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Maryland Libraries Provide Resources for Disabled Citizens New Accessible Workstations Placed in over 100 Maryland Public Libraries

Baltimore, October 28, 2016—Libraries meet the needs of all Citizens of Maryland

Over 100 branch libraries across the state now have workstations that provide assistive technology to citizens of Maryland protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These workstations have electric height-adjustable tables with computers, 27 inch monitors, special keyboards, JAWS® screen reader software, MAGic® screen enlarging software, and an Optelec® CCTV that has Optical Character Reading (OCR) capabilities that will read aloud any print text.

The workstations allow citizens to access information over the internet or in print that they would not normally be able to read or reach. “Maryland Libraries are very excited to provide this service to Maryland’s disabled citizens, especially as we celebrate the 26th anniversary of the signing of ADA. Local libraries welcome patrons with special needs to visit and use this equipment,” said Irene Padilla, Assistant State Superintendent of the Division of Library Development and Services (DLDS), Maryland State Department of Education.

Funding for this project was provided through a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Training for library staff on how to use the equipment will be provided by the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH), a branch of DLDS.

Visit your local library to use the new stations. To find your local library visit <http://www.slrc.info/resources/Default.aspx?id=81137>

Division of Library Development and Services
Maryland State Department of Education