



From the President's desk

The presentation of the proposal to invite Unesco to include shorthand in the list of the masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity, held in the Senate Library in Rome on September 29th, marked the occasion of the meeting of experts and professionals involved in this old but very modern technique.

The record of the meeting will be soon available on our website and in social networks. Be prepared join Intersteno on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.

Our proposal (this is only the beginning of protracted proceedings) is motivated by the shared awareness of the historical, social and cultural value of shorthand, taken in its broadest meaning, which not only embraces the traditional professions, such as parliamentary and court reporting, but the more recent skills and techniques, such as speech-to-text, professional keyboarding and speech recognition.

The meeting, organized by Intersteno and the two main Italian associations (Accademia "Aliprandi Rodriguez" and OnAir), was attended by some 80 people and was enlightened by the speeches of Boris Neubauer and Tsuguo Kaneko, chief of the Kansai Science Forum in Osaka, well known to the Intersteno community and a member of the Scientific Committee. Waldir Cury, from Brazil, sent an interesting and romantic survey of the many advantages that shorthand has gifted to humanity, above all being the only technique allowing us to "follow the human thought".

The possibility of using our stenographic knowledge to discover the meaning of hitherto unrevealed signs to be found in millions of old books in museums and libraries was stressed, as well as the use of shorthand as a tool for understanding language and writings.

It is a fact that shorthand was used by ancient civilizations, in many corners of the world. From the beginning shorthand was not imagined or used as a "recorder", as a mere reproduction of voice sounds; it was inextricably linked to the human capability of understanding the meaning of speech, processing and enriching it in a faithful way, and spreading information, first through analogue and now digital devices, so as to provide easier and more comprehensive access for contemporary and future users to thought and information.

I sought to show how Intersteno has been able to lead the tradition and culture of typewriting and shorthand into the 21st century, being always careful to present this human heritage as service for the technological and cultural enhancement of society rather than a hidden asset.



I recalled that Intersteno used to enjoy a relationship with Unesco and is willing to maintain this partnership, as is foreseen in our Statute (Art. 2.5.e.), in order to increase education and information and to increase transparency and democracy in governmental institutions.

In a few days (October 22nd-24th) the Council members of Intersteno will meet in Shanghai. The agenda will be defined with the latest proposals of the Board, that will be online on October 4th. After this meetings, in November, we will be able to provide more detailed information about the upcoming 50th Congress (Budapest July 2015), including the participation and registration fee, the tentative programme, the upgraded competition rules and the themes for the "call for papers". We will also choose the keywords of the Congress. So, stay tuned at the Congress website www.intersteno2015.org.

The upgrading of the Intersteno website (www.intersteno.org) has reached the executive phase. Our friend Emrah Kuyumcu (Turkey) is working with his group to transfer the huge contents accumulated so far in our database to a new platform. Very soon you will have access in a more friendly and effective way to old and new information that will be useful to you in your personal life and in your profession.

Happy reading,

Fausto Ramondelli
INTERSTENO President

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Shanghai, October 2014 - Council and IPRS meetings

These are the main topics which that be discussed and decided during these meetings.

- ·Report on the congress in Ghent 2013
- Approval of the minutes of the council meeting and general assembly in Ghent 2013
- Budget/finances:
 - INTERSTENO budget
 - contribution of the Federation at the occasion of the 50th INTERSTENO congress in a celebration event (final evening)
- Budapest 2015: presentation of this attractive and stunning city
- Budapest 2015: practical information
- Proposals of the jury
- INTERNET competition 2015
 - Proposal of parallel internet competition with world championship text production in Budapest.
- IPRS activities
- Scientific and education committee activities
- Report on the "Shorthand Unesco Masterpiece" meeting in Rome and next steps to take
- INTERSTENO new website project
- Marketing campaign and secretarial staff
- Events and projects to better involve the youth.
- Memberships
- Procedures of elections (Budapest 2015)
- Next congress 2017

IPRS meeting 1

- New developments in reporting technique
- Presentation by the Dutch delegation (correction website)
- Presentation by the Turkish delegation (post reporting services)
- Working in the 21st century reporter's office - Time to go green at work

IPRS meeting 2

- Navigating the IPRS website

The final program for the IPRS and Council meetings in Shanghai (October 22nd – 24th, 2014) is now available on our Shanghai 2014 page of <http://www.iprs-info.org>

For several items that will be discussed during the IPRS meetings, a list of questions has been published. We encourage anyone who is planning to attend the IPRS meetings to read these questions in advance and think about them. This will enable attendants to actively participate in the discussions.

On the way to Budapest 2015

Many steps already taken

It's not easy and it is a new approach for Intersteno to organize a Congress from a distant country, but the steering committee, with the important help of our Hungarian colleagues, has made some important steps in planning the organisation of our 50th Congress.

Full information about fees and accomodation will be released after the Council meeting in Shanghai.

You are invited to visit **www.intersteno2015.org** and **www.intersteno.org** in the next few months for planning and registering for the Congress and its interesting events.

Shorthand as a world heritage of humanity



Dott. Prof. Boris Neubauer reporting by Skype - in the centre one of the first 'Michela' portable stenomachines. From left Marco Cerini, Fausto Ramondelli, Carlo Eugeni.

As mentioned by Fausto Ramondelli about 80 people convened in Rome on 29th September 2014 to attend this event which marks the first step in submitting a request to Unesco to include shorthand as one of the masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity. The Italian title of this event 'Lettere mozze' is included in a tercet in Canto XIX of the Paradise part of Divine Comedy by the famous poet Dante Alighieri:

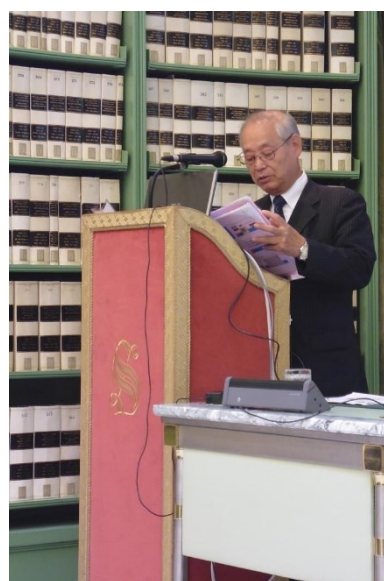
**And to declare how pitiful he is
Shall be his record in contracted letters
Which shall make note of much in little space**

The idea of making this request to Unesco came up during the last Congress in Ghent and it has now become a project of our Federation (as announced in our enews 61) which is supported by many countries.

