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Computers Helping People with Special Needs

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Preface

Welcome to the 10th ICCHP 2006!

Since the 1980s, computer technology has become a key technology for people with disabilities, offering functionalities to overcome barriers and take part in more and more areas of society. Starting with handicraft and trials, a new research and development field has been established known today as 'assistive technologies' (AT). Based on standard information and communication technology (ICT) the field has increasingly made impact on mainstream areas and establishes 'e-accessibility', 'e-inclusion' and 'design for all' as key concepts for an open and democratic society. The progress in ICT and AT significantly pushes forward the disability rights and independent living movement. The obvious benefits for the target group help to understand the way we design the emerging information society, which determines accessibility for and inclusion of people with disabilities.

The motto of the 10th ICCHP, 'equality = e-Quality: Equal Access to the Information Society Depending on the Quality of ICT and AT,' reflects this development. ICCHP's mission is to support this process. ICCHP has been one of the first meeting places for pioneers establishing the field. It supports today the interdisciplinary discussion and presentation of research and development which is inevitable when aiming at better quality of life for people with disabilities. ICCHP is proud of its role. With a focus on scientific excellence, ICCHP has become an important reference to AT for the mainstream. After more than two decades the first steps have been made, but lot more is needed to make the information society a really inclusive one. ICCHP is committed to supporting this development in the future. Come and get involved!

ICCHP 2006 was held under the auspices of Dr. Heinz Fischer, President of the Federal Republic of Austria. ICCHP 2006 was supported by several sponsors, to name only a few:

- European Commission, DG Information Society, eInclusion
- Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture
- Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology
- Regional Government Upper Austria, Governor
- Regional Government Upper Austria, Department for Social Affairs
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Our special thanks go to those contributing toward this conference:

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We thank the Austrian Computer Society for announcing and sponsoring the **Roland Wagner Award on Computers Helping People with Special Needs**.

The Austrian Computer Society decided in September 2001 to endow this award in honor of Prof. Dr. Roland Wagner, the founder of ICCHP.

The Roland Wagner Award is a biannual award and will be in the range of 3000 euro. It will be handed over at the occasion of ICCHP conferences.

Award Winners:

- Award 0 was handed over to Prof. Dr. Roland Wagner on the occasion of his 50th birthday.
- Award 1 was won by WAI-W3C. It was handed over to Judy Brewer at ICCHP 2002.
- Special Award 2003: A special award was handed over to Prof. Dr. A. Min Tjoa, one of the founders of ICCHP, on the occasion of his 50th birthday in 2003.
- Award 2 was won by Paul Blenkhorn, University of Manchester, and handed over during ICCHP 2004 in Paris.

Once again we thank all those helping to put ICCHP together and thereby supporting the AT field and a better quality of life for people with disabilities.

July 2006

Klaus Miesenberger
Joachim Klaus
Arthur Karshmer
Wolfgang Zagler
(Editors)

Table of Contents

People with Disabilities: Accessible Content Processing

People with Disabilities: Accessible Content Processing
David Crombie 1

HODDER – A Fully Automatic Braille Note Production System
Matthias Leopold 6

Maps Sonification System Using Digitiser for Visually Impaired Children
Gintautas Daunys, Vidas Lauruska 12

Document Processing for Accessibility: Standards and Initiatives
George Ioannidis, David Crombie, Francisco Martínez Calvo, Konstantina N. Geramani 16

Expressing Emotions Using Animated Text Captions
Raisa Rashid, Jonathan Aitken, Deborah I. Fels 24

Schulbuch Barrierefrei (Accessible School Books) – Co-operation Between Publishers and Service Providers in Austria
Klaus Miesenberger, Reinhard Ruemer 32

Modelling Accessibility Constraints
Terje Gjøsæter, Jan Pettersen Nytun, Andreas Prinz, Mikael Snaprud, Merete Skjelten Tveit 40

Scientific PDF Document Reader with Simple Interface for Visually Impaired People
Toshihiro Kanahori, Masakazu Suzuki 48

English "Oblique" Listening System – Rapid Listening System for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and Its Evaluation
Shinichi Torihara, Miyoko Nakamura, Nami Ueda, Takuya Wada, Shun Ishizaki 53

