

CAROL (74)

Grandmother with macular degeneration

- Graduated from business college
- Retired; worked as a bookkeeper for a construction company for 25 years
- Older computer at home; basic mobile phone

“I just couldn’t understand what the screen was saying.”

Ability

First signs of macular degeneration, mild arthritis; hearing aid; no special AT on computer

Aptitude

Used computers when she worked as a bookkeeper, but now her grandkids keep her old home computer updated

Attitude

Willing, but not adventurous

Assistive Technology

Enlarges text, but little other adjustment

“My eyesight has been going for years.”

“Some sites have text that’s just so small.”

11 million people in the U.S. have age-related macular degeneration; many more have other forms of degenerative eye diseases.

After age 65, people have steep increases in disability, with over 59% experiencing a loss of hearing, vision, or dexterity. (U.S. Census says 38% of all adults have disabilities.) They are more likely to take mobile pictures and video.