

AAATE Newsletter

Message from the Newsletter Editor

Dear AAATE Members,

Now that we have *Technology and Disability* as the official AAATE journal, the AAATE Newsletter will become part of the journal rather than being sent as a separate mailing to members. However, we will continue to have separate newsletter mailings if we have urgent news to communicate to AAATE members.

I hope that you will continue to find the Newsletter a useful and interesting source of up-to-date information and news about our field. I encourage you to submit short items for publication in the Newsletter – notices of events, either national or international, announcements of meetings and conferences, publication of important reports and books, and many other items, are all of interest to AAATE members and we are happy to spread information about them.

At the moment we are establishing a publication schedule for the journal, so I will publicize the deadlines for submissions to the Newsletter via the email discussion list, but within a few months we should have regular deadlines.

I hope to see many of you at the AAATE Conference in Slovenia in September 2001.

Helen Petrie
Newsletter Editor

Agreement on international co-operation

Non-governmental organisations with a focus on rehabilitation and assistive technology from four continents have approved an agreement for international co-operation. Mutual benefits between the organisations and for their members will support international exchange and collaboration between Australia, Europe, Japan and North America.

Four organisations active in the field of technology for people with disabilities approved an agreement on co-operation prepared during the Japanese conference JCART2000 in Tokushima. Following this Tokushima agreement, AAATE (Europe), ARATA (Australia),

RESJA (Japan) and RESNA (North America) consider to be sister organisations. They agree to strengthen exchange and collaboration on fields of common (global) interest. Reciprocal benefits on membership, annual conferences, and mutual support are envisaged. The agreement is seen as a good start to respond to common challenges in this area. The organisations will provide more information on the details for members on their web pages.

Christian Bühler
AAATE President

Report on the AAATE 2000 Seminar

On the 4th and 5th September 2000, approximately 35 AAATE members met in Hatfield in the UK for the 2000 Seminar and General Assembly. The topic of the seminar was “The potential of the World Wide Web for assistive and rehabilitative technology”. To encourage discussion and debate on this important topic, speakers were each given 30 minutes for their presentations and there was 15 minutes after each presentation for questions and discussion. This proved a very successful format with lots of lively discussions.

The seminar started with a fascinating presentation by Mary Watkins from the National Center for Accessible Media in Boston on developments in making multimedia and web presentations accessible to people with visual, hearing and cognitive disabilities, using SMIL formatting of the various media streams. We were entertained with excellent examples of cartoons with sign language interpretation and simplified subtitles, not to mention an audio-described trailer for the latest *Star Wars* film.

The presentations which followed covered a range of approaches to the potential of the Web for assistive and rehabilitative technology including:

- accessibility of the Web for people with visual disabilities (Colwell and Petrie) and older people (Healey);
- using the Web to create employment opportunities for people with disabilities (Tuszynski), and provide education for people with disabilities (Cooper; Hersh and Ionescu);

- using the Web to collect information about the living conditions of people with disabilities (Bulinska, Markiewicz and Pleszczynska);
- the potential and problems of e-commerce for people with disabilities (Vile; Wesley); and
- using the Web to provide education for professionals about assistive and rehabilitative technology (Turner-Smith).

Copies of the proceedings of the Seminar are available free to AAATE members from Helen Petrie, Sensory Disabilities Research Unit, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield AL10 9AB UK. Fax: +44 1707 285059. E-mail: h.l.petrie@herts.ac.uk.

The AAATE 2001 Conference

The AAATE 2001 Conference will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia on the 3rd to the 6th September. Ljubljana is a delightful small city full of fascinating architecture, easily reached from all over Europe. It has an excellent, fully accessible conference centre right next to the mediaeval castle, where the AAATE conference will take place. For further information about the conference, consult <http://aaate2001.ir-rs.si/> or contact Prof. Crt Marinček, c/- Cankarjev Dom, Cultural and Congress Centre, Presernova 10, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia. E-mail: kongres@cd-cc.si.

AAATE 2003: Call for conference host

Every two years the European Conference for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe is held in a European country. It is a very important forum for exchange on Assistive Technology research, innovation, implementation and ongoing trends among European players and colleagues from all over the world. It has proven to be a top prestigious event in this field in Europe.

The biennial AAATE conference is traditionally organised by a national group led by a AAATE member. Previous conferences were organised in The Netherlands, Sweden, Portugal, Greece and Germany.

The AAATE 2001 will be held September, 3–6 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. (Do not miss it!)

The AAATE board now calls for bids to host the conference in fall 2003 in Europe:

Expressions of interest will be accepted until February 28, 2001. Information on how to prepare a bid will be provided to all interested parties.

The complete bid is expected to be at the president's office before June 15, 2001.

The board will make an evaluation of the bids and make a decision before the 2001 conference.

It is the intention to publish the decision during the Ljubljana conference.

The board asks all members of AAATE to consider hosting this important event in their home country. It is a professional challenge and honour to host this leading conference.

Communications and applications should be sent to the president:

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For communication you may also use the E-mail:
aaate@ftb-volmarstein.de

News of projects and activities by members

FORTUNE Guide on User Participation in Projects is now available

The FORTUNE project (Forum of User Organisations Training and Networking in Europe, EU project DE9231) has presented a guide on empowered participation of users in projects. The guide provides a vision and practical recommendations for implementing user participation of people with disabilities in project work.

