

## **Instructions for Utilizing the Tactile Graphics Image Library**

**Please read this before downloading any graphics from the database!**

Our purpose in providing this free service is to offer templates for good tactile designs and to help facilitate communication for those involved with the design and execution of tactile graphics. Many of the graphics in the TGIL provide starting points for tactile designs and are not finished products suitable for instant tactile graphics.

TGIL downloads will require alterations based on:

- Content needed – The features of your textbook's images will probably be different from what is offered in the database. With every image, you will need to adapt the graphic to fit your educational goals and to make it readable in the medium you've chosen.
- Medium used – As much as possible, the files reflect good tactile design through the use of line thickness and spacing. Still, there is no universal design for a tactile image that applies to all production methods. A design suitable for a Braille embosser is much different from one appropriate for microcapsule paper (e.g. Swell paper) output or a collage-readied graphic. The amount of detail and variety of line paths, point symbols, and textures varies from method to method. Graphic methods with minimal height or texture options will need to be greatly simplified. Matching the final tactile design to a production method is critical.
- Labels – Most of the images lack Braille labeling. This gives you freedom to add labels or a key as needed.

Most of the TGIL graphics are vector images presented in the .pdf format. Other formats include .png and .stl. The .pdf can be edited using a commercial drawing program such as CorelDraw or Adobe Illustrator, or any freeware vector drawing program such as Inkscape. **The .pdf files cannot be edited in the “Draw” features of programs such as Word, Paint, or PowerPoint.** They may need to be converted to another file format if you plan to send them to an embosser.

The images in the Digital Light Box Artwork category are raster images presented in .png format. The .png files **can** be edited in Word, Paint, and PowerPoint. Resizing of a raster image may compromise resolution.

Please read and follow the Guidelines for Design of tactile Graphics posted on the APH website before modifying any of the TGIL’s graphic templates: <http://www.aph.org/research/guides/>.

**The TGIL also hosts 3D model files.** These files are in the .stl format accepted by most 3D printers. The only legal and authorized use of these files is for the nonprofit production of replacement parts for APH products. It is advised these files be used without modification; as APH cannot guarantee the safety or educational efficacy of the resulting product if files are modified. Please be aware the quality of the resulting product will vary dependent upon the 3D printer used.

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