What is Kurzweil 3000?

Kurzweil 3000™ is a comprehensive reading, writing, and learning software solution, originally designed for use by individuals with vision impairments, but many individuals with learning disabilities—including those with, dyslexia, attention deficit disorder, or those who are English Language Learners—have found Kurzweil’s text-to-speech features and writing tools to be beneficial.

Among its many features (some of which are not germane to our current interests), Kurzweil 3000 has several that might be instrumental to students’ writing processes:

- Kurzweil 3000 can access virtually any information, whether it is printed, electronic, or on the Web.
- Kurzweil 3000’s Read-Aloud feature allows students to listen to clear, humanlike, synthetic speech, while a patented dual-highlighting feature adds visual reinforcement.
- Kurzweil 3000 offers tools/features that facilitate active reading as well as writing revision, including highlighting, text circle tools, annotations, Bookmarks, Voice Notes and Extraction.
- Kurzweil 3000’s Check Spelling As You Type feature underlines misspelled words in red, as students type, speaking each letter or word, so they can quickly recognize and correct mistakes.

Selected Bibliography


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For more information about Kurzweil Educational Systems and Kurzweil 3000, specifically, please visit http://www.kurzweiledu.com, the source from which the description of Kurzweil 3000 came.
Below is a list of the Focus Group Questions asked to our research participants

- What is your overall impression of the Kurzweil software?
- What features did you find the most beneficial?
- What were your impressions of the text-to-speech feature? The outlining feature? The highlighting feature?
- How useful do you feel the software was in your writing process?
- Did you find the software easy to use?
- Would you incorporate this software into your writing process in the future?
- Can you see this software being helpful to other students?
- Was it easier to revise the paper when using this software?
- Was it easier to revise the paper when using this software?
- Do you feel your paper improved because of the Kurzweil software?
- What did you change in your paper as a result of the software?
- Do you have any other comments about your use of the software?
- Were there any aspects of the software that you didn’t like?
- How comfortable were you using the software in the Writing Lab?
- Would you use the software if it were offered on regular, ITAP computers?
- If given the choice of using this software by yourself or with the help of a Writing Lab tutor, which would you choose? Why?
- Have you worked with a Writing Lab consultant before your experience with Kurzweil?
- What did you find most beneficial about your consultation before you used Kurzweil?
- What did you find least beneficial about your consultation before you used Kurzweil?
- When working with a Writing Lab consultant while using Kurzweil, what did you find most beneficial?
- When working with a Writing Lab consultant while using Kurzweil, what did you find least beneficial?
- If given the choice of using this software by yourself or with the help of a Writing Lab tutor, which would you choose? Why?