Creating Pictures by Dialogue
Ivan Kopeček, Radek Ošlejšek 61

Automatic Annotation of Geographic Maps
Mirko Horstmann, Wilko Heuten, Andrea Miene, Susanne Boll 69

Towards the Use of Ontologies for Improving User Interaction for People with Special Needs
Shuaib Karim, A. Min Tjoa 77

A Model for Accessible Information Networks – Findings of the EUAIN Project
Benoît Guillon, Catherine Desbuquois, Dominique Burger 85

Making the Past a Thing of the Future: Automated Workflow for the Conversion of Printed Items into Fully Structured Digital Objects Based on Common Open Metadata Standards
Claus Gravenhorst 92

Accessible Navigation of Rich Media: Exposing Structure, Content and Controls in the Mobile User Interface
Markku T. Häkkinen 96

The Essential Role of Libraries Serving Persons Who Are Blind and Print Disabled in the Information Age
George Kerscher 100

People with Disabilities: Web Accessibility

Browsing Web Based Documents Through an Alternative Tree Interface: The WebTree Browser
Esmond Walshe, Barry McMullin 106

Web Pages for Blind People — Generating Web-Based Presentations by Means of Dialogue
Luděk Bártek, Ivan Kopeček 114

Architecture for Personal Web Accessibility
Myriam Arrue, Markel Vigo, Julio Abascal 120

Dynamically Generated Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) for Barrier-Free Web-Applications
Kerstin Altmanninger, Wolfram Wöß 128

Designing a Web Page Considering the Interaction Characteristics of the Hard-of-Hearing
Miki Namatame, Tomoyuki Nishioka, Muneo Kitajima 136

Accessible Websites for People with Dementia: A Preliminary Investigation into Information Architecture
Nada Savitch, Panayiotis Zaphiris 144

People with Disabilities: Automatic and Manual Evaluation of Websites

People with Disabilities: Automatic and Manual Evaluation of Web Sites
Helen Petrie, Gerhard Weber 152

Web Accessibility Testing: When the Method Is the Culprit
Giorgio Brajnik 156

Test Case Description Language (TCDL): Test Case Metadata for Conformance Evaluation
Christophe Strobbe, Sandor Herramhof, Evangelos Vlachogiannis, Carlos A. Velasco 164

The BenToWeb XHTML 1.0 Test Suite for the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0
Christophe Strobbe, Sandor Herramhof, Evangelos Vlachogiannis, Johannes Koch, Carlos A. Velasco 172

An Environment for Defining and Handling Guidelines for the Web
Barbara Leporini, Fabio Paternò, Antonio Scorcia 176

Interpreting Results from Large Scale Automatic Evaluation of Web Accessibility
Christian Bühler, Helmut Heck, Olaf Perlick, Annika Nietzio, Nils Ulltveit-Moe 184

Managing and Monitoring Web Site Accessibility
Shadi Abou-Zahra 192

Semi-automatic Evaluation of Web Accessibility with HERA 2.0
Carlos Benavídez, José L. Fuertes, Emmanuelle Gutiérrez, Loïc Martínez 199

Automatic Control of Simple Language in Web Pages
Constantin Jenge, Sven Hartrumpf, Hermann Helbig, Rainer Osswald 207

Test Case Management Tools for Accessibility Testing
Sandor Herramhof, Helen Petrie, Christophe Strobbe, Evangelos Vlachogiannis, Kurt Weimann, Gerhard Weber, Carlos A. Velasco 215

Testing Web Navigation for All: An Agent-Based Approach
Martin González, Marcos González, Cristóbal Rivera, Ignacio Pintado, Agueda Vidau 223

University of Illinois Tools and Techniques for Functional Web Accessibility
Hadi Bargi Rangin 230

A Proposed Architecture for Large Scale Web Accessibility Assessment
Mikael Holmesland Snaprud, Nils Ulltveit-Moe, Anand Balachandran Pillai, Morten Goodwin Olsen 234

People with Disabilities: Quality of Web Accessibility

People with Disabilities: Quality of Web Accessibility
Dominique Burger 242

Towards Web Accessibility Certification: The Findings of the Support-EAM Project
Dominique Burger, Pierre Guillou 245

Raising the Expertise of Web Designers Through Training – The Experience of BFWD – Accessible Web Design (Barrierefreies Webdesign) in Austria
Klaus Miesenberger, Daniela Ortner 253

