

### What else has the Project done?

- We created a catalog of different types of PDAs and other electronic devices showing the features of each one (cost, color and size of screen). The Web catalog is located on the Brain Injury Association of America Web site at: [www.biausa.org/pda](http://www.biausa.org/pda)

### What else will the Project be doing?

- **Field Trials**

We will loan 40 people with intellectual disabilities PDAs for one month to see how well they are able to use them to do more things by themselves.

- **Video Web cast**

We will show the results of the study over the Internet.

- **Technology transfer conference.** We will hold a conference for technical people, manufacturers, professionals, families and people with disabilities.

**The Project is a partnership among the Brain Injury Association of America, University of Akron, Temple University and Spaulding Hospital.** The Project is funded by the National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation Research, Grant #H133A010607.

A Powerpoint presentation about the project is available on the Web at [www.biausa.org/word.files.to.pdf/good.pdfs/at.powerpoint.pdf](http://www.biausa.org/word.files.to.pdf/good.pdfs/at.powerpoint.pdf)

### For more information, please contact

The Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

1301 Cecil B. Moore Ave.,

Room 423 Ritter Annex

Philadelphia, PA 19122

Tel. 215.204.1356 (voice/TTY)

Fax: 215.204.6336

<http://disabilities.temple.edu>

This publication is available in alternate formats, upon request.

Para más información, por favor contacte a Silvia Lee por teléfono al 215.204.1356 o por correo electrónico al [latino@temple.edu](mailto:latino@temple.edu).



## How People with Cognitive Disabilities Can Use Technology to Keep Organized



A project of the Brain Injury Association of American, University of Akron, Temple University and Spaulding Hospital.

## INTRODUCTION

The Institute on Disabilities at Temple University is studying how people with intellectual disabilities can use small, handheld computers to be more independent. These computers are usually called Palm Pilots, Pocket PCs, and Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs).

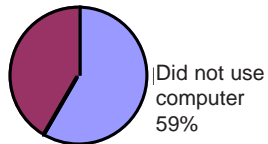
For the study, we interviewed 81 adults with intellectual disabilities to learn how they keep track of important dates, times, appointments, telephone numbers, and things to do. We asked people how they used paper calendars, address books, and 'to' do lists to remember and keep track of information. We also asked how they used electronic devices like computers, Internet, Email, cell phones, and PDAs. Our research partner at the University of Akron interviewed 53 children with either intellectual disabilities or traumatic brain injuries. Their results are shown in parenthesis.

### How do people currently use technology?

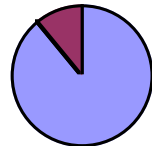
- 41% of adults used a computer (85% of children)
- 28% of adults used cell phones (32% of children)
- 25% of adults used the Internet (32% of children)
- 19% of adults used E-mail (43% of children)
- 11% of adults used a PDA (11% of children)

It is an interesting finding that twice as many younger people compared to adults with intellectual disabilities use computers, (41% vs. 85%) and E-mail (19% vs. 43%). Cell phone use is about the same (28% vs. 32%).

Adults used computer  
41%

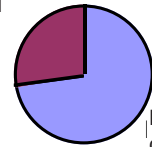


Adults used PDA  
11%



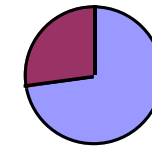
Did not use PDA  
89%

Adults used cell phone  
28%

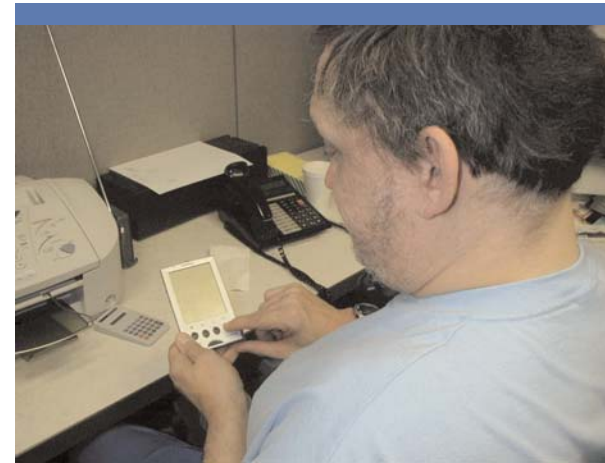


Did not use cell phone  
72%

Adults used Internet  
25%



Did not use Internet  
75%



Steve Dorsey  
uses a PDA  
to remember  
and keep  
track of  
things.

### What difficulties did people have?

- 55% had difficulty reading the newspaper or books
- 42% had difficulty staying organized
- 41% had difficulty learning new information
- 27% had difficulty saying things clearly
- 25% had difficulty seeing ordinary newsprint
- 17% had difficulty pushing button

### How do people keep track of appointments?

- 30% have someone do it for them
- 17% use their memories
- 14% write it down
- 5% use a computer or PDA

### How do people keep track of phone numbers and addresses?

- 20% use their memories
- 19% write it down
- 12% have someone do it for them
- 9% use a computer or PDA

### What features would people like in a PDA if they had one?

- 74% - long battery life
- 70% - good technical support
- 69% - voice output
- 68% - large, easy to see display
- 65% - simple to learn