

INTERSTENO Newsletter 61



February 2014

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From the President's desk

As promised in our Assembly in Gent we have worked towards the next Intersteno Congress. It will be our Jubilee Congress (50th) and it will be the first one organized directly by Intersteno. There are two great challenges that our Federation has to face. The activity of the Board has been concentrated on these challenges and we can now present the results.

After ascertaining that it was not possible to hold the next Congress in New York USA, together with the NCRA Annual Convention, due to economic and organizational difficulties, our investigation concentrated on the massive work that our friend Ralph Gross had been carrying on for two years in Berlin. He had collected quotations, contacts, proposals, projects and solutions and settled a framework that greatly attracted our interest. Furthermore, Berlin is at the centre of Europe and can easily be reached from all continents. The Estrel Hotel is a wonderful venue with reasonable prices.

Unfortunately, for several reasons our decision came too late and our option fell. The hotel where we intended to gather turned out to be fully booked for the weeks we need, so, reluctantly, we had to step back. Nevertheless, I and the Board wish to thank Ralph Gross, his wife Monika and all his friends for the efforts they made, which will not be wasted, since the Intersteno Congress in Berlin is not deleted, only postponed!

Budapest is our choice now. Our Congress will be held there from 18th-24th July 2015. We found the proposal advanced by the Corvinus University very interesting. This is a building located on the Danube river, at the very centre of the city, on the Pest side. Hungary has a long and strong connection with Intersteno: numerous Hungarian competitors have been called on several occasions to receive prizes on the Intersteno stage and the Hungarian Parliamentary Reporters have constantly supported our meetings, most recently at the Council meeting in October 2012. The Corvinus University provides rooms for competitions and meetings, while the hotels and hostels offer reasonable prices. The city is one of the jewels of Europe, rich in history and tourist attractions. I am sure that Intersteno people will appreciate this choice.

The Board will gather again in Budapest from 28th-30th March in order to settle the agreement with Corvinus University, evaluate other services and costs and define the programme of the Congress.

Meanwhile, our Chinese friends have communicated the dates and the location for the annual Council/IPRS meeting: it will be in Shanghai, 22nd-24th October 2014. Information on the venue and the agenda will follow. We thank the Chinese National Group for their support of this project, which launches Intersteno beyond Europe once again. We hope that, thanks to the favorable conditions provided, many Council members as well as parliamentary and professional reporters will join the meeting and take advantage of visiting one of the most interesting and fascinating cities in the world.

The Scientific Committee informed us that, thanks to the efforts of the Italian National Group and the support of other cultural associations, the process for including shorthand into the UNESCO Humanity Heritage will begin. A meeting will be held to decide means of illustrating the old and new meanings of this remarkable tool, used in all ages and in all countries. On this occasion we plan to restore the former friendship between Intersteno and UNESCO, since the aims of

the Intersteno Federation are and have always been aimed at fostering friendship among people and at cultural enhancement.

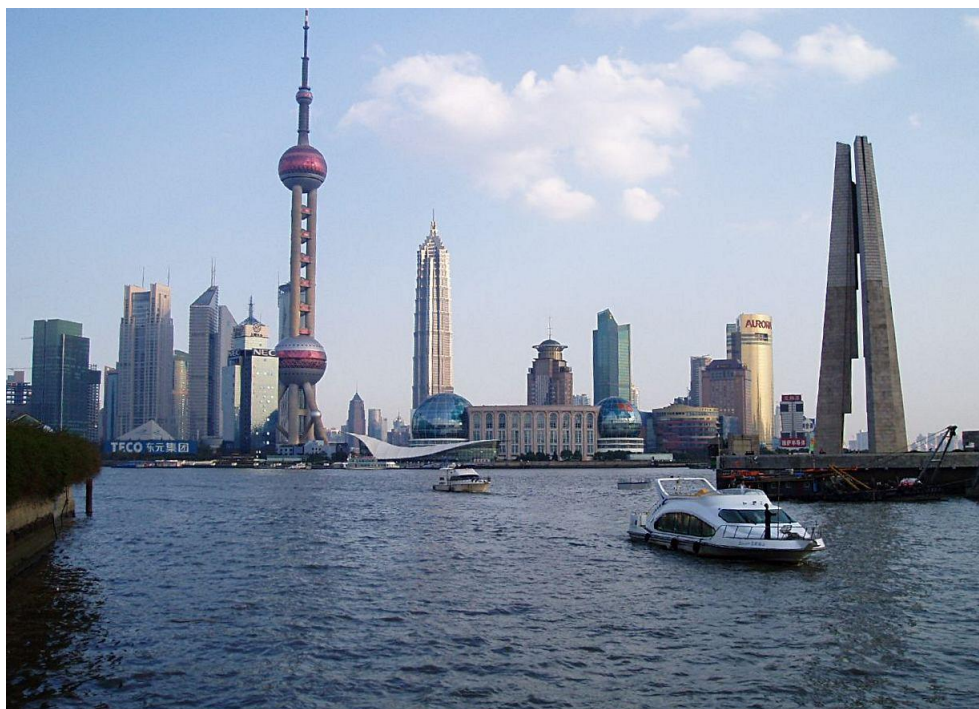
One excellent example is the Internet Keyboarding Competition. The 12th edition will take place from 31st March to 9th May 2014. All members are invited to involve as many participants as possible, contacting schools and associations in their own countries.