The Role of Benchmarking in Concerted Actions to Increase Accessibility
Finn Aslaksen, Frank Fardal, Mikael Snaprud 258

A Ubiquitous Social Community Portal Service for Social Networking with Convenient Accessibility
Yung Bok Kim 263

Web Accessibility Conformity Assessment – Implementation Alternatives for a Quality Mark in Austria
Marie-Luise Leitner, Klaus Miesenberger, Daniela Ortner, Christine Strauss 271

Accessible Interfaces to Empower the User
Mari Luz Guenaga, Javier Oliver, Ander Barbier 279

A GOMS Model for Keyboard Navigation in Web Pages and Web Applications
Martin Schrepp, Patrick Fischer 287

People with Disabilities: Accessible Tourism

People with Disabilities: Accessible Tourism
Franz Pühretmair 295

Accessibility Add-on Box Enabling Barrier-Free Tourism Information Systems (TIS)
Michael Winkler, Wolfram Wöß 298

Development of a Mobile Tourist Information System for People with Functional Limitations: User Behaviour Concept and Specification of Content Requirements
Sascha M. Sommer, Marion Wiethoff, Sari Valjakka, Dionisis Kehagias, Dimitrios Tzovaras 306

Objective Accessibility Assessment of Public Infrastructures
Christophe Ponsard, Vincent Snoeck 314

BAIM–Information for People with Reduced Mobility in the Field of Public Transport
Christian Bühler, Helmut Heck, Dirk Sischka, Josef Becker 322

Accessible Information Space to Promote Accessible Tourism
Franz Pühretmair, Klaus Miesenberger 329

People with Disabilities: Materials for Teaching Accessibility and Design for All

People with Disabilities: Materials for Teaching Accessibility and Design for All
Gerhard Weber, Julio Abascal 337

Teaching Web Accessibility with "Contramano" and Hera
Carlos Benavídez, José L. Fuertes, Emmanuelle Gutiérrez, Loïc Martínez 341

Introducing Media Managers to Usability and Accessibility
Christoph Haffner, Gerhard Weber 349

Evaluating the Length of Virtual Horizontal Bar Chart Columns Augmented with Wrench and Sound Feedback
Tatiana G. Evreinova, Grigori Evreinov, Roope Raisamo 353

"Assistec" – A University Course on Assistive Technologies
Kerstin Matausch, Barbara Hengstberger, Klaus Miesenberger 361

People with Disabilities: Entertainment Software Accessibility

People with Disabilities: Entertainment Software Accessibility
Dominique Archambault 369

Semi Automatic Generator of Tactile Video Games for Visually Impaired Children
Alexis Sepchat, Nicolas Monmarché, Mohamed Slimane, Dominique Archambault 372

Making the Mainstream Accessible: What's in a Game?
Matthew T. Atkinson, Sabahattin Gucukoglu, Colin H.C. Machin, Adrian E. Lawrence 380

Access Invaders: Developing a Universally Accessible Action Game
Dimitris Grammenos, Anthony Savidis, Yannis Georgalis, Constantine Stephanidis 388

Internet and Accessible Entertainment
Morten Tollefsen, Are Flyen 396

Guidelines for the Development of Accessible Computer Games
Roland Ossmann, Klaus Miesenberger 403

People with Disabilities: Human Computer Interface

A Classification, Based on ICF, for Modelling Human Computer Interaction
M. Billi, L. Burzagli, P.L. Emiliani, F. Gabbanini, P. Graziani 407

Evaluation of Reaction Forces During Human Computer Interaction for Optimization and Development - A Pilot Research
Stefan Mina, Lisa Ehrenstrasser, Robert Lurf, Barbara Prazak 415

A User-Orientation Evaluation Framework: Assessing Accessibility Throughout the User Experience Lifecycle
Alexandros Mourouzis, Margherita Antona, Evagelos Boutsakis, Constantine Stephanidis 421

Basic Research of Input Support Device by Using Sympathetic Skin Response
Chikamune Wada, Fumihiko Masuda 429

Unskilled Finger Key Pressing and Brain Coherence
Ling-Fu Meng, Chiu-Ping Lu, Ching-Horng Chen 437

Customizing User Interfaces with Input Profiles
Mario Mühlehner 442

Computerized Assessment Approach for Evaluating Computer Interaction Performance
Ming-Chung Chen, Chi-Nung Chu, Ting-Fang Wu, Chih-Ching Yeh 450

