Symbol Libraries Overview (as of 2017)

Symbol Library Resource	***Platform***	***Cost Format***	***Breadth of Vocabulary (extensive / basic)***	***Customization Options for images and grids***	***Symbol Represent.***	***Additional Information***
Boardmaker Software®	Computer with CD-rom. Can be networked.	Purchase	Extensive: 4,500+ words in 44 languages representing many parts of speech.	Extensive tools to customize grids with or without visible cells. ● Crop with square or freehand tool. ● Select cell and grid background colors, line thickness, and corner-rounding. ● Change color and shape of images, and layer images. ● Templates are available.	Black & White, and Color Line Drawings Addendums are available: extended vocabulary, photos, sign language, high contrast	Interactive features available.
Boardmaker Online©	Online	Subscription Subscription also includes curriculum materials for Book Bridge, Expeditions and Core First.	Extensive: number of symbols not specified. Updated periodically. Many parts of speech are represented.	Similar to above	Black & White, and Color Line Drawings	Interactive features available that can be accessed on tablet app. Activity sharing and data tracking available with some subscription packages.
N2Y / SymbolStix©	Online	Subscription	Extensive: 25,000+ symbols representing many parts of speech. Updated weekly	Select number of columns and rows for grid.	Color Line Drawings Monthly updates include people and current events.	Interactive features available that can be accessed on tablet app. Activity sharing and data tracking available with some subscription packages.
Lesson Pix©	Online	Subscription	Extensive: 25,000+ symbols representing many parts of speech.	Wide range of templates for a variety of activities and purpose. Selected symbols are dropped into templates.	Color Line Drawings MinSpeak Symbols	Converts document to PDF format to share easily.

Smarty Symbols™	Online	Subscription	Extensive: 19,000+ symbols representing many parts of speech.	Templates are available. Unique grids may be created by arranging cells. Images may also be saved to use with other programs.	Color line drawings	Images may be saved to use with other programs.
ConnectAbility	Online	Free Website	Basic: 303 photos, 442 Boardmaker images	Templates available for 1,2,4,6,12 or 16 images.	Photos Color Line Drawings	Provides descriptions and tips for different uses such as choice boards, first/then boards, etc.
Sclera	Online	Free Website	Basic: Approximately 5000 images, mostly nouns	None. Grids not available. Images can be saved to use in several programs described here.	High contrast simple images with only 2-3 colors.	Many images are duplicated with different color variations, such as black and white, as well as red and white.
Picto4Me	Free Google Chrome App	Free Google App	Extensive: number of symbols not specified.	Images are pulled from many image libraries. User selects libraries to be used. Specify number of columns and rows for grid.	Color line drawings. Black and white line drawings Abstract symbol representations	Interactive features available.
Google Images™	Free in Google Chrome browser	Free Google Tool	Extensive: Image type and background varies considerably. Images should be vetted for meaningful representative and appropriateness.	None. Photo editing software could be used to customize images. Grids not available. Images can be saved to use in several programs described here.	Wide variety: Photos, line drawings, clipart, etc	Useful for locating images related to culturally familiar symbols. For instance, “play” may be most clearly represented by an image of the YouTube “play” button.

For more information: http://praacticalaac.org/praactical/free-resources-for-making-aac-and-visual-supports/