Finally, please have a look at the annual call for presenting Projects (Call for projects 2014). Maybe your actions can be supported and financed by Intersteno, provided it has an international aim which is considered important for our Federations.

Happy reading!

Fausto Ramondelli

Council and IPRS meeting in Shanghai (China)



Following the proposal presented in Ghent by Mr Tang Keliang, our Chinese friends have confirmed that they will host our next Council and IPRS meeting in Shanghai.

The programme of events, with all additional information, will shortly be released to Council and IPRS members.

1st March 2014 - Registration for Internet contest is opened.

Please take note of this date. Registrations will be possible up to 30th March, while competition runs from 31st March till 9th May.

We suggest that teachers plan in good time the attendance of their students in order to avoid problems related to school holidays. 9th May is a final date; no exceptions will be permitted.

Intersteno Call for projects - deadline 31st March 2014

Intersteno calls upon its members who have regularly paid the annual fee and the bodies of Intersteno itself to propose projects or joint projects of actions designed to develop the aims of Federation.

Those projects that are in line with the general interests of Intersteno will be co-financed by the Federation up to a maximum of 2.500,00 euros.

Each approved project will be able to receive a maximum amount of 500,00 euros.

If insufficient projects are submitted the Board will be under no obligation to use the whole of the above maximum figure of 2.500,000 euros.

Projects must be submitted to the Board by 31st March 2014.

The Board, with the advice of the Jury, the Scientific Committee, the Education Committee and IPRS, will decide upon the qualifying projects and will fix the amount of the contributions.

The financing payment will be made by Intersteno to the official delegate of the Member after or, exceptionally, even during the ongoing activity upon verification by the Board of the attained results.

The projects must envisage an international target or context and operate in the following areas:

- Research and Studies
- Education
- Seminars and Meeting on relevant matter for Intersteno
- Information on Intersteno activities

Projects should contain the following compulsory information:

- Name and presentation of the most recent activities of the Member(s) proposing the candidate project
- Target group at whom the action is projected
- Description of the reasons why Intersteno should consider the project of general interest
- Description of the projected activities, with a clear explanation of time, resources and organization of people and tools needed for achieving them
- Expected budget of the project and expenses that will be borne by the Member



Recognition of shorthand as a Unesco intangible masterpiece

Among the tasks of the Scientific Committee (see last enews) is the recognition of shorthand as a UNESCO intangible masterpiece. In charge of this very important achievement for the Intersteno community is the chairman of the Scientific Committee, who is responsible for all operational steps, needed to reach this ambitious goal. The first one is that of inscribing shorthand in a national list of human masterpieces. To do so it is inevitable, though not compulsory, to organize a public event that raises public interest in shorthand, so as to have the widest possible consensus among the organisations that will be called to reach a decision.



With this in mind the Intersteno President, the chairman of the Intersteno Scientific Committee, and the Italian delegation of Intersteno will organize a public event, called "Shorthand as Heritage of Humanity" to be held in Rome in May 2014. The organizers of the event will be assisted by the highest national cultural institutions (the Italian Archives, the Italian National Institute of Culture "Dante Alighieri", the Ugo Bordononi Foundation, Italian Academy of information and communication "Giuseppe Aliprandi - Flaviano Rodriguez", the ForumTAL), under the auspices of the Italian national UNESCO commission, the Italian Senate of the Republic, and the Italian Ministries of Culture and Tourism, of Foreign Affairs, of Education, and of Productive Activities.

A draft of the programme and the exact date and location of the event will be shortly released by the chairman of the Scientific Committee through the official Intersteno channels of communication and published in the next Intersteno e-news.

