



TMAP: Tactile Maps Automated Production Training and Distribution

CSUN Assistive Technology Conference, 2019

Media and Accessible Design Laboratory (MAD Lab)

MAD Lab Booth: Grand Ballroom 1010

Presenters

Greg Kehret, Director, Media and Accessible Design Laboratory,
gkehret@lighthouse-sf.org

Naomi Rosenberg, Senior Designer, Media and Accessible
Design Laboratory, nrosenberg@lighthouse-sf.org

TMAP Introduction, Overview

- TMAP, an app to generate custom* tactile street maps
 - Depicts streets, buildings, paths
- Distribution
 - LightHouse Adaptations Store
 - Print your own TMAPs?
 - Conferences/Workshops
- Training
 - How to read a tactile map
 - How to teach using a tactile map

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FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

TMAP Web-App

- Search
 - Enter address, intersection, or landmark
 - Hotel address entered
- Create Map
 - Settings: Paper Size, Map Scale, Distance Units
 - Features: Paths, Buildings, Streets, Service Roads
 - Google Maps preview
- File Preview
- Download or Email: SVG and PDF

TMAP Features

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| • Map | • Key |
| • Title | • Title |
| • Locator dot | • Abbreviations |
| • North arrow | • Full names |
| • Scale | • Street Orientation |
| • Streets | • Introduction Page |
| • Labels | |

What Is TMAP?

- Tactile maps – neighborhood scale
- Map files to be embossed & printed on paper
- Automated, standardized
- For wayfinding, independent travel, education, tactile literacy

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FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

(And What It's Not)

- Not fully customized for individuals
- Not immediate, turn-by-turn directions
- Not floor plans, transit maps, labeled campus maps
- Not political, geographic, city, state, world map (yet)

TMAP Distribution

- LightHouse
 - Adaptations Store
 - LightHouse Programs
- Print your own (on a graphics-capable embosser)
 - Do you have an embosser? Would you print a TMAP for someone else?
 - Does your local library have an embosser?
- Conferences/Workshops

TMAP in Education: Standardization

Left photo: Tactile map 4-way intersection. White cardboard base with cardboard blocks at each corner, felt for grass. On street, black puff paint dashed lines as lane dividers.

Right photo: Hands over tactile map of 4 lanes of traffic. 4 white cords and 3 black rubber strips glued to cardboard base, alternating. Toy cars over white cords, facing same direction.



TMAP in Education: Train the Trainer

- Resources coming soon: lighthouse-sf.org/tmap
 - Video series
 - Lesson plans
 - Tips and tricks for customization

The Importance of TMAP

- Confidence
- Exploration
- Independent travel
- Spatial overview, mental mapping
- Tactile map availability
- Map legibility
- Map standardization
- Tactile literacy

History of TMAP

- 2003 Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, Dr. Joshua Miele
- 2003-2014 original TMAP production and distribution
 - Smith-Kettlewell and Lighthouse partnership
- 2017-2018 Lighthouse remakes TMAP
 - New features, new source data

Keep in Touch

Visit us at the MAD Lab booth, Grand Ballroom 1010

Questions and feedback, contact: tmap@lighthouse-sf.org

To order a TMAP: 1-888-400-8933, lighthouse-sf.org/shop