Message from the Newsletter Editor

Dear AAATE Members,

We are still trying to establish a regular publication schedule for Technology and Disability, so we hope readers will bear with us until things are fully sorted out. However, we are well on the way to developing a very interesting journal for AAATE members, covering all aspects of our field. We strongly encourage you to submit papers to the journal, on any aspect of research or practice that you would like to share with colleagues.

As I write, preparations are well underway for our next conference, to be held in Slovenia in September this year. A very interesting programme with over 120 submitted papers and invited speakers, as well as posters, an exhibition and other activities are planned. We hope that many AAATE members will be able to join us in Slovenia for the conference and also visit this beautiful country.

Helen Petrie
Newsletter Editor
Hatfield, UK, April 2001

AAATE 2001: The AAATE Conference

The preliminary programme for the AAATE 2001 Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia has now been announced and can be studied on the conference web site: http://aaate2001.ir-rs.si/program.htm. Approximately 120 papers will be given by speakers from 27 different countries throughout Europe and beyond. In addition, the conference will include a variety of keynote speakers, panel and poster sessions and a scientific and commercial exhibition. A number of special sessions will include "Outcome measurement and assistive technology" and "Occupational therapy and assistive technology".

Remember that the Conference will be from 3 to 6 September 2001. Lower registration fees are offered to those registering before 27 April 2001.

For further information about the conference, consult http://aaate2001.ir-rs.si/ or contact Prof. Crt Mar-

incek, c/- Cankarjev Dom, Cultural and Congress Centre, Presernova 10, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia. E-mail: kongres@cd-cc.si

A call for papers for a workshop on "Issues on the Application of Guidelines to the Design of HCI Systems for Older People and People with Disabilities"

IFIP WG 13.3 "HCI & Disability" is organising a workshop in conjunction with the INTERACT 2001 Conference. The theme of the workshop is: "Issues on the application of guidelines to the design of HCI systems for older people and people with disabilities". INTERACT 2001, the Eighth IFIP TC 13 Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, takes place in Tokyo, Japan, in July (see www.interact2001.com).

Workshop background

This workshop is intended for people interested in the diverse issues related to the use of guidelines for the design of interfaces accessible by people with disabilities. We hope to collect information and experiences about tools, methods and good use examples to help people to apply guidelines to achieve interface "design for all". This is the third of a series of workshops held within INTERACT conferences, devoted to "HCI guidelines for people with disabilities" organised on behalf of IFIP WG 13.3 "Human-Computer Interaction and Disability".

Objectives

In order to reach this objective, it is necessary to make designers and developers aware of the existence of guidelines that can help them in fitting their products to the "design for all" effort. The workshop will focus on ways to achieve this. Currently there exist relevant guidelines dedicated to software and hardware designers. It is necessary to study them, to find examples of good use, and to promote the development of methods and tools to adequately use guidelines.

– to discuss the use of guidelines to achieve "design for all"
– to review the applicability of existing HCI guidelines for accessibility
– to collect examples of good use to promote the use of guidelines
– to present methods and tools appropriate to work with guidelines
– to study the interactions between guidelines, norms, standards and legislation

Target audience

The workshop is intended for people interested in the diverse issues related to the use of guidelines for the design of interfaces accessible by people with disabilities. It is especially focused to HCI designers interested in the application of the "design for all" philosophy through the application of guidelines.

Expected outcomes

The access of people with disabilities to the new information and communication technologies is crucial on many grounds. Certainly, society is evolving in a direction where these technologies are part of everyday life and a two-speed society is not acceptable. At the same time, such technologies offer substantial help in the process of improving the way of life for people with disabilities. The rational way to avoid the exclusion of people with disabilities is to make these technologies accessible from the very start of the design. The required effort is in general minor as long as the problem is considered early enough. It is felt that the WG can make a contribution in helping designers worldwide find relevant guidelines to include the needs of elderly and disabled users. There exist interesting precedents in this line, like the different documents issued by Trace Centre (trace.wisc.edu), University of Madison, Wisconsin, USA, or the guidelines for accessibility to the Internet issued by WAI/W3C (www.w3.org/WAI/).

Thus, this workshop aims to collect and discuss experiences in the use of previously issued sets of guidelines, and to establish criteria to be able to develop a reviewed classification of guidelines. To achieve previously mentioned goals, a call for papers about experiences using different sets of guidelines and related methods and tools will be issued. These materials will be analysed under the prism of user needs awareness, methodological issues consideration, evaluation procedures, etc. In this workshop a book related to the use

of guidelines in HCI for people with disabilities that will be soon published will be presented. This book, edited by WG 13.3 members, will be used as working material for the workshop.

