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# Computers Helping People with Special Needs

13th International Conference, ICCHP 2012  
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Proceedings, Part II

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# Preface

## Welcome to the ICCHP 2012 Proceedings

The information society is moving towards eAccessibility and eInclusion around the world, facilitated by better and user-friendlier assistive technologies. Research and development are important drivers in moving the sector forward and also in implementing accessibility as a key feature of today's mainstream systems and services. Evidence of this trend can be seen in new free and commercial products, such as screenreader software, working seamlessly on all up-to-date smartphones, pads and tablets.



ICCHP is proud of being an active force in this process since the 1980s. Scientific conferences, besides showcasing the newest ideas and developments, facilitate exchange and cooperation. They are indispensable ingredients of innovation and progress.

This year, as in the past, we are proud to welcome more than 500 participants from over 50 countries from around the world; 112 experts selected 147 full and 42 short papers out of 364 abstracts submitted to ICCHP. They form the core of the program of ICCHP 2012. Each paper was reviewed by three expert reviewers and every submission was then further evaluated in a meeting of the international Program Committee. The acceptance ratio of about 50% of the submissions demonstrates our strict pursuit of scientific quality both of the program and in particular of the proceedings in your hands.

The concept of organizing "Special Thematic Sessions" helped to structure the proceedings and program. The process supports focusing on selected topics of high interest in the field as well as bringing new and interesting topics to the attention of the research community. This approach makes the 13th edition of ICCHP proceedings a valued and interesting contribution to the state of the art and a reference in our domain of study.

ICCHP, for the first time, features and includes the conference "Universal Learning Design (ULD)". This part of the ICCHP program invites experienced practitioners and users to present their ideas, problems, experiences and concepts in an open forum, allowing us to learn from and advance our work based on experience and best practice. Most of these contributions are of a practical nature and are therefore included in a special publication of the ULD hosting partner Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic. We recommend referring to them when reading these proceedings. With ULD, ICCHP will advance more rapidly towards a platform facilitating the exchange and cooperation of a diverse set of stakeholders allowing deeper and more sustainable impact.

ULD complements ICCHP very well. Together with the “Young Researchers Consortium”, the “Summer University on Math, Science and Statistics for Blind and Partially Sighted Students”, the finals of the international coding event “SS12 – Project:Possibility”, intensive workshops, meetings and an exhibition including presentations and demonstrations of major software and assistive technology producers and vendors, ICCHP will once again be the international meeting place and center of advanced information exchange.

ICCHP 2012 is held under the auspices of Dr. Heinz Fischer, President of the Federal Republic of Austria, an honorable Committee of Honor and under the patronage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and of the European Disability Forum (EDF).

We thank the Austrian Computer Society for announcing and sponsoring the ICCHP Roland Wagner Award, endowed in 2001 in honor of Roland Wagner, the founder of ICCHP.

*Former Award Winners:*

- Award 5: Handed over at ICCHP 2010 in Vienna to:
  - Harry Murphy - Founder, Former Director and Member of Advisory Board of the Centre on Disabilities, USA
  - Joachim Klaus - Founder, Former Director of the Study Centre for the Visually Impaired at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (SZS - KIT), Germany
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- *Special Award 2003*: A Min Tjoa, Vienna University of Technology
- Award 1: WAI-W3C, ICCHP 2002 in Linz
- Award 0: Prof. Roland Wagner on the occasion of his 50th birthday, 2001

Once again we thank everyone for helping with putting ICCHP in place and thereby supporting the AT field and a better quality of life for people with disabilities.

Special thanks go to all our sponsors and supporters.

July 2012

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# Table of Contents – Part II

## Portable and Mobile Systems in Assistive Technology

A Multimodal Approach to Accessible Web Content on Smartphones . . . <i>Lars Emil Knudsen and Harald Holone</i>	1
Mobile Vision as Assistive Technology for the Blind: An Experimental Study . . . . . <i>Roberto Manduchi</i>	9
Camera-Based Signage Detection and Recognition for Blind Persons . . . <i>Shuihua Wang and Yingli Tian</i>	17
The Crosswatch Traffic Intersection Analyzer: A Roadmap for the Future . . . . . <i>James M. Coughlan and Huiying Shen</i>	25
GPS and Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) as a Navigation System for the Visually Impaired . . . . . <i>Jesus Zegarra and René Farcy</i>	29
Visual Nouns for Indoor/Outdoor Navigation . . . . . <i>Edgardo Molina, Zhigang Zhu, and Yingli Tian</i>	33
Towards a Real-Time System for Finding and Reading Signs for Visually Impaired Users . . . . . <i>Huiying Shen and James M. Coughlan</i>	41
User Requirements for Camera-Based Mobile Applications on Touch Screen Devices for Blind People . . . . . <i>Yoonjung Choi and Ki-Hyung Hong</i>	48
A Route Planner Interpretation Service for Hard of Hearing People . . . . <i>Mehrez Boulares and Mohamed Jemni</i>	52
Translating Floor Plans into Directions . . . . . <i>Martin Spindler, Michael Weber, Denise Prescher, Mei Miao, Gerhard Weber, and Georgios Ioannidis</i>	59
Harnessing Wireless Technologies for Campus Navigation by Blind Students and Visitors . . . . . <i>Tracey J. Mehigan and Ian Pitt</i>	67