Where there is a will there is a way. Turkey: a successful training in unusual environments

In the 2014 Turkish National Internet Keyboard contest 540 competitors are fighting; 10 of them are 9 years old and they started learning when they were 7 years old.

Their teacher, Mr Hüseyin Özçelik, is sharing his experience of how he worked (and fought to overcome many obstacles, some of which continue) in the small town of Şuhut in Afyonkarahisar. Many congratulations to him and best wishes for the success of his very young competitors.

My name is **Hüseyin Özçelik**. I work in Fatih elementary school in the town Şuhut - Afyonkarahisar. I started to teach typewriting to my previous students when they were at the third class. Later I thought that I could teach typewriting while I was teaching reading and writing at the first class. I had a training program to teach reading and writing. In that program there were songs, names, words about the letter and there was the sound of the



letter and writing of the letter. Then there was a bubble-blasting game related to the taught letter. I thought that I could use this game to teach typing with ten fingers without looking. We had only one computer in every classroom. At the last 5 minutes of every lesson I made the students put their fingers on their desks and taught them how to type the letters of that lesson and with which fingers. Then at free activity time during the day I let them to use the only computer of the class and I made all the students in a row play the bubble-blasting game which continued for 2 minutes and in which only the letters I taught that day appeared. My students loved this game so much that they played every possible time.



Because there was no computer laboratory in our school and the only computer at the class was not enough to teach typewriting I started thinking about solutions. I search the old and broken keyboards of other local schools, state offices and computer repairing shops and carried them to my school. I cut the cables of the keyboards, changed the places of the keys in order to F keyboard row, I marked the keys of right and left forefingers. Thus I had the same number of keyboards as the number of the students and I owned one computer. Meanwhile the students were practising at the keyboards. In addition, they were also practising at that one computer one at a time.

Because those students were so young and they were just learning to read and to write they could not enter the national contest of 2012. But because I wanted them to have experience and to teach them how the contest was going on, I registered some of them to the 2012 World Internet Contest. Onur Demirbaş (a student from the first class) was the youngest successful competitor. These very young students won the first place in mother tongue, and second and third places in multilingual categories in the 2013 Turkish National Internet Contest. At the 2013 World Internet Competition these students won the second place in mother tongue and second and third places in the multilingual categories.

I am honoured to have been involved with these children and proud of their successes achieved in the face of many difficulties. *Hüseyin Özçelik*

Germany: 25. Bundespokalschreiben 2013 in Soest



Since 1989 the Deutsche Stenografenbund (DStB), with other organisations, has organised an annual central team competition, named Bundespokalschreiben (Federal cup writing). The programme includes team competitions in shorthand, text production, text correction and word processing.

The shorthand and keyboarding competitions begin at the same time, which means that it is not possible to compete in both.. A team includes 5 competitors; the best 4 will be considered and at least 3 must be successful. Every Association can register two teams in each discipline. The competition lasts one day and results are released in the evening.

The main criteria, which was applied up to now, is that there is no need for a big organization such as is as needed for the German Championships. It is open to the public, the results can be immediately released to the media and the organizers already have in mind that at the end of the year the best writers of Germany informally gather in a relaxed atmosphere chatting over the results of the year.

1989 was a historic year in Germany. The Berlin Wall fell a few days after the first Federal Cup Writing in Soest. And as of October 1990 there was a reunified Germany which also had an impact on the stenographic organizations. A short time later instead of two country groups only one was included in the Intersteno Germany group.

Gregor Keller, the Honorary President of DStB and INTERSTENO, released a speech during the evening meeting in Soest on 23.11.2013 which took place in the Blue banquet hall of the Rathauses (City Hall) and was attended by about 150 people, and by many honoured guests, including the Deputy Mayor of Soest, Christiane Mackensen, and the director of the school in which the competition took place, Thomas Busch, as well as the President of the Deutschen Stenografenbundes, Hannelore Schindelasch, the President of Intersteno Germany, Waltraut Dierks and Reiner Karbowski, Association President. He

undertook the task of organising this event together with the previous President of DStB Karl-Wilhelm Henke.

In his half-hour speech Gregor Keller, drew attention to the long history of the event, from the first Championship of 1989 in Soest, up to the 25th of 2013, again in Soest.



He underlined the exceptional results in speech capturing (the very high speed of 475 syllables was almost always reached), as well as the 700 characters per minute in typewriting (now keyboard writing). Competitors and jury members who successfully attended all competitors were specially mentioned, and late friends of the organisation were also remembered.