People with Disabilities: Assistive Homes and Environments

People with Disabilities: Assistive Homes and Environments
Gerhard Nussbaum 457

Prototyping and Evaluation of New Remote Controls for People with Visual Impairment
Michiaki Yasumura, Ryo Yoshida, Megumi Yoshida 461

Constructing Adaptive User Interface Through Semantic Descriptions
Hyun Namgoong, Kyung-il Kim, Yun Koo Chung 469

A Proposal for a Home-Based Health Monitoring System for the Elderly or Disabled
HyungJun Kim, Bart Jarochowski, DaeHyun Ryu 473

Helping People with ICT Device Control by Eye Gaze
Fangmin Shi, Alastair Gale, Kevin Purdy 480

IRCS – Infra Red Code System: Access to Infra Red Codes for Ambient and Assisted Living
Klaus Miesenberger, Gerhard Nussbaum, Martin Bartsch, Thomas Mayrhofer, Christoph Strobl-Mairhofer 488

The DAT Project: A Smart Home Environment for People with Disabilities
Renzo Andrich, Valerio Gower, Antonio Caracciolo, Giovanni Del Zanna, Marco Di Rienzo 492

Selection by Visualization of Topological Layouts for Adapted Living Area Design
Arnaud Puret, Sébastien Aupetit, Pierre Gaucher, Nicolas Monmarché, Mohamed Slimane 500

Wireless Communicator for Patients in Intensive Care
Cecília Sik Lányi, Viktor Magyar 508

People with Disabilities: Service Delivery

The Development and Application of the Assistive Devices Application System for Clients with Disabilities
Tzyh-Chyang Chang, Jiann-Der Lee, Shwu-Jiuan Wu, Juei-Fen Huang 516

EASTIN: A Trans-national Information Network on Assistive Technologies
Renzo Andrich, Roberto Da Dalt, Renzo Giust, Andrea Agnoletto . . . 524

Participation in Development of Computers Helping People
Lars Bruhn, Jürgen Homann, Gerlinde Renzelberg 532

Developing Pedagogical Multimedia Resources Targeting Children with Special Educational Needs
Paloma Cantón, Ángel Lucas González, Gonzalo Mariscal, Carlos Ruiz 536

People with Disabilities: Education and Training

Accessibility Issues in Two Specifications for E-Learning Tests: IMS QTI 1.2 and IMS QTI 2.0
Christophe Strobbe 544

Informatics Teachers and Their Competences in Inclusive Education
L'udmila Jašková 552

ECDL bf: Equal Opportunities Through Equal Access to an ECDL E-Learning Solution
Andrea Petz, Klaus Miesenberger 560

Searching Knowledge CinemaSense as a Case Study in Collaborative Production of a WWW Service in Two Universities
Antti Raike 568

Deaf and Hard of Hearing People: Electronic Communication Aids

Deaf and Hard of Hearing People: Electronic Communication Aids
Hans-Heinrich Bothe 575

User Evaluation of the SYNFACE Talking Head Telephone
Eva Agelfors, Jonas Beskow, Inger Karlsson, Jo Kewley, Giampiero Salvi, Neil Thomas 579

Towards a Service Integration Portal for Deaf People
Christophe Ponsard, Christiane Broekman, Cécile Lamy, Martine Fraiture 587

A Proposal of the Universal Sign Code
Kazuyuki Kanda, Tsutomu Kimura, Daisuke Hara 595

Bilingual Sign Language Dictionary
José L. Fuertes, Ángel L. González, Gonzalo Mariscal, Carlos Ruiz 599

Improvements and Evaluations in Sign Animation Used as Instructions for Stomach X-Ray Examination
Kazunari Morimoto, Takao Kurokawa, Syouhei Kawamura 607

Speech Technologies in a Computer-Aided Speech Therapy System
András Kocsor, Dénes Paczolay 615

Automatic Synthesis of Training Data for Sign Language Recognition Using HMM
Kana Kawahigashi, Yoshiaki Shirai, Jun Miura, Nobutaka Shimada 623

Communication Supporting System in a Classroom Environment for the Hearing Impaired
Yoshinori Takeuchi, Yudai Sakashita, Daisuke Wakatsuki, Hiroki Minagawa, Noboru Ohnishi 627

