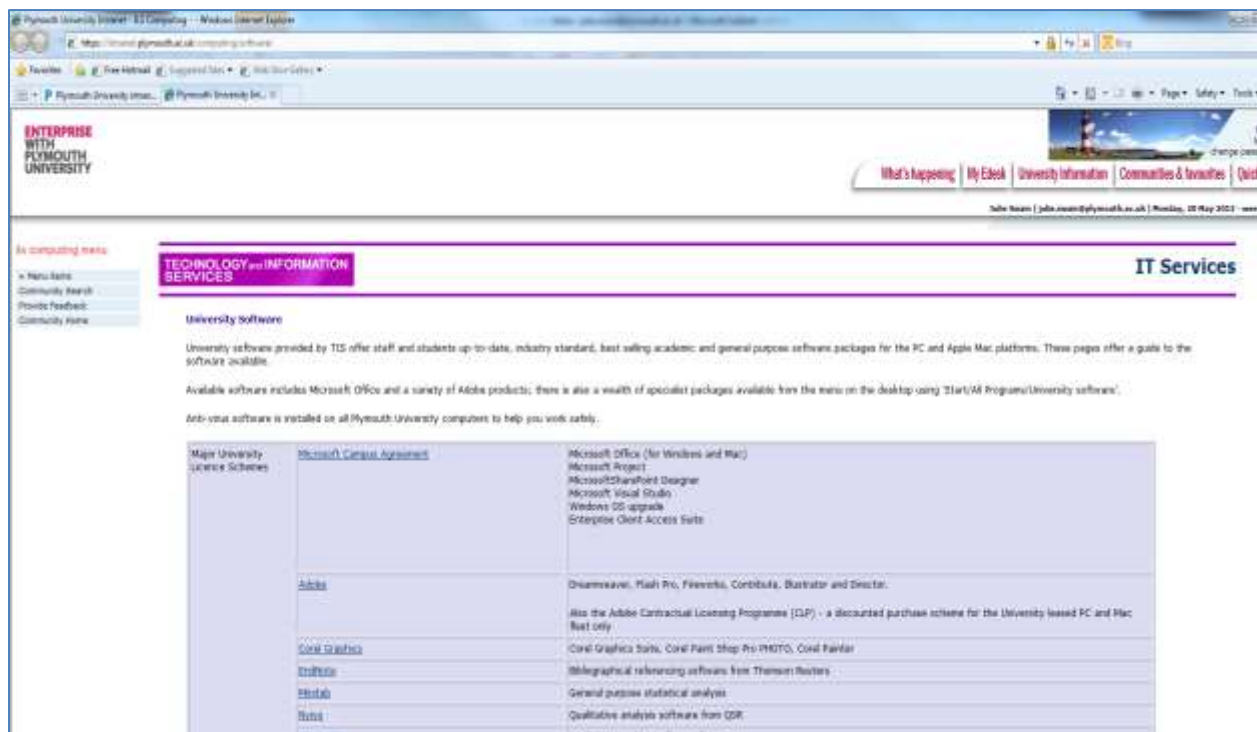
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HINTS AND TIPS ABOUT USING TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT YOUR LEARNING

1. TECHNOLOGIES YOU CAN USE

1. Freely available applications

Plymouth University has licences for a number of general purpose software packages such as Microsoft Office and Adobe as well as specialist packages such as SPSS and Minitab. Students are entitled to download and use these packages on their own computers. More information about what applications are available and how to access them can be found at:
https://intranet.plymouth.ac.uk/computing/software

AccesApps consists of over 50 Open Source and freeware Windows applications, capable of running from a USB stick. Access Apps provides a range of solutions to support writing, reading and planning as well as sensory, cognitive and physical difficulties:
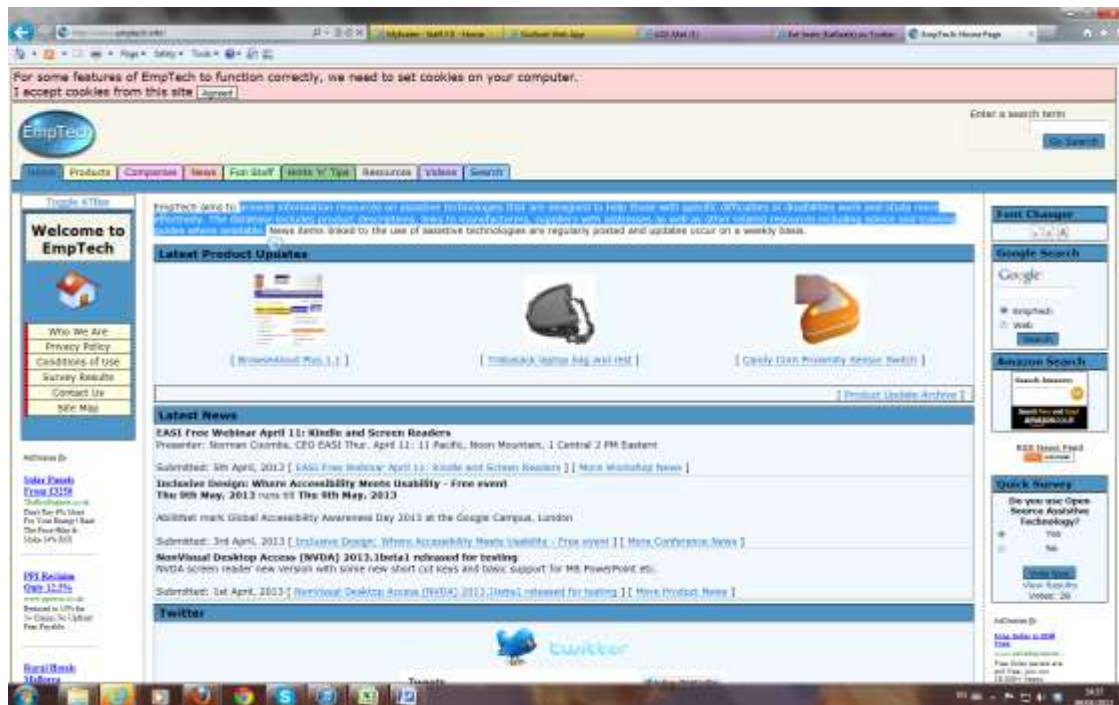http://www.jisctechdis.ac.uk/techdis/technologymatters/enablingtech/accessapps

