Press kit
9th European e-Accessibility Forum

Disability and Technology: e-Accessible Knowledge

Opening speech by Axelle Lemaire, French Minister for Digital Affairs
Monday 8 June 2015, 9am – 5pm
Cité des Sciences et de l’Industrie, Paris

#EDUCATION #CULTURE #DIGITAL #ELEARNING
#PUBLISHING #DISABILITY #ACCESSIBILITY #MOOC

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WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN e-ACCESSIBILITY FORUM?

A unique event highlighting how digital technologies have the potential to make significant improvements in the lives of disabled persons

Focusing on the role that information and communication technologies (ICT) can play in enhancing universal access to knowledge, the 9th European e-Accessibility Forum, which will be held at the Museum of Science and Industry, will bring together experts from universities, distance learning centres, libraries and museums, standardisation bodies, businesses and non-profit organisations. Plenary sessions will be complemented by practical demonstrations and workshops focusing on innovations in the domain of e-Accessible Knowledge.

This conference is aimed at professionals from the educational, publishing, cultural and digital sectors, as well as disability organisations.

The Forum is held under the aegis of François Hollande, President of France, Thorbjørn Jagland, General Secretary of the Council of Europe, Axelle Lemaire, French Deputy Minister for Digital Affairs, and the Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research.
Access to Knowledge for All

Disparities in capacity to access and use knowledge can greatly hinder the development of an inclusive society and become a major source of inequality. While significant progress has been made through assistive technologies and accessibility standards, persons with disabilities are still at risk of exclusion, from education in particular. If they are designed inclusively following agreed formats and standards, e-learning tools such as eBooks, virtual classrooms, digital libraries and online MOOCs have the potential to help overcome these disparities and meet specific needs.

The 2015 Forum will aim to provide concrete examples of this potential through a host of internationally recognised speakers who play a leading role in the dissemination of knowledge and culture.

The Forum will be opened by Axelle Lemaire, French Minister for Digital Affairs
The first European e-Accessibility Forum took place in 2007 through a partnership established between the Cité des Sciences et de l’Industrie and BrailleNet.

The Forum unites stakeholders from across the globe to encourage discussion, to promote good practice and to explore innovative ways to create a more inclusive society.

The Forum in pictures

Our scientific partners:
ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL – A PRIORITY

5.5 million registered disabled persons in France in 2013, and over 1 billion in the world

2 out of 10 young disabled persons go on to higher education

Less than 8% of books published each year are available in an accessible format
Did you know…?

- Software exists that is capable of automatically vocalising mathematical formulae or chemistry diagrams
- It is possible to take a picture of a printed page with a smartphone, and use an iOS application to interpret and read that page to a blind or visually impaired user
- Museums, such as the British Museum, are using digital technology to open up their collections to the widest possible audiences
- Over 1,000 CNED teachers and 230,000 CNED students are set to benefit from the higher education institution's digital accessibility programme
- The Finnish have their very own digital Sign Language Library
- Scottish students with disabilities are able to take exams with digital rather than human assistance
- The Cartable Fantastic offers free access to learning materials and accessible books for children with dyspraxia and other such disabilities

... Find out about these, and many more efforts to provide access to knowledge for all, at the 2015 Forum!
Conference Sessions

5 sessions presenting 14 papers:

09h00 - 09h30: Opening Session
09h30 - 10h30: Framing e-Accessible Knowledge
11h00 - 12h15: Making Complex Content Accessible
14h45 - 16h00: Developing Accessible Learning Experiences
16h00 - 17h00: Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Learning

5 sessions composed of 14 demonstrations, mini-conferences, and workshops:

12h30 - 13h20: DEMONSTRATIONS: Adapting complex content
13h30 - 14h20: MINI-CONFERENCE: Accessible e-Learning & MOOCs
12h30 - 14h30: DEMONSTRATIONS: Innovative Solutions
12h30 - 13h20: WORKSHOP: Managing an e-Accessibility project
13h30 - 14h20: WORKSHOP: Producing accessible books
Speakers & Exhibitors

