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## Update of the competition classifications lists at the 47<sup>th</sup> Congress in Beijing

Mr Liao Qing, after long and careful checks has loyally informed us that Miss Wang-Lu who took parts in several competitions, is a "senior" and not a "pupil", and therefore we had to adjust our classification lists.

The World Champions, category of pupils therefore amended as follows.

### Text production

no results in category pupils/stenotype

### Shorthand/speech capturing - Stenotype/keyboard

World championship in Pupils' category

- |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place | <b>Karin Cieslarová (CZ)</b>    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | <b>Barbora Stejskalová (CZ)</b> |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place | <b>Tomáš Portych (CZ).</b>      |

### Real Time Transcription

World championship in Pupils' category

- |                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place | <b>Tomáš Portych (CZ)</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|

The Jury decided to integrate the results of Ms. Wang Lu in the senior classification list without assigning a place, thus with no impact on the rank of other competitors.

We apologize for the changes in the result list and the Jury will do everything to avoid these problems in the future. We send our congratulations to the new Czech champions who will receive new diplomas, medals and cups.

The updated classification lists are available on our website as well as an updated version of the comments of Mr. Jari Niittuinperä about speech capturing competitions.

Georgette Sante  
Jury President

**Gregor Keller celebrates his 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary: the German stenographers' association honour him with award.**



Our Honorary President, Gregor Keller, celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 21<sup>st</sup> November with many of his friends at the hotel Mantim in his native town, Darmstadt.

Many messages arrived on that day, among which was a message from Intersteno recalling the work that Gregor Keller has carried out for Intersteno over a long period, and the important contribution that he is still making as Coordinator of the Audit Committee of our Federation.

Our message was read by Waltraut Dierks, who also delivered a medal from the Deutsche Stenografenbund, with which Gregor Keller has been associated for 56 years.

Everybody expressed the wishes and hope that also in the future, with good health, Gregor would continue to assist our organisations.

*By the courtesy of the Tourism Office of Paris, we can reproduce here this interesting article on how to find useful information and use advanced electronic tools during your stay for the next Congress in Paris. We are very grateful to the Tourism Office for their support and for permission to use this item.*

*Rapid development of telecommunication tools, especially the Internet, at the end of the 1990s, led to a number of revolutions - great and small - which now lie at the heart of our modern society, from the digitization of our heritage to the transfer of content to electronic media and smart phones. We take a closer look at how these devices and their uses offer us another way of visiting Paris, at the cutting edge of technology...*

Used systematically or occasionally for certain exhibitions, smartphones, such as iPhones, MP3 digital personal stereos, and PDAs (personal digital assistants) offer new ways of visiting the capital's museums. Although each is based on downloading (automatically or on demand) multimedia content via the Internet (podcasting) and wireless networks, such as WiFi and Bluetooth, they offer an array of different applications and hold out some very exciting prospects for the future...

**MuseTrek** is a sort of interactive museum "Wiki", in which everyone plays an active role in their visit. Using your phone, you are invited to discover a museum "trek" imagined and described by another visitor. Far from the monologue provided by audioguides and other academic guides, this exchange helps you see the museum's displays under a new light, offering a personal and, at the same time, shared vision of the exhibition. Once you have finished your trek, you can grade it, before writing your own trek on one of the themes suggested by the MuseTrek application. Initiated by Le Laboratoire (a centre for experimentation and research into the interaction between art and science, based in the 1st arrondissement of the capital) in collaboration with the **Louvre**, the idea was tested in April in the world's biggest museum and turned out to be a huge success.

The **Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine** also uses the latest technology to offer new services to its increasingly technophile visitors, including virtual visits of its collections via touch screens at the Café Carlu, cyberguides of the museum's collections on PDA, and multimedia educational workshops, such as "Dessine-moi une architecture" ("Create your own architecture"), which provide an introduction to architecture. The Cité's website offers an on-line ticketing service, as well as a VOD (video on demand) platform and podcast media. And last but not least, since this past summer, the **Grand Palais** has made a complete range of content available, free of charge, on a series of Bluetooth and Wifi terminals in its entrance hall, including Grand Palais news updates, behind the scenes stories, clips on the history of the palais, and personal accounts by artists, exhibition managers, etc. The Grand Palais also provides this content via an iPhone application available at the Apple Store in French and English. Downloaded more than 10,000 times in under two weeks during the summer of 2009, the iPhone Grand Palais application came a close second behind Google Earth...