Eyesight Sharing in Blind Grocery Shopping: Remote P2P Caregiving through Cloud Computing .....	75
<i>Vladimir Kulyukin, Tanwir Zaman, Abhishek Andhavarapu, and Aliasgar Kutiyawala</i>	
Assessment Test Framework for Collecting and Evaluating Fall-Related Data Using Mobile Devices .....	83
<i>Stefan Almer, Josef Kolbitsch, Johannes Oberzaucher, and Martin Ebner</i>	
NAVCOM – WLAN Communication between Public Transport Vehicles and Smart Phones to Support Visually Impaired and Blind People .....	91
<i>Werner Bischof, Elmar Krajnc, Markus Dornhofer, and Michael Ulm</i>	
Mobile-Type Remote Captioning System for Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing People and the Experience of Remote Supports after the Great East Japan Earthquake.....	99
<i>Shigeki Miyoshi, Sumihiro Kawano, Mayumi Shirasawa, Kyoko Isoda, Michiko Hasuie, Masayuki Kobayashi, and Midori Umehara</i>	
Handheld “App” Offering Visual Support to Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) .....	105
<i>Bogdan Zamfir, Robert Tedesco, and Brian Reichow</i>	
Cloud-Based Assistive Speech-Transcription Services .....	113
<i>Zdenek Bumbalek, Jan Zelenka, and Lukas Kencl</i>	
Developing a Voice User Interface with Improved Usability for People with Dysarthria .....	117
<i>Yumi Hwang, Daejin Shin, Chang-Yeal Yang, Seung-Yeun Lee, Jin Kim, Byunggoo Kong, Jio Chung, Sunhee Kim, and Minhwa Chung</i>	
Wearable Range-Vibrotactile Field: Design and Evaluation .....	125
<i>Frank G. Palmer, Zhigang Zhu, and Tony Ro</i>	
System Supporting Speech Perception in Special Educational Needs Schoolchildren .....	133
<i>Adam Kupryjanow, Piotr Suchomski, Piotr Ody, and Andrzej Czyzewski</i>	
Designing a Mobile Application to Record ABA Data.....	137
<i>Silvia Artoni, Maria Claudia Buzzi, Marina Buzzi, Claudia Fenili, Barbara Leporini, Simona Mencarini, and Caterina Senette</i>	

## Assistive Technology, HCI and Rehabilitation

Creating Personas with Disabilities . . . . .	145
<i>Trenton Schulz and Kristin Skeide Fuglerud</i>	
Eye Controlled Human Computer Interaction for Severely Motor Disabled Children: Two Clinical Case Studies . . . . .	153
<i>Mojca Debeljak, Julija Ocepek, and Anton Zupan</i>	
Gravity Controls for Windows . . . . .	157
<i>Peter Heumader, Klaus Miesenberger, and Gerhard Nussbaum</i>	
Addressing Accessibility Challenges of People with Motor Disabilities by Means of AsTeRICS: A Step by Step Definition of Technical Requirements . . . . .	164
<i>Alvaro García-Soler, Unai Diaz-Orueta, Roland Ossmann, Gerhard Nussbaum, Christoph Veigl, Chris Weiss, and Karol Pecyna</i>	
Indoor and Outdoor Mobility for an Intelligent Autonomous Wheelchair . . . . .	172
<i>C.T. Lin, Craig Euler, Po-Jen Wang, and Ara Mekhtarian</i>	
Comparing the Accuracy of a P300 Speller for People with Major Physical Disability . . . . .	180
<i>Alexander Lechner, Rupert Ortner, Fabio Aloise, Robert Prückl, Francesca Schettini, Veronika Putz, Josef Scharinger, Eloy Opisso, Ursula Costa, Josep Medina, and Christoph Guger</i>	
Application of Robot Suit HAL to Gait Rehabilitation of Stroke Patients: A Case Study . . . . .	184
<i>Kanako Yamawaki, Ryohei Ariyasu, Shigeki Kubota, Hiroaki Kawamoto, Yoshio Nakata, Kiyotaka Kamibayashi, Yoshiyuki Sankai, Kiyoshi Eguchi, and Naoyuki Ochiai</i>	

## Sign 2.0: ICT for Sign Language Users: Information Sharing, Interoperability, User-Centered Design and Collaboration

Sign 2.0: ICT for Sign Language Users: Information Sharing, Interoperability, User-Centered Design and Collaboration: Introduction to the Special Thematic Session . . . . .	188
<i>Liesbeth Pyfers</i>	
Toward Developing a Very Big Sign Language Parallel Corpus . . . . .	192
<i>Achraf Othman, Zouhour Tmar, and Mohamed Jemni</i>	
Czech Sign Language – Czech Dictionary and Thesaurus On-Line . . . . .	200
<i>Jan Fikejs and Tomáš Sklenák</i>	

