

Massaro, D. W. (2011). A Reading Window for Visually Challenged Individuals. 26th Annual International Technology & Persons with Disabilities Conference. San Diego, CA, May 14-19, 2011.

Persons with macular degeneration have difficulty reading a page of text even if some small part of it is magnified. In this device, the reading window remains fixed and the text is always updated in this window.

An iPad application is being developed that allows the user to define a window in which text is successively presented. The size of the window, the font, the font size, the value of the print and background, and the words per minute can be set by the user and are easily set by vision-challenged individuals. In addition, these parameters are easily changed and continuously modifiable during the reading.

Text files can be in any format, and are easily loaded into the application.

Initial user experience with vision-challenged individuals has been very positive, and has revealed the value of user participatory design.

Figure 1. A screen shot of an early version of EazyReader, which is currently under development and will be available in the Apple App store by the beginning of 2011.