#### CITÉ DE L'ARCHITECTURE ET DU PATRIMOINE

1 place du Trocadéro-et-du-11-Novembre, Paris 16th  
Tel +33 (0)1 58 51 52 00  
www.citechaillot.fr

#### GRAND PALAIS

Av. Winston-Churchill, Paris 8th  
Tel +33 (0)1 44 13 17 17  
www.grandpalais.fr

#### MUSÉE DU LOUVRE

Place du Carrousel, Paris 1st  
Tel +33 (0)1 40 20 50 50  
www.louvre.fr

#### MUSETREK

www.musetrek.com

### Timeless walks... using cutting edge technology

Apart from museums, you can use the very latest technology to discover the capital's streets and boulevards too. The "Pass Paris Wi-Fi" is a free wireless broadband Internet service recently set up by the Ville de Paris and the Région Île-de-France. It's available to every-



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one, whether you live in Paris and the surrounding region or you're just visiting. 260

municipal sites have been equipped with one or more "Pass Paris Wi-Fi" access points, including parks and gardens, the town halls of the city's different arrondissements, plus libraries and municipal museums. The system is available during the opening hours of the sites in question.

All you need to do is to turn on your laptop, iPhone or any other mobile with an Internet navigator, connect to the Orange network and select the option "Paris wi-fi 2h". Then simply sit down on a bench on the place des Vosges, in the Jardin des Plantes or the Jardin des Tuileries, and surf away. Another option for anyone wanting to discover more about the city as they stroll its streets is a new audioguide concept for MP3 players available in French and English offered by the New York recording studio Soundwalk since 2003. These guides provide the backdrop for walks in some of the capital's most fascinating neighbourhoods, narrated by famous French actresses: Virginie Ledoyen in Saint-Germain-des-Prés, Isild Le Besco in the Marais, Hélène Filières in Palais-Royal, and Lou Doillon in Pigalle.

An itinerary inspired by the "Da Vinci Code" and especially designed for the Musée du Louvre also exists in a Soundwalk version: simply hop along to Denon wing during the museum's opening hours and follow in the footsteps of Captain Bézu Fache... Staying with MP3 applications for the moment, the [Zvisit.com](http://Zvisit.com) website offers a wide range of themed audioguides, including "Paris - Montmartre: the history of the Butte, its hidden secrets", and more. In "Paris: discovery tour of the 8 greatest monuments", eight of the capital's top attractions are brought to life through stories that combine history and anecdotes, including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the Arc de Triomphe, Sacré-Coeur, Centre Pompidou, the Musée du Quai-Branly, and the Saint-Germain-des-Prés neighbourhood. The soundtrack features performances by actors, reconstructions, interviews and music.



The guide also includes a metro itinerary to help you travel from one stage to another. **Digi-guide** is also developing its own audioguide, available either as a portable device combining multimedia and GPS (hired over the Internet or telephone), or downloadable onto smartphones or pocket PCs. The programme includes a “best of ” guide to Paris, daytime tours, both classic and original, and night tours including a selection of restaurants, bars and nightclubs...

**DIGI-GUIDE**

Tel +33 (0)1 47 66 55 10  
www.digi-guide.com

**PASS PARIS WI-FI**

www.paris.fr

**SOUNDWALK**

www.soundwalk.com

**ZEVISIT.COM**

www.zevisit.com

## Assembly of Interinfo Swiss group on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009 in Lausanne

The Interinfo group of Switzerland met in Lausanne on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at Hotel Tulip. The representatives of the three Swiss Associations forming this group, which is representing Intersteno in this country, attended the meeting.

On this occasion the Chair was transferred to Ms. Jeannette Luck, according to the Statute.

Discussions were raised about the improvement of Intersteno activity in Switzerland, and it was decided to sponsor 10 young people to take part in the next Intersteno keyboarding competition via Internet.

The Swiss group is evaluating two candidates to be appointed as members of the new education Committee of Intersteno.

