COMPUTER AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES: RESOURCES FOR THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Adaptech Project, a Montreal-based group that conducts research on the use of computer, information, and adaptive technologies by post-secondary students with disabilities in Canada, has released a new report: "Computer and Information Technologies: Resources for the Postsecondary Education of Students with Disabilities." The 143-page report analyses the results of interviews conducted in the spring of 2000 with 156 college and university staff members who provide services to students with disabilities.

Key findings include:

- although more than 100,000 students currently enrolled in post-secondary institutions have disabilities, only between one quarter and one half of these are registered to receive special services

- although staff members who provide services to students with disabilities have, on average, between nine and ten years of experience, most do not consider themselves knowledgeable about the computer technologies used by those students

- for institutions to be "technologically welcoming" to students with disabilities, they must ensure sufficient funding for and access to appropriate technologies, adequate training and support, and accessibility of computer-based curricular materials and library resources.
The study concludes with a set of recommendations for service providers and a collection of resources for further consultation.

The report is freely available online in HTML, PDF, and Word.