Matthieu Nebra

Caroline Huron

Jean Millerat

Aurélie Houssin

George Kerscher, Avneesh Singh, Jean-Pierre Carpanini

Riitta Vivolin-Karen

Jean-Philippe Moreux

Neil Soiffer
PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

ABOU-ZAHRA Shadi, W3C/WAI
ASSIMACOPOULOS André, Association pour le Bien des Aveugles (Switzerland)
BERNIER Alex, Association BrailleNet (France)
BURGER Dominique, UPMC-INSERM, Président de BrailleNet (France)
ENGELEN Jan, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium)
HURON Caroline, INSERM (France)
KAHLISCH Thomas, Deutsche Zentralbücherei für Blinde, Leipzig (Germany)
KERSCHER George, Daisy Consortium
KRIKHAAR Koen, Dedicon (The Netherlands)
LAURIN Susanna, Funka Nu (Sweden)
LEBLOIS Axel, G3ICT (USA)
LUCENO Varju, Daisy Consortium
LUCIEN-BRUN Stéphanie, CFHE (French Council of Disabled People for European Affairs)
MARMOL Bruno, Institut National de la Recherche en Informatique Automatique (France)
MAY Mike, Sendero Group (USA)
MIESENBERGER Klaus, Johannes Kepler University, Linz (Austria)
OUALID Magali, Institut National de l'Histoire de l'Art (France)
PETRIE Helen, University of York (UK)
RICE Donal, Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (Ireland)
SANCHEZ Jordi, Code Factory (Spain)
TORNER Véronique, AlterWay (France)
TYLER Steve, Royal National Institute for the Blind (UK)
VARGENAU Marc-Etienne, Alcatel-Lucent (France)
**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

**Official languages:** English and French. Simultaneous English/French translation will be provided for all papers.

**Accessibility:** The building meets accessibility standards. Live captioning will be provided for all papers.

**Address:**

Cité des sciences
30 Avenue Corentin Cariou
75019 Paris

**Conference programme and registration:** [http://eaf2015.braillenet.org](http://eaf2015.braillenet.org)

**Public Relations contact:** tiphaine.vidal@braillenet.org – 00 33 (0)1 85 09 06 47
They support the Forum

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Institutional support
BrailleNet, a non-profit organisation, has **over 15 years’ experience** organising high-level seminars and conferences on e-Accessibility.

As **France’s leader in e-Accessibility**, BrailleNet coordinates and participates in research programmes and provides dedicated services to people with disabilities, such as the Bibliothèque Numérique Francophone Accessible (BNFA), a library offering up to 30,000 accessible e-books.

**BrailleNet in France:**
- 1,500 e-Accessibility experts trained by BrailleNet (AccessiWeb)
- Over 2,000 professionals who regularly participate in BrailleNet events

**BrailleNet elsewhere:**
- Long standing member of W3C
- Member of European and international projects such as AcceSciTech
FULL PROGRAMME

09h00 - 09h30: Opening Session
  o Welcome Address
    Claude FARGE (Universcience - Cité des Sciences)
  o Introduction to the conference
    Dominique BURGER (UPMC-INSERM - BrailleNet)
  o Opening Speech
    Axelle LEMAIRE (French Minister for Digital Affairs)

09h30 - 10h30: Framing e-Accessible Knowledge
  o The stick, the carrot, and cozying up: a litigation and legislative strategy for making e-accessibility the default in American post-secondary education
    Daniel GOLDSTEIN (Brown Goldstein Levy)
  o Implementing the Legislative Strategy: Accessible Digital Publishing within and beyond the legal threshold
    George KERSCHER (DAISY Consortium)
  o Learning is all very well, but how? Exploring Multisensory and technological approaches to learning
    Edouard GENTAZ (University of Geneva)

10h30 - 11h00: Coffee break

11h00 - 12h15: Making Complex Content Accessible
  o Accessible Scientific Content: Challenges and Prospects
    Alex BERNIER (BrailleNet)
  o Born Digital, Born Accessible: New Developments in Creation and Use of Accessible Images
    Betsy BEAUMON (Benetech)
  o The State of Accessible Math
Neil SOIFFER (Design Science)
  o The Chem Access project - From Bitmap Graphics to Fully Accessible Chemical Diagrams
    Volker SORGE (University of Birmingham)