Mr. Jean Charles Le Masson, Maria Luisa Corti and Gian Paolo Trivulzio were invited to attend this meeting. On the previous day Mr. Le Masson gave a presentation about the next Intersteno Congress in Paris which included an attractive demonstration of speech recognition.

On this occasion they had the opportunity to visit our Honorary President Mr William Bonnet and had lunch with him. Despite the fact that he is not in good health, he follows with interest the activities of Intersteno.

## Learning shorthand via the Internet - a big success in Brazil

### The beginning

In 2004, I prepared a new version of the book “*Shorthand, a Swift Way of Writing - Maron System*”. This book was intended as a self-study manual.

I visited several publishing houses, but no publisher was interested in publishing it, maybe because it would not be commercially advantageous to them.

Nevertheless, the edition of that volume was extremely important to me as, in my view, it represented a major advance in the methodology of shorthand teaching.

Many changes were made to that new version, new explanations were provided, new drills and many new brief forms were added. For a couple of years I collected every single item that had raised doubts among the students and each received clearer explanations and examples. Besides that, I added many pictures to the book, in order to make the learning more attractive and exciting since, in my opinion, nowadays a shorthand course must be thoroughly interesting and exciting and in no way boring or monotonous.

### Why a free-of-charge online shorthand course?

After the refusal of the publishing houses to publish my book, I spent some days depressed and hopeless. One day, however, I had a sudden inspiration. A voice inside me repeated over and over again: *“Why don’t you publish your book on the Internet?” And why not free of charge? If your intention is to make shorthand known, that is the way! Put a shorthand course at everyone’s disposal! The Internet is the best way! Voilà!”*

I faithfully followed the instructions of my internal voice and published the whole course on my shorthand website. A series of changes and improvements followed then, in order to make the course suitable for the new media: the Internet.

To a certain extent, the refusal of the publishing houses could not have been more opportune, because, if they had published the book, the distribution would have been limited to the bookstores and only a limited number of people could have had access to the course. On the Internet however, the “distribution” is unlimited and unrestricted.

### Methodology And Didactics Used

When students don’t understand an explanation, the teacher is inevitably expected to improve or change the methodology being used.

I had that awareness in mind when I prepared the on-line course. Each lesson, each explanation had to be crystal clear and pay scrupulous attention to every detail. The rules had to offer a thorough understanding at first glance!

For that purpose, I put myself, as a teacher, in the place of the student. So, I asked myself, during the elaboration of each rule, each exercise, each test to be put on-line: “If I were the student, would I be able to understand what I am trying to explain? Would I be able to do that exercise or that test easily?”

Furthermore: to assure the success of the shorthand distance learning (a self-study method), I made the answers to all exercises and tests available to the students, so that they could make the corrections needed and test themselves at every stage of their learning.

To make the process of learning even easier I added many videos, with the teacher explaining each lesson and writing each symbol, each word, each sentence in shorthand on the blackboard. So, with the videos, a teacher would “enter the home of the student” and teach him/her “a private lesson”! What computer-aided distance learning could be more practical?

## Contents of the course

The whole course consists of two main parts:

- 1 Learning of the shorthand system (Maron system)
- 2 Speedbuilding

The Learning of the Shorthand System consists of several modules:

- **19 modules** for the learning of the **basic signs**. Each of the 19 modules is divided up into:
  - lesson (signs, rules - theory)
  - additional explanations with examples
  - exercises
  - answers to the exercises
  - tests
  - answers to the exercises
  - videos
- **41 modules** for the learning of the SPECIAL SIGNS (initial and final abbreviations)
- **a list of brief forms**

E-mail is used for communication between students and teacher.

For the Speedbuilding, many special on-line pages containing dictations are available.

