



ACCESSIBILITY AND COMPUTING

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Special Interest Group on
Accessible Computing

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Contents:

	From the Editor	1
1	AccessComputing: An alliance to increase the participation of individuals with disabilities in computing careers	3
2	Challenges, Solutions for Screen Reader / I.T. Interoperability	10
3	W4A – International Cross-Disciplinary Workshop on Web Accessibility Workshop Report – 2006	21
4	Member profile – Julio Abascal	33
5	Member profile – Joan Francioni	36
6	Member profile – Matt Huenerfauth	38
7	Member profile – Frankie James	41
8	Member profile – Blaise W. Liffick	43
9	Member profile – Edmund LoPresti	45
10	Member profile – Kathleen F. McCoy	47
11	Member profile – Jessica Paradise Elliott	50
12	Member profile – David Sloan	52
13	Member profile – Andrea Tartaro	54
14	Member profile – Jim Thatcher	56
15	Call for Participation – ASSETS 2006	57

SIGACCESS Newsletter

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SIGACCESS Officers & Information

Chairperson

Vicki Hanson
IBM T.J. Watson Research Center
19 Skyline Drive
Hawthorne, NY 10532, USA.
+1-914-784-6603 (work)
chair_SIGACCESS@acm.org

Vice-chairperson

Jennifer Mankoff
HCI Institute,
School of Computer Science
Carnegie Mellon University
5000 Forbes Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3891, USA
+1 (412) 268-1295 (work)
vc_SIGACCESS@acm.org

Secretary/Treasurer

Andrew Sears
Information Systems Dept.
UMBC
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250, USA.
+1-410-455-3883 (work)
treasurer_SIGACCESS@acm.org

Newsletter Editor

Simeon Keates,
IBM TJ Watson Research Center
19 Skyline Drive
Hawthorne, NY 10532, USA.
editors_SIGACCESS@acm.org

Who we are

SIGACCESS is a special interest group of ACM. The SIGACCESS Newsletter is published regularly in January, June, and September. We encourage a wide variety of contributions, such as: letters to the editor, technical papers, short reports, reviews of papers of products, abstracts, book reviews, conference reports and/or announcements, interesting web page URLs, local activity reports, etc. Actually, we solicit almost anything of interest to our readers.

Material may be reproduced from the Newsletter for non-commercial use with credit to the author and SIGACCESS. Deadlines are one month before publication dates. Submissions may be sent as hard copy (paper), but machine-readable files are preferred. Postscript or PDF files may be used if layout is important, but word-processor files, text files, or e-mail are also acceptable. Ask the editor if in doubt.

Finally, you may publish your work here before submitting it elsewhere. We are a very informal forum for sharing ideas with others who have common interests.

Anyone interested in editing a special issue on an appropriate topic should contact the editor.

Accessibility and Computing



The Newsletter of ACM SIGACCESS

NUMBER 85, June 2006

A note from the Editor

Dear SIGACCESS member:

Welcome to another issue of the SIGACCESS Newsletter and it is a real bumper issue with almost 60 pages of articles.

This issue is also a little different to those that have preceded it. This Newsletter begins with 3 regular articles, but the remainder of the Newsletter is something of a celebration of the diversity of the SIG members. 11 members were selected at random from the database and asked to provide profiles of their research projects, background and motivation for working in this area. The aim of these articles is to help personalise SIGACCESS and give Newsletter readers, especially those who do not have the opportunity to attend the SIG sponsored conferences such as ASSETS, a chance to learn more about other members of SIGACCESS.

About this issue

We begin with a call for participation for the AccessComputing initiative by Sheryl Burgstahler and Richard Ladner of the University of Washington. AccessComputing is an alliance to increase the participation of individuals with disabilities in computing careers.

This is followed by an article on “Challenges and Solutions for Screen Reader / I.T. Interoperability” by Kip Harris of IBM in which he discusses the inherent difficulties in extracting the underlying meaning of interfaces via a screen reader and potential methods for achieving such extraction.

Finally, of the regular articles, Simon Harper, Yeliz Yesilada and Carole Goble of the University of Manchester present a report on the 2006 W4A – International Cross-Disciplinary Workshop on Web Accessibility Workshop Report, sponsored by SIGACCESS.

The remaining articles in this issue are the membership profiles of: Julio Abascal, Joan Francioni, Matt Huenerfauth, Frankie James, Blaise W. Liffick, Edmund LoPresti,

Kathleen F. McCoy, Jessica Paradise Elliott, David Sloan, Andrea Tartaro and Jim Thatcher.

And finally...

This issue finishes with the call for participation for ASSETS 2006. While the deadline for technical papers has passed, there is still time to submit posters and demonstration papers and also to submit entries for the Doctoral Consortium and the all new Student Research Competition. These last two categories include significant funding support for the authors of accepted entries. With funding potentially available for up to 37 students, they offer excellent opportunities for students on a budget to participate in the ASSETS conference.

The ASSETS web-site can be found at:

<http://www.acm.org/sigaccess/assets06/>

Simeon Keates

Newsletter Editor