Dott. Ramondelli opened the meeting by welcoming everybody, with special attention to Prof. Tsuguo Kaneko from Japan, Prof Waldir Cury (Brazil) who sent a video presentation with Italian text, Dr Prof Boris Neubauer (Germany) who made his report via Skype. Special thank were accorded to Mr Erich Werner (Switzerland), Ms Evitta Friedrich and Mr Elmut Friedrich (Austria) who joined the Italian colleagues coming to Rome.

Dott prof. Carlo Rodriguez - President of 'Accademia Aliprandi' - as well as Dott. Francesca Marchionni - President of onA.I.R. and now Italian representative to Intersteno - also released welcome messages. These two organizations sponsored and supported the organization of the event.

The reports in the English language were translated in real time by dott. Prof. Carlo Eugeni and made visible as subtitles using steno-machine with Melani software.



Prof. Tsuguo Kaneko

The three main reports focused on the many and different aspects and uses of steno during the millennia: Prof. Kaneko made evident the evolution of writing techniques with reference to the experiences in Japan, China and Korea, while Dott Neubauer also drew attention to shorthand in science and mentioned that Duploye shorthand signs has been integrated in 2012 into Unicode coding, while prof. Waldir Cury mentioned the experience of distance learning of shorthand which dates back to 1728 and now continues with digital lessons on the Internet. **His website attracts more than 20,000 visitors per month and has an average of 10 requests per day to start learning shorthand.**

Their reports are available in the **Archive of Scientific Committee** at <http://www.intersteno.org> website. A video of the whole event will be also released with subtitles in English and Spanish.

Dott. Fausto Ramondelli

Shorthand was used by ancient civilizations in many parts of the world: ever since, shorthand was not seen or used merely as a "recorder", as a reproduction of voice sounds but was always linked to the human capability of understanding the meaning of speeches and promulgating them to provide an easier and wider access for contemporary and future users.

Our proposal is motivated by the awareness of the historical, social and cultural value of shorthand, which not only embrace the historical professions, such as parliamentary and court reporting, but the most recent skills and techniques, such as speech-to-text, professional keyboarding and speech recognition.



From left the 9 years old young stenographer Giulio Bettazzoni, Attilio Galimberti, Annamaria Trombetti, Fausto Ramondelli, Francesca Chiusaroli, Carlo Eugeni

Dott. Prof. Carlo Eugeni chaired a panel session with contributions from five Italian steno experts . They prepared abstracts of their speeches which you can read below.

Dott. Marco Cerini.

An Italian linguist specialising in Mandarin pronunciation, freelance translator, and language teacher, Dr Cerini, 34, has been alternating academic research and work in the import-export industry, mainly thanks to his knowledge of Chinese. First as a student, then as a professional he has always considered shorthand to be an invaluable tool for collecting information in a swift, accurate, and practical fashion.

'I have been using shorthand pretty much since I was a seventh-grader. I learnt it on my own with the same book that my mom had used some twenty years earlier. The system being purely phonetic, I had little trouble understanding its mechanics, and after a period of adaptation, I became able to take down classes in shorthand notes. As I started working, shorthand once again proved to be an important asset in making sure that all instructions and data were recorded correctly.

More recently, I worked for nearly three years as a junior analyst in a Rome-based geopolitical think-tank specialising in the Middle East and the Arab-Islamic world at large. The largely journalistic nature of that job required promptness, accuracy and above all the ability to produce a large amount of written material from an even larger amount of sources, including newspapers, radio and TV programs, and even crude YouTube videos of Jihadist leaders! You can only imagine how useful shorthand proved to be. To me, the allegations that steno is obsolete are simply groundless, and frankly, plain stupid.

My shorthand skills have enabled me to produce exceptionally detailed summaries and reports, which modern speech recognition technology now allows us to translate into readable text in no time and with an accuracy rate that was simply unthinkable just ten years ago. Technological advances have made speech recognition softwares very reliable so that shorthand writers are now spared the exhausting and time-consuming task of manually transcribing their notes. And that simply proves once more that shorthand is not obsolete at all: in a nutshell, traditional stenography still retains a prestigious place in human civilization.'

Prof. Annamaria Trombetti

Shorthand is a timeless manual writing method, self-sufficient, synthetic, quick, confidential, safe and "light" for the writer's hand. By rewording a quotation by Mother Teresa of Calcutta it could be described as "a little pencil in humans' hands." Shorthand does not imply, as in any other abbreviation, breaking off parts of the words. Thanks to its shortened signs, literally cut off to the minimum, shorthand allows concepts to be fully rendered in the shortest possible space and time. Shorthand fulfills the ever-changing needs of languages and it provides the opportunity to "experience" the spoken word at different levels (aural, visual and mental). It has so far proven to be always up-to-date at every major historical turning point, available to be used by anybody regardless of their culture or race. In the current digital age shorthand merges favorably with the latest word reporting methods making the "Homo Stenographus" the most efficient collaborator of the Homo Sapiens (that nowadays is running the risk of becoming "insipiens"- Latin for "ignorant").

At the moment the Rome-based shorthand association Istituto "Scripturae Munus" is working on the transcription of Leone Caetani's travel diaries (about 6,000 pages) for the "Accademia dei Lincei" in Rome.

The issue now is the training of a new generation of stenographers for this very task and for continuing research in this field. It is clear that the role of shorthand in this world has not yet come to an end. Among the new disciples, a 9 year-old boy, Giulio Bettazzoni, stands out for his unique ability in learning languages and different forms of writing. An amazing writing technique in its third millennium, shorthand is still able to astonish us all.