Where are we headed? Is there a way to control the flood of information? There was no lack of statistics: in shorthand the North German Association won 15 times, the Bavarian 9 times, North Rhine -Westphalian Association once; in typewriting the Palatinate won 13 times, the Berlin Association once, the Bavarian association once, the North German association 4 times and the North Rhine -Westphalian Association 6 times. in text correction since 2001 the figures are: the Hessian association twice, the North Rhine -Westphalian federation for Information Processing 11 times. By the way, teams from Austria also participated on several occasions in these competitions.

All Jury Heads were mentioned with a thank you: a few youth teams have already participated and will, hopefully, succeed. The following day at a full Board meeting in Soest it was interesting to hear about the future of these competitions with more teams. And the leaders of in the associations as well as the team participants received an honourable mention.

Later it was remarked that it was an exciting half-hour in the Blue Room of the Town Hall and the keen attention was felt by the speaker himself.

25 years are not much for an association that has already managed 150 years of existence. But it is still a long time when one consider what has happened: there were no cell phones ... and Google was released in September 1998 as a trial version on the Net and ... You almost cannot believe the speed at which many improvements came up.

Keller ended his speech, to the applause of the steno and keyboard competitors, with these words: "And now go home and improve your speeds" ((Laughter in the hall)

It was really a cheerful evening in the town hall of the Hanseatic city of Soest.

Gregor Keller

The results of the 25th Bundspokalschreibens can be seen at [Deutscher Stenografenbund.de](http://DeutscherStenografenbund.de). The German full text of the speech of Mr. Gregor Keller can be read at www.intersteno.de.

Czech Republic: Participants in international competitions and Olympiads meet Mr. Dalibor Stys, Minister of education

Prague, 12 December 2013 - The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports welcomed participants in the international competitions held in the National

Technical Library. There were 73 secondary school students and 29 teachers who have accompanied them to the 16 international competitions and Olympiads. Teams at each competition usually consist of 2-5 high school students aged 15-19 years and 2-3 teachers.



This year the Czech students were very successful, as evidenced by the 61 medals (14 gold, 23 silver and 24 bronze) that they won. Best results came from competitors attending the International Chemistry Olympics (organizing country Russia), International Biology Olympiad (organizing state - Switzerland) and the World Championships in computer text processing Intersteno (organizing state - Belgium).

Also invited to the meeting were those the Czechs who were so successful in Ghent, along with Mr. Jaroslav Zaviačič: they were presented with diplomas and books.



In his speech the Minister, Dalibor Stys, praised the important achievements of the Czech team at Intersteno competitions.

Czech Republic - International Shorthand competitions - Prague 2013

On 12th September 2013, the Czech Stenographic Association hosted the third International Shorthand Championship (the first being in 2001, the second in 2005). Competitors from Germany and Austria were invited.

The competition was carried out according to Intersteno regulations with the 15 minutes dictation being divided into the usual three categories C, B, A.



Since the text and its structural editing is very important in a stenographic competition its choice and preparation was entrusted to Prof. Dr. Reiner Kreßmann from Germany, who is a recognised enthusiast and who was also appointed chair of the competition .

Prof. Kreßmann's choice of text was part of a speech given by the Lithuanian Prime Minister on the occasion of the beginning of her six-month Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the European Parliament.

The content and structure of this text is not only a professional matter for parliamentary stenographers, but is more generally common for the majority of citizens and the media.

The rooms of the Haldelsakademia in Prag 1, Dusni 7, were, as always, the venue for the competition, meaning that competitors could appreciate the beautiful quarter of the old town of Prague. The work of organization was undertaken by Ing. Janovska, Ing. Novakova and Ing. Konupek.

In the afternoon the participants visited the Prague Vyšehrad (the historic fort at the top of a hill) where they were acquainted with the political, religious and cultural significance of this memorable locality.

At 18.00 the proclamation of the results of the competition and the social part of a very enjoyable evening took place. Three prizes for the most successful competitors were sponsored by the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament.

Ing. Ludmila Novakova

Place	Name	Surname	Association	Cat.	Min.	Penalties.	Syllables
1	Rörtgen	Olaf	Vestischer SC Berlin	B	6	21	374
2	Havlíková	Ivana	ČTS Praha	B	6	25	354
3	Kampfer	Stefan	StV Hort Nürnberg	B	3	27	300
4	Bauer	Sylvia	StV Hort Nürnberg	C	6	26	256
5	Hokešová	Vladimíra	ČTS Praha	C	5	11	226
6	Hendle	Marlies	StV Stuttgart	C	5	19	233
7	Šaldová	Vendula	ČTS Praha	C	4	19	208
8	Baláčková	Hana	ČTS Praha	C	4	26	208
9	Bergmann	Sandra	StV Regensburg	C	3	8	195
10	Vartok	Edith	OESTV Wien	C	3	10	195

Croatia: 35th anniversary of typewriting competitions

There were 43 participants for this year's 35th anniversary of the keyboard competition. Of these 14 were professional typists and 29 were pupils from technical high schools who came from all of Croatia, from Koprivnica in the north to Dubrovnik in the south.



