

ELGE – E-Learning for hearing impaired and deaf people

Project name: ELGE – E-Learning fuer Gehoerlose
(E-Learning for hearing impaired and deaf people)

Project type: National research project

Project start: 01-07-07

Project end: 01-01-09

Outcome: Demo Version and Prototype of the Online Platform

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A project by



and



Austrian Association for hearing
impaired and deaf people

Background

The ELGE project is an Austrian research project that aims at developing an E-Learning system for hearing impaired and deaf people on national level. The main idea is to create a comprehensive e-learning system, customized to the needs of the target group.

In order to better assess and integrate the needs of the users, the project will be carried out in close co-operation with the WITAF (Austrian Association for hearing impaired and deaf people). A special feature of the system will be to include the users by giving them the possibility to generate and publish contents by themselves on the learning platform.

Research Topic

How to produce optimised E-Learning for hearing impaired? The first aim of project ELGE is to find out the conditions of E-learning for hearing impaired and deaf. We think that the inclusion of sign language must be an integral part of this procedure but simply translating

spoken words to sign language might not enough.

The content and the learning platform have to be highly usable from a visual point of view. (Not only) hearing impaired people have difficulties in understanding written guides. So it is very important to design the whole process of learning seamlessly understandable by using as little written information as possible. This also applies to the second aim: finding out conditions of user generated content for deaf and hearing impaired.

Why E-Learning for hearing impaired?

.) Training Centres for hearing impaired are in most cases localised in big cities. As a consequence it is time consuming and expensive to participate in these courses.

.) If the training is not designed especially for hearing impaired, a sign language translator is needed, who costs money and has to be organised separately.

E-Learning is portable and – with ELGE – especially designed for hearing impaired.

The Webducation Learning System for hearing impaired

The backbone of the developed procedure will be the Webducation Learning System, which combines high quality content with quick updating and easy integration of data based information. One of the main characteristics of this system is to motivate the user to become active him-/herself by getting the users emotionally involved. The content is arranged mainly audiovisual, with a continuous dramaturgy that encourages the user to learn with joy. The usage of text is reduced to a minimum and shifted to text library sections. By using these means, by telling a story and involving the user on an emotional level the motivation of the learner is much higher than it is in ordinary screen based learning programmes, where the monotonous way of content provision is often causing frustration.

The synergy of animated content and video is very suitable for the needs of hearing impaired and deaf people. Based on our experiences with this approved system we started to ask, which characteristics does a tool need in order to be easy-to handle for hearing impaired and deaf people? How can we achieve the best usability of such a tool? How to best integrate the users in order to maximise the acceptance among the target group? All these questions shall be dealt with in the ELGE project.

Contact

If you are interested in ELGE and want to contribute to the project, don't hesitate to contact us:

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Media convergence

ELGE develops a procedure to produce highly convertible content, which will be transformed mainly automatically into different media such as:

- .) Traditional Webpage
- .) SCORM compatible Web Based Training
- .) CD-ROM based Computer Based Training for offline users.
- .) AppleTV, WindowsMediaCentre
- .) Pocket PC, iphone, palm, ipTV etc.
- .) Videopodcast for video-ipod

Having the content available on different media enables learning in different situations and contexts (on the go, at home, at work).

User generated Content

ELGE will offer possibilities for hearing impaired and deaf to produce content by themselves. Again the process has to be seamlessly understandable. The project will find out, how easy and motivating the process of recording videopodcast-based content can be provided. The content will be shared among users via Internet platform. One project aim is to find out, how the target group likes the idea of generating and sharing content. For this purpose the platform will be developed in close co-operation with the target group.

The outcome will be a Demo Version and Prototype of the E-Learning programme.

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