Dott. Prof. Attilio Galimberti

Mr Galimberti highlighted some of the cultural activities carried out by "Scripturae Munus" (www.stenografando.it): translations of important historical documents written in shorthand and housed by the "Accademia dei Lincei" in Rome and other archives kept by religious institutions; publication of texts based on the translation of war diaries; shorthand courses in secondary and high schools in Rome; shorthand blended learning courses – completely free – for beginners; shorthand contests, etc.

Galimberti also stressed the fact that in Europe there are still other associations that deal with the training of reporters, such as the National Council for the Training of Journalists (www.nctj.com) in Great Britain. The most prestigious British newspapers and TV channels take on new personnel only if they have got 100 wpm shorthand.

Prof. Francesca Chiusaroli

The speech by Francesca Chiusaroli (teaching linguistics at the University of Macerata and author of the "Scritture Brevi" project on short writing) focused on positioning the modern stenographic tradition among the coeval academies of the European Western countries (such as the Royal Society and Port Royal).

In this intellectual context many important debates developed on the question of the perfect language/writing. This universalist perspective was personified by important intellectual figures like Renè Descartes, Francis Bacon, and John Amos Comenius. It also stimulated the development of proposals and projects leading to artificial and perfect languages, that is those languages which are meant to bridge the gaps between language and thought and between language and writing. In particular, these languages propose the creation of graphic signs as useful and univocal syntheses of concepts. The speech by Francesca Chiusaroli also concentrated on the capacity of stenographic methods to be exemplary representations of the application of the informativity principle and of the absolute functionalism of the smallest elements of writing. The perspective - related to the above-mentioned cultural context and historically precedes and inspires those "reduction" methods of language and its algebrical correlates such as Leibniz "characteristica", which are at the basis of those theories that gave birth to concepts such as binary opposition in IT and the algorithm of research engines. The theoretical framework of the speech by Francesca Chiusaroli is that of "scritturebrevi.it" i.e. "short writing", as defined by Chiusaroli & Zanzotto 2012 (italian website <http://www.scritturebrevi.it>)

Who's who

Several of the above cited names are well known to Intersteno people, but others have not the same familiarity, especially among young people, so we reproduce here the short biographies they prepared for the meeting in Rome.

Tsuguo Kaneko (Japan)

He began studying shorthand at high school in 1959. In 1962, while attending the University course, he began dealing with comparative studies on the different steno theories used in Japan. In the spring of 1963 he qualified as a stenographer in the Japanese Association of Shorthand Reporters and began employment in a newsroom, where he worked transcribing articles sent over the phone by distant correspondents. After becoming a journalist in 1966 he published many books on the culture, history, and science of shorthand. Since 2001 he has been secretary general of the Kansai Science Forum and representative of Japan to Intersteno. He is member of the Scientific Committee of Intersteno.

Waldir Cury (Brazil)

He initiated studies of shorthand (Martí system) when he was 18 under the influence of his sister who was a novice and later he succeeded in becoming a stenographer in the Parliament of Rio de Janeiro. Subsequently he became professor of shorthand, recognized by the Brazilian Ministry of Education. Today he is a retired but not inactive person. He is a member of the Education Committee of Intersteno, speaks Portuguese, English, French, Spanish, Italian and German, and in these languages has prepared three videos on the history of shorthand which are available in the Archive menu of the Education Committee. Moreover, for over 10 years he has managed a website which includes, among other interesting information, two e-learning paths for shorthand.

Boris Neubauer (Germany)

has a PhD in physics and is professor at the University of Applied Sciences Aachen, where he teaches the production and transmission of electricity. It could seem that shorthand

is, for Professor Dr. Neubauer a "hobby", but he is deeply involved in several steno activities, particularly as Chairman of the FAKT (German shorthand research Institute) which includes an important library on shorthand and prepares shorthand and wordprocessing/informatics teachers. In addition to speaking many foreign languages he took the champion's position in the multilingual competition of Wien 2005, writing in 13 languages. Professor Neubauer is also fluent in several steno systems: the German Unified one, Gabelsberger, Stolze-Schrey, Byrom and Duployé. He is member of the Scientific Committee of Interteno.

Anna Maria Trombetti

After studying at the Vatican School of Library and Archives she qualified to teach religious studies and shorthand. She has been member of the boards of several Italian entities: Fondazione Giuliotti, EUSI, ASMI. She is the official reporter of the Board of Directors of "La Sapienza" university in Rome on behalf of the reporting firm 'Tirone' in the the same town. Currently she is member of the Council of the Accademia Aliprandi-Rodriguez; President and co-founder of the "Scripturae Munus" for research, study and training in abbreviated writing ; columnist of the "Rivista degli Stenografi" and "Civiltà della scrittura" as well as a member of the "Associazione Italiana resocontisti stenografi". Among her many works are be to mentioned the transcriptions of the "Diary of war, deportation, imprisonment, and return" by Lieutenant Amedeo Ventura and "Travelogue in Persia" by Leone Caetani, the latter on behalf of the Accademia dei Lincei. Anna Maria Trombetti is also author of more than 2000 steno texts in rhyme and a graduating student at the University "Roma Tre" with a dissertation on the utility of learning Gabelsberger-Noe as a support in teaching the grammar of the Italian language.

Marco Cerini, sinologist and translator.

After graduating in Chinese and gaining a post-graduate degree in business internationalization, in 2013 he earned his doctorate at the Department of Linguistics, University "Ca 'Foscari", Venice. Work-wise, since 2005, he has been teaching Italian to Chinese people. He is a court interpreter, translator, export manager, import manager and a geopolitical analyst at an organisation dealing with the Arab-Islamic world. Languages are his main interest and his work tool (English, Chinese and Spanish), but he has plans to "complicate his life" by learning Arabic, Dutch and Japanese. He has practised the Sténital-Mosciaro steno system for 20 years and knows Cima and Meschini steno systems. He is also planning to learn Gabelsberger.

Attilio Galimberti

is a professor of English Language and Literature at High School "G. Falcone" in Bergamo and collaborates with the University of Bergamo as a tutor coordinator. He gained the diploma of teacher in shorthand and typewriting subjects and taught them for many years. He successfully took part in several regional, national and international championships in Italian, English and German. He is vice-president of the Institute "Scripturae Munus" collaborator and consultant in the field of transcribing shorthand manuscripts. He also works an interpreter and translator and a stenographer in Italian, English and German. He is a trainer of language teachers and author of textbooks and multimedia materials for learning English.

