## Overcoming Obstacles - Three Workarounds

**The First Two Workarounds**

The first two workarounds are interrelated, so I will explain the second workaround first.  The reasons why not a single textbook publisher cared that there existed a program that would end illiteracy in America were provided at the beginning of the Acceptance and Rejection section of this chapter.  However, the publishers' not caring was no reason for the Center to hide its Reading Program away.  There were still the 2,048 teachers who knew of the Program's success, and so did all their many teacher friends.

The Center was definitely not a publisher.  We had only managed to produce kits at the rate of 500 every two years.  Since no publisher would publish it and we did not have a publisher's capability of mass-producing kits, we simply decided to make the Reading Program available as a free download from our website.  Two scanners running side-by-side for several months was all it took to make our Reading Program available to anyone with a computer, a printer, and a lot of making time on his or her hands.

Clicking on the *Dekodiphukan* book cover on the Center's Home page leads to the Reading Program's page.  Clicking on the Classroom Kit Download link in The Classroom Program box leads to the kit download.

| Teacher Directed and Whole Class Activities | Station 1 Picture Packets and Alphabet Packets | Station 2 Worksheets | Station 3 Books | Station 4 Stamping and Writing | Station 5 Handwriting/ Decoding | Parental Involvement and Homework |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Teacher's Manual | Picture Packets | Two-Sound Worksheets | Two-Sound Books | Stamps -- font Stamps -- making | Alphabet Wall Cards | Blackline Masters |
| Dekodiphukan Book | Two-Sound and Alphabet Cards | Three-Sound Worksheets | Three-Sound Books | Stamping Worksheets | Alphabet Flip Books | Parent Letters |
| Wall Sound Cards | | | | | Alphabet Templates | Sound Coloring Book |
| Sound Review Charts | Three-Sound Cards | Phrase Worksheets | Transition Books | Student Stamping | Alphabet Worksheets | Two-Sound Takehomes |
| Two and Three-Sound Flip Books | | | | Tiny Writing Cards (White & Blue) | Decoding Chart and Practice Worksheets | Three-Sound Takehomes |
| Assessment Sheets | | Transition Two-Sound Worksheets | Student-Made Stamping Books | Student Transition Writing | D'Nealian Alphabet Wall Cards | Tiny Writing Cards as Take-Home Books |
| Sound Review Flip Books | Phrase Cards | | | | | |
| Whole Class Experience Stories - Stamped | | Transition Three-Sound Worksheets | Student-Made Transition Books | Sight Word Worksheets and Test Strips | D'Nealian Alphabet Student Cards | Tiny Writing Cards at Transition Level |
| Whole Class Experience Stories - Stamped and Written | Transition Cards | Transition Phrase Worksheets | Student-Made Books | | D'Nealian Alphabet Templates | Student-Authored Books to Take Home |
| Teacher-Made Vowels-Only Books | Vowels-Only Cards | Student Creative Writing | | Student Creative Writing | D'Nealian Alphabet Worksheets | Assembly Instructions |

The *Dekodiphukan* book's pages can be downloaded from that download page.  A complete PDF copy of the book can also be downloaded by clicking on the tiny *Dekodiphukan* book cover to the left of the Center for Innovation in Education, Inc. logo on the Home page  Clicking on the Dekodiphukan Font Download link in the iPad box leads to the instructions for making the sound-stamps and for adding the 44 sound images as a font to anyone's computer.  There is also a Reading Program

Video Presentation link to a presentation I made to a group of Center instructors when the first of the 2,048 kits were being placed in classrooms.  The actual video was included as a training aid with Reading Program kits once it was available.

We added the Reading Program download page to the Center's website once it was clear that we were not going to find a publisher for it.  Since the download was free for anyone to use without asking, we had no way of knowing how many people were actually downloading the kit.  No one who may have downloaded it ever emailed the Center with questions about its use.  However, none of the 2,048 teachers in our ten-year study had ever asked the Center any questions either.  The teacher in India assigned to use the Reading Program kit I took with me on one of my visits, read the entire teacher's manual during the days I was there.  All she said to me was that she enjoyed reading it.  She did not ask me a single question about using the Program.  So, not being asked any questions was not a measure of whether anyone was downloading it.

It was not until May 2021 that we received our first measure of the extent of the downloads.  Below is an example of the emails we began receiving that May.  Note:  ELL stands for English Language Learners.  In California, it would be ESL – English as a Second Language.

From: Monisha Mxxxxx <Mxxxxx@xxxxxx.com>
Subject: Dekodiphukan
Date: May 10, 2021
To: reading@center.edu

Hello!

