The Southwest Georgia Library for Accessible Services is a part of your public library and the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, serving Baker, Brooks, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Grady, Lanier, Lee, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, Webster & Worth counties.

(229) 248-2680, 1-800-795-2680, or lbph@swgrl.org
Staff: Susan Whittle, Director & Subregional Librarian,
Kathy Hutchins, SWGLAS Supervisor,
Arlene Freeman, Outreach Coordinator

December 2013

Holiday Greetings to our Southwest Georgia Library for Accessible Services patrons and their families!
Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with happiness.
We look forward to reading with you in 2014.
The Southwest Georgia Library for Accessible Services will be closed on December 24th, 25th & 26th.
A pair of "smart glasses" might help blind people navigate an unfamiliar environment by recognizing objects or translating signs into speech, scientists say.

The majority of registered blind people have some residual ability to perceive light and motion. But assistive technologies for the visually impaired have been limited.

Now, researchers from Oxford University in England are developing a set of sophisticated glasses that use cameras and software to detect objects and display them on the lenses of glasses. The team recently won an award from the Royal Society to continue this work. [Bionic Humans: Top 10 Technologies]

"This is the beginning of a golden age for computer vision," study researcher Stephen Hicks said in a statement. "The Royal Society's Brian Mercer Innovation award will allow us to incorporate this research into our glasses to help sight-impaired people deal with everyday situations much more easily."

Here's how the smart glasses work: Two small cameras mounted on the corners of the glasses capture two different pictures, just as human eyes do. The spectacles display information from the cameras on transparent LED displays on the lenses, so the wearer can see an enhanced image as well as use their remaining sight. Comparing the distance between the cameras reveals how far the object is from the wearer.

A set of headphones takes text and translates it into speech to provide directions or read signs aloud.
The glasses are also equipped with a compass, a GPS and a gyroscope, a tool that measures the orientation of the glasses.

In the United Kingdom, where the research is taking place, more than 2 million people have impaired vision, and more than 300,000 are registered as blind, due to diseases such as macular degeneration, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy.

Moving forward, the researchers hope to develop software to provide a range of different functions that testers of the glasses say would be useful.

For example, the glasses could use levels of brightness to show depth. They could detect if a person is present based on his or her movement. In addition, the glasses might be able to read the locations or numbers of buses and provide GPS directions via the headphones.

**LET’S CLEAN HOUSE FOR THE NEW YEAR**

It is time to check under those beds, in the closets, under the car seats and in the trunk for talking books. They can hide most anywhere. There are many that have been out for an extended period of time. This prevents someone else from being able to enjoy those books. Help us help you by sending those books back as soon as you have finished with them. Also, please only open one digital book box at the time. We have had so many boxes come in with the wrong book or no book at all. Thank you for all you help.
Southwest Georgia Library
For Accessible Services
Southwest Georgia Regional Library
301 South Monroe Street
Bainbridge, GA 39819

Free Reading Matter
F/T Blind & Handicapped
U. S. Mail
Do Not Cancel

Hours:
Monday 9am to 8pm
Tuesday 9am to 6pm
Wednesday 9am to 6pm
Thursday 9am to 7 pm
Friday 9am to 6 pm
Saturday 9am to 4 pm

Phone: (229) 248-2680
1-800-795-2680
Email: lbph@swgrl.org
Fax: 229-248-2670
Take a tour & checkout training material at The Southwest Georgia Library for Accessible Services by clicking on
www.swgrl.org/handicap.php

Information presented in this newsletter will be provided in alternative formats upon request.

Online Catalog for ordering library books: http://webopac.klas.com/glass
Call the library for your log-in and password.

NOTE: Please submit information or news that you would like to share to Kathy Hutchins or Arlene Freeman.