Francesca Chiusaroli

PhD in Linguistics at the University of Pisa, post-doctoral fellow at "L'Orientale" University in Naples. She is researcher at the University of Udine and associate at the "Tor Vergata" University of Rome. Currently she is a teacher at the 'University of Macerata, where, since the academic year 2013-14, she has been coordinator of the Laboratory of Phonetics and Writing. Since January 2014 she has been a member of the board of the Italian Society of Linguistics. Among her areas of research, we found the processes of turning into English the literature of earlier phases and the ethnography of writing; the problems of linguistics of the seventeenth century and the theorising of the perfect language. In 2010 she launched the interdisciplinary research project "Scritture brevi - short writings" with Fabio Massimo Zanotto of "Tor Vergata" University, which includes workshops with theoretical and applied approaches on the subject; speeches at conferences; publications; activities with schools; and the "www.scritturebrevi" blog managed with Fabio Massimo Zanotto.

TypeWorld Kids - a new way for learning typing



Type World Kids is the challenging online typing course for children from about 10 years. Children learn touch typing with ten fingers. Type Kids World is adapted to the world of the child, is highly interactive and fully online.

Type World Kids is designed as a game. It consists of twenty islands. Each island consists of a number of villages that are connected by roads. In the first village of each island Monique shows what should be done, as well as the correct fingering and encourages the pupil. In the other villages exercises are set out. There are also games to play. In the last village there is a test. When that is completed properly the next island becomes available.

When the exercises of some villages are correctly completed the student gets a reward (a gadget) for his own island making it even more comprehensive and more beautiful. That motivates the students. A student can also challenge someone to a practice or a game. Thus, a game can be played with everyone. Children find it fun and it encourages them to learn!

Full information and comments (in Dutch): www.instruct.nl/product/203/bo/typeworld-kids

Snappet - the Dutch tablet for elementary and middle school teaching (available also for German - Spanish and Italian)

This tablet is was specifically conceived by a Dutch organisation for teaching in elementary and middle schools. The main idea is to use it in a net environment, controlled by the teacher. This gives an opportunity for collective learning,

All educational activities can be divided into main phases: education, training and evaluation. In addition, a "classic" lesson with Snappet is divided into education, training, verification.

It is in these three phases that the Snappet Service comes into play: thanks to its exclusive control platform (dashboard), the teacher prepares the lesson and each student connects to the tablet on the system.



The teacher, through the personal dashboard, chooses and schedules one or more lessons. The selected lessons will appear on the tablet and the students will be able to start working in shared mode or in groups or individually immediately or in the following days.

The teacher can conduct a lesson in the usual way, with or without LIM, using the Snappet lessons to explain new topics, start new classes in a shared manner or to give additional instructions if needed.

In order to apply, practise and develop their knowledge the children carry out exercises on the tablet. The exercises are grouped by class and/or objectives for each lesson and normally require 20-30 minutes of study.

During the course the student will immediately know the results of his work. This immediate feedback permits a faster learning due to the immediacy of verification responses.

Through the dashboard the teacher is able to see in real time the progress of the class and of each student. When a student is in trouble, the platform highlights it immediately, allowing the teacher to decide whether to provide immediate help or let the student finish the lesson before providing an explanation. If the whole class is in difficulties the teacher can stop the lesson and provide an immediate traditional lesson and then restart the process.

After the lesson the teacher does not have to correct notebooks or workbooks since all results (except those related to questions with multiple answers or textual) have already been corrected and recorded by the Snappet, accompanied by daily, weekly and monthly statistics.

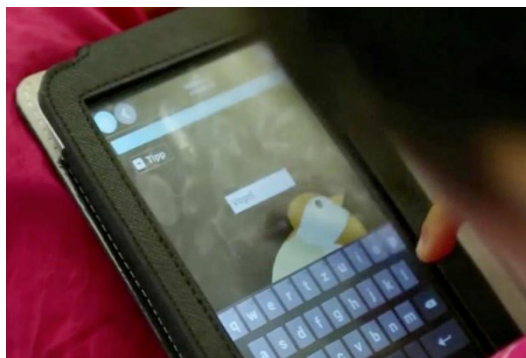
The teacher can at any time during the lesson analyse what has been done by each individual compared to the general level of the class.

It is also possible to observe, over time, the progress of each student for each particular teaching goal. All this makes it easier to prepare the following lessons or develop learning plans for students, as well as showing ratings/votes.

At the end of the session the teacher can assess the whole class summarizing what has just been learned and introducing what will be done later, establishing a line of continuity with the children.

In June last year in Berlin an international jury of educational researchers from the universities of ten European countries, decided that Snappet was the winner of the prestigious Comenius EduMedia Award. In particular the experts praised Snappet for its high educational quality.

The Comenius Edumedia Award is the most prestigious prize for German and European educational technology. The Society for Pedagogy and Information (GPI), a scientific society for multimedia, educational technology and media didactics, presents this award for the 195th time in 2014 for the 19th time.??? The jury's decision is based on a scientific evaluation based on the quality of the items submitted



to the Institute for Education and Media of the GPI. This year there were more than 150 applications from 25 countries from Europe, Asia and North America.

Pros and cons - Tablet versus textbooks

from the website <http://tablets-textbooks.procon.org/> - background

Publishing for the K-12 school market is an \$8 billion industry, with three companies - McGraw-Hill, Pearson, and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - capturing about 85% of this market. Tablets are a \$72 billion industry with 42% of US adults owning a tablet. As tablets have become more prevalent, a new debate has formed over whether K-12 school districts should switch from print textbooks to digital textbooks on tablets.

