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Newly Developed Online Video-Case-Based Activities for Teaching Assistive Technology

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Assistive Technology is a newly developed body of knowledge, and today one of the core subjects in OT education. Teaching Assistive Technology poses challenges brought on by:

- The vast versatility of the disabilities and technological solutions.
- The vast versatility of issues and concerns in implementing technology for the use of people with disabilities.
- Students can hardly see and evaluate the impact of the technology in real life, as the use of the technologies is outside the rehabilitation institution, some at home, work place, school and community, that students can not access.

To address these issues we developed an on-line database of videoed case studies of people with disabilities using assistive technology. These videos cover various aspects of functional activities categorized into: Activity of Daily Living (ADL), Communication, Mobility, Computer use, in various functional environments such as: home, work place, educational settings, leisure and community. Each category includes functions and activities that are enhanced by assistive technology, like eating, driving, using computers. The video clips are organized in a searchable matrix that enables the teacher retrieve videos, based on function or disability and organize them into a teaching module.

The initial data-base is comprised of 500 short videos (about 2 minutes each), extracted from 15 case studies of individuals that we photographed at their homes and during their daily life activities.

The system is designed for both distance self learning and class demonstrations. The flexibility of the computerized database enables teachers of any related discipline to design and create their own lesson or homework activities utilizing videos of their choice. The students have the opportunity to see, evaluate and compare the assistive technology while in use during daily activity.

The system is used with OT students for the last four years (250 students). The evaluation study performed with students revealed the meaningful contribution of this approach to the learning process. A typical student comment: "The video based activities about people using assistive technology in their daily life were very interesting and challenging and helped me understand how to analyze needs and adapt solutions."