The Dicta-Sign Wiki: Enabling Web Communication for the Deaf . . . . .	205
<i>Eleni Efthimiou, Stavroula-Evita Fotinea, Thomas Hanke, John Glauert, Richard Bowden, Annelies Braffort, Christophe Collet, Petros Maragos, and François Lefebvre-Albaret</i>	
Sign Language Multimedia Based Interaction for Aurally Handicapped People . . . . .	213
<i>Matjaž Debevc, Ines Kožuh, Primož Kosec, Milan Rotovnik, and Andreas Holzinger</i>	
Meeting Support System for the Person with Hearing Impairment Using Tablet Devices and Speech Recognition . . . . .	221
<i>Makoto Kobayashi, Hiroki Minagawa, Tomoyuki Nishioka, and Shigeki Miyoshi</i>	
Dubbing of Videos for Deaf People – A Sign Language Approach . . . . .	225
<i>Franz Niederl, Petra Bußwald, Georg Tschare, Jürgen Hackl, and Josef Philipp</i>	
Towards a 3D Signing Avatar from SignWriting Notation . . . . .	229
<i>Yosra Bouzid, Maher Jbali, Oussama El Ghoul, and Mohamed Jemni</i>	
Sign Language Computer-Aided Education: Exploiting GSL Resources and Technologies for Web Deaf Communication . . . . .	237
<i>Stavroula-Evita Fotinea, Eleni Efthimiou, and Athanasia-Lida Dimou</i>	
SignMedia: Interactive English Learning Resource for Deaf Sign Language Users Working in the Media Industry . . . . .	245
<i>Luzia Gansinger</i>	
SignAssess – Online Sign Language Training Assignments via the Browser, Desktop and Mobile . . . . .	253
<i>Christopher John</i>	
<b>Computer-Assisted Augmentative and Alternative Communication (CA-AAC)</b>	
Towards General Cross-Platform CCF Based Multi-modal Language Support . . . . .	261
<i>Mats Lundälv and Sandra Derbring</i>	
Developing an Augmentative Mobile Communication System . . . . .	269
<i>Juan Bautista Montalvá Colomer, María Fernanda Cabrera-Umpiérrez, Silvia de los Ríos Pérez, Miguel Páramo del Castrillo, and María Teresa Arredondo Waldmeyer</i>	

The Korean Web-Based AAC Board Making System .....	275
<i>Saerom Choi, Heeyeon Lee, and Ki-Hyung Hong</i>	
SymbolChat: Picture-Based Communication Platform for Users with Intellectual Disabilities .....	279
<i>Tuuli Keskinen, Tomi Heimonen, Markku Turunen, Juha-Pekka Rajaniemi, and Sami Kauppinen</i>	
Developing AAC Message Generating Training System Based on Core Vocabulary Approach.....	287
<i>Ming-Chung Chen, Cheng-Chien Chen, Chien-Chuan Ko, Hwa-Pey Wang, and Shao-Wun Chen</i>	
New Features in the VoxAid Communication Aid for Speech Impaired People.....	295
<i>Bálint Tóth, Péter Nagy, and Géza Németh</i>	
AAC Vocabulary Standardisation and Harmonisation: The CCF and BCI Experiences .....	303
<i>Mats Lundälv and Sandra Derbring</i>	
Speaking and Understanding Morse Language, Speech Technology and Autism .....	311
<i>András Arató, Norbert Markus, and Zoltan Juhasz</i>	
Reverse-Engineering Scanning Keyboards .....	315
<i>Foad Hamidi and Melanie Baljko</i>	
A Communication System on Smart Phones and Tablets for Non-verbal Children with Autism .....	323
<i>Harini Sampath, Bipin Indurkha, and Jayanthi Sivaswamy</i>	
Assessment of Biosignals for Managing a Virtual Keyboard.....	331
<i>Manuel Merino, Isabel Gómez, Alberto J. Molina, and Kevin Guzman</i>	
Applying the Principles of Experience-Dependent Neural Plasticity: Building Up Language Abilities with ELA®-Computerized Language Modules .....	338
<i>Jacqueline Stark, Christiane Pons, Ronald Bruckner, Beate Fessel, Rebecca Janker, Verena Leitner, Karin Mittermann, and Michaela Rausch</i>	
Assistive Technology: Writing Tool to Support Students with Learning Disabilities .....	346
<i>Onintra Poobrasert and Alongkorn Wongteeratana</i>	
Communication Access for a Student with Multiple Disabilities: An Interdisciplinary Collaborative Approach .....	353
<i>Frances Layman, Cathryn Crowle, and John Ravenscroft</i>	

## Easy to Web between Science of Education, Information Design and (Speech) Technology

Multimedia Advocacy: A New Way of Self Expression and Communication for People with Intellectual Disabilities . . . . .	361
<i>Gosia Kwiatkowska, Thomas Tröbinger, Karl Bäck, and Peter Williams</i>	
How Long Is a Short Sentence? – A Linguistic Approach to Definition and Validation of Rules for Easy-to-Read Material . . . . .	369
<i>Annika Nietzio, Birgit Scheer, and Christian Bühler</i>	
CAPKOM – Innovative Graphical User Interface Supporting People with Cognitive Disabilities . . . . .	377
<i>Andrea Petz, Nicoleta Radu, and Markus Lassnig</i>	
<b>Smart and Assistive Environments: Ambient Assisted Living (AAL)</b>	
A Real-Time Sound Recognition System in an Assisted Environment . . .	385
<i>Héctor Lozano, Inmaculada Hernández, Javier Camarena, Ibai Díez, and Eva Navas</i>	
Gestures Used by Intelligent Wheelchair Users . . . . .	392
<i>Dimitra Anastasiou and Christoph Stahl</i>	
Augmented Reality Based Environment Design Support System for Home Renovation . . . . .	399
<i>Yoshiyuki Takahashi and Hiroko Mizumura</i>	
Fall Detection on Embedded Platform Using Kinect and Wireless Accelerometer . . . . .	407
<i>Michał Kępski and Bogdan Kwolek</i>	
Controlled Natural Language Sentence Building as a Model for Designing User Interfaces for Rule Editing in Assisted Living Systems – A User Study . . . . .	415
<i>Henrike Gappa, Gaby Nordbrock, Yehya Mohamad, Jaroslav Pullmann, and Carlos A. Velasco</i>	
MonAMI Platform in Elderly Household Environment: Architecture, Installation, Implementation, Trials and Results . . . . .	419
<i>Dušan Šimšík, Alena Galajdová, Daniel Šiman, Juraj Bujňák, Marianna Andrášová, and Marek Novák</i>	