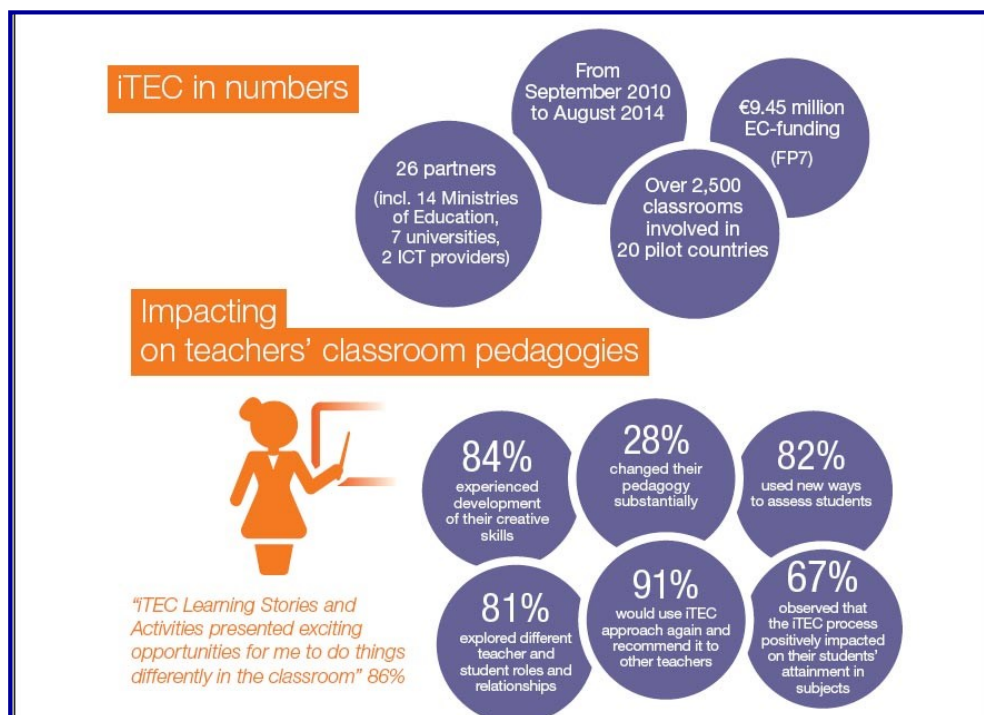
Proponents of tablets say that they are supported by most teachers and students, are much lighter than print textbooks and improve standardized test scores. They say tablets can hold hundreds of textbooks, save the environment by lowering the amount of printing, increase student interactivity and creativity, and that digital textbooks are cheaper than print textbooks.

Opponents of tablets say that they are expensive, too distracting for students, easy to break, and costly/time-consuming to fix. They say that tablets contribute to eyestrain, headaches, and blurred vision, increase the excuses available for students not doing their homework, require costly Wi-Fi networks, and become quickly outdated as new technologies emerge

A detailed list of Pros and cons is available at the above mentioned web site, here is the beginning of this document.

PRO Tablet	CON Tablet
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tablets help students learn more material faster. Technology-based instruction can reduce the time students take to reach a learning objective by 30-80%, according to the US Department of Education and studies by the National Training and Simulation Association. [6] 2. 81% of K-12 teachers believe that "tablets enrich classroom education." The survey of technology in the classroom by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) also concluded that 77% of teachers found technology to "increase student motivation to learn." [7] 3. Tablets can hold hundreds of textbooks on one device, plus homework, quizzes, and other files, eliminating the need for physical storage of books and classroom materials. The average tablet contains anywhere from 8 to 64 gigabytes (GB) of storage space. On the Amazon Kindle Fire, for instance, 1,000 books take up one GB of space. [8] 4. E-textbooks on tablets cost on average 50-60% less than print textbooks. According to a 2012 report from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), K-12 school districts spend more than \$8 billion per year on textbooks. [6] E-textbooks can save schools between \$250-\$1,000 per student per year. [9] Tablet prices also continue to drop, making them increasingly affordable. Tablets cost on 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Handheld technological devices including tablets are associated with a range of health problems. Handhelds contribute to Computer Vision Syndrome, which causes eyestrain, headaches, blurred vision, and dry eyes, according to the American Optometric Association. [20] People who use mobile devices more often have a higher incidence of musculoskeletal disorders associated with repetitive strain on muscles, including carpal tunnel syndrome, neck pain ("text neck"), shoulder pain, and fibromyalgia. [21][22] 2. Using tablets is more expensive than using print textbooks. Implementing tablets in K-12 schools requires purchasing hardware (the tablet) and software (the textbooks), building new wi-fi infrastructure, and training teachers and administrators how to use the technology. Implementation costs for e-textbooks on iPad tablets are 552% higher than new print textbooks in an average high school. Lee Wilson, a prominent education marketing expert, estimated the annual cost per student per class with tablets to be \$71.55 vs. \$14.26 for print textbooks. [23] 3. Tablets have too many distractions for classroom use. Students may pay attention to apps, email, games, and websites instead of their teachers. 87% of K-12 teachers believe that "today's digital technologies are creating an easily distracted generation with short attention spans." [24] Four-fifths of students aged 8 - 18 multitask while using digital media. [25]

European schools net - Designing the future classroom



The major pan-European project on the design of the future classroom, iTEC, came to a close at the end of August 2014. In the project European Schoolnet worked with education ministries, technology providers and research organisations to transform the way that technology is used in schools. Over the course of the project educational tools and resources were piloted in over 2,500 classrooms across 20 European countries, with the goal of providing a sustainable model for fundamentally redesigning teaching and learning. The project involved 26 project partners, including 14 Ministries of Education, and funding of €9.45 million from the European Commission's FP7 programme.

The results of the project have been published in the form of a magazine "Designing the future classroom" N°2, available in five languages. The articles include stories from teachers and project partners, as well as a preview to the iTEC school pilot results and training activities, including the Future Classroom Scenarios course.

The magazine includes also articles on two related projects: Living Schools Lab and Creative Classrooms Lab.

Download the magazine "Designing the future classroom" N°2 using the following links:

- English
- German - Deutsch
- French - Français
- Spanish - Español
- Italian - Italiano

GCHQ harnessing analytical skills of 120 dyslexic and dyspraxic spies



GCHQ is an intelligence and security organisation working to keep Britain safe and secure in the challenging environment of modern communications.

