



ANDREW BRACKENSICK/Emerald
Jennifer Sutton, a visually impaired graduate student of English, uses a computer to help her read a philosophy text.

Lab: New technology to be placed in areas

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available for those who are visually impaired. The lab's voice activated computer offers some students and faculty the opportunity to rely on their voices instead of their hands.

Once students have learned to use the technology, Wentworth says it is important that mainstreaming occurs so students with disabilities feel comfortable using these computers in larger computing labs, such as the one in the EMU, or the Information Technology Center in the Knight Library.

Introducing this technology into the main computer labs is one of James Bailey's goals. Bailey, the adaptive technology access advisor, trains people with disabilities to use the technology in the lab.

Whether disabled students come to the University already using the technology at home, or

are just being introduced to it, they expect the technology to be at the University so they can write papers and read texts required for classes, Bailey said.

"Disregard the fact that there are laws to comply with," he said. "We need to provide these services to students with disabilities because they have paid their tuition."

The technology in the Adaptive Technology Lab is not that expensive, according to Bailey, and it has the potential to make the University's more than 500 students with disabilities more independent.

Adding a soundcard and voice box to a computer costs between \$1000 and \$2000 dollars, and dictation software runs about \$800.

"The fact that it can facilitate someone's independence makes it worthwhile," a University counselor for students with disabilities, Hillary Gerdes said.

CORRECTION

In the Aug. 13 issue of the *Oregon Daily Emerald*, a misspelling of a named occurred in the article entitled, "Discovery channel spotlights UO professor."

The professor's name is correctly spelled "Dr. William Ayres."

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