Andrea **Muženić-Vidak**, a student of political science in Zagreb came first among 14 competitors in the competition involving a 30 minute transcript of the text for professional typists with a grandmaster score of 504,23 net characters/min. Second place went to Pamela Hadžiselimović, an employee of the "Imagine" Association from Zagreb with 442.73 net characters/min, and third place went to Vera Pendeš, employee at the Magistrates' Court in Kutina with 411.03 net characters/min.

In the competition involving a 10 minute online transcript of the text for pupils, in which 29 contestants took part, Matea Švigač, a pupil from „Upravna škola Zagreb“, won with a score of 416.60 net characters/min, ahead of Andrea Groznica, a pupil of „Upravna škola Zagreb“ with a score of 405.60 net characters/min, and Mateja Rogić, also a pupil of „Upravna škola Zagreb“ with 386.80 net characters/min .

The competition was held under the aegis of the International Federation of INTERSTENO. All contestants who qualified were awarded diplomas of the organization and for the first three places in both groups cups were presented.



CROATIAN STENOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION History of dactylographic competition (1978th to 2013th)

The year 1978 saw the start of the computer dactylography competition, which was organized by the Croatian Stenographic Association and sponsored by Zagrebački velesajam. It was first held at the city level and in the following year at the level of the former state. This competition was called Dactylographer day. The competition was held in two categories: accuracy (duration 3 minutes) on mechanical and electrical machinery and speed (20 minutes), also on mechanical and electrical machinery.

The rules of the competition: category of accurate transcript - competitors wrote sentences with the length of 65 characters. Every error had a 10 character penalty; in the speed transcript category the penalty for each mistake was 100 characters. Candidates whose percentage of errors was not more than 0.5 % in both categories were deemed to have qualified. At that time what are today called typewriter characters were called strokes.

The word stroke itself speaks of the power needed to initiate letters, especially on a mechanical machine.

The competitions were attended by those employed as typists, steno dactylographers and secretaries. The results of competitions were evaluated by the categories that are still relevant today.



CLASSES OF TYPEWRITERS

CLASS	NUMBER OF CHARACTERS	% of MISTAKES
III.	201-250	0,7
II.	251-300	0,6
I.B	301-350	0,5
I.A	351-400	0,4
dactylographic master	401-450	0,3
dactylographic grandmaster	451-500	0,2
dactylographic international grandmaster	501 - more	0,15

It is interesting to note that even then, mistakes were corrected by deleting. Each correction, regardless of the quality of the correction was visible. *Therefore, accurate and fast typists were highly appreciated.*

Competition on computers started in 1995 with only a few competitors. However, since 2005 the competition is conducted exclusively on computers and is called Day of the Keyboard. Manual typewriters are now definitely forgotten.

Since 2007 the online competition is undertaken in Croatian and 16 world languages. (www.intersteno.org - Internet contest - Training with Taki version).

Way back in the 1980's in the typewriting competition		The highest result was achieved in 2013	
	Ružica Šerkinić achieved a result of 636,8 characters/min	Andrea Muženić Vidak participated in the World championship in Ghent in 2013 and achieved a result of 526,6 characters/min	

Taking into consideration the impact that ICT has on today's working environment, it is clear that informatics and computer knowledge are now important as general knowledge. *Ten fast fingers typing on keyboard is a requirement - first to be correct, and then fast.*



Prepared by Marica Piršlin

USA - NCRA goes to students with mini conventions

January 17, 2014 By [NCRA](#)

In 2010, NCRA's Education Department began to reach out to students by hosting mini conventions on the campuses of court reporting schools in an effort provide them with additional resources and the opportunity to meet and network with working professionals, educators, and vendors of products and services that support the court reporting field.



Since the start of the program, the Association has hosted between two and four mini conventions each year, and the response has been overwhelming, according to Lynette Eggers, CRI, CPE, NCRA's assistant director for Educational Services. Even better than that, the events have proven to be priceless to students.