Efficient Generation of Large Amounts of Training Data for Sign Language Recognition: A Semi-automatic Tool
Ruiduo Yang, Sudeep Sarkar, Barbara Loeding, Arthur Karshmer . . . 635

Composition Corrector – A Computer-Based Tool to Support Professional Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Writers
Martha Birnbaum, Corine Bickley, Brianne Burger 643

VoxAid 2006: Telephone Communication for Hearing and/or Vocally Impaired People
Bálint Tóth, Géza Németh 651

Evaluation of Effect of Delay on Sign Video Communication
Kaoru Nakazono, Yuji Nagashima, Mina Terauchi 659

Japanese JSL Translation and Searching Display Conditions for Expressing Easy-to-Understand Sign Animation
Sumihiro Kawano, Chie Izumi, Takao Kurokawa, Kazunari Morimoto 667

Design and Development of Several Mobile Communication Systems for People with Hearing Disabilities
Jose L. Martín, Sira E. Palazuelos, Jerónimo Arenas, Javier Macías, Santiago Aguilera 675

Captioning for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People by Editing Automatic Speech Recognition in Real Time
Mike Wald 683

Improving Baby Caring with Automatic Infant Cry Recognition
Sandra E. Barajas-Montiel, Carlos A. Reyes-García, Emilio Arch-Tirado, Mario Mandujano 691

People with Cognitive Problems and the Aging Population

People with Cognitive Problems and the Aging Population
Erwin Fugger, Martin Morandell, Barbara Prazak 699

A Semi-autonomous Wheelchair Towards User-Centered Design
Sven Rönnbäck, Jouni Piekkari, Kalevi Hyyppä, Tomas Berglund, Simo Koskinen 701

Computer Control by Tracking Head Movements for the Disabled
HyungJun Kim, DaeHyun Ryu 709

Healthcare Service with Ubiquitous Sensor Networks for the Disabled and Elderly People
Yung Bok Kim, Daeyoung Kim 716

Guiding Support for 'Way-Finding' in Unknown Buildings: Design and Evaluation
José M. Falcó, Roberto Casas, Álvaro Marco, Jorge L. Falcó 724

Mobile Computing in Medicine: Designing Mobile Questionnaires for Elderly and Partially Sighted People
Andreas Holzinger, Peter Sammer, Rainer Hofmann-Wellenhof 732

NeurOSS — Open Source Software for Neuropsychological Rehabilitation
Jyrki Rissanen 740

DALMA – Location Aware Alarm System for People with Disabilities
Roberto Casas, Álvaro Marco, Jorge L. Falcó, Héctor Gracia, José I. Artigas 744

Usage of IT and Electronic Devices, and Its Structure, for Community-Dwelling Elderly
Madoka Ogawa, Hiroki Inagaki, Yasuyuki Gondo 752

A Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Study of the Efficacy of Cognitive Intervention on Elderly People and on Patient's with Alzheimer's Disease
J.J. Yanguas, C. Buiza, I. Etxeberria, N. Galdona, M.F. González, E. Urdaneta 759

Compensatory Use of Computers by Disabled Older Adults
Boaz Kahana, Eva Kahana, Loren Lovegreen, Gul Seçkin 766

Computer Aids Clients with Psychiatric Disabilities in Cognitive and Vocational Rehabilitation Programs
Tzyh-Chyang Chang, Jiann-Der Lee, Shwu-Jiuan Wu, Ming-Jen Yang, Chun-Hua Shih, Juei-Fen Huang 770

Ethically Aware Design of a Location System for People with Dementia
Roberto Casas, Álvaro Marco, Jorge L. Falcó, José I. Artigas, Julio Abascal 777

People with Specific Learning Difficulties

TouchStory: Towards an Interactive Learning Environment for Helping Children with Autism to Understand Narrative
Megan Davis, Kerstin Dautenhahn, Chrystopher Nehaniv, Stuart D. Powell 785

Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL) for Dyslexic Students
Cara Nicole Greene 793

A New Audio Testing System for the Newly Blind and the Learning Disabled to Take the National Center Test for University Admissions
Mamoru Fujiyoshi, Akio Fujiyoshi 801

Embodied Agents in Language Learning for Children with Language Challenges
Dominic W. Massaro 809