12h15 - 14h45: WORSHOPS, DEMONSTRATIONS & MINI-CONFERENCES

12h30 - 13h20: DEMONSTRATIONS: Adapting complex content (Auditorium)
  o The DIAGRAM Center (Digital Image and Graphic Resources for Accessible Materials)
    Betsy BEAUMONT (Benetech)
  o Accessible Maths
    Neil SOIFFER (Design Science)
  o Accessible Chemistry
    Volker SORGE (University of Birmingham)

13h30 - 14h20: MINI-CONFERENCE: Accessible e-Learning & MOOCs (Auditorium)
  o The OpenClassRooms MOOC
    Matthieu NEBRA (Open Classrooms)
  o An accessible learning management system for primary schools
    Susanna LAURIN (Funka Nu)
  o MOOC for Accessibility Partnership (MOOCAP)
    Sebastian KELLE (Stuttgart Media University)

12h30 - 14h30: DEMONSTRATIONS: Innovative Solutions (Shadok)
  o Empowering citizens and encouraging a more diverse workforce
    David ROBINSON, Thomas Crawford (TextHelp Ltd)
○ **Online Daisy: read DAISY books on your smartphone**  
  Bert PAEPEN (Pyxima)

○ **The KNFB Reader, a text-to-speech iOS app that reads any printed text**  
  James GASHEL (National Federation of the Blind of the United States)

○ **Making the daily paper accessible: Production to playback**  
  Daniel AINASOJA (Pratsam)

12h30 - 13h20: **WORKSHOP: Managing an e-Accessibility project (Library)**

○ **Providing accessible information for all: the case of the 20 regional websites of the SNCF**  
  Aurélie HOUSSIN (SNCF)

○ **Presentation of an accessibility charter for publishing education content online**  
  Romain GERVOIS (AlterWay)

13h30 - 14h20: **WORKSHOP: Producing accessible books (Library)**

○ **Open Source Tools: DAISY and EPUB 3**  
  Avneesh SINGH (Daisy Consortium), Jean-Pierre CARPANINI (AVH)

○ **Leonardo da Vinci, an audio-tactile book**  
  Hoelle CORVEST (Universcience)

12h30 - 13h20: **Accessibility of the Cité des Science’s BR4IN exhibition - a Guided Tour**

14h45 - 16h00: **Developing Accessible Learning Experiences**

○ **Helping children with Developmental Coordination Disorders at School**  
  Caroline HURON (Collège de France)

○ **“E-Accessibility for Learning”, an investment program of the National Centre for Distance Learning**
Jean MILLERAT (Centre National d’Enseignement à Distance (National Centre for Distance Learning)), Frédéric VINZENT (Alter Way)

- **Reliant on Readers, Stuck with Scribes or Independent with ICT? Can technology replace human support in examinations?**
  Paul NISBET (University of Edinburgh)

- **Using Digital Technology to help Children with Learning Disabilities**
  Hervé GLASEL (CERENE)

**16h00 - 17h00: Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Learning**

- **The Right to Access Library Materials in one's Native Language, including Sign Language**
  Riitta VIVOLIN-KAREN (The Finnish Association of the Deaf)

- **Accessible EPUB 3 and large-scale digitisation: the experience of the French National Library**
  Jean-Philippe MOREUX (French National Library)

- **The British Museum – Embedding access best practice for disabled audiences**
  Jane SAMUELS (British Museum)

**17h00 - 17h30: Closing Session**
PRESS KIT

Press Release: follow the link

Hashtag: #EEAF2015

We thank the following organisations for their articles on the Forum:

Le Réseau des Grandes Entreprises (CIGREF), CINOV-IT, Syntec Numérique, Ludomag, Handicap Infos, IDnum, Ressources Solidaires, La Maison des sciences sociales du handicap, l’ARALD, L’Institut National des Jeunes Aveugles, le Forum Français de Formation Ouverte et à Distance, Educadis, Handicap Zéro, Villes Internet, l’INS-HEA, NetPublic, Educavox, l’Agence Régionale de Santé Ile de France, l’Association des Paralysés de France, Handroit, Online Daisy, the American Foundation for the Blind, l’ICCHP, the European Blind Union, etc.

Learn more via our Storify
Do you wish to attend the Forum? Or write about it? Do you have any questions?

**CONTACT**

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