## Text Entry for Accessible Computing

Modeling Text Input for Single-Switch Scanning .....	423
<i>I. Scott MacKenzie</i>	
DualScribe: A Keyboard Replacement for Those with Friedreich's Ataxia and Related Diseases.....	431
<i>Torsten Felzer, I. Scott MacKenzie, and Stephan Rinderknecht</i>	
Easier Mobile Phone Input Using the JusFone Keyboard .....	439
<i>Oystein Dale and Trenton Schulz</i>	
Automatic Assessment of Dysarthric Speech Intelligibility Based on Selected Phonetic Quality Features .....	447
<i>Myung Jong Kim and Hoirin Kim</i>	
Adaptation of AAC to the Context Communication: A Real Improvement for the User Illustration through the VITIPI Word Completion .....	451
<i>Philippe Boissière, Nadine Vigouroux, Mustapha Mojahid, and Frédéric Vella</i>	
Tackling the Acceptability of Freely Optimized Keyboard Layout .....	459
<i>Bruno Merlin, Mathieu Raynal, and Heleno Fülber</i>	
Measuring Performance of a Predictive Keyboard Operated by Humming .....	467
<i>Ondřej Poláček, Adam J. Sporka, and Zdeněk Míkovec</i>	
Dysarthric Speech Recognition Error Correction Using Weighted Finite State Transducers Based on Context-Dependent Pronunciation Variation .....	475
<i>Woo Kyeong Seong, Ji Hun Park, and Hong Kook Kim</i>	
Text Entry Competency for Students with Learning Disabilities in Grade 5 to 6 .....	483
<i>Ting-Fang Wu and Ming-Chung Chen</i>	

## Tactile Graphics and Models for Blind People and Recognition of Shapes by Touch

Vision SenS .....	490
<i>Berenice Machuca Bautista, José Alfredo Padilla Medina, and Francisco Javier Sánchez Marín</i>	
Computer-Aided Design of Tactile Models: Taxonomy and Case Studies .....	497
<i>Andreas Reichinger, Moritz Neumüller, Florian Rist, Stefan Maierhofer, and Werner Purgathofer</i>	



Three-Dimensional Model Fabricated by Layered Manufacturing for Visually Handicapped Persons to Trace Heart Shape .....	505
<i>Kenji Yamazawa, Yoshinori Teshima, Yasunari Watanabe, Yuji Ikegami, Mamoru Fujiyoshi, Susumu Oouchi, and Takeshi Kaneko</i>	
Viable Haptic UML for Blind People .....	509
<i>Claudia Loitsch and Gerhard Weber</i>	
Non-visual Presentation of Graphs Using the Novint Falcon .....	517
<i>Reham Alabbadi, Peter Blanchfield, and Maria Petridou</i>	

## Mobility for Blind and Partially Sighted People

Towards a Geographic Information System Facilitating Navigation of Visually Impaired Users .....	521
<i>Slim Kammoun, Marc J.-M. Macé, Bernard Oriola, and Christophe Jouffrais</i>	
Combination of Map-Supported Particle Filters with Activity Recognition for Blind Navigation.....	529
<i>Bernhard Schmitz, Attila Györkös, and Thomas Ertl</i>	
AccessibleMap: Web-Based City Maps for Blind and Visually Impaired .....	536
<i>Klaus Höckner, Daniele Marano, Julia Neuschmid, Manfred Schrenk, and Wolfgang Wasserburger</i>	
Design and User Satisfaction of Interactive Maps for Visually Impaired People .....	544
<i>Anke Brock, Philippe Truillet, Bernard Oriola, Delphine Picard, and Christophe Jouffrais</i>	
A Mobile Application Concept to Encourage Independent Mobility for Blind and Visually Impaired Students .....	552
<i>Jukka Liimatainen, Markku Häkkinen, Tuula Nousiainen, Marja Kankaanranta, and Pekka Neittaanmäki</i>	
Do-It-Yourself Object Identification Using Augmented Reality for Visually Impaired People .....	560
<i>Atheer S. Al-Khalifa and Hend S. Al-Khalifa</i>	
An Assistive Vision System for the Blind That Helps Find Lost Things .....	566
<i>Boris Schauerte, Manel Martinez, Angela Constantinescu, and Rainer Stiefelwagen</i>	