Web Design for Dyslexics: Accessibility of Arabic Content
Areej Al-Wabil, Panayiotis Zaphiris, Stephanie Wilson 817

Flexibility in Virtual Environments – A Fully Adjustable Virtual Classroom
Zoltán Geiszt, Cecília Sik-Lányi, Péter Károlyi 823

Temporal Orientation Panel for Special Education
Jorge L. Falcó, Carmen Muro, Inmaculada Plaza, Armando Roy 831

Developing a TriAccess Reading Environment
Chien-Chuan Cko, Ming-Chung Chen, Li-Yuan Chen, Jun-Nan Guo, Ji-Fu Liu, An-Jun Luo 839

A Platform for Creating Adaptive Communicators
María Dolores Paredes Garrido, Oscar Pino Morillas, María José Rodríguez Fórtiz, Manuel González González, Encarnación Rodríguez Parra 847

Do Text-to-Speech Synthesisers Pronounce Correctly? A Preliminary Study
D.G. Evans, E.A. Draffan, A. James, P. Blenkhorn 855

People Using Augmented and Alternative Communication (AAC)

Investigation on Effect of Prosody in Finger Braille
Manabi Miyagi, Masafumi Nishida, Yasuo Horiuchi, Akira Ichikawa 863

Internet Chat System for the Deaf-Blind Using Doubled Braille Display – DB4DB
Makoto Kobayashi 870

Using Iconicity to Evaluate Symbol Use
David Gareth Evans, Lisa Bowick, Marianne Johnson, Paul Blenkhorn 874

Development of a Voice-Input Voice-Output Communication Aid (VIVOCA) for People with Severe Dysarthria
Mark S. Hawley, Pam Enderby, Phil Green, Stuart Cunningham, Rebecca Palmer 882

EMU – A European Multilingual Text Prediction Software
Christian Beck, Gottfried Seisenbacher, Georg Edelmayer, Wolfgang Zagler 886

Design and Evaluation of a Versatile Architecture for a Multilingual Word Prediction System
Sira E. Palazuelos-Cagigas, José L. Martín-Sánchez, Lisset Hierrezuelo Sabatela, Javier Macías Guarasa 894

People with Motor and Mobility Impairement: Human Computer Interaction, Rehabilitation

People with Motor and Mobility Impairment: Human Computer Interaction, Rehabilitation
Michiaki Yasumura, Kazuyuki Itoh, Akira Ichikawa, Akira Okamoto 902

Electromyogram-Based Cursor Control System for Users with Motor Disabilities
Craig Chin, Armando Barreto, Miguel Alonso Jr. 905

A Tongue Based Control for Disabled People
Lotte N.S. Andreasen Struijk 913

An Alternative Chinese Keyboard Layout Design for Single-Digit Typists
Ming-Chung Chen, Ting-Fang Wu 919

An Integrated Design for a Myoelectrically-Based Writing Module for a Controlled Prosthesis
Andres Herrera, Malek Adjouadi, Melvin Ayala 926

Development of a Power Assisted Handrail – Handrail Trajectory and Standing Up Motion
Yoshiyuki Takahashi, Osamu Nitta, Shigeru Okikawa, Takashi Komeda 935

Trial Usage of Rehabilitation System: Simple Driving Simulator for the Driving Skill Evaluation of People with Cerebrovascular Disease: CVD
Kaoru Inoue, Yuko Ito, Yumi Ikeda, Atsuko Tanimura, Keisuke Suzuki, Yoshiyuki Takahashi, Tadashi Suzuki, Madoka Fujimoto, Masahiro Tsuchijima, Takashi Komeda 943

Eye Movement Communication Control System Based on EOG and Voluntary Eye Blink
Junichi Hori, Koji Sakano, Michio Miyakawa, Yoshiaki Saitoh 950

Eye as an Actuator
Marcela Fejtová, Jan Fejt, Olga Štěpánková 954

Nonlinear Mapping of Pupil Centre Coordinates from Image Sensor to Screen for Gaze Control Systems
Gintautas Daunys, Nerijus Ramanauskas 962

Keyboard Adaptations for Children with Cerebral Palsy
Ting-Fang Wu, Ming-Chung Chen 966

Light Spot Operated Mouse Emulator for Cervical Spinal-Cord Injured PC Users
Kazuyuki Itoh 973

