

Assistive Listening Systems Guidelines for Emerging Technologies

Choosing an assistive listening system can be overwhelming and confusing, especially in light of emerging technologies like Wi-Fi and Auracast broadcast audio. Here are some guidelines to help people hear **today**.

- **Hearing loops are preferred by consumers** and are the only user-friendly, widely available, non-proprietary assistive listening system used the world over.
- Any system that is proprietary, complex, limited to specific equipment, or requires people to bring additional devices **will leave some people out**.
- Any system that requires advanced technical know-how, such as downloading and using additional apps on a smartphone, **will leave some people out**.
- For quality sound and speech comprehension, all assistive listening systems must have **minimal latency**, or sound delays.
- **Bluetooth Classic** is not designed for large venues; it typically pairs people to their own personal devices, such as speakers, smartphones, and TVs.
- The emerging **Auracast broadcast audio** needs to become globally available in hearing instruments and buildings, and this system must prove its promises to people with hearing loss. This probably will not happen for many years.

	Hearing Loop	FM	Infrared (IR)	Bluetooth Classic	Auracast	Wi-Fi
Easy to use	✓				In development	
Needs no equipment check-out	✓				In development	
Used at Service Counters	✓				In development	
Used in large areas	✓	✓	✓		In development	✓
Meets ADA standard	✓	✓	✓		In development	
Needs no smartphone or app	✓	✓	✓		In development	
No pacemaker concerns	✓			✓	In development	✓
Minimal latency (sound delay)	✓	✓	✓		In development	
Available now	✓	✓	✓	✓	In development	✓