"Once a school is chosen as a mini convention site, NCRA's Education Department works with the school's president and other representatives to develop a tailored program that includes a keynote speaker and sessions that address a variety of aspects about the court reporting profession," Eggers says. "The speakers include members of NCRA's Board of Directors, various committees, and professionals

deemed experts in a particular area. In addition, we invite vendors to participate and include networking breaks throughout the event so that students have the opportunity to talk with them and experience first hand the products and services they offer.”

In 2013, NCRA hosted two mini conventions. The first, held in May at the Community College of Allegheny County in Pennsylvania, featured keynote speaker Bill Weber, from Bethel Park, Pa., who shared his experience reporting on the 9/11 terrorist trials taking place at the U.S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. Weber reinforced to students the importance of joining their state and national associations and associating with key groups of other reporters to ensure further development of their skills and their overall success as reporters.

“Building these relationships is especially important in this day and age when so many reporters no longer work in an office with other reporters. They need to have other reporters nearby to relate to, and associations are where that can take place,” Weber says. “While my presentation talked about the GTMO experience, I also shared how I become involved with my state association, which sent me to leadership training and resulted in my meeting Nancy Varallo, NCRA’s current president. I made friends with Nancy, and through that relationship, I met Lorene Eppley, RPR, a firm owner from Boston, Mass., who had landed the GTMO contract and eventually led to my contract for this work.”

Weber says that he also stressed to students the importance of earning professional certifications, pointing out that only reporters who held the Certified Realtime Reporter certification from NCRA could apply for the GTMO team.

According to Weber, the students were truly engaged in each of the seminars that were presented at the May mini convention, which also covered overcoming the test-taking heebie-jeebies, the perspectives of a freelance court reporter working in Pennsylvania, the genesis of CART reporting in the city of Pittsburgh, and planning for success.

“The greatest value students receive from attending an NCRA mini convention is the ability to speak with working reporters from all facets of our industry and to learn about the various options that they have in our field after they graduate,” says Steve Zinone, RPR, from Canandaigua, N.Y., NCRA’s current Secretary-Treasurer. Zinone was the keynote speaker at a June mini convention at Long Island Business Institute in New York.

“These events are also extremely important because the students hear first hand how experienced reporters also struggled at times in school, especially with speedbuilding skills, and what techniques they utilized to conquer those learning plateaus,” he added.

During his address at the Long Island Business Institute, Zinone says he emphasized the history of court reporting, which dates back centuries to when the Roman philosopher and politician Cicero relied on Tiro as his scrivener. He also stressed that students and working reporters are each part of the profession’s evolution. Zinone said he also stressed the importance of mentoring.

“I am fortunate to have four mentors who I reach out to on a weekly and sometimes on a daily basis for advice and guidance. I encourage every court reporting student to have one, not only during school but throughout their professional career,” he says.

In addition, students at the Long Island event attended sessions that addressed developing dictionaries in realtime reporting, overcoming test anxiety, getting ready to work, becoming realtime-ready, and top tips for becoming a broadcast captioner.

Like Weber, Zinone says he also took the opportunity to encourage students to begin networking while they are still in school, suggesting that they join their state and national associations and attend NCRA conventions to network with other professionals and have the chance to kick the tyres on all the latest technologies that vendors showcase.

“I also encourage students that when someone says to them that they’ll be replaced by an audio or video recording device, to relay this message to them:

“During the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on our country, there were 36 million deaf Americans and double that number of hard-of-hearing Americans who relied on the closed captioning that was being provided by an amazing group of professional stenographic reporters, who worked hour after hour, day after day, during one of the worst times in our great nation’s history. Now, imagine yourself as being one of those deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans, sitting in your apartment on the 45th floor, watching those terrible events unfold. Without the captioning, you would have thought the world was coming to an end – if not for those brave and heroic reporters providing that closed captioning, shedding tears just like all of us, as their hands moved swiftly and precisely over the keyboard that Ward Stone Ireland created for us to use in 1911, you would have been lost. We all have a skill that is truly a gift that cannot be replaced with a digital/video recording device. And if they don’t or can’t understand that, remind them about 9/11.”

USA - NCRA Board of Directors moves forward with new strategies.

January 17, 2014 By [NCRA](#)

NCRA’s Board of Directors addressed a number of issues when it met Nov. 8 - 9 in Vienna, Va. The board received updates on the Vision for Educational Excellence Task Force, MOOC (massive open online course) program, on-demand testing system, and the 2014 Court Reporting and Captioning Week, which is scheduled for Feb. 16 - 22, 2014.

