

Feasibility Of Implementing Learning Resource Centre For Visually Challenged Students

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Introduction

- **Access to information is a major problem for the visually challenged students.**
- **There are quite a number of challenges faced by the visually challenged persons in accessing the library services.**
- **Establishment of Learning Resource Centre (LRC) for visually challenged will enable them to access the library resources and services without any hindrance.**

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

- **Is a term which is used in the United Kingdom to describe a type of library that exists within an educational setting.**
- **Is a library, usually in an educational institution, that includes and encourages the use of audiovisual aids and other special materials for learning in addition to books, periodicals, and the like.**

Continues..

The main objective of LRC is to build libraries to support educational, social and cultural activities of the academicians and contribute to the information needs to support learning, teaching and research activities by providing e- resources, indigenous databases, research productivity, learning course instructional materials, academic computing software's in a networked environment using ICT.

Purpose of LRC

- **To provide 'Equity of Access' to the visually challenged students.**
- **To improve the 'Access audit' of national higher education system.**
- **To provide access to the academic information sources.**
- **To explore the utilisation of 'Assistive Technologies.**
- **To train the library staff in providing information services to the visually challenged students.**

Problems faced by visually challenged in libraries

- **Blindness and sight impairments are common disabilities in all countries of the world. India is now home to the world's largest number of sight - disadvantaged people.**
- **Visually challenged persons have problems in accessing books in the library**
- **All books are in print and a blind person cannot be able to read.**
- **As the books in libraries are all in print, visually challenged persons feel frustrated when they don't get books in the form they want like peers.**



DESIGNING LRC FOR VISUALLY CHALLENGED

- **Infrastructural facilities**
- **Talking Zone**
- **Trained librarian**
- **Reader service**
- **Alternative formats of resources**
- **Modern adaptive technologies and devices**
- **Braille input device**
- **Braille output device**
- **Braille translation software**

Continues...

- **Optical Character Reader**
- **Speech synthesizer**
- **Four track cassette recorder**
- **Large printer**
- **Screen magnifying software**
- **CCTV (Closed Circuit Television)**

Resources for visually challenged

- **Assistive technology**
- **Reading and writing softwares**
- **Voice recognition and Dictation System**
- **Text Telephone**
- **Web braille**
- **Braille printer**
- **Descriptive videos**
- **Talking books / Audio books**

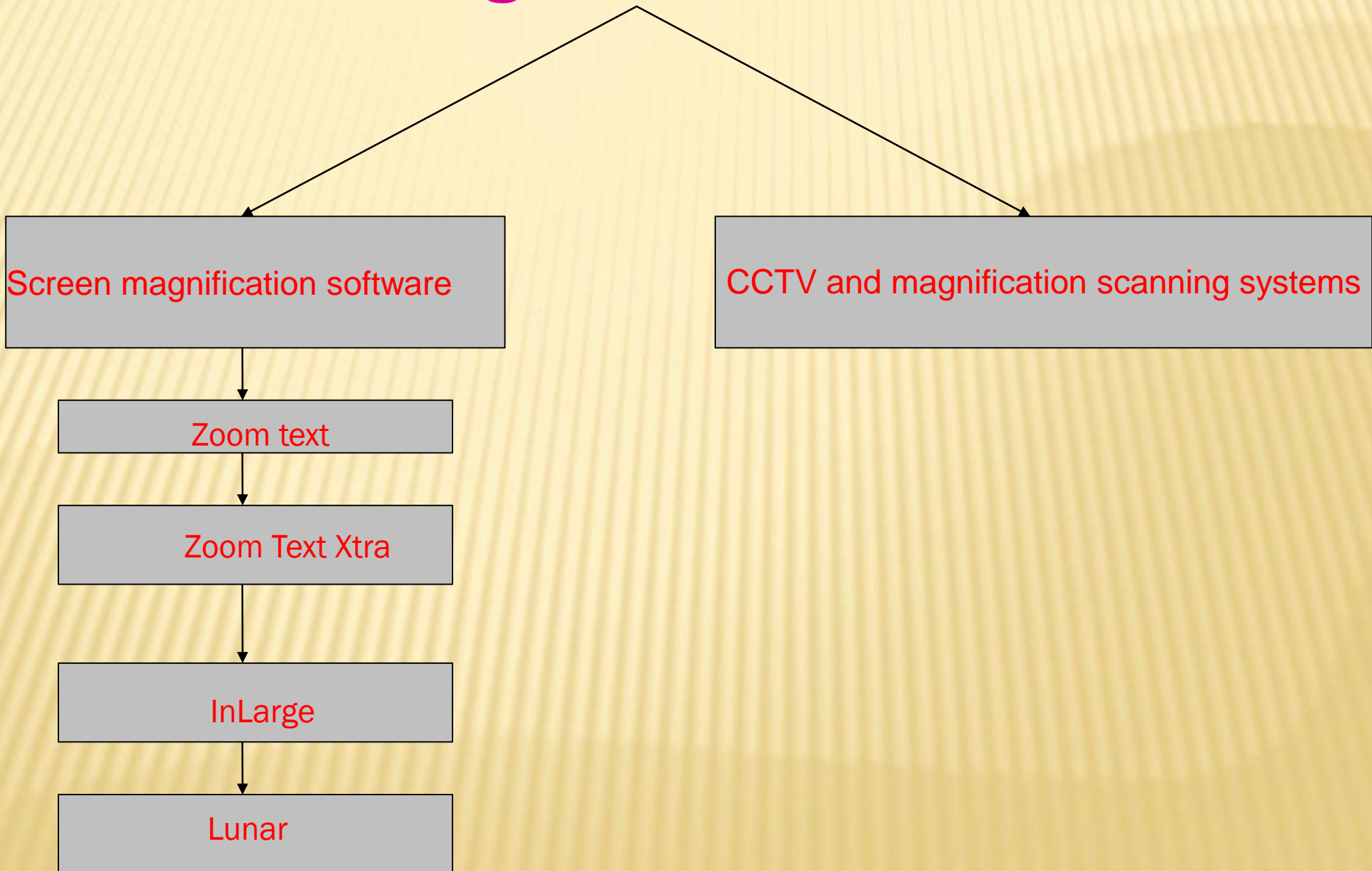
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR VISUALLY CHALLENGED