The speedbuilding is divided up into 4 levels:

- 1 **Elementary** (20wpm up to 55wpm)
- 2 **Intermediate** (60wpm up to 85wpm)
- 3 **Advanced** (90wpm up to 110wpm)
- 4 **Advanced Plus** (115wpm up to 140wpm)

For a better assimilation and strengthening of the learning of the symbols and the rules of the method, a series of complementary aids are at the disposal of the on-line students, such as:

- A whole page with texts for copying in shorthand (with brief forms and special symbols put in relief)
- A "Reading Room", with literary texts in shorthand
- Aesop's Fables in shorthand
- Songs with the words in shorthand (the student can hear the song and read the words in shorthand at the same time)
- A periodical website page all in shorthand, called "Shorthand Newspaper".
- Many shorthand dictation videos in different speeds

## Course enrollment - daily average

To my amazement, the course has an on-line enrollment average of about 5 new students a day. And they come from all educational, social and economic backgrounds. Workers, students and even people with doctorate level join the course on a daily basis.

## The reaction of the students to the course

Judging by what the on-line students are expressing through their e-mails, the course has become a great success and I am extremely proud of it. My

mission was accomplished: I have done what I aimed to do: to make the learning of shorthand available to anyone who wants to learn it and has neither teacher nor school nearby.

### My Hope

I do hope that many other shorthand teachers will do the same, so that, in a very short time, several other shorthand on-line courses will be easily accessible.

**Waldir Cury**

*Prof. Waldir Cury is a retired parliamentary reporter and a teacher of Shorthand in Rio de Janeiro. For many years he has been web-master of a website entirely devote to shortand and you can see it at the following link:*

*<http://www.taquigrafiaemfoco.com.br>*

*You can have a look at the on-line course:*

*[http://www.taquigrafiaemfoco.com.br/curso\\_de\\_taquigrafia\\_online\\_em\\_word.htm](http://www.taquigrafiaemfoco.com.br/curso_de_taquigrafia_online_em_word.htm)*

## Innovate, Share, Succeed = online education

Innovate, Share, Succeed is the theme of ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN 2009, the 15th International Conference on Technology-supported learning and training.

This year's agenda was about learning innovations, expertise and the great ideas that will lead organisations, companies or schools to success.

On their website <http://www.online-educa.com/en> you can find all the information about the conferences and the meetings held during this event which took place from 2nd to 4th December and was attended by more than 2000 people from over 90 countries. You can also order a book containing the printed abstracts together with a CD of all PowerPoint presentations, at a cost of € 90.

Change drivers in society, industry and education have led to the increased use of technology to meet the changing expectations of today's workplace employers, learners, staff and policymakers. ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN aimed to share good practice across sectors. Feedback from past conference participants has shown that participants welcome the cross-fertilisation of ideas that occurs when workplace practitioners, education institutions and policymakers meet together to discuss the latest trends, research and examples. Moving forward, ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN 2009 also looks to provide targeted support to address the specific needs of both employers who are under pressure to address rapidly changing skills needs and deliver more with less in the workplace, as well as of institutions looking to change in order to prepare tomorrow's workers today.



## IV meeting of Uruguayan Parliamentary reporters - Punta del Este - 6/8 November 2009



Under the direction of Mr **Aldo Deber**, President and Ms **Alejandra Bauzá** Secretary, this successful meeting was held in the fascinating touristic environment of Punta del Este. The program covered conferences as well as leisure events.

An invitation to attend this meeting was kindly sent also to our President, and we thank the steering committee for this: unfortunately due to the short notice of this event, Intersteno could not be there. A message was sent on this occasion, and we sincerely hope that improvements in the relationships with this and other parliamentary organization in South America, will take place.

There is a strong need to exchange ideas and experiences on how reports are produced, taking into consideration the need of a realtime release of information which must cover many different ways of broadcasting such as sound, video and Internet streaming in addition to newspaper and specialized reports.

You can see additional photos and information on this event at the following link <http://ivjornadasmaldonado.blogspot.com/>



## Second National Shorthand Congress in Chile



In the town of Villa Allemanna - near Valparaíso - Chile, The second National Shorthand Congress will take place on December 11th.

The programme for this event includes lectures as well as tourist opportunities and is organized by the Asociación de Taquígrafos de Chile.

