

JISC TechDis workshop 2 of 2

Trying out new technologies to enhance teaching, assessment and inclusivity

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Fair For All: Practical Strategies for Equality and Inclusivity, De Montfort University



The JISC TechDis Advisory Service

- JISC TechDis supports the education sector in achieving greater accessibility and inclusion by stimulating innovation and providing expert advice and guidance on disability and technology.
- JISC TechDis:
 - Advises funding bodies and policy makers.
 - Provides guidance to strategic partners & intermediaries.
 - Provides advice for management, front line & specialist staff.
 - Provides effective resources for practitioners.



Holistic Approach to Accessibility

- We believe it is best practice to take a holistic approach to accessibility.
- Do not be afraid to add value in different ways for different learners – everybody doesn't have to access the same information in the same way, as long as the learning outcomes are met and the experience is broadly equivalent.
- Broadening the range of what is offered will increase accessibility overall, despite specific barriers that may arise.
- http://www.techdis.ac.uk/index.php?p=2_1_11_8



Staff Development & Support

- TechDis Online services www.techdis.ac.uk
- Community site www.techdis.ac.uk/community
- Accessibility Essentials www.techdis.ac.uk/accessibilityessentials
 - 1. Making your computer work better for you
 - 2. Producing Word documents that are more inclusive
 - 3. Producing inclusive PowerPoints and presentations
 - 4. Making PDFs as accessible as possible
- Staff packs www.techdis.ac.uk/staffpacks
- Free Software www.techdis.ac.uk/getfreesoftware
- Assistive Technologies www.techdis.ac.uk/getATreport
- Case Studies (HEAT scheme) www.techdis.ac.uk/getheatscheme



Conclusions

- Ambiguous instructions can be difficult to follow.
- Instructions and details should be tested to ensure they work as expected.
- Students with a disability may not be able to react in the expected manner. Students with a cognitive disability may react in an unexpected way – everyone's instinct and interpretation will differ.



So earlier we saw the really simple stuff – what's the next step?

Technologies you can use [easily] to develop Inclusive Learning

Please note – wherever you are on the spectrum from 'technically savvy' to 'a bit nervous of trying new things', you should find something that works for you (hopefully!)



Instant Presenter (also Elluminate, Wimba etc)

The screenshot shows the Instant Presenter web interface in a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The browser title is "http://present.instantpresenter.com - 'Accessible and engaging learning' Presenter Control - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows "Audience URL: http://www.instantpresenter.com/techdisonline18".

The interface includes a navigation menu with "Presentation", "Attendees", "Text Chat", and "Help". Below this is a sub-menu with "Slides", "Screen Share", "Polls", and "Video Conference".

The main content area displays a presentation slide titled "Benefits of structured documents". The slide content includes:

- A video feed of a presenter in the top left corner.
- A "Presentation Control" panel with a "Start Session" button, "Time: Unlimited", and "Settings" button.
- An "Attendees" panel showing a feedback dropdown set to "I'm fine" and a list of attendees including "TechDis Presenter".
- The slide text: "Benefits of structured documents", "Format like this..", "Planning for heat wave emergencies in Britain", "Groups at risk", "To get automatic hyperlinked summaries like this....", "See Benevolent Bill staff pack for details.", and the "JISC TechDis" logo.
- Two overlapping screenshots of a word processor showing a "Format" menu with "Heading 1", "Heading 2", and "Heading 3" options.
- Buttons for "Load Content...", "Show Whiteboard", and "Show Pointer".
- "Slide Controls" with "Use Keyboard" checkbox and "Preview Slides" button.
- A "Text Chat" panel at the bottom with a "Type here to chat..." input and "Send to: Everyone" dropdown.
- An "Audio Chat" panel at the bottom right with the message "Audio Chat is not currently enabled for the audience." and an "Enable Audio Chat" button.
- A "Users Connected: 1" indicator at the bottom left.
- A "Transferring data from present.instantpresenter.com..." status bar at the very bottom.
- A yellow padlock icon in the bottom right corner of the interface.

Audacity – free sound recorder/editor

- Simple route into making podcasts
- Good introductory tutorial at <http://www.techdis.ac.uk/getfreesoftware>
- Can add introductory music etc simply to make a professional sounding podcast.
- Have been used as ‘backup’ for lectures, for additional material for listening in ‘dead time’ e.g. on buses, and for adding supporting material e.g. describing current news items of relevance to the curriculum



Camstudio (with subtitles via MovieMaker)

www.techdis.ac.uk/getfreesoftware

- Choose images to be used.
- Open Camstudio, define 'recordable' area, move cursor, add commentary.
- Volunteer required to demonstrate!
- Save avi file.
- Open file in Windows MovieMaker
- Add subtitles.
- Et voila!



