



NIMAS Update

November 15, 2007



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What is a NIMAS File Set?

XML-based source file

- NIMAS conforming XML content file
- Images in folders
 - SVG, PNG or JPEG (order of preference)
 - 300 dots per inch
- PDF of the print materials title page
- Package file (metadata about the materials and a manifest or list of submitted files)



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What Specialized Formats can be Created Using NIMAS File Sets?

Braille (embossed and digital formats)

Large Print

Audio Files (MP3 or other formats)

Digital Text, such as

- Digital Talking Books (DAISY)
- HTML eBooks
- ASCII files
- Word and Rich Text files
- PDF
- Other proprietary formats



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What Has Been Accomplished? 1 of 8

- OSEP RFP for \$6.3 million (Technology and Media Services, 8/3/07)
- Communications with States (listserv) and State Directors (NASDSE).
- Agreement by 15 States to join AIM Consortium Application with CAST.
- Awarded almost \$4.9 million in late September.**
- Started October 1, 2007.
- Three goals of the AIM Consortium (CAST and 15 States)
 - Facilitate development of State systems for increasing awareness and timely provision of accessible instructional materials via NIMAS/NIMAC,
 - Ensure that State systems for identification, acquisition, and use of accessible instructional materials employ high quality procedures and practices, and
 - Produce related products and services scalable and made available to all States, OAs, and FAS, thus contributing to improving outcomes for all students with disabilities.

What Has Been Accomplished? 2 of 8

Exemplar AIM Consortium products and services:

- Coordinated Central Services – provided by CAST
 - General operations, planning, coordination, evaluation, accessibility, communications, knowledge database, contracts, etc.
 - Professional development and technical assistance to AIM members
- Focused State Activities - contracts distributed equally to State members
 - Data management and tracking systems
 - Modify existing non-NIMAS systems
 - Professional development for LEAs
 - Develop and implement procedures regarding AUs and AMPs
- Best Practices Products and Services – scalable focused contracts
 - Accessible materials face-to-face and online professional development
 - Develop models of students data and materials tracking systems
 - Develop tools for supporting decision making re: students, content and tools
 - Develop an integrated K-16 development and delivery model with higher ed

What Has Been Accomplished? 3 of 8

Fifteen AIM Consortium States

- Delaware
- Georgia
- Iowa
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Utah
- Vermont
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming



What Has Been Accomplished? 4 of 8

Federal Activities

- OSEP Training Sessions in DC, Los Angeles and Kansas City
- Periodic OSEP Working Meetings in DC
- OSEP Website NIMAS Module
- NICHCY Training Modules – PDF and PowerPoints

State Activities

- Independent Initiatives (e.g. KY, IN, VA, CA, TX, etc.)
- Proposed AIM Consortium – 15 States

International DAISY Community Meetings

- Boris Goldowsky, Director of Technology, CAST
- DAISY and NIMAS Structure Guidelines

What Has Been Accomplished? 5 of 8

- NIMAS TA Center
 - State support – Web, phone, listserv and email
 - NIMAS Website
 - For publishers, content conversion orgs, educators and others
 - Suggested process for assigning titles to national Chafee orgs
 - Evolving with support of new NIMAS Implementation Council
- NIMAS Development Center
 - Math ML – soon to be included in NIMAS
 - NIMAS Images – issues regarding size and format
 - Evolving with support of new NIMAS Standards Board
- NIMAC Update
 - Limitation of Use Agreement
 - Repository is being populated as planned – but access is still limited

What Has Been Accomplished? 6 of 8

- New Tools
 - Free CAST NIMAS File Conversion Tool
 - HTML: For ClickSpeak with Firefox
 - XML Segments: For braille translation software
 - Image reduction: For HTML and DAISY
- Commercial Products (just a sampling)
 - Don Johnston Solo and Read:OutLoud: NIMAS import
 - ghPlayer: NIMAS import and DAISY export
 - Dolphin: NIMAS conversion to DAISY
 - Texthelp ReadWriteGold
 - Kurzweil Reader: NIMAS converter
 - more

What Has Been Accomplished? 7 of 8

NIMAS Center Partners

- ATIA
 - Communications
 - Annual conference in Orlando – host NIMAS and participate
 - Participation in ATIA policy teleconference meetings
- AFB
 - Communications
 - Training

Educational Publisher Associations

- AAP – represent major textbook publishers
- AEP – represent supplemental publishers

NEWS: 1 of 3

Benetech Award - Bookshare

- Bookshare is a registered AMP and has access to NIMAS files held by the NIMAC once titles are assigned to them by Authorized Users
- On 9/28/07, OSEP made a major five-year award of \$32 million to Bookshare.org. This will further the objectives of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), by supplying high quality textbooks and educational materials to students with special needs.
- The new funding will fully support all schools and students 26 years old and under with qualifying print disabilities in the United States, K-12 and post-secondary. Bookshare plans to provide those students with access to the entire Bookshare.org collection of accessible electronic books and to software for reading those books.
- As of October 1, 2007, Bookshare ceased charging schools and students a membership fee to join Bookshare.org.
- Bookshare plans to add over 100,000 new educational titles in high quality DAISY and Braille formats over the next five years.
- From <http://www.bookshare.org/web/Welcome.html>