Designing a Virtual Environment to Evaluate Multimodal Sensors for Assisting the Visually Impaired .....	573
<i>Wai L. Khoo, Eric L. Seidel, and Zhigang Zhu</i>	
A Segmentation-Based Stereovision Approach for Assisting Visually Impaired People .....	581
<i>Hao Tang and Zhigang Zhu</i>	
KinDectect: Kinect Detecting Objects .....	588
<i>Atif Khan, Febin Moideen, Juan Lopez, Wai L. Khoo, and Zhigang Zhu</i>	
A System Helping the Blind to Get Merchandise Information .....	596
<i>Nobuhito Tanaka, Yasunori Doi, Tetsuya Matsumoto, Yoshinori Takeuchi, Hiroaki Kudo, and Noboru Ohnishi</i>	
<b>Human-Computer Interaction for Blind and Partially Sighted People</b>	
Accessibility for the Blind on an Open-Source Mobile Platform: MOBILE Slate Talker (MOST) for Android .....	599
<i>Norbert Markus, Szabolcs Malik, Zoltan Juhasz, and András Arató</i>	
Accessibility of Android-Based Mobile Devices: A Prototype to Investigate Interaction with Blind Users .....	607
<i>Sarah Chiti and Barbara Leporini</i>	
TypeInBraille: Quick Eyes-Free Typing on Smartphones .....	615
<i>Sergio Mascetti, Cristian Bernareggi, and Matteo Belotti</i>	
Real-Time Display Recognition System for Visually Impaired .....	623
<i>Irati Rasines, Pedro Iriondo, and Ibai Díez</i>	
A Non-visual Interface for Tasks Requiring Rapid Recognition and Response: An RC Helicopter Control System for Blind People .....	630
<i>Kazunori Minatani and Tetsuya Watanabe</i>	
Reaching to Sound Accuracy in the Peri-personal Space of Blind and Sighted Humans .....	636
<i>Marc J.-M. Macé, Florian Dramas, and Christophe Jouffrais</i>	
Hapto-acoustic Scene Representation .....	644
<i>Sebastian Ritterbusch, Angela Constantinescu, and Volker Koch</i>	
Efficient Access to PC Applications by Using a Braille Display with Active Tactile Control (ATC) .....	651
<i>Siegfried Kipke</i>	

Applications of Optically Actuated Haptic Elements . . . . .	659
<i>Branislav Mamojka and Peter Teplický</i>	
Trackable Interactive Multimodal Manipulatives: Towards a Tangible User Environment for the Blind . . . . .	664
<i>Muhanad S. Manshad, Enrico Pontelli, and Shakir J. Manshad</i>	
Introduction of New Body-Braille Devices and Applications . . . . .	672
<i>Satoshi Ohtsuka, Nobuyuki Sasaki, Sadao Hasegawa, and Tetsumi Harakawa</i>	
<b>Author Index . . . . .</b>	<b>677</b>

# Table of Contents – Part I

## ULD - Universal Learning Design

Towards a Visual Speech Learning System for the Deaf by Matching Dynamic Lip Shapes .....	1
<i>Shizhi Chen, D. Michael Quintian, and Yingli Tian</i>	
Teaching Support Software for Hearing Impaired Students Who Study Computer Operation SynchroniZed Key Points Indication Tool: SZKIT .....	10
<i>Makoto Kobayashi, Takuya Suzuki, and Daisuke Wakatsuki</i>	
The Hybrid Book - One Document for All in the Latest Development ...	18
<i>Petr Hladík and Tomáš Gůra</i>	
Dealing with Changes in Supporting Students with Disabilities in Higher Education .....	25
<i>Andrea Petz and Klaus Miesenberger</i>	

## Putting the Disabled Student in Charge: User Focused Technology in Education

Putting the Disabled Student in Charge: Introduction to the Special Thematic Session .....	33
<i>Lisa Featherstone and Simon Ball</i>	
Biblus – A Digital Library to Support Integration of Visually Impaired in Mainstream Education .....	36
<i>Lars Ballieu Christensen and Tanja Stevns</i>	
Alternative Approaches to Alternative Formats – Changing Expectations by Challenging Myths .....	43
<i>Alistair McNaught and Lisa Featherstone</i>	
Access Toolkit for Education .....	51
<i>Mike Wald, E.A. Draffan, Russell Newman, Sebastian Skuse, and Chris Phethean</i>	
Community-Based Participatory Approach: Students as Partners in Educational Accessible Technology Research .....	59
<i>Poorna Kushalnagar, Benjamin Williams, and Raja S. Kushalnagar</i>	

Applying New Interaction Paradigms to the Education of Children with Special Educational Needs .....	65
<i>Paloma Cantón, Ángel L. González, Gonzalo Mariscal, and Carlos Ruiz</i>	
InStep: A Video Database Assessment Tool .....	73
<i>Fern Faux, David Finch, and Lisa Featherstone</i>	
SCRIBE: A Model for Implementing Robobraille in a Higher Education Institution .....	77
<i>Lars Ballieu Christensen, Sean J. Keegan, and Tanja Stevens</i>	
Identifying Barriers to Collaborative Learning for the Blind .....	84
<i>Wiebke Köhlmann</i>	
Deaf and Hearing Students' Eye Gaze Collaboration .....	92
<i>Raja S. Kushalnagar, Poorna Kushalnagar, and Jeffrey B. Pelz</i>	
The Musibraille Project – Enabling the Inclusion of Blind Students in Music Courses .....	100
<i>José Antonio Borges and Dolores Tomé</i>	
Important New Enhancements to Inclusive Learning Using Recorded Lectures .....	108
<i>Mike Wald</i>	
Development of New Auditory Testing Media with Invisible 2-Dimensional Codes for Test-Takers with Print Disabilities .....	116
<i>Mamoru Fujiyoshi, Akio Fujiyoshi, Akiko Ohsawa, Toshiaki Aomatsu, and Haruhiko Sawazaki</i>	
<b>Access to Mathematics and Science</b>	
More Accessible Math: The LEAN Math Notation .....	124
<i>John Gardner and Courtney Christensen</i>	
Accessible Authoring Tool for DAISY Ranging from Mathematics to Others .....	130
<i>Katsuhito Yamaguchi and Masakazu Suzuki</i>	
Blind Friendly LaTeX: An Option for Adapting Electronic Documents Containing Mathematical Text .....	138
<i>Wanda Gonzúrová and Pavel Hrabák</i>	
A System for Matching Mathematical Formulas Spoken during a Lecture with Those Displayed on the Screen for Use in Remote Transcription .....	142
<i>Yoshinori Takeuchi, Hironori Kawaguchi, Noboru Ohnishi, Daisuke Wakatsuki, and Hiroki Minagawa</i>	