From a release of TechWorld, dated September 22, we learn that it employs over 100 dyslexic and dyspraxic 'neuro-diverse' spies as they possess many of the analytical skills needed to help fight terrorism.

The intelligence agency said it was drawing on their ability to analyse complex information in a "dispassionate, logical and analytical" way.

People with dyslexia and dyspraxia don't always excel when it comes to reading and writing but are often extremely skilled at deciphering facts from patterns or events.

The chairman of the dyslexic and dyspraxic support community at GCHQ, simply referred to as "Matt" for anonymity reasons, told The Sunday Times: "What people don't realise is that people with neuro diversity usually have a 'spikyskills' profile, which means that certain skill areas will be below par and others may be well above.

"My reading might be slower than some individuals and maybe my spelling is appalling, and my handwriting definitely is ... but if you look at the positive side, my 3D spacial-perception awareness and creativity is in the top one percent of my peer group."

GCHQ, which has a workforce of approximately 5,300, said it employs some 120 "neuro-diverse" staff to fight terrorism and root out hackers.

A GCHQ official said: "Neuro-diverse individuals can bring additional value to the full spectrum of roles and jobs across the department."

Inquiry by the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) into live streaming - video on demand - subtitling and use of speech recognition.



Here are the conclusions:

Live Stream Subtitling: Results of the inquiry (2449) held among ECPRD-Members

We received 37 replies from 32 countries to the inquiry held among ECPRD-members. From Austria, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Russia, replies were received from both chambers of the national parliaments. We also received a response from the European Parliament.

The inquiry results show that 36 of the 37 responding parliaments do offer a live stream of the plenary debates held in parliament. Many of them provide live streaming of (some of) meetings of standing committees as well. None of the responding countries offer subtitles for all parliamentary live streams. In a few countries particularly important debates and/or question time are subtitled. This is standing practice in the Netherlands as well. Subtitling is practically without exception outsourced to external companies, and thus not done by the parliaments themselves.

Canada and the European Parliament do offer subtitles of recorded debates but this seems to be mainly triggered by these institutions' multilingual character. In these cases too, the subtitles are not produced in-house. The subtitling is outsourced to external companies.

11 countries report that they either intend to have their live debates subtitled in the future or are in the process of decision-making about subtitling. Poland is quite advanced in testing and the Slovak Republic has already completed pilot testing, but mentions that the costs are too high at the moment.

Remarkably, 8 parliaments report that they work with sign language interpreters.

You can read the full report with data about each parliament at the IPRS-info.org website, via this link

Beyond Access - Libraries Powering Development



Beyond Access is a global community of public library advocates and practitioners who believe libraries are an untapped resource in addressing the world's most pressing development challenges.

Everything Beyond Access does focusses on one goal: advancing individual and community development. Modern public libraries have a key role to play in achieving this goal.

Beyond Access ensures that governments and international aid organizations harness this powerful asset. At the same time, we work with libraries to ensure that they have the support and resources they need to form partnerships, manage projects, and effect social and economic change in their communities.

To do this, Beyond Access encourages dialogue, assembles a community and facilitates partnerships. It also supports libraries and non-government organizations, and provides services to development practitioners, donors, and all levels of government.

Finally, it creates and curates resources, with a particular focus on expanding the vision of the modern library, advancing ideas around key issues and opportunities, and documenting innovative approaches and models so that others can replicate and extend our work.

Please visit <http://beyondaccess.net/>

Worth reading

5,500 New Court Reporter Jobs Projected Across U.S.

On September 8, 2014 NCRA released information about the results of an independent study conducted by Ducker Worldwide, one of the nation's leading marketplace analyst firms. We reproduce here the main headlines.

Supply of court reporters is currently balanced with overall demand in the United States.

There are approximately 32,000 stenographic court reporters working as court reporters in the United States. That number is balanced with overall demand although there are some limited regional shortages and surpluses across the country.

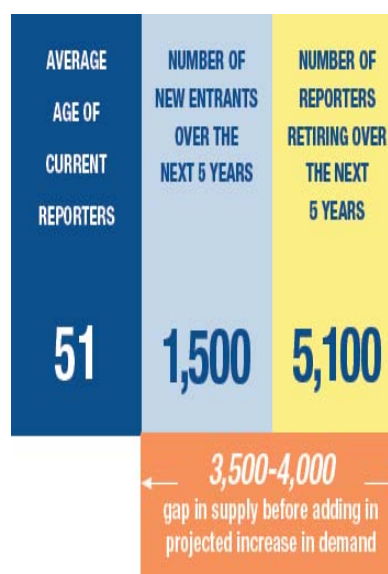
However, demand for court reporters will exceed supply within five years.



Increased legal activity and new opportunities will drive demand despite the steady transition of some courts to digital recording. Decreased enrolment and graduation rates for court reporters, combined with significant retirement rates, will create by 2018 a critical shortfall projected to represent nearly 5,500 court reporting positions.

“Projected shortages in the stenographic court reporting profession come at a time when many graduates with traditional four-year degrees are struggling to find employment,” said Jim Cudahy, CAE and Executive Director of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA).

“Court reporting is a career path with above average job security and earning potential as compared to its more traditional counterparts. With opportunities for court reporters on the rise, students who graduate will hold more than a piece of paper - they’ll hold a job.”



The opportunity for new stenographic court reporters is substantial over the next five years and beyond.

The established coming shortage of stenographic court reporters presents a one-time, substantial opportunity for those seeking a lucrative career with a secure future. Already, court reporting schools are quickly able to connect their graduates with jobs, a trend that will strengthen as the shortage takes hold over the coming years.

When market forces are in play, such as in the deposition side of the business, stenographic court reporters remain the overwhelming choice of attorneys, judges, and others making a day-to-day judgment of the best method for capturing the spoken word and converting it to text. As such, when the aforementioned shortage begins to manifest itself, the opportunity for those entering the court reporting profession will present a corresponding employment opportunity.

New technologies will continue to impact all aspects of court reporting.