Design and Implementation of a Chorded On-Screen Keyboard for People with Physical Impairments
Yun-Lung Lin, Ming-Chung Chen, Yao-Ming Yeh, Wen-Jeng Tzeng, Chih-Ching Yeh 981

People with Motor and Mobility Impairement: Innovative Interfaces to Wheelchairs

People with Motor and Mobility Impairment: Innovative Multimodal Interfaces to Wheelchairs
Andreas Holzinger, Alexander K. Nischelwitzer 989

Accessible User Interface Framework for Severely Physically Disabled People
Michael Mahr, Alexander K. Nischelwitzer 992

MediaWheelie – A Best Practice Example for Research in Multimodal User Interfaces (MUIs)
Alexander K. Nischelwitzer, Bernd Sproger, Michael Mahr, Andreas Holzinger 999

NIBLUM: Non-Invasive Bluetooth Mouse for Wheelchair Users
Roberto Casas, Marcos Quilez, Borja Romero, Oscar Casas 1006

Smart Wheelchair Based on Ultrasonic Positioning System
HyungJun Kim, DaeHyun Ryu 1014

Scenarios of Use for a Modular Robotic Mobility Enhancement System for Profoundly Disabled Children in an Educational and Institutional Care Environment
Peter Mayer, Paul Panek, Georg Edelmayer, Marnix Nuttin, Wolfgang Zagler 1021

Blind and Visually Impaired People: Human Computer Interface

Blind and Visually Impaired People: Human Computer Interface
Grigori Evreinov 1029

A Framework for Blind User Interfacing
Fernando Alonso, José L. Fuertes, Ángel L. González, Loïc Martínez 1031

An Approach for Direct Manipulation by Tactile Modality for Blind Computer Users: Development of the Second Trial Production
Shigenobu Shimada, Masami Shinohara, Yutaka Shimizu, Makoto Shimojo 1039

Making Nonaccessible Applications Accessible for Visually Impaired
Tomáš Zahradnický, Róbert Lórencz 1047

Usability Evaluation of the MOST Mobile Assistant (SlatTalker)
Zoltan Juhasz, Andras Arato, Gabor Bognar, Laszlo Buday, Gergely Eberhardt, Norbert Markus, Emil Mogor, Zoltan Nagy, Terez Vaspori 1055

Non-visual Access to GUIs: Leveraging Abstract User Interfaces
Kris Van Hees, Jan Engelen 1063

Design Guidelines for Audio–Haptic Immersive Applications for People with Visual Disabilities
Fernando Alonso, José L. Fuertes, Loïc Martínez, Héctor Szabo 1071

The Amodal Communication System Through an Extended Directional Input
Georgios Yfantidis, Grigori Evreinov 1079

Blind and Visually Impaired People: Access to Information and Communication

Multimedia Browser for Internet Online Daisy Books
Piotr Brzoza, Dominik Spinczyk 1087

Automated Book Reader for Persons with Blindness
Malek Adjouadi, Eddy Ruiz, Lu Wang 1094

RoboBraille – Automated Braille Translation by Means of an E-Mail Robot
Lars Ballieu Christensen 1102

Accessing Music Notation Through Touch and Speech
Ben P. Challis 1110

Blind People: Access to Graphics

Math Class: An Application for Dynamic Tactile Graphics
Peter Albert 1118

Helping People with Visual Impairments Gain Access to Graphical Information Through Natural Language: The ***iGraph*** System
Leo Ferres, Avi Parush, Shelley Roberts, Gitte Lindgaard 1122

Fingertip Guiding Manipulator: Haptic Graphic Display for Mental Image Creation
Yoshihiko Nomura, Yuki Yagi, Tokuhiro Sugiura, Hirokazu Matsui, Norihiko Kato 1131

Graphic Editor for Visually Impaired Users
Atsushi Nishi, Ryoji Fukuda 1139

Exploiting SenseCam for Helping the Blind in Business Negotiations
Shuaib Karim, Amin Andjomshoaa, A. Min Tjoa 1147

On the Accuracy of Tactile Displays
Christopher Power 1155

HOWARD: High-Order Wavefront Aberration Regularized Deconvolution for Enhancing Graphic Displays for Visually Impaired Computer Users
Miguel Alonso Jr., Armando Barreto, Malek Adjouadi, Julie A. Jacko 1163

