ABLEDATA is an internet database which provides a comprehensive listing of assistive and adaptive products for people with disabilities. The site is extremely useful for locating information about assistive technology devices. The internet address for ABLEDATA is http://www.abledata.com. ABLEDATA is sponsored by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), part of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

ABLEDATA contains information on currently available devices, discontinued devices and manufacturers. Device information includes the product’s name, a brief description, cost, if available, the manufacturer, and from whom the item is available. Listings also include information on non-commercial prototypes, customized and one-of-a-kind products, and do-it-yourself designs.

ABLEDATA’s internet site allows easy access of information to locate the products that meet your needs. Searches for a particular item may be initiated by choosing “PRODUCTS” and choosing from a classification which best described the item. Another way to locate item information is to search by keyword, by company or by brand name. Searches are very easy to conduct, even for inexperienced users.

ABLEDATA offers a new feature, “MyAbleData” which gives the user the ability to customize the website style and font sizes. Registration is required to access MyAbleData.

ABLEDATA information may be freely disseminated. The database information may be accessed via ABLEDATA’s web site address: www.abledata.com. If you would like to have a search done, you could also contact the ABLEDATA project at Macro International at 800-227-0216, or call the Idaho Assistive Technology Project at 800-IDA-TECH v/tt (800-432-8324) in Idaho.

ABLEDATA was initially created by Marian Hall in 1978. In 1980, it was picked up and funded by the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), U.S. Department of Education, to serve as a national resource for assistive and rehabilitative technology product information. In 1992, ABLEDATA moved to Macro International Inc., who
currently updates and maintains the ABLEDATA database site under continued funding from NIDRR.

The initial DOS version of ABLEDATA was developed under a grant from Project ICAN of the Arkansas Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), Department of Human Services, from funds received by Arkansas under Title 1, P.L. 100-407 Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988 and by funds from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). The current version that is located on the internet was developed through a cooperative effort between Learning Express and the Trace Research and Development Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison with support from IBM.

ABLEDATA contains a tremendous wealth of information. It is an invaluable resource for anyone who is looking for assistive technology.

Contacts:

AbleData
8630 Fenton St., Ste 930
Silver Spring, MD 20910
1-800-227-0216

Trace Research and Development Center
CO-NET Coordinator
University of Wisconsin
1500 Highland Avenue
Madison, WI 53705
(608) 262-6966