After 36 months the European project FORTUNE finished. In this co-operation umbrellas of user organisations and organisations experienced in European research and development from four countries explored a new approach to user participation. Contacts in 17 European countries, the European Disability Forum and AAATE supported this activity. The project dealt with improving participation of users with disabilities in research and development projects. A curriculum for training of users has been elaborated and tested. Practical experiences of the trainees complemented the ed-

educational approach. The essence of the project experience and vision of the project partners has been summarised in the FORTUNE Guide. It provides an ideal model of user participation consisting of seven principles, criteria for the assessment, hints for an organisational framework and the curriculum for the training. More information can be obtained from www.fortune-net.org or through the FORTUNE contact: FORTUNE-Contact, c/o FTB, Grundschoetelerstr. 40, D58300 Wetter, Germany (E-mail: info@fortune-net.org).

First International Conference on Tactile Diagrams, Maps and Pictures

On 9th and 10th October 2000 approximately 140 delegates from all over the UK and Europe, Canada and the USA gathered in Hatfield for a first conference on tactile diagrams, maps and pictures, organized by the National Centre for Tactile Diagrams. The conference brought together people with a variety of interests in tactile graphics: people who design and produce tactile graphics, people who use tactile graphics in education, museums and business, people developing new equipment for the production of tactile graphics, and people conducting research in the use and effectiveness of tactile graphics. A variety of activities were organized during the conference: presentations, workshops with hands-on experience, panel sessions debating important issues and an exhibition with more than 20 displays. Summaries of all the activities are available on the National Centre for Tactile Diagrams web site at www.nctd.org.uk. The conference was a great success and another conference is planned for the Spring of 2002. If you would like to be on the mailing list for the next conference and other activities on tactile graphics, use the contact page on the website or contact Prof. Helen Petrie, Director, National Centre for Tactile Diagrams, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield AL10 9AB, UK. Tel.: +44 1707 286 348. Fax: +44 1707 285 059. E-mail: info@nctd.org.uk.

Diary of forthcoming conferences of interest to members

2001

MARCH

CSUN: 16th Annual International Conference "Technology and Persons with Disabilities"
March 19–24, Los Angeles, California, USA

Further information: Centre on Disabilities, CSUN, 18111 Nordhoff St., Building 11, Suite 103, Northridge, CA 91330-8340, USA
E-mail: ctrdis@csun.edu
Website: www.csun.edu/cod

APRIL

1st International Conference on Human Aspects of the Information Society

9–11 April, Newcastle, UK

Further information: Maureen Dickson, IMRI, School of Information Studies, University of Northumbria, Lipman Building, Newcastle upon Tyne NE8 1ST, UK
Fax: +44 191 227 3671

E-mail: maureen.dickson@unn.ac.uk

Website: is.northumbria.ac.uk/imri

MAY

10th International World Wide Web Conference

1–5 May, Hong Kong

Further information: www10.org or www10.org.hk

JUNE

RESNA 2001 Annual Conference

June 22–26, Reno, Nevada, USA

Further information: Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA), 1700 N. Moore St., Suite 1540, Arlington, VA 22209-1903, USA

Fax: +1 703 524 6630

E-mail: info@resna.org

Website: www.resna.org/conferences/

AUGUST

HCI International 2001: 9th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction and 1st international Conference on Universal Access in Human-Computer Interaction

August 5–10, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Further information: Gavriel Salvendy, School of Industrial Engineering, Purdue University, 1287 Grisson Hall, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1287, USA
Tel.: 765 494 5426; Fax: 765 494 0874;

E-mail: salvendy@ecn.purdue.edu

or

Constantine Stephanidis, Institute of Computer Science, Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Science and Technology Park of Crete, Heraklion, Crete, GR-71110 Greece.

E-mail: cs@ics.forth.gr

CT2001: Fourth International Conference on Cognitive Technology: Instruments of the Mind
August 6–9th, University of Warwick, UK
Further information:
www.dcs.warwick.ac.uk/~wmb/ctwebsite/index.htm

SEPTEMBER**AAATE 2001**

September 3–6, Ljubljana, Slovenia.
Further information: Prof. Crt Marincek, c/-
Cankarjev Dom, Cultural and Congress Centre,
Presernova 10, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia.
E-mail: kongres@cd-cc.si
Website: www.cd-cc.si/AAATE2001/

OCTOBER

19th Annual Closing the Gap Conference
18th–20th October, Bloomington, Minnesota, USA
Further information:
<http://closingthegap.com/conf/conf/>
Integrating Differences: Theories and Applications of Universal Design
19th–20th October, New York, USA
Further information: Universal Design Symposium
2001, Teaching Institute, C913, Fashion Institute of
Technology, Seventh Avenue at 27th St., New York,
NY 10001-5992, USA.
Fax: +1 212 217 7910
E-mail: dkoslin@fitsuny.edu

2002

JULY

Vision 2002: 7th International Conference on Low Vision
21–25 July, Göteborg, Sweden.
Further information: Congrex Göteborg AB, Att:
Vision 2002, Box 5078, 402 22 Göteborg, Sweden.
Fax: +46 31 81 82 25
E-mail: vision2002@gbg.congrex.se
Website: www.congrex.com/vision2002

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