I am a third-grade teacher in Alabama. When I taught kindergarten years ago, our system used Dekodiphukan. My daughter learned to read using the program, and I am convinced that it (the program) could be beneficial to students, especially ELL students who could connect with the pictures.

I have found this website (center.edu) and tried to download the components to use with students, but I keep getting a system error code. I know there is an iPad component, but I love when the students spread out on their own and manually put the picture packets together, write on the worksheets, etc. Is there another link that I could use to download the components? Or could I purchase the components? Thank you in advance for your assistance!

Best,
Monisha

My boilerplate response to the many emails we began receiving.

From: Bob Baratta-Lorton <reading@center.edu>
Subject: Re: Dekodiphukan
Date: May 11, 2021
To: Monisha Mxxxxx <Mxxxxx@xxxxxx.com>

Monisha,

The Reading Program downloads are run by software known as PHP. Recently, the PHP software stopped working, much to my great frustration. The remainder of the Center's website uses HTTP software, which I am quite comfortable programming. Coding in PHP is not yet something I can do. I have already contacted a PHP programmer who can get the downloads working again.

In the meantime, if your goal is to create a classroom version of the program, then while you are waiting for the downloads to be fixed, I can simply send you every component via email. Tell me what you need, and I will send it to you in as many emails as it takes.

I have been sending out the components to everyone in your same situation. For a person who requested the entire program at one go, it took ten separate emails, since most email servers have size limits for messages.

Bob Baratta-Lorton
reading@center.edu

On May 11, 2021, Monisha Mxxxxx  wrote:

Thank you so much for your response! I would like the entire program if possible and at your convenience. It doesn't matter how many emails it takes. I can download and go from there.

I must tell you that I began using Dekodiphukan when I began working as a K teacher 19 years ago. I taught my daughter that year, and she learned it as I did. She is now a law school student. I am still working as a teacher, and I will be branching out to tutor struggling readers and younger ELL students, so they don't fall behind. I will share some of the results with you in the future!

Thank you again. You and your work are much appreciated!

Best,

Monisha

The malfunction in the PHP coding of the Center's Reading Program download page showed us something of which we had been completely unaware. The first of our two workarounds had been working and was still working quite well in the year 2021, a full twenty-seven years after the textbook publishers had rejected our Program.

Monisha's email also showed us that our second workaround was still working. The first workaround was to keep the kits already in existence generally available. This workaround took advantage of the fact that the 2,048 kits in the study were built to last. Because the kits were so durable, teachers who were no longer using their kits because of grade level changes, or retirement, or for any other reason could pass them onto other teachers. Teachers who were no longer using their kits either returned them to the Center for redistribution or simply passed their kits on to teachers in their own communities.

Monisha said she started using her kit nineteen years ago. That meant she received her kit in 2002. The Fall of 1992 was when the last of the Center's 2,048 kits were placed in classrooms. Monisha's kit had been in someone else's possession for from ten to eighteen years before it was passed on to her. A testament to the kit's durability and proof that workaround number one was working.

A further testament to the kit's durability is in the Introduction Credibility section of this book. Donna J's letter, written in April of 2023, said that she acquired her kit in 1989. The thirty-four-year-old kit that she sent to the Center for redistribution was still in excellent condition and ready for the next teacher to use.

A footnote to the second workaround. In 2023, Naomi R. from Chicago sent us her kit for redistribution. However, her kit was not one of the original 2,048. Naomi had assembled her kit entirely from the Center website's downloadable components. The included stamp set had been made by following the website's stamp-making instructions. Naomi's kit was built to last, just like the original 2,048 had been. Naomi's kit has now also found its new home.

**Workaround Number Three – The 14 iPad Apps**
In Monisha's first email, she said, "I know there is an iPad component, but I love when the students spread out on their own and manually put the picture packets together, write on the worksheets, etc." The iPad component is workaround number three.

On January 27, 2010, Apple introduced its soon-to-be-released iPad. The iPad was described as a touchscreen tablet computer. When I saw the iPad demonstrated, I felt that its touchscreen could be used to make the Center's Reading Program available to anyone who wished to use it, parents and teachers alike. As soon as the first iPads were available that April, I purchased one and confirmed for myself that its touchscreen could be used to turn the Reading Program into apps for the iPad.