Supporting Braille Learning and Uses by Adapting Transcription to User's Needs .....	150
<i>Bruno Mascret, Alain Mille, and Vivien Guillet</i>	
A Non-visual Electronic Workspace for Learning Algebra .....	158
<i>Nancy Alajarmeh and Enrico Pontelli</i>	
Interaction Design for the Resolution of Linear Equations in a Multimodal Interface .....	166
<i>Silvia Fajardo-Flores and Dominique Archambault</i>	
Development of Software for Automatic Creation of Embossed Graphs: Comparison of Non-visual Data Presentation Methods and Development Up-to-date .....	174
<i>Tetsuya Watanabe, Toshimitsu Yamaguchi, and Masaki Nakagawa</i>	
Expression Rules of Directed Graphs for Non-visual Communication ....	182
<i>Ryoji Fukuda</i>	
How to Make Unified Modeling Language Diagrams Accessible for Blind Students .....	186
<i>Karin Müller</i>	
AutOMathic Blocks Usability Testing Phase One .....	191
<i>Yonatan Breiter, Arthur Karshmer, and Judith Karshmer</i>	
MathInBraille Online Converter .....	196
<i>Klaus Miesenberger, Mario Batusic, Peter Heumader, and Bernhard Stöger</i>	
The Effects of Teaching Mathematics to Students with Disabilities Using Multimedia Computer-Assisted Instruction Coupled with ARCS Model .....	204
<i>Chen-Tang Hou and Chu-Lung Wu</i>	

## Policy and Service Provision

Information Needs Related to ICT-Based Assistive Solutions .....	207
<i>Renzo Andrich, Valerio Gower, and Sabrina Vincenti</i>	
The European Assistive Technology Information Portal (EASTIN): Improving Usability through Language Technologies .....	215
<i>Valerio Gower, Renzo Andrich, Andrea Agnoletto, Petra Winkelmann, Thomas Lyhne, Roberts Rozis, and Gregor Thurmair</i>	
Use of Assistive Technology in Workplaces of Employees with Physical and Cognitive Disabilities .....	223
<i>Kirsi Jääskeläinen and Nina Nevala</i>	

Multimodal Guidance System for Improving Manual Skills in Disabled People .....	227
<i>Mario Covarrubias, Elia Gatti, Alessandro Mansutti, Monica Bordegoni, and Umberto Cugini</i>	
Identifying Barriers to Accessibility in Qatar .....	235
<i>Erik Zetterström</i>	
NCBI and Digital Literacy: A Case Study .....	243
<i>Denise Leahy and Stuart Lawler</i>	

## CDI - Creative Design for Inclusion

A User-Friendly Virtual Guide for Post-Rehabilitation Support Following Stroke .....	251
<i>Sascha Sommer, Matthias Bartels, Martina Frießem, and Joachim Zülch</i>	
Musicking Tangibles for Empowerment .....	254
<i>Birgitta Cappelen and Anders-Petter Andersson</i>	
RHYME: Musicking for All .....	262
<i>Harald Holone and Jo Herstad</i>	
Enhancing Audio Description: A Value Added Approach .....	270
<i>Jack Sade, Komal Naz, and Malgorzata Plaza</i>	
Triple Helix – In Action? .....	278
<i>Niels Henrik Helms and Susanne Tellerup</i>	

## Virtual User Models for Designing and Using Inclusive Products

Virtual User Models for Designing and Using of Inclusive Products: Introduction to the Special Thematic Session .....	284
<i>Yehya Mohamad, Manfred Dangelmaier, Matthias Peissner, Pradipta Biswas, and Carlos A. Velasco</i>	
Creative Design for Inclusion Using Virtual User Models .....	288
<i>Markus Modzelewski, Michael Lawo, Pierre Kirisci, Joshue O. Connor, Antoinette Fennell, Yehya Mohamad, Svetlana Matiouk, Markus Valle-Klann, and Haluk Gökmen</i>	
A Methodology for Generating Virtual User Models of Elderly and Disabled for the Accessibility Assessment of New Products .....	295
<i>Nikolaos Kaklanis, Konstantinos Moustakas, and Dimitrios Tzouvaras</i>	