- **Screen Reading software**
- **Screen magnification software**
- **Web Access software's**
- **Braille note takers, embossers and displays**
- **Scanning, reading and writing software**
- **Scanning and reading hardware**

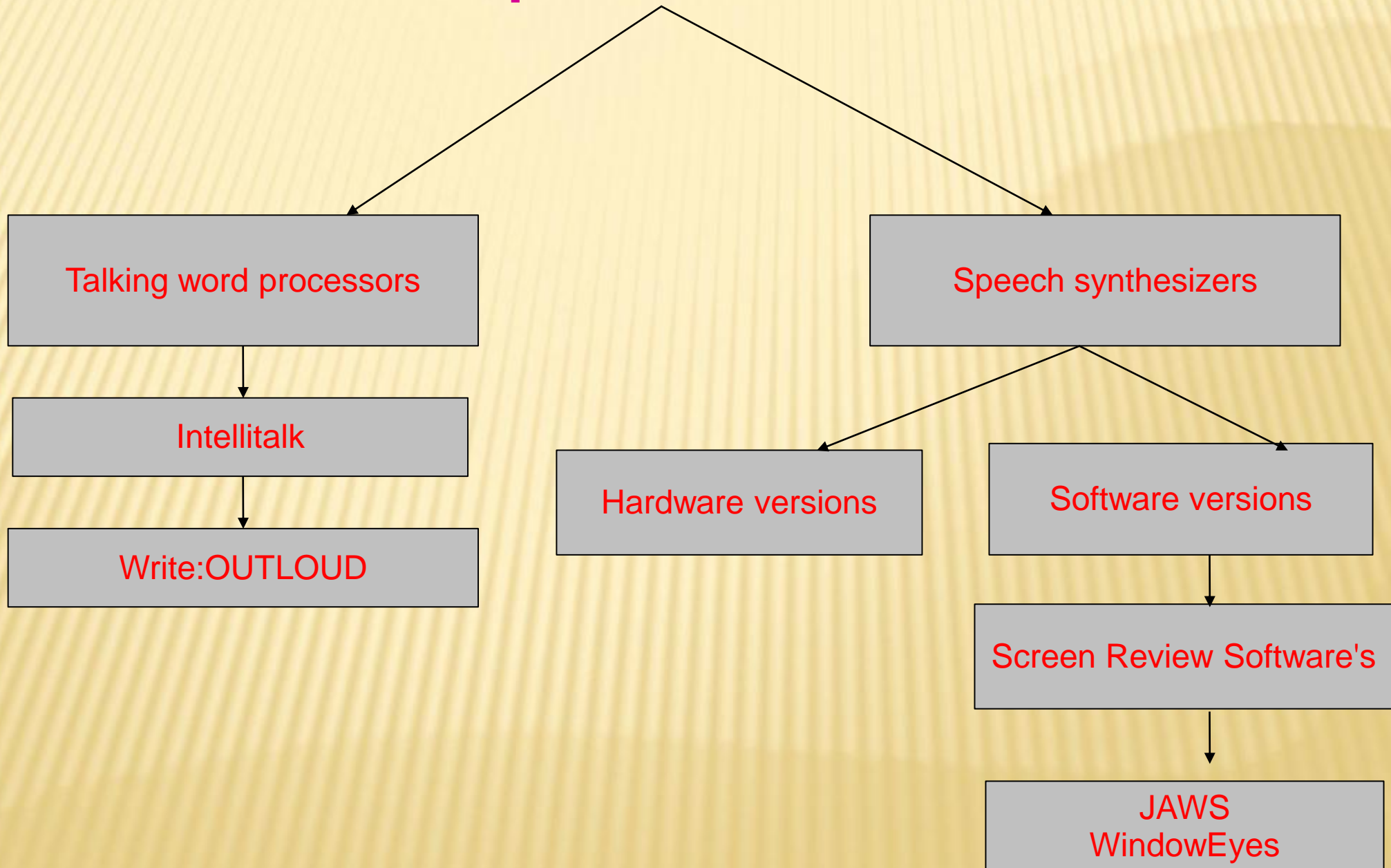
Overview of Technology for Visually Challenged Students