I had frequently taken computer-related classes at West Valley Community College, which was just a mile and a half from my home. My courses included Dreamweaver, Photoshop, PowerPoint, Adobe Acrobat, PageMaker, and its replacement, InDesign. All of those classes related directly to the work I was doing for the Center. Classes can also be taken just for the fun of it. In the Fall of 2001, I took a class that I had no practical use for at all, just because I wanted to. That class was learning how to write computer programs using the Java programming language. In 2010, I ended up having a use for that class after all. While the iPad's programming language was Objective-C, Java was quite close to C in both format and style. My Java class training let me be as comfortable programming with Objective-C as I had been with Java.
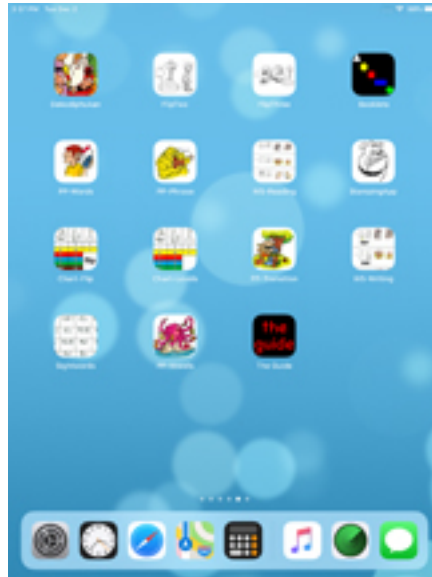
Once I had my iPad, I began purchasing books on iPad programming. My requirement for each book was that it come with access to downloadable examples of working code. As one of many such examples, I downloaded the code for a blank surface on the iPad on which any person's finger could be used to draw lines of varied widths and colors. My Java class had taught me enough about coding that I didn't even need to know Objective-C to be able to change this surface's coding to make only one line-width possible and just one color. I then used this one blank surface to create all the pages in the Writing Worksheets app, where students use their Decoding Charts to write letters with either a stylus or their fingers for the sounds.

The fact that I had already taken a class on programming was now combined with the fact that, years before, I had already scanned the entire Reading Program into my computer to make its components downloadable from the Center's website. This meant that the hundreds of images needed for the app creation were already available. All I needed was a little programming help, which was conveniently available that fall through West Valley College's iPad Programming class.

By February 2012, I had completed converting the Center's Reading Program into 14 iPad apps. All 14 apps were then made available for free through the Apple App Store using the search word "dekodiphukan". In June of 2025, the dekodiphukan search term mysteriously stopped working. We substituted "baratta lorton" with no hyphen needed. The

apps were and are truly free, with no advertising for any other products popping up at any time.

There are actually 15 apps shown in the iPad screen capture below.  The 15th is The Guide app that explains the use of the other 14.  Instructions for adding The Guide app to an iPad are at the top of the Reading Program page on the Center's website.  The Guide itself is also on the Center's Home page, just below the *Dekodiphukan* book cover.



From 2012 to 2016, more than ninety-nine thousand of the Center's apps were downloaded worldwide.  All the apps remained usable through every iPad operating system upgrade through iOS 10.  Then, in 2017, Apple introduced iOS 11, and every person who upgraded their iPad from iOS 10 to iOS 11 lost all 14 apps with no way to get them back.

It took me two more years to remake the 14 apps to work with iOS 11 and beyond.  In December of 2019, all 14 revised and still free apps were reintroduced to the Apple App Store.  However, since the more than ninety-nine thousand iOS 10 apps had been completely erased from their iPads, there was no way to let all the past users know the Dekodiphukan apps were once again available.

In 2023, as the number of app users was slowly but surely increasing, Apple sent the Center the note below for an increasing number of the 14 apps:

From: App Store Connect
Subject: Your app, (Name of App), has been removed from the App Store.
Date: March 16, 2023

To: reading@center.edu

Hello,

On September 1, 2016, we announced that we're implementing an ongoing process of evaluating and removing apps from the App Store that no longer function as intended, don't follow current review guidelines, or are outdated.

You were asked to submit an updated version of your app, (Name of App), for review within 30 days. We noticed that either you did not submit an updated version of your app or the updated version of your app was not approved. As a result, your app has been removed from the App Store.

Best regards,  The App Store Team

The year 2016 was the year we were notified of the pending changes that iOS 11 would bring with it.  The year 2017 was the year all 14 apps disappeared from the App Store.  December 2019 was when all apps were resubmitted and reapproved for listing in the Apple App Store.

The 2023 notices I received came as I was writing this book.  When the book's writing was complete, I once again devoted my time to making all 14 apps fully and freely available through the Apple App Store.  When iOS 11 was introduced, anyone who installed it lost all 14 apps.  However, when iOS 18 was released, all but two of the 14 apps still worked perfectly.  That meant the Apple App Store was removing apps that still worked as designed.  So what changes were we to make now?

The problem took a while to figure out, but once again, all 14 apps are downloadable from the Apple App Store.  Of course, Apple will decide how long they last this time.  However, no matter how many times Apple removes them, we will put them back.