New technologies have been developed to assist the court reporter in producing an accurate record with better equipment and better software. At the same time, competing technologies such as digital recording and even voice recognition are making headway. Increased emphasis on improving digital recording procedures and voice recognition software accuracy will occur

Prevalence of digital audio recording

Digital audio/visual recording methods are prevalent in pockets of courts throughout the United States. In fact, there are some states that are using the process almost exclusively and make little or no use of stenographic court reporters. In most cases, courts convert to digital recording to assist with budget constraints. When properly executed, which includes a trained courtroom monitor, digital recording is perceived by some to be an effective method for taking official records in court proceedings; however, there have been numerous examples in recent history of legal proceedings being negatively impacted by incomplete or missing recordings.

CART captioning/broadcast captioning demand

Outside of the legal industry, the demand for stenographic court reporters in CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation) captioning and broadcast captioning provides additional opportunities for skilled reporters. The current pool of reporters who are able to perform CART captioning or broadcast captioning is relatively small, as it requires the highest skills in stenography.

The ability to transcribe the spoken word very quickly has led to a wide range of opportunities in the fields of broadcast captioning and CART captioning. Both offer the opportunity to transcribe the spoken word in different settings, whether it's a sporting event, religious or civic service, news broadcast, or other form of entertainment. With more than 48 million Americans experiencing hearing loss in at least one ear, the need for broadcast and CART captioning has expanded greatly in recent years.

You can read the full 16 pages report at

http://www.crtakenote.com/about-court-reporting/2013-14_NCRA_Industry_Outlook.pdf

News from Countries

England: Deaf English users are unable to access registered communication professionals when they need to.



In Scotland, there are around 80 BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE/English interpreters registered with The National Registers of Communication Professionals working with Deaf and Deafblind People (NRCPD) or The Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters (SASLI), covering approximately 13,000 BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE users.

Action on Hearing Loss (AHL) estimates that there are around 850,000 people with a hearing loss in Scotland.

The majority of these communicate using English. They rely upon communication support provided by speech to text reporters (STTRs), electronic or manual notetakers, and lipspeakers.

Collectively, this group is known as Access to Communication in English (ACE) professionals. NRCPD is the only body which holds a register for all of the ACE professions.

So there are lots of registered ACE professionals, aren't there? In fact, there are only THREE registered professionals for the whole of Scotland. Yes, just three! That is roughly one registered electronic notetaker or lipspeaker for every 283,000 D/deaf people.

A further eight are eligible, but not currently registered with NRCPD. The figures are similar for Northern Ireland and Wales, with only a moderate improvement for England.

Deaf English users are unable to access registered communication professionals when and how they need to.

A new Signature lipspeaking award is due to be launched soon. For electronic notetaking however, the only formal qualification available is an Open College Network Award. This is run by training centres in London and Manchester. This award is still to be accredited by NRCPD and does not lead to registration status.

Why is registration important? NRCPD Registration ensures that you have met the national occupational standards (NOS). Registrants agree to adhere to a code of conduct

and abide by a formal complaints procedure. This protects service users and ensures that confidentiality will be maintained.

Registrants must also hold professional indemnity insurance, have undergone criminal records checks and commit to at least 30 hours of continuous professional development each year.

In Scotland, there are no registered verbatim speech to text reporters. Therefore, electronic notetakers provide a non verbatim communication service. They work in the same domains as BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE/English interpreters. This includes all levels of court, police interviews, medical and tribunal settings.

The Scottish legal system largely recognises the importance of using qualified, registered BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE/English interpreters. However, this is not the case with electronic notetakers. Perhaps because there are so few. The emergence of "Remote Respeakers" is set to complicate matters further still.

Remote responders use voice recognition technology to produce live captions at meetings and events. Currently there is no recognised responder training programme that leads to NRCPD registration.

For BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE/English interpreters, there is a risk of co-working with unqualified, unregistered electronic notetakers or responders.

Each of these produce a permanent record of the interpreter's translation. Increasingly, they are expected to provide a transcript of the discussion not just to clients but event organisers. The transcript might then be shared with a wider audience or even published online.

Excerpt from The Limping Chicken, the UK's independent deaf news and deaf blogs website.

Italy - new Intersteno group

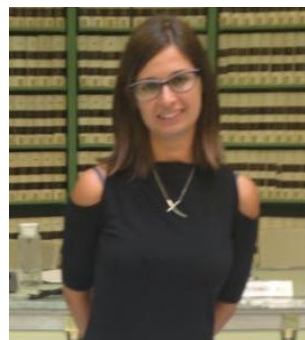
As at 15th September 2015 the Italian Comitato Intersteno ended its activities, which were instigated for the Rome Congress 2003. Its work has now been transferred to onA.I.R. respeaking which is a non-profit association headed by Dott. Francesca Marchionne, who is the President and who will head up the Italian representative at the Council. She is already known to several of other colleagues and will attend the Council meeting in Shanghai.

The board of onA.I.R. includes: Dott. Valeria Pasca, Dott. Tiziana Trapani, Dott. Elena Graziosi and Dott. Carlo Eugeni, they are young, dynamic and very professional people, who will surely be able further to improve the reality of Intersteno in this country.

Marialuisa Corti and Gian Paolo Trivulzio, as well as other members involved in supporting Intersteno activity in Italy, will assist the new group to ensure a complete and successful take-off.

We owe many thanks to those who contributed to the success of Intersteno activities in Italy during these long years of fruitful cooperation.

Maria Luisa Corti - Gian Paolo Trivulzio



United States - NCRA Convention 2014 -San Francisco



The annual convention and exhibition was held July 31 - August 3, 2014 at the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco.

The picture shows participants in the competition, headed by Ms. Teri Gaudet who is at the podium.

The competition was attended by 38 NCRA members. Contestants wrote and transcribed three legs each of five minutes in length – 220 wpm literary, 230 wpm legal opinion, and 280 wpm testimony, with the goal of qualifying for each with an accuracy of 95 percent or better. The best combined score wins the championship.

Here is an excerpt of an interesting report of Mr Zusha Elinson of the Wall Street Journal.

"The "Olympics of court reporting," as it is often called, kicked off with a speech, read at precisely 200 words a minute. The stenographers' fingers began to fly. Onlookers, numbering fewer than the contestants, didn't cheer. In fact, they were completely silent, though some made typing motions in a sort of "air court reporting" to see if they could keep up.