Changing Pointers and cursor size – Windows has many pointers and cursors on offer other than the standard ones. These can be found in the Control Panel under Mouse Pointers. There are also more freely available from:
 Dolphin http://www.yourdolphin.com/supportup.asp?act=patch&id=1491 and the Ace Centre, http://acecentre.org.uk/ with larger icons and bars to increase visibility

1.2 Database of useful technologies

Emptech provides information resources on assistive technologies that are designed to help those with specific difficulties or disabilities work and study more effectively. The database includes product descriptions, links to manufacturers, suppliers with addresses as well as other related resources including advice and training guides where available. http://www.emptech.info/

2. LEARNING HOW TO USE TECHNOLOGIES EFFECTIVELY

2. 1 Skills Tutorials

Practise Typing skills - There is a free on-line test and typing tutorials available from Senselang: http://www.sense-lang.org/typing/

2.2 Accessibility Guidance

Accessibility Tutorials for Microsoft products: These tutorials introduce you to accessibility features and options in Microsoft Windows, Office, and Internet Explorer.http://www.microsoft.com/enable/training/default.aspx
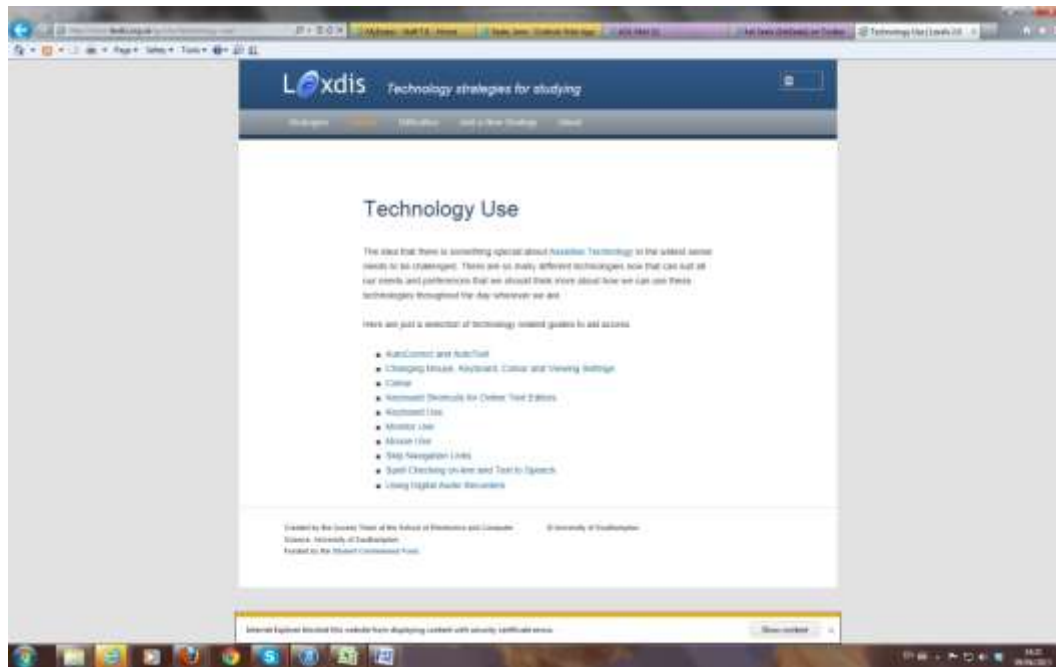
Developed with Microsoft and the BBC **My Computer My Way** is AbilityNet's interactive service which explains the accessibility options built into every computer: http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/mcmw/

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2.3 Strategies for 'smart' use of technologies to support learning

 The **LEXDIS website** is a good source of information: http://www.lexdis.org.uk/ Much of the information and advice is provided by disabled students, including examples of technology strategies. There are also a series of guides to aid access:

The TechDis Toolbox (Tbx)contains bite-size videos, short guides, animations and brief audio files that give useful hints and tips on technologies that can help you work quicker, slicker and smarter. www.jisctechdis.ac.uk/tbx