You can see additional information at their website: [www.taquigrafos.cl](http://www.taquigrafos.cl)

## Reporting at the Knesset - The Israeli Parliament

*Thanks to the courtesy of Prof. Waldir Cury of Brasil, we are glad to report here the answers to a questionnaire sent out by the Irish Parliament on the reporting procedures at the Knesset.*



**The Knesset**  
**Research and Information**  
**Center**

Jerusalem, January 21, 2009

Reply to request No. 1132 from Ireland - **Recording of parliamentary debates**

Dear Anne-Marie Oregan,

Here are our answers to your questionnaire:

- 1 How is the reporting of Parliamentary Debates undertaken in your parliament - for example is it carried out by permanent or part-time staff of the parliament/is it outsourced on contract/or do you use a combination of both/ or other (please specify)

The reporting of the Knesset debates and deliberations is undertaken by the Parliamentary Reporting (formerly Stenographers) Department. The Department includes a director, a secretary and 22 parliamentary reporters, two of whom are Plenary Managers. This staff does all the work in the Plenum. Around half the reporting of deliberations in the Committees is performed by means of outsourcing.

- 2 What is the main method of recording used - (please specify - shorthand/dictation, mechanical stenograph, audio recording/transcription, voice recognition, other)

All debates and deliberations are recorded. Recently the Knesset introduced digital recording both in the Plenum and the Committees. The parliamentary reporters take notes regarding the identity of the speakers, and any other information that will assist them in deciphering the recorded material and preparing the first draft of the minutes. For the purpose of deciphering the recorded material the parliamentary reporters use digital dictaphones operated with the help of digital pedals

- 3 What are the main outputs of this work -and how long does it take each for output to be produced?

In the Knesset parliamentary reporting takes place both in the Plenum and the Committees.

The usual weekly work load for a parliamentary reporter is five hours of debates and deliberations. In the Plenum the parliamentary reporters take ten minute shifts. The first stenographic record is produced within less than one and a half hours, and is made available almost immediately on the Knesset portal and the Knesset website. The full stenographic record for a day's debates is usually completed on the same night, and is made distributed in print the following day to the various units in the Knesset, as well as the Knesset Members. The edited version of the stenographic record is completed the following day (there are seven linguistic editors in the Knesset). All these documents are placed on the Knesset portal and Knesset website as soon as they are available. The printed version of the Knesset record appears within a year.

The parliamentary reporters assigned to the Committees usually remain for the full duration of their meetings. The stenographic records of Committee meetings are produced within 7-10 days, and except for those of closed meetings (such as the deliberations of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee), are placed the Knesset website immediately after completion.

- 4 If your parliament is bicameral, is there a separate reporting structure for each House?

Our parliament is unicameral.

- 5 Is there a separate reporting/editorial structure for Committees?

See reply to questions 1 & 3.

- 6 Please indicate:

- the total number of staff employed by parliament (or each house)
- the number of reporting/editorial /other staff who support the reporting of debates of the parliament (or each house),

- the grades of staff who support the reporting of debates and number of staff employed at each grade

The total number of Knesset employees is around 400 (not including the Knesset guard). Of these 31 are directly engaged in the Parliamentary Reporting Department, and the Knesset Record Editorial Department. In addition, the 11 employees of the Printing Department spend around a third of their time dealing with the Knesset Report. The technical aspects of the recording process in the Plenum is carried out by means of outsourcing. Within the plenum there is always one person present from the outsourcing firm while debates take place. The parliamentary recorders and linguistic editors are all academics in the middle range of the academic grades. The technical support staff is of various grades, mostly non-academic.

#### 7 Please indicate for Committees:

- **The total number of sittings and the total number of reported sittings (i.e. are all sittings reported)?**
- **The average annual sitting hours for all Committees for the last complete year available**
- **Do committees meet at the same time as plenary sessions and what issues if any does this raise for reporting resources?**

Most of the budget for the recording, editing and printing of the Knesset Record goes to the payment of salaries. Our Financial Department is trying to prepare a list of additional expenditures connected with the recording, editing and printing processes, but we are speaking of a large number of items, that are not always specifically earmarked for this purpose, and some outsourcing. As soon as we receive these figures we shall forward them.