Invitation

We cordially invite interested participants to submit 5 to 10-page position papers to this workshop on Issues on the application of guidelines to the design of HCI systems for older people and people with disabilities, stating their experiences and position with respect to applications of guidelines for inclusive design. Position papers will be reviewed by members of IFIP WG 13.3. Notice of acceptance or rejection will be received before 10 June (deadline for early registration to Interact 2001). Criteria for acceptance of papers will be: evidence of experience working with HCI and people with disabilities, and/or evidence of experience working with HCI and 'design for all', and/or provision of examples of good practice, methods, tools in working with guidelines, and an interest and commitment to the 'design for all' philosophy, or an interest to learn more!

Submission procedure

Please submit electronic versions of position papers (5 to 10 pages) in Rich Text Format (rtf), following the INTERACT 2001 short paper format, to: Julio Abascal at julio@si.ehu.es, not later than 20 May 2001. Additional supporting material is welcomed and may be submitted.

News of projects and activities by members

Tactile diagrams, maps and pictures – Principles, good practice and standards

The International Council on English Braille (ICED) has initiated an International Tactile Graphics Project to develop standards, good practice and principles for the design, production and use of tactile diagrams, maps and pictures. This work aims to bring together experts from around the world to determine best practice in all aspects of tactile graphics. The project will be chaired by Professor Helen Petrie of the National Centre for Tactile Diagrams in the UK.

The first open meeting of the project will be held during the Closing the Gap Conference (16–20 October 2001) in Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA. A subsequent

meeting will be organized in Europe. You are warmly encouraged to participate in these open meetings and share your views on these topics. Anyone interested in the development of standard, good practice and principles in the design, production and use of tactile graphics is encouraged to participate, for example designers, technology developers, researchers, educators, cartographers and librarians.

For further information, please visit the web site of the National Centre for Tactile Diagrams (http://www.nctd.org.uk) and complete the online form.

National news

UK

A national conference on assistive technology: RAATE 2001, November 5th and 6th, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

RAATE – bringing AT professionals together. This is a conference about Assistive Technology – products and services that enable independence. It is the first interdisciplinary conference of its kind in the UK. Unlike other conferences it does not focus on a particular user group, single profession, or service. This conference is for all people who work in or with AT, conduct research on AT, or have a particular interest in this area. This includes:

- Occupational therapists
- Speech and language therapists
- Rehabilitation engineers
- Clinical engineers
- Teachers
- IT co-ordinators
- Researchers

The aim of the RAATE Conference is to bring these groups together to share their experience and knowledge. The programme includes instructional courses to provide an introduction to different types of AT, together with plenary and parallel sessions that cover AT current research, service developments and professional issues. The instructional courses will provide an introduction to different types of AT. A wide range of AT will be considered in this first conference including:

- Powered mobility
- Seating
- Computer access

- Environmental control
- Smart home technology
- Virtual reality
- Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC)

A call for papers will be advertised in April and a scientific committee will review all abstracts submitted. Organising Committee:

Colin Clayton,   Great Ormond Street Hospital
Donna Cowan,   Chailey Heritage School
Gary Derwent,   Royal Hospital for Neuro Disability
Helen Petrie,   Sensory Disabilities Research Unit University of Hertfordshire
Alan Turner-Smith,   Centre of Rehabilitation Engineering, King's College London

For further information contact: Frances Callaghan, Centre of Rehabilitation Engineering, King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RX, UK
E-mail: frances.callaghan@kcl.ac.uk
Tel.: +44 020 7346 1650; Fax: +44 020 7346 1651

Diary of forthcoming conferences of interest to members

2001

MAY

10th International World Wide Web Conference
1–5 May, Hong Kong
Further information: www.www10.org. www10.org.hk

JUNE

Third Annual Summit on East-West Collaboration in the Development of Interactive Media
10–11 June, Budapest, Hungary
A European Commission/Soros event
Further information: www.osi.hu/ep/im2001

RESNA 2001 Annual Conference
22–26 June, Reno, Nevada, USA
Further information: www.resna.org/conferences/

AUGUST

USSAAC Conference 2001: An AAC Odyssey
2–4 August, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA
Further information: www.isaac-online.org/events/

HCI International 2001: 9th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction and 1st international Conference on Universal Access in Human-Computer Interaction
5–10 August, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
Further information: hcii2001.engr.wics.edu/

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

20th International Cartographic Conference (ICC2001)
6–10 August, Beijing, China
The conference will include a symposium of papers entitled "Maps for handicapped people"
Further information: www2.sbsm.gov.cn/icc2001/

SEPTEMBER

AAATE 2001
3–6 September, 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/

6th Biennial AAC Conference
15 September, Dortmund, Germany
Further information: www.isaac-online.de

OCTOBER

19th Annual Closing the Gap Conference
18–20 October, Bloomington, Minnesota, USA
Further information: www.closingthegap.com/