- Large print access
- Speech access
- Braille access
- Scanned material access

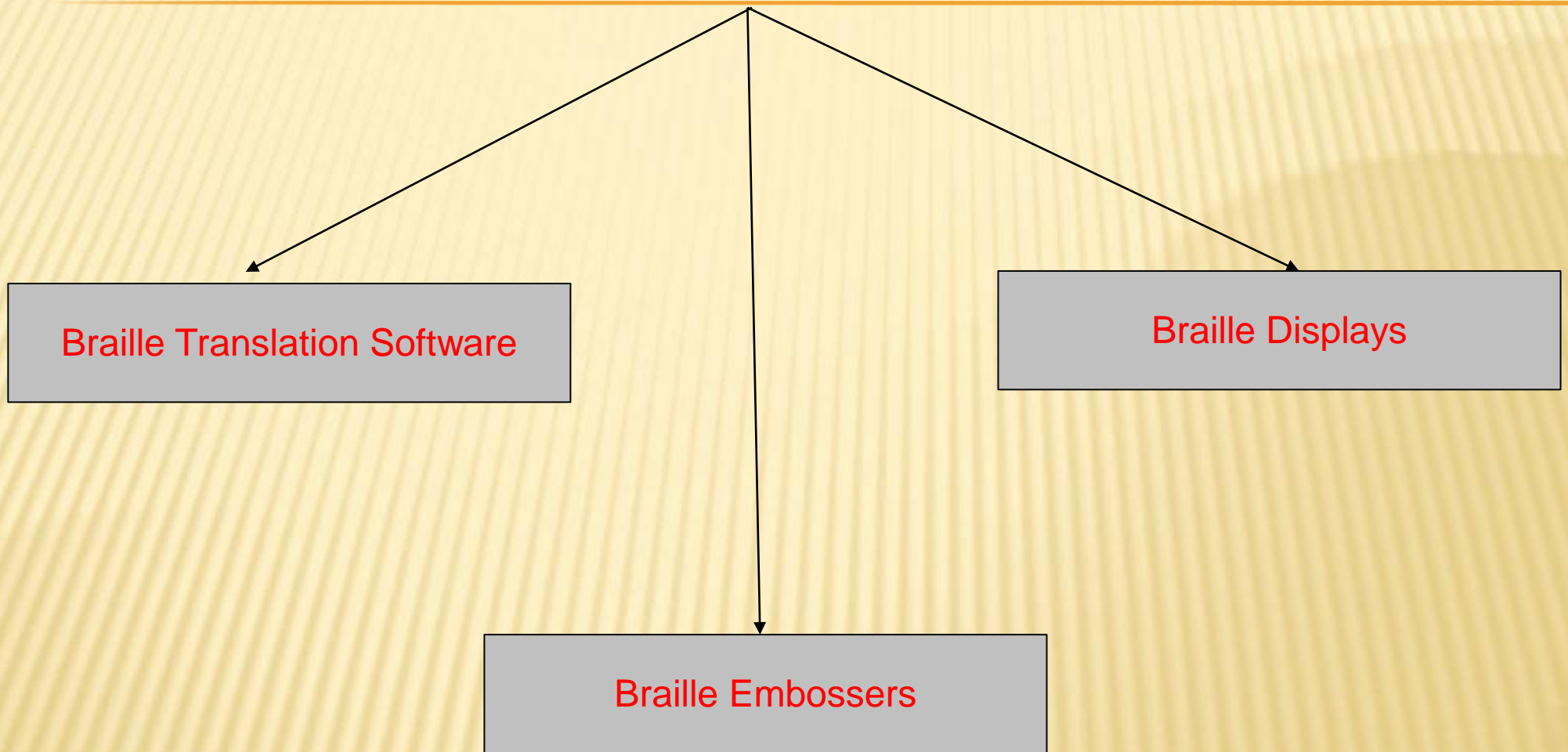
Large Print Access



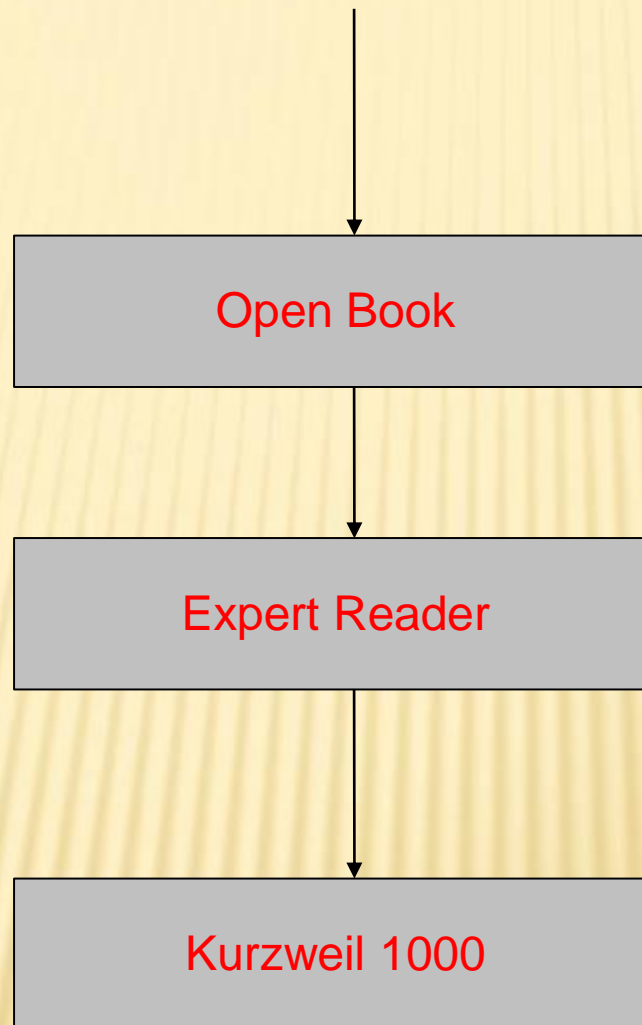
Speech Access



Braille Access



Scanned Material Access



Index Basic D Braille Embosser

- **Low cost,high speed**
- **Double sided tractor feed continous sheet**
- **New generation technology braille embosser**



SARA (Scanning And Reading Appliance)

- **Affordable, easy to use.**
- **Uses the latest in advanced optical character recognition technology to scan text and read it aloud crisp, clear speech.**



ZOOM-EX INSTANT TEXT READER

- **The most light weight and unique solution that converts a computer into a powerful magnifier & the fastest reader for the Visually Impaired.**



Services to offer for the visually challenged

- **Good environment and books in the form that they are comfortable in reading .Eg:Braille,large print etc.**
- **All print books in the library should have the same copies in Braille for the visually challenged students.**
- **Alternative formats of resources like enlarged print, embossed print and spoken word etc should be available to these users.**

Continues...

- **Study room equipped with IT work stations.**
- **Qualified braillists,braille embossers.**
- **Recording studio.**
- **Portable hearing induction loop.**
- **Video magnifying system.**
- **Unlimited book fetch service to facilitate easy access to the collection.**

Continues...

- **Brailing of library materials.**
- **Tactile signals.**
- **Catalogues of materials in alternative formats**
- **Training in using 'Assistive Technologies'.**
- **Talking zone where formal reader service can be provided.**
- **Trained library professionals.**

Conclusion

- **Establishment of LRC for the visually challenged will benefit the visually challenged students across the country to have the same opportunities for education, research, training as well as employment as their sighted peers.**
- **LRC's can ensure their access to information and can thus bridge the gap between information rich and information disadvantaged.**

Thank
You!