The board also approved the following:

- NCRA will participate in the annual events of the Hearing Loss Association of America and the Association of Late Deafened Adults to educate people about captioning and CART;
- NCRA will obtain a legal opinion as to how the new HIPAA regulations will affect the court reporting and captioning profession; and
- NCRA will retain Ducker Worldwide, a firm based in Troy, Mich., to conduct and complete the Court Reporting and Captioning Industry Outlook as proposed by the Vision for Educational Excellence Task Force. Preliminary portions of the study are expected in the spring of 2014.

Message from GZOS Russia

Dear Intersteno friends! As Mrs Nora Berezina, the desk manager of the GZOS Training Centre in Moscow, was taken ill during the past two months, unfortunately she was not able to send you her good wishes for the New Year.

I am happy to tell you that she now feels well again and has asked me to send you her thanks for all your seasonal greetings. And, of course, she wishes you the very best for the year 2014!

Nora is a little bit worried that her absence may have harmed the functioning of the GZOS Training Centre, but she now will soon continue her work so as to keep things going! You can contact her by e-mail: gzos@mail.ru.

Events

22-24 May 2014. Input the word - analyze the word: Corpus Linguistic and society.



I think that several of the contribution to this Congress can be valuable for our investigations about relationships between languages. Hereunder are the name of the coordinators for the nine thematic panels:

- Corpus design, compilation and types, chaired by Dr. Francisco Alonso Almeida, Universidad de las Palmas de Gran Canaria.
- Discourse, literary analysis and corpora, chaired by Dr. José Luis Oncins, Universidad de Extremadura.
- Corpus-based grammatical studies, chaired by Dr. Isabel Moskowich Universidade da Coruña.
- Corpus-based lexicology and lexicography, chaired by Dr. Pedro Fuertes Olivera, Universidad de Valladolid.
- Corpora, contrastive studies and translation, chaired by Dr. Chelo Vargas Sierra, Universidad de Alicante.
- Corpora and linguistic variation, chaired by Dr. María José López Couso, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela.
- Corpus-based computational linguistics, chaired by Dr. Antonio Moreno Sandoval, Departamento de Lingüística, Lenguas Modernas, Lógica y Filosofía de la Ciencia - Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.
- Corpora, language acquisition and teaching, chaired by Dr. Raquel Criado Sánchez, Universidad de Murcia.
- Special uses of corpus linguistics, chaired by Dr. Luz Gil Salom, Universidad Politécnica de Valenci

gpt

29th June 2014. General Assembly of INTERSTENO-Germany

This meeting will take place in Recklinghausen: full information is available on the Intersteno Germany website <http://www.intersteno.de>.

What's new

MovieReading: accessible cinema is made in Italy

Accessibility of cinema performances for persons with sensory impairment is an issue of growing concern on an international scale.

The Italian MovieReading App allows users with

sensory impairment (blindness or low vision, deaf or hearing impairment) to enjoy watching movies on the big screen.



Accessibility of cinema performances for persons with sensory impairments is becoming an issue of growing concern, even in a period of economic crisis and shortages of resources. Binding normative provisions in the USA ask most movie owners to provide accessible screenings and invest hugely on technology. In Europe, despite the vagueness of most audiovisual and media directives and enormous gaps among countries, accessibility is attracting more and more attention and seems to rank high in the political and social agenda.

Although - so far - cinema has not been accessible (except for some screenings dedicated to people with sensory impairments, often arranged in a couple of theatres only and quite a few months after the first screening in cinemas) a global, cost-effective and easy-to-use solution for cinema accessibility worldwide now comes from Italy. This solution is called MovieReading. The application is based on a globally-patented and registered technology, which allows people with hearing and sight impairment to enjoy movies by displaying captions and listening to the audio description through their personal iOS or Android-based smartphone or tablet.



It seems easy, and it actually is. The microphone of your device recognizes the exact frame of the movie that is being screened at the cinema and automatically synchronizes pre-downloaded captions or audio description for you to read or listen to.

Here's how it works. Type the keyword 'moviereading' in the 'search' field of the Apple Store or Google Play market; install the MovieReading app and run the test to see if your device is compatible with the application. Now you are ready to download captions or audiodescriptions from the 'Market' section. Look for the list of available movies, then download the captions or the audio description file (price is EUR 1.79 per caption file) in one of the available languages. It takes a few seconds only. Now you will see the captions in the 'My movies' section and you are ready to go to the cinema. You don't need to be connected to the Internet for this to work. As soon as the movie begins, launch the app and open the captions or the audio description, which will synchronize automatically (unless you cover the microphone with your hands!).

