

Resources:

<http://www.hooleon.com>

<http://atto.buffalo.edu>

<http://www.sc.edu/scatp/expo/expo08handouts/Low%20Tech%20Presentation.pdf>

Textbook



**Alternative Methods to  
Access the Computer: by  
Elizabeth Greber**

**10 Easy Ways to help you Access  
the Computer!**



## Trackballs, Joysticks, and Touchscreens

**Track balls:** Track balls come in different sizes. They have the mini, standard, large, and adapted. This could benefit students who struggle with motor skills and range of control. If students do not have use of their hands, they can operate it with their feet.

**Joysticks:** You can use a joystick either with software for a game or an adapted joystick. Joysticks are helpful because they may be easier to control than a keyboard.

**Touch screens:** They are helpful for students who need a direct and intuitive way to access the computer.

## Alternative Keyboards and Other Systems

**Expanded Keyboards:** These are oversized or enlarged keyboards. They vary in size of keys and keyboard. This will help students with visual impairments, as well as students who have a hard time with a physical disability and the keys being too close together.

**Mini Keyboards:** This is the opposite of the enlarged keyboard. These small keyboards are easily transported. Students that may benefit from mini keyboards are students with neuromuscular conditions such as muscular dystrophy and spinal muscular atrophy. They also benefit those with access to one hand. They also have one handed keyboards and on screen keyboards

**.Head pointing system:** This is a headset and reflective dot and it is good for those who cannot use their hands and have good head control.  
**Eye gazing:** This is someone who has limited physical ability and need to control the computer with their eyes.

## Low-Tech Adaptations for Access



can use large letters, high contrast colors, braille, and blank labels. This can help students with low vision, blindness, perceptual issues, cognitive deficits, and attention issues.

**Key guards:** These are designed for individual keyboards and are finger sized holes that fit over the keys. They are also made for alternative keyboards or AAC devices. These can benefit a wide range of students.

**Moisture guards:** These are transparent and have long term use. They are printed with key labels. They are for those who have low vision or a tendency to spill or drool.