VERITAS Approach for Parameterization of Psychological and Behavioral Models .....	303
<i>Ana María Navarro, Juan Bautista Mocholí, and Juan Carlos Naranjo</i>	
Integration of a Regular Application into a User Interface Adaptation Engine in the MyUI Project .....	311
<i>Alejandro García, Jesús Sánchez, Víctor Sánchez, and José Alberto Hernández</i>	
Using Annotated Task Models for Accessibility Evaluation .....	315
<i>Ivo Malý, Jiří Bittner, and Pavel Slavík</i>	
<b>Web Accessibility in Advanced Technologies</b>	
Web Accessibility in Advanced Technologies: Introduction to the Special Thematic Session .....	323
<i>Shadi Abou-Zahra, Konstantinos Votis, and Karel Van Isacker</i>	
The eAccess+ Network: Enhancing the Take-Up of eAccessibility in Europe .....	325
<i>Klaus Miesenberger, Eric Velleman, David Crombie, Helen Petrie, Jenny S. Darzentas, and Carlos A. Velasco</i>	
A Method for Generating CSS to Improve Web Accessibility for Old Users .....	329
<i>Jesia Zakraoui and Wolfgang Zagler</i>	
Implementing Web Accessibility: The MIPAW Approach .....	337
<i>Jean-Pierre Villain, Olivier Nourry, Dominique Burger, and Denis Boulay</i>	
Accessibility of Dynamic Adaptive Web TV Applications .....	343
<i>Daniel Costa, Nádia Fernandes, Carlos Duarte, and Luís Carriço</i>	
Ontology Based Middleware for Ranking and Retrieving Information on Locations Adapted for People with Special Needs .....	351
<i>Kevin Alonso, Naiara Aginako, Javier Lozano, and Igor G. Olaizola</i>	
Automatic Color Improvement of Web Pages with Time Limited Operators .....	355
<i>Sébastien Aupetit, Alina Mereuță, and Mohamed Slimane</i>	
Improving Web Accessibility for Dichromat Users through Contrast Preservation .....	363
<i>Alina Mereuță, Sébastien Aupetit, and Mohamed Slimane</i>	



Sociological Issues of Inclusive Web Design: The German Web 2.0 Accessibility Survey .....	371
<i>Michael Pieper</i>	

Online Shopping Involving Consumers with Visual Impairments – A Qualitative Study .....	378
<i>Elisabeth Fuchs and Christine Strauss</i>	

## Website Accessibility Metrics

Website Accessibility Metrics: Introduction to the Special Thematic Session .....	386
<i>Shadi Abou-Zahra</i>	

Integrating Manual and Automatic Evaluations to Measure Accessibility Barriers.....	388
<i>Paola Salomoni, Silvia Mirri, Ludovico A. Muratori, and Matteo Battistelli</i>	

Assessing the Effort of Repairing the Accessibility of Web Sites .....	396
<i>Nádia Fernandes and Luís Carriço</i>	

Lexical Quality as a Measure for Textual Web Accessibility.....	404
<i>Luz Rello and Ricardo Baeza-Yates</i>	

Accessibility Testing of a Healthy Lifestyles Social Network.....	409
<i>Cecília Sík Lányi, Eszter Nagy, and Gergely Sík</i>	

Following the WCAG 2.0 Techniques: Experiences from Designing a WCAG 2.0 Checking Tool.....	417
<i>Annika Nietzio, Mandana Eibegger, Morten Goodwin, and Mikael Snaprud</i>	

## Entertainment Software Accessibility

Entertainment Software Accessibility: Introduction to the Special Thematic Session .....	425
<i>Dominique Archambault and Roland Ossmann</i>	

Assessment of Universal Design Principles for Analyzing Computer Games' Accessibility.....	428
<i>Moyen Mohammad Mustaqim</i>	

One Way of Bringing Final Year Computer Science Student World to the World of Children with Cerebral Palsy: A Case Study .....	436
<i>Isabel M. Gómez, Rafael Cabrera, Juan Ojeda, Pablo García, Alberto J. Molina, Octavio Rivera, and A. Mariano Esteban</i>	

Making the PlayStation 3 Accessible with AsTeRICS .....	443
<i>Roland Ossmann, David Thaller, Gerhard Nussbaum, Christoph Veigl, and Christoph Weiß</i>	
Creating an Entertaining and Informative Music Visualization .....	451
<i>Michael Pouris and Deborah I. Fels</i>	
Music at Your Fingertips: Stimulating Braille Reading by Association with Sound.....	459
<i>Felix Grützmacher</i>	
Improving Game Accessibility with Vibrotactile-Enhanced Hearing Instruments .....	463
<i>Bernd Tessendorf, Peter Derleth, Manuela Feilner, Daniel Roggen, Thomas Stiefmeier, and Gerhard Tröster</i>	
An OCR-Enabled Digital Comic Books Viewer .....	471
<i>Christophe Ponsard, Ravi Ramdoyal, and Daniel Dziamski</i>	
Spe-Ler: Serious Gaming for Youngsters with Intellectual Disabilities ...	479
<i>Joan De Boeck, Jo Daems, and Jan Dekelver</i>	

## Document and Media Accessibility

An Accessibility Checker for LibreOffice and OpenOffice.org Writer.....	484
<i>Christophe Strobbe, Bert Frees, and Jan Engelen</i>	
Visualization of Non-verbal Expressions in Voice for Hearing Impaired: Ambient Font and Onomatopoeic Subsystem .....	492
<i>Hidetaka Nambo, Shuichi Seto, Hiroshi Arai, Kimikazu Sugimori, Yuko Shimomura, and Hiroyuki Kawabe</i>	
XML-Based Formats and Tools to Produce Braille Documents .....	500
<i>Alex Bernier and Dominique Burger</i>	
Japanese Text Presentation System for Pupils with Reading Difficulties: Evaluation in Presentation Styles and Character Sets Changes without Reading Difficulties .....	507
<i>Shinjiro Murayama and Kyota Aoki</i>	
Development of a DAISY Player That Utilizes a Braille Display for Document Structure Presentation and Navigation .....	515
<i>Kazunori Minatani</i>	
Acce-Play: Accessibility in Cinemas .....	523
<i>Alexandre Paz, Mari Luz Guenaga, and Andoni Eguíluz</i>	
Automatic Simplification of Spanish Text for e-Accessibility .....	527
<i>Stefan Bott and Horacio Saggion</i>	