In many theaters in Italy, the payment receipt of the captions/audio description entitles you to have a discounted cinema ticket, which actually makes captions/audio description completely free of charge for end users. In other theatres, you can borrow a tablet - for free - to read captions if you do not have a Smartphone or a tablet.

From the point of view of cinema owners, MovieReading does not cost anything and represents a great engine to attract lots of potential moviegoers. The captions/audio descriptions made available through MovieReading do not depend on the DCP any more, so there is no need to buy any special equipment or to install special servers in the theatre. Captions and audio descriptions are brought by users directly into their pocket!

Contents (captions/audio descriptions) are produced by a dedicated team of accessibility specialists (in strict cooperation with the Artis Project team, an Italian company which specializes in accessibility of multimedia contents) : the team is a trusted partner enjoying special agreements with cinema distributors. They receive all original material perfectly in time to produce captions and/or audio descriptions.

The latest buzz is all about captions glasses. Epson Moverio BT-100 glasses (and soon BT-200, as well) can be easily interfaced and connected to your Smartphone / tablet, so you can read captions on the lenses as if they were on the screen.

So far, MovieReading is available in Italy and is being tested in the USA (based on a partnership with the Hollywood-based Hollywood Access Services company) and in Sweden. MovieReading is attracting attention from many other countries (including Brazil and Israel) and is looking for partners (subtitling companies, associations, foundations, industrial and commercial partners) to set up the service in other countries outside Italy. Feel free to mail marketing@moviereading.com and find out how to join the team.

Note. You can find more information on the MovieReading app on the official website; View demonstration video on YouTube (captions in Italian, English, Japanese and French) and follow them on Twitter @moviereading.

Saveria Arma

The biggest problem facing online learning is boring content.



From the website of this event, we reproduce this interesting contribution.

One of the most influential voices in the e-learning industry, Craig Weiss, believes instructors continue to see technology as a class aid, rather than a revolutionary tool that can drastically change the way students learn.

The type of technology Weiss both champions and criticizes is known in the industry as the Learning Management System (LMS). Introduced in the late 1990's by Blackboard, LMS was originally designed to help educators customize their course management. Today, it allows teachers to stream videos, analyse student test scores and use games to create an engaging and interactive classroom environment.

A directory of the more than 552 LMS vendors around the world can be found at Weiss's site, as well as tips on how to pick the best vendor. As far as popularity is concerned, Blackboard is the leading provider with 51% market share, followed by the companies Moodle and Desire2Learn.

But Weiss will be the first to admit that an LMS isn't always so easy for teachers to use. Only "a few" of the systems out there have an interface that he likes. And while the LMS market has exploded in recent years, the difference between one LMS vendor and another isn't always so clear. Video conferencing tools may be offered on one while another may also include a built-in authoring tool, but many of the basics remain the same.

He told the audience at ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN that LMSs will soon unite many of the innovations happening elsewhere in the e-learning sphere:

"In the future we're going to see MOOC capabilities (*Massive Open Online Courses*), video editing, mobile capture, LRS (learning record shop), true video course capabilities, instructional design and gaming built into LMS," he said.

Games, or gamifications, are already a hot sector in the e-learning industry, and many current Learning Management Systems have features like leader-boards, showing the top scorers in the class. Weiss believes they are the future. "If you do not have a gamification in your LMS, get going," Weiss told the crowd.

But if you take his word for it, the futuristic features won't stop there.

Weiss believes that video will shrink, or be "chunked," into easy-to-digest, bite-sized pieces. "Mini-bytes of learning are the future," he said. "[Professors will offer] video chunks of five minutes, Word docs of one page or less, or other kinds of chunked data."

Personalisation is another big trend Weiss believes will impact the e-learning industry in 2014 and beyond. Avatars, personalized Youtube channels, customizable widgets and a greater diversity of languages (like Arabic) will be coming to more platforms, he believes.

Weiss has a habit of taking ideas, even recently-established ones, and turning them on their heads. Instead of SPOCs, or small private online classes, he thinks universities should band together in consortiums and offer tracks to complete degrees that allow students to bounce from school to school, all online.

Industry fortune teller and techno-futurist, Weiss's ideas about what works and what doesn't in the realm of e-learning might ruffle some feathers, but that's not a concern of his. Despite ties to LMS vendors, his loyalty is to potential customers: educators. On his site, he offers them unbiased advice, fresh opinions and industry expertise.

And with the e-learning industry as sprawling and multi-faceted as it is now, that's exactly what education needs.

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