NEWS: 2 of 3

RFB&D Plans & Resources

- RFB&D is a registered AMP and has access to NIMAS files held by the NIMAC once titles are assigned to them by Authorized Users
- We think that two Levels of Digital Talking Books (DTB) will be provided (not confirmed)
 - Rapid development DAISY books from NIMAS file sets with live text that use text to speech
 - High quality DAISY books using human voices – will take longer
- New RFB&D Learning Through Listening Website
 - <http://www.learningthroughlistening.org/>
 - Listening focused content and skill building
 - Lesson Plans
 - Classroom Activities
 - Teaching Strategies
 - Listening Resources

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NEWS: 3 of 3

New NIMAS Committees

- NIMAS Development Center
 - Recent letter to members
 - New plan for Standards Committee
- NIMAS TA Center
 - New plan for Implementation Committee
 - Role will differ from AIM Consortium and serve all States and Territories
 - Hosted SEA meeting at ATIA Conference
- AIM Consortium Steering Committee
 - CAST plus 15 SEA Representatives

Working meeting plans

January 29, 2008: Board in AM, impl. in PM

January 30, 2008: Impl. in AM and AIM in PM

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A Few Ongoing Hot Issues

- ❑ AAP/AEP are raising issues regarding national Chafee orgs
 - ❑ No **anticipatory access** to NIMAS files – although desirable by most
 - ❑ **K-12 NIMAS access** only – not new but emphasized by publisher orgs.
 - ❑ Attention to evidence (or assurance) that book was **purchased**
 - ❑ **Certification** documentation may need to be available for review
- ❑ Which populations with print disabilities are included?
 - ❑ IDEA supported students with **IEPs only** ?
 - ❑ What about Section 504 students? Proposed Rehab Act Language?
 - ❑ Which LD populations and what about MD certification requirements?
- ❑ **Limitation of Use Agreement** – NIMAC and SEAs (liability issues)
- ❑ Meaning of “Adopt NIMAS” – NIMAS statute requirement for SEAs
 - ❑ **Exclusive** of other formats?
 - ❑ Multiple file format requests by SEAs (publisher issue)
- ❑ Meaning of the word “**publish**” – on or after July 2006

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Home About NIMAS NIMAS Development & Technical Assistance Centers

NIMAS Development & Technical Assistance Centers

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs has awarded CAST two five-year Cooperative Agreements to establish two national centers to further develop and implement the **National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)**. The NIMAS guides the production and electronic distribution of digital versions of textbooks and other instructional materials so they can be more easily converted to accessible formats, including braille and text-to-speech.

Version 1.0 of the NIMAS was developed in 2002-2004 by the National File Format Technical Panel, which was comprised of forty technology specialists, educators, disability advocates, and publishers, and is based on the DAISY/NISO Z39.86 (DAISY 3) specification. The final NIMAS was published on July 19, 2006 (71 FR 41084) and was included as Appendix C to Part 300—National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard—published on August 14, 2006. Technical specifications for both version 1.0 and 1.1 are available in the [About NIMAS](#) section of this Web site.

Recent Site Updates

- July 10, 2007 – [Primary Contacts for NIMAS/NIMAC](#) (updated)
- June 22, 2007 – [NIMAS Resources](#) (updated)
- June 22, 2007 – [NIMAS Exemplars](#) (updated)
- June 22, 2007 – [Legislation Relating to Accessible Instructional Materials](#) (updated)
- June 22, 2007 – [Creating NIMAS Files](#) (updated)
- June 20, 2007 – [Local Education Agency Role Critical to Provision of Specialized Formats](#)
- June 20, 2007 – [Market Model Initiatives](#)
- June 18, 2007 – [Conversion Services](#) (updated)
- June 15, 2007 – [NIMAS Conversion Tool](#)

Highlights:

[Quick Introduction](#)
[What is NIMAS?](#)

NIMAS Resources
For helpful information on NIMAS-related topics, visit the [NIMAS Resource Page](#).

NIMAS 1.1
[NIMAS 1.1 Tech Spec](#)

Notice to Publishers
[Market Model Initiatives](#)

Guidance for States
[SEA Speed Activities](#)


Technical Guidance
[Creating NIMAS Files](#)

NIMAC
Visit the [NIMAC](#) site.

Research
Review recent [research](#) on accessible materials.

NIMAS Presentations:
[Attend a NIMAS presentation](#)

News:
Jan. 2007 NIMAS Committee Meeting
The Winter 2007 NIMAS Development Committee Meeting Notes are now available on the [Development Committee page](#).



Visitor locations
Click to see

Join the [NIMAS Interest Group](#) listserv to learn what others are saying and asking about NIMAS.

The nimas ig listserv has been formed for the purpose of NIMAS- and NIMAC-related discussions, including concerns, options, issues, and practical applications. This discussion group is open to the public.

The NIMAS Development Center will improve the original standard by identifying new research and technological advances relevant to the standard. The Center will also explore existing and new distribution models for the provision of accessible materials to students with disabilities.

The NIMAS Technical Assistance Center will work with key stakeholders such as states, school boards, and publishers to raise awareness of the benefits of accessible materials. It will also advise stakeholders on the efficient production and distribution of NIMAS-compliant materials.

The NIMAS Development and Technical Assistance Center, supported by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), works with states, TA systems, disability advocates, national associations, technology experts, publishers and content conversion houses to improve the timely delivery of high quality accessible educational materials to students with disabilities. The NIMAS Center was launched on October 1, 2004. The project officer for both the Development and TA Centers is Bonnie Jones, Ed.D. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the Department of Education's position or policy.

IDEAs thatWork

Last Updated: July 10, 2007 **NIMAS Web site: <http://nimas.cast.org>**