Can Computer Representations of Music Enhance Enjoyment for Individuals Who Are Hard of Hearing? .....	535
<i>David Fourney</i>	
Assistive Photography .....	543
<i>Luděk Bártek and Ondřej Lapáček</i>	
The LIA Project – Libri Italiani Accessibili .....	550
<i>Cristina Mussinelli</i>	

## **Inclusion by Accessible Social Media**

Inclusion by Accessible Social Media: Introduction to the Special Thematic Session .....	554
<i>Harald Holone</i>	
The Use of Multimedia to Rehabilitate Students and Release Talents ...	557
<i>Luciana Maria Depieri Branco Freire</i>	
Use of Social Media by People with Visual Impairments: Usage Levels, Attitudes and Barriers .....	565
<i>Kristin Skeide Fuglerud, Ingvar Tjøstheim, Birkir Rúnar Gunnarsson, and Morten Tollefsen</i>	
User Testing of Social Media – Methodological Considerations .....	573
<i>Oystein Dale, Therese Drivenes, Morten Tollefsen, and Arthur Reinertsen</i>	
Designing User Interfaces for Social Media Driven Digital Preservation and Information Retrieval .....	581
<i>Dimitris Spiliotopoulos, Efstratios Tzoannos, Pepi Stavropoulou, Georgios Kouroupetroglou, and Alexandros Pino</i>	

## **PDF/UA – A New Era for Document Accessibility. Understanding, Managing and Implementing the ISO Standard PDF/UA (Universal Accessibility)**

PDF/UA – A New Era for Document Accessibility. Understanding, Managing and Implementing the ISO Standard PDF/UA (Universal Accessibility): Introduction to the Special Thematic Session .....	585
<i>Olaf Drümmer and Markus Erle</i>	
PDF/UA (ISO 14289-1) – Applying WCAG 2.0 Principles to the World of PDF Documents .....	587
<i>Olaf Drümmer</i>	
Mainstreaming the Creation of Accessible PDF Documents by a Rule-Based Transformation from Word to PDF .....	595
<i>Roberto Bianchetti, Markus Erle, and Samuel Hofer</i>	

Developing Text Customisation Functionality Requirements of PDF Reader and Other User Agents .....	602
<i>Shawn Lawton Henry</i>	
Using Layout Applications for Creation of Accessible PDF: Technical and Mental Obstacles When Creating PDF/UA from Adobe Indesign CS 5.5 .....	610
<i>Olaf Drümmer</i>	
Validity and Semantics – 2 Essential Parts of a Backbone for an Automated PDF/UA Compliance Check for PDF Documents .....	617
<i>Markus Erle and Samuel Hofer</i>	
Two Software Plugins for the Creation of Fully Accessible PDF Documents Based on a Flexible Software Architecture .....	621
<i>Alireza Darvishy, Thomas Leemann, and Hans-Peter Hutter</i>	
<b>Human – Computer Interaction and Usability for Elderly (HCI4AGING)</b>	
Privacy Preserving Automatic Fall Detection for Elderly Using RGBD Cameras .....	625
<i>Chenyang Zhang, Yingli Tian, and Elizabeth Capezuti</i>	
The Proof of Concept of a Shadow Robotic System for Independent Living at Home .....	634
<i>Lucia Pignini, David Facal, Alvaro Garcia, Michael Burmester, and Renzo Andrich</i>	
Task Complexity and User Model Attributes: An Analysis of User Model Attributes for Elderly Drivers .....	642
<i>Thomas Grill, Sebastian Osswald, and Manfred Tscheligi</i>	
AALuis, a User Interface Layer That Brings Device Independence to Users of AAL Systems .....	650
<i>Christopher Mayer, Martin Morandell, Matthias Gira, Kai Hackbarth, Martin Petzold, and Sascha Fagel</i>	
Comparison between Single-touch and Multi-touch Interaction for Older People .....	658
<i>Guillaume Lepicard and Nadine Vigouroux</i>	
Online Social Networks and Older People .....	666
<i>Guillermo Prieto and Denise Leahy</i>	
“Break the Bricks” Serious Game for Stroke Patients .....	673
<i>Tamás Dömök, Veronika Szűcs, Erika László, and Cecília Sík Lányi</i>	

Development of a Broadcast Sound Receiver for Elderly Persons . . . . .	681
<i>Tomoyasu Komori, Atsushi Imai, Nobumasa Seiyama, Reiko Takou, Tohru Takagi, and Yasuhiro Oikawa</i>	
Complexity versus Page Hierarchy of a GUI for Elderly Homecare Applications . . . . .	689
<i>Mustafa Torun, Tim van Kasteren, Ozlem Durmaz Incel, and Cem Ersoy</i>	
Benefits and Hurdles for Older Adults in Intergenerational Online Interactions . . . . .	697
<i>Verena Fuchsberger, Wolfgang Sellner, Christiane Moser, and Manfred Tscheligi</i>	
<i>kommTUi</i> : Designing Communication for Elderly . . . . .	705
<i>Wolfgang Spreicer, Lisa Ehrenstrasser, and Hilda Tellioğlu</i>	
Reducing the Entry Threshold of AAL Systems: Preliminary Results from <i>Casa Vecchia</i> . . . . .	709
<i>Gerhard Leitner, Anton Josef Fercher, Alexander Felfernig, and Martin Hitz</i>	
<b>Author Index</b> . . . . .	717