Integrating Differences: Theories and Applications of Universal Design
19–20 October, New York, USA
Further information: Universal Design Symposium 2001, Teaching Institute, C913, Fashion Institute of Technology, Seventh Avenue at 27th St., New York, New York 10001-5992, USA
Fax: +1 212 217 7910; E-mail: dkoslin@fitsuny.edu

NOVEMBER

Human Factors in Telecommunication 2001
5–7 November, Bergen, Norway.
Further information: www.hft.org
Topics include "design for disabled and older people", "trans-generation design"

Silent Voices: an International Conference on AAC, Disability and Human Rights
22–24 November, Calcutta, India
Further information: www.iicpindia.com

2002

APRIL

CHI '02: Human Factors in Computing Systems
20–25 April, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

JULY

ICCHP '02: 8th International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs
15–20 July, Linz, Austria
Further information: www.mvblind.uni-linz.ac.at/icchp/

Vision 2002: 7th International Conference on Low Vision
21–25 July, Göteborg, Sweden
Website: www.congrex.com/vision2002

AUGUST

ISAAC 2002: 10th International Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication
10-15 August, Odense, Denmark
Further information: www.isaac2002.dk

AAATE Board 2000

Christian Bühler (President)
Forschungsinstitut Technologie-Behindertenhilfe (FTB)
Grundschottelerstrasse 40, 58300 Wetter, Germany
Tel.: +49 23 35 96 81 10; Fax: +49 23 35 96 81 19;
E-mail: aaate@ftb-volmarstein.de

Renzo Andrich (President Elect)
SIVA, Fondazione Don Carlo Gnocchi ONLUS –

IRCCS, via Capecelatro 66, 20148 Milano, Italy
Tel.: +39 02 40 30 84 45; Fax: +39 02 40 09 01 57;
E-mail: renzo.andrich@siva.it
web site: http://www.siva.it

Harry Knops (Secretary)
iRv, Zandbergsweg 111, NL 6432 CC Hoensbroek, The
Netherlands
Tel.: + 31 45 52 37 612; Fax: +31 45 52 31 550;
E-mail: h.knops@irv.nl

Jan Ekberg (Treasurer)
STAKES, POB 220, 3rd floor, Siltasaarenkatu 18a,
00531 Helsinki, Finland
Tel.: +358 9 39672091; Fax: +358 9 39672054;
E-mail: jane@stakes.fi; web site: http://www.stakes.fi

Helen Petrie (Newsletter Editor)
Sensory Disabilities Research Unit and National Cen-
tre for Tactile Diagrams
University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield AL10 9AB,
United Kingdom
Tel.: +44 1707 28 46 29; Fax: +44 1707 28 50 59;
E-mail: h.l.petrie@herts.ac.uk
web site: http://www.psy.herts.ac.uk/sdru and
http://www.psy.herts.ac.uk/nctd

Martyn Cooper
IET/KMI, Open University
Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, United King-
dom
Tel.: +44 1908 655 729; Fax: +44 1908 653 169;
E-mail: m.cooper@open.ac.uk

Secretariat:
Maria Holm
Danish Centre for Technical Aids, Gregersensvej, DK-
2630 Tastrup, Denmark
Tel.: +45 43 99 33 22; Fax: +45 42 52 70 72;
E-mail: aaate@hmi.dk, m.holm@hmi.dk

AAATE National Contacts 2000

Brazil: Maria de Jesus Goncalves
E-mail: mjesus@alpha.hydra.com.br

Denmark: Elisabeth Kampmann Hansen
E-mail: e.kampmann@hmi.dk

Finland: Jan Ekberg
E-mail: Jan.Ekberg@stakes.fi

France: Alain Pruski
E-mail: alain.pruski@lasc.univ-metz.fr

Germany: Christian Bühler
E-mail: cb@ftb-volmarstein.de

Great Britain: Helen Petrie
E-mail: h.l.petrie@herts.ac.uk

Greece: Constantine Stefanidis
E-mail: cs@csi.forth.gr

Hungary: Andras Arato
E-mail: arato@sunserv.kfki.hu

Ireland: Gerald Craddock
E-mail: gcradd@crc.ie

Israel: Lawrence Normie
E-mail: Lnormie@jdc.org.il

Italy: Renzo Andrich
E-mail: renzo.andrich@siva.it

Japan: Osamu Sueda
E-mail: o-sueda@eco.tokushima-u.ac.jp

Netherlands: Harry Knops
E-mail: h.knops@irv.nl

Norway: Oivind Lorentsen
E-mail: Oivind.Lorentsen@online.no

Portugal: Luis Azevedo
E-mail: pclma@alfa.ist.utl.pt

Slovenia: Crt Marincek
E-mail: crt.marincek@mail.ir-rs.si

Spain: Cristina Rodriguez Porrero
Fax: 0034 1 7784117

Sweden: Hakan Nyveryd
E-mail: hakan.neveryd@certec.lth.se

Switzerland: Jean Claude Gabus
E-mail: gabus@fst.ch