Blind People: Access to Mathematics

"BlindMath" a New Scientific Editor for Blind Students
A. Pepino, C. Freda, F. Ferraro, S. Pagliara, F. Zanfardino 1171

Translating MathML into Nemeth Braille Code
Paul B. Stanley, Arthur I. Karshmer 1175

New Environment for Visually Disabled Students to Access Scientific Information by Combining Speech Interface and Tactile Graphics
Toshihiko Komada, Katsuhito Yamaguchi, Fukashi Kawane, Masakazu Suzuki 1183

Canonical MathML to Simplify Conversion of MathML to Braille Mathematical Notations
Dominique Archambault, Victor Moço 1191

Mathematics: How and What to Speak
D. Fitzpatrick 1199

SBT: A Translator from Spanish Mathematical Braille to MathML
Fernando Alonso, José L. Fuertes, Ángel L. González, Loïc A. Martínez 1207

Braille Math Made Easy with the Tiger Formatter
John A. Gardner, Leon Ungier, John J. Boyer 1215

LAMBDA: A European System to Access Mathematics with Braille and Audio Synthesis
Waltraud Schweikhardt, Cristian Bernareggi, Nadine Jessel, Benoit Encelle, Margarethe Gut 1223

Speech Recognition Helps Visually Impaired People Writing Mathematical Formulas
Tomáš Hanakovič, Marek Nagy 1231

Supporting Blind Students in Navigation and Manipulation of Mathematical Expressions: Basic Requirements and Strategies
Bernhard Stoeger, Mario Batusic, Klaus Miesenberger, Philipp Haindl 1235

Scientific Diagrams Made Easy with IVEO^{TM}
John A. Gardner, Vladimir Bulatov 1243

Blind and Visually Impaired People: Mobility and Orientation

CyARM: Interactive Device for Environment Recognition and Joint Haptic Attention Using Non-visual Modality
Tetsuo Ono, Takanori Komatsu, Jun-ichi Akita, Kiyohide Ito, Makoto Okamoto 1251

Marking in the Surroundings by Data-Carriers for the Visually Impaired
Hisayuki Tatsumi, Yasuyuki Murai, Nobuyuki Nagai, Masahiro Miyakawa 1259

A Study and Development of the Auditory Route Map Providing System for the Visually Impaired
Takafumi Ienaga, Michito Matsumoto, Masahiro Shibata, Nobuyuki Toyoda, Youko Kimura, Hiroshi Gotoh, Takehito Yasukouchi 1265

Identification of Acoustic Factors for Perception of Crossability Common to Blind and Sighted Pedestrians
Takayuki Shiose, Kiyohide Ito, Kazuhiko Mamada 1273

A Computer-Based Navigation System Tailored to the Needs of Blind People
Bettina Pressl, Manfred Wieser 1280

A Haptic Interface for an Indoor-Walk-Guide Simulator
Yasuyuki Murai, Hisayuki Tatsumi, Nobuyuki Nagai, Masahiro Miyakawa 1287

Computer Vision-Based Terrain Sensors for Blind Wheelchair Users
James Coughlan, Roberto Manduchi, Huiying Shen 1294

The Blind Interactive Guide System Using RFID-Based Indoor Positioning System
Jongwhoa Na 1298

Blind and Visually Impaired People: Education and Training

An IT Training Programme for Blind Computer Users – Presentation and Discussion of Didactic and Teletutorial Implications
Mario Batušić, Andrea Gaal, Joachim Klaus, Mary O'Grady 1306

Usability for All: Towards Improving the E-Learning Experience for Visually Impaired Users
Eva Patrícia Gil Rodríguez, Muriel Garreta Domingo, Jordi Planella Ribera, Magí Almirall Hill, Llorenç Sabaté Jardí 1313

Issues in Implementing Awareness in Collaborative Software for Blind People
Jaime Sánchez, Nelson Baloian 1318

Modeling 3D Interactive Environments for Learners with Visual Disabilities
Jaime Sánchez, Nelson Baloian 1326

APL: Audio Programming Language for Blind Learners
Jaime Sánchez, Fernando Aguayo 1334

eDiab: A System for Monitoring, Assisting and Educating People with Diabetes
L. Fernández-Luque, J.L. Sevillano, F.J. Hurtado-Núñez, F.J. Moriana-García, F. Díaz del Río, D. Cascado 1342

Author Index 1351