#### 8 Please indicate for each house (where applicable):

- the frequency and duration of sittings
- average sitting hours on either a weekly or monthly basis
- total routine sitting hours each day
- frequency and duration of late sittings i.e. beyond ordinary sitting hours
- routine Parliamentary calendar over a year

The Winter Session of the Knesset takes place from the first Monday after the Jewish High Holidays (i.e. usually sometime between the beginning and middle of October. The Jewish holidays occur according to the Jewish lunar calendar), until Wednesday two weeks before the Passover (around Easter). The Summer Session of the Knesset takes place from the first Monday after the Israeli Independence Day (i.e. usually sometime between the end of April to the middle of May) until the last Wednesday in July or first Wednesday in August. The Plenum sits on Mondays and Tuesdays from 16:00 until the business of the day is completed, and on Wednesdays from 11:00 until the business of the day is completed. On an average week (not the weeks when the budget is being debated) there are around 13 hours of Plenary. The Committees meet on the same days as the Plenum, but never at the same time. Occasionally they also meet on Sundays and Thursdays. On average there are 180 weekly hours of Committee meetings.

#### 9 Please indicate for Committees:

- The total number of sittings and the total number of reported



sittings (i.e. are all sittings reported)?

- The average annual sitting hours for all Committees for the last complete year available
- Do committees meet at the same time as plenary sessions and what issues if any does this raise for reporting resources?

See reply to question 8.

10 Is a hard paper copy of the draft version of the Parliamentary Debates produced/printed in-house for internal use? **Yes.**

11 Is the printed report produced within the section supporting the reporting of the debates of parliament?

The report is prepared by the Parliamentary Reporting Department and then printed by the printing department.

12 Are the Parliamentary Debates published in full on the website and if so how soon after the end of debate? **See reply to question 3.**

13 Do you publish a sound file on the internet?

No. However, the Plenum sittings may be viewed live on the Knesset website, as well as on the Knesset Television Channel (Channel 99).

14 Is the report of Parliamentary Debates published on the internet throughout the sitting day and how often? **See reply to question 3.**

15 Is the report of Parliamentary Debates published on the intranet throughout the sitting day and how often? **See reply to question 3.**

16 Are written answers included in the official report of Parliamentary Debates and if so are they included in all formats (hard paper copy, web, etc.)? **No.**

17 Please give the approximate number of parliamentary questions on a weekly basis and describe how they are dealt with.

Since the only questions and answers that enter the Knesset Record are those that come up in the plenum, the parliamentary recorders do not deal with written questions and answers.

18 What are the general arrangements for the payment of reporting/editorial/other staff who are involved in reporting on late sittings? (shift work, overtime, special allowances, other)?

In the case of long sittings into the night, if the debate lasts for more than six hours there is a different method of calculating working hours and overtime for salary purposes.

19 Is there an arrangement for time in lieu of attendance during parliamentary sitting hours for reporting/editorial/other staff who attend late sittings and what are the terms and conditions of this arrangement? Please detail if so.

Parliamentary recorders are permitted to work on the stenographic records of the Committees at home They have flexible working hours.

With best regards,

**Dr. Susan Hattis Rolef**

**Deputy Correspondent of the Knesset to the ECPRD**



## WHAT'S NEW?

*The info herewith is based upon reliable information gathered from various sources, but it is not intended as an advertisement of products, services or producers.*

### IBM new application translates 11 languages in real time

Researchers at IBM say they have created smart software that translates text between English and 11 other languages including Chinese, Korean, Japanese, French, Italian, Russian, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Arabic.

Hosted as an internal IBM service since August 2008, n.Fluent offers a secure real time translation tool that translates text in web pages, electronic documents, Sametime instant message chats, and provides a BlackBerry mobile translation application. According to IBM the software, n.Fluent was developed from an internal IBM crowdsourcing project where Big Blue's nearly 400,000 employees in more than 170 countries, submit, update and continuously refine word translations. Every time it's used, n.Fluent "learns" and improves its translation engine. To date, the tool has been used by IBMers to translate more than 40 million words, IBM stated.

IBM said the software is used internally for now but could make it into a product or service in the future.

The IBM spokesman called automated speech translation one of the grand challenges IT faces in the coming years. Natural language processing will be a key feature of computers after researchers resolve challenges related to speech synthesis and recognition, and machine translation. Some "rudimentary" automated speech translation systems have been created, but the complexity extends further when translation and output is required to a target language that is understandable to a human.