Mr. Kislingbury was a clear favourite in this competition. He holds the world speed record in this arcane craft with a transcription rate of 360 words a minute. The speed comes from his new brand of stenography, which minimizes the number of keystrokes by using a vast array of shortcuts for words and phrases.

On this day, his time-saving philosophy would be put to the test. Sitting a few feet away from him was Jo Ann Bryce, a quick-fingered, old-school court reporter who favours a more traditional style that involves typing out more of the words phonetically. The 59-year-old Ms. Bryce, who works in San Francisco federal court and has been a court reporter for 39 years, also pooh-poohs the pursuit of fame, saying, "I just do it for fun."

Coming into this year's competition, Ms. Bryce and Mr. Kislingbury each had won a record four real-time championships, a contest in which competitors must produce the most accurate transcript without any editing. So this was, in some respects, a showdown between stenographic styles, although Mr. Kislingbury is the most decorated court reporter overall, having won seven crowns in the separate speed competition.

At the championships Ms. Bryce stared straight ahead at the reader, never looking down as her fingers glided quickly and easily over the keyboard. Mr. Kislingbury moved at a more deliberate pace because of his many shortcuts.

In the end, it wasn't close. Ms. Bryce swept both the real-time and the speed competitions, ultimately winning gold medals in all five categories contested."

Ms Gaudet also arranged on this occasion a meeting for spreading information about our Federation, the Internet contest and our next Congress in Budapest. She announced it on Facebook with this post: "The don't-miss seminar of the NCRA Convention: Intersteno - Expand Your Business Horizons, Saturday, August 2, 4:00-5:30 p.m. Don't let the title fool you. Do you have questions about Intersteno generally? About international speed contests? Networking for international assignments? Curious about overseas colleagues? Just want to talk about travel to cool locales for CEUs and fun? We'll be covering all that!"

Many heartfelt thanks to Ms. Gaudet for her activity in promoting Intersteno.

United States - NCRA launch online skill tests in 2015



Beginning in 2015 NCRA will move away from the traditional brick-and-mortar testing sites and shift skills tests to an online proctoring model using the advanced technologies of myRealtimeCoach and ProctorU. Benefits of this new format include:

- Increased convenience – test when you're ready
- Test from the comfort of your home or office
- No distractions
- Flexible scheduling – you will be able to take a test when you are ready, not just in May, August, and November as the current model dictates
- Cost savings – no more travel, gas, hotel expenses to the closest testing site
- Decreased anxiety – take the test in your own environment

NCRA is pleased to partner with Realtime Learning Systems ("myRealtimeCoach") and ProctorU to offer online testing.

Realtime Coach For over 30 years the creators of Realtime Coach have delivered world class online learning and testing solutions to students and working professionals alike. In early 2006, Realtime Coach was launched as a smart, fun, and habit-forming way to increase speed, accuracy, and confidence. It quickly became the most popular online skill-building and assessment tool on the planet, with nearly 2 million practice hours logged, thousands of tests delivered and scored, and a growing and energetic membership.

ProctorU is a live online proctoring service for candidates taking exams online. ProctorU's professional proctors use a three-step process to replicate the face to-face proctoring experience over the Internet: 1) The proctor connects with the candidate via a Web cam, 2) the proctor monitors the candidate's computer screen in real time, and 3) the proctor authenticates the candidate's identity using a multi-factor process. Through this process, the professional proctors can see the candidate, see what they are doing, and know who they are monitoring.

What's new

YouTube offline available in India

On September 14th it was announced that after Android One India will have another first from Google as the tech giant plans to make YouTube available offline, allowing people to save on download charges for watching their favourite videos. Once the service is available offline, viewers can download the video, save it and watch it later without downloading it again and in turn save on recurring data download charges.



"YouTube is popular in India. You watch some videos again and again. How awesome would it be if you could keep watching them again and again without having to pay for data, and take the videos with you wherever you go?" Google Vice President Product Management Cesar Sengupta said.

As of now, this service is not available in any other country. *"You can download a video once, save it to your phone, and watch it again and again,"* he said.

According to industry reports, the online video consumption is pegged at over 3.7 billion videos per month in India.

According to recent market research the total online video audience in this country saw growth of over 70 per cent in 2013 with the average viewer watching 18 per cent more videos and spending 28 per cent more time viewing.

Video consumption on mobile phones has also been growing steadily: YouTube alone gets over 60 million unique users a month and about one-third of the traffic coming from mobile phones.

India is the first country where Google has launched its Android One smartphones, in partnership with handset makers Micromax, Karbonn and Spice. Other countries such as Indonesia, Bangladesh and Philippines will follow in the coming months.

Mastercard trials voice and face recognition mobile payment technology

Mastercard says it has completed a "successful" voice and facial recognition payments trial.

The credit card firm created a beta mobile app which it tested in an "e-commerce environment on over 14,000 transactions". The closed pilot involved Mastercard employees from around the world.



Mastercard said it wanted to understand the consumer experience around voice and facial recognition using both the Android and iOS operating systems on mobile devices.

Ajay Bhalla, Mastercard president for enterprise safety and security, said of the trial, "The results were very exciting, yielding a successful verification rate of 98 percent, mixing a combination of voice and facial recognition. The process usually took less than 10 seconds."

EVENTS

AIETI7: NEW HORIZONS IN TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING STUDIES - Malaga (Spain) 29-31 January 2015



The 7th International Conference of the Iberian Association of Translation and Interpreting Studies (AIETI) will be held in Malaga.

This year's conference aims to provide a forum for discussion which reflects the most current and updated research in order to promote and disseminate the constant changes and developments in the field of translation and interpreting, both at academic and professional levels.

The conference topics will mainly be:

- Research methodology in translation and Interpreting
- Theory, history and teaching of Translation and interpreting
- Legal and administrative translation
- Scientific/technical translation
- Literary translation
- Audiovisual translation
- Machine Translation and post-editing
- Translation and interpreting technologies
- Corpus-based/driven translation and interpreting
- Different modes of interpreting

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