

Assistive Technology: Electronic Braille Notetaker

Electronic notetakers, or braille notetakers, are small portable devices that have braille keyboards, and can have a braille display where pins move up and down to form characters in braille and make documents readable, or built in text-to-speech software. Electronic notetakers often have calendars, e-mail, address lists, and web browser functions, as well as often being able to connect to other computers and tablets.

Electronic notetakers are tools for people with visual impairments to utilize in their professional and personal lives.

They allow people to independently record and access information, being useful for taking notes during meetings or lectures. With braille displays, it can also allow people to read documents or text in presentations.

There are many advantages, especially in educational settings and classrooms.

Students with visual impairments to take their own notes and adapt those notes into other formats or onto other devices. Features like calendars and web browsers would also give students more freedoms in and out of the classroom.

The biggest issue with electronic notetakers is that they are often very expensive. Basic devices that do not have braille displays can be up to \$3,000, and those with displays often being twice that much. Another possible downside is that there may be a learning curve, with more complex devices potentially being more difficult to learn.

Works Cited

“Electronic Notetakers (Braille).” *American Foundation for the Blind*,
<https://afb.org/assistive-technology-products/braille-notetakers>. Accessed 4
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