### New Smart wireless slate

SMART Technologies (one of the leader producers of **interactive whiteboards** or IWB) announced on November 12th the SMART Slate WS200 wireless slate. SMART Slate enables teachers and students to interact with digital lessons projected on a screen, interactive whiteboard, interactive display or interactive pen display from anywhere in the classroom.

SMART Slate was developed with extensive user feedback, resulting in the addition of several features, such as improved ergonomics, convenient charging via the USB cable and support for 10 languages, including Simplified Chinese, Castilian Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese.

Each point on the SMART Slate's 6.8" x 4.26" (17.3 cm x 10.8 cm) active pen area corresponds to a



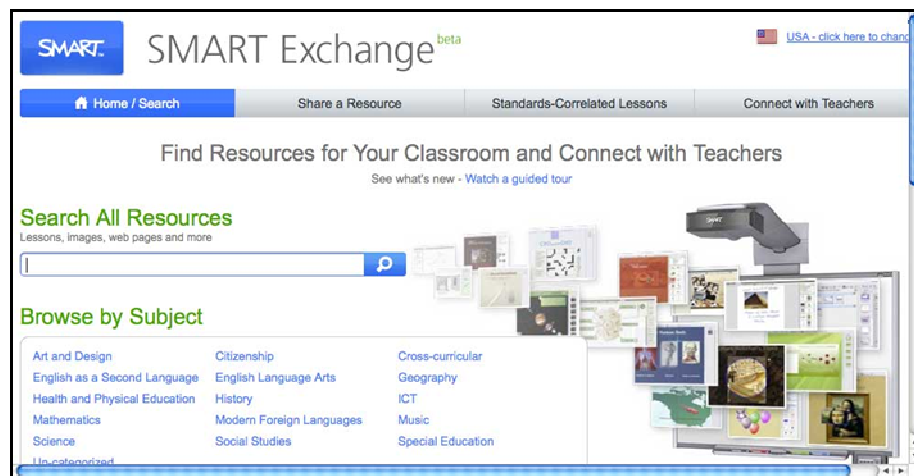
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point on a connected computer display. Wireless Bluetooth® enables teachers and students to control on-screen learning applications, write and draw in digital ink, or open and view files on the connected computer or SMART Board interactive whiteboard from anywhere in the room.

Ergonomic improvements have made the SMART Slate smaller, lighter and easier to hold. The addition of a third programmable button enables customization and the eraser function on the battery-free, tethered pen makes annotating with digital ink even more intuitive than it was on the WS100. The SMART Slate integrates seamlessly with a broad range of SMART products, including the SMART Podium interactive pen display and SMART Board interactive whiteboard, but can also be used with just a computer and projector.

### Smart Notebook express

SMART Notebook Express - a light version of SMART Notebook collaborative learning software - and a new SMART Exchange consolidate all of SMART's education content, community forums and support networks in one place, easily accessible on the Web. These new collaborative tools will enable educators to find, evaluate, use and share high-quality digital resources in an open environment. Resources include lesson activities, images, manipulatives and interactive flash files. Teachers and students will be able to access thousands of free resources regardless of operating system, file type or brand of interactive whiteboard. Any teacher with access to the Web can freely use SMART Notebook Express and SMART Exchange to access the resources and download and edit engaging lesson activities.



SMART Exchange adds an intuitive search function that delivers targeted results, which teachers can quickly assess based on their needs. They can then download resources to SMART Notebook software or view them with SMART Notebook Express. SMART Notebook lesson activities are currently downloaded over 200,000 times per month, and SMART expects to have 10,000 high-quality resources by the fall. The SMART Exchange online forum currently has 60,000 registered members engaged in discussions ranging from SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard best practices to student engagement in mathematics, making it one of the most popular voluntary-subscription communities available to teachers, administrators and technology coordinators.

To connect to SMART Exchange please use this link  
<http://exchange.smarttech.com/forum.html?url=/Language.aspx>

You can view the features of Notebook Express at the following link:

<http://www2.smarttech.com/st/en-US/Products/SMART+Notebook+Express/>

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***Many thanks to Peter Walker for the revision of these texts***

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