DSpeech

- Allows electronic text to be converted into 'automatic' podcasts using a computerised voice.
- Computerised voices aren't for everyone!
- But they do add a degree of flexibility for those who do not like or have difficulty with reading, or who want to listen whilst doing other things.
- Another Demo is available at <http://www.techdis.ac.uk/getfreesoftware>
- DSpeech Demo



Robobraille / ReadTheWords

- Send Word file attachment (blank email and subject line) to britspeech@robobraille.org
- Within a few minutes you get back an audio version of your file.
- www.readthewords.com – set up a free profile and get a choice of 15 voices
- Paste in text or convert a whole Word, PDF, web page or RSS
- Here are a couple of examples: [Charles](#), [Nina](#)



LetMeType

- Word prediction and spell checking facility.
- You can import glossaries of technical terms, and it will learn words as you type.
- More at <http://www.techdis.ac.uk/getfreesoftware>
- [LetMeType Demo](#)



WINK

- Produces more flexible presentations, with image selection, flexible audio and captioning, subtitling and so on.
- Demo on www.techdis.ac.uk/getfreesoftware under Visualisation Tools
- [Demo file](#)



Xerte

- Xerte is a generator of Accessible Learning Objects.
- Similar concept to CourseGenie but simpler and produces Accessible Learning Objects.
- Full instructions from www.techdis.ac.uk/getxerte
- Ensure you download the Xerte engine AND the TechDis template, the engine alone is complex to use
- Simple template brings in images, audio files, video and flash animations. 'Advanced' template has quiz facilities, 'nesting' of pages etc
- [Example object 1](#), [Example object 2](#)



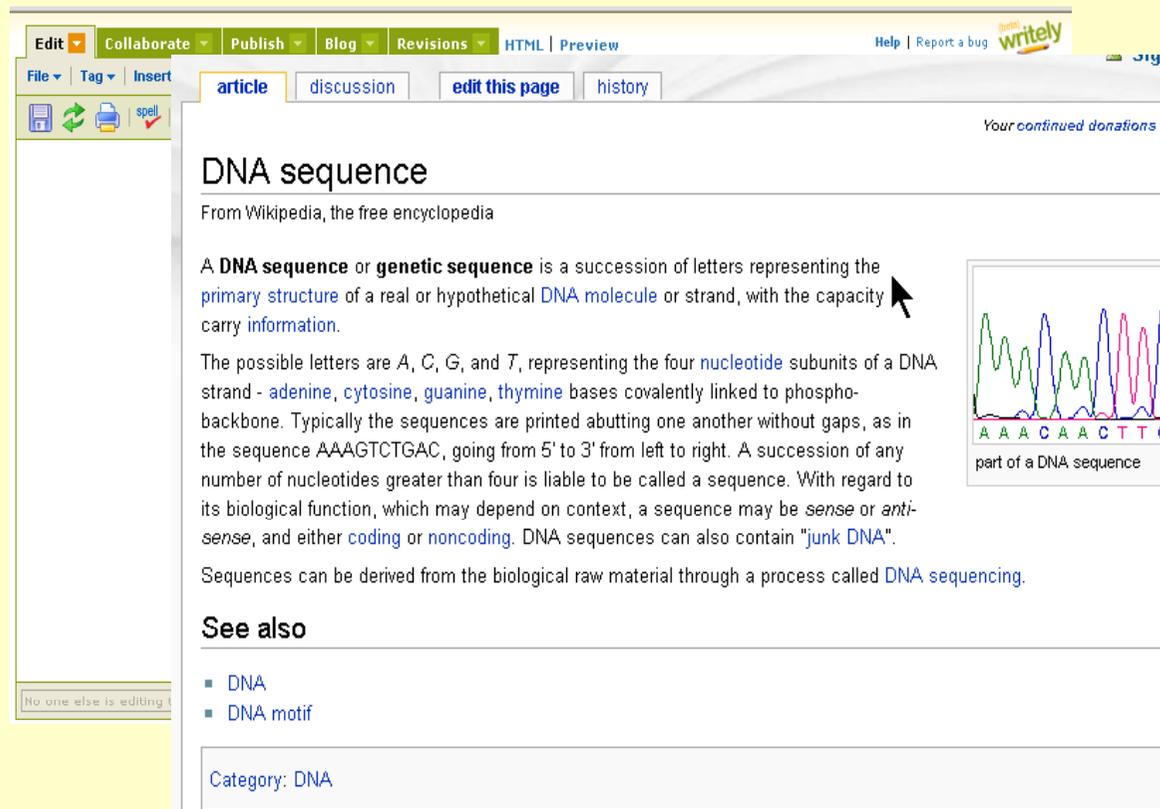
Dasher

- A demonstration of Dasher, software that enabled a newly paraplegic staff member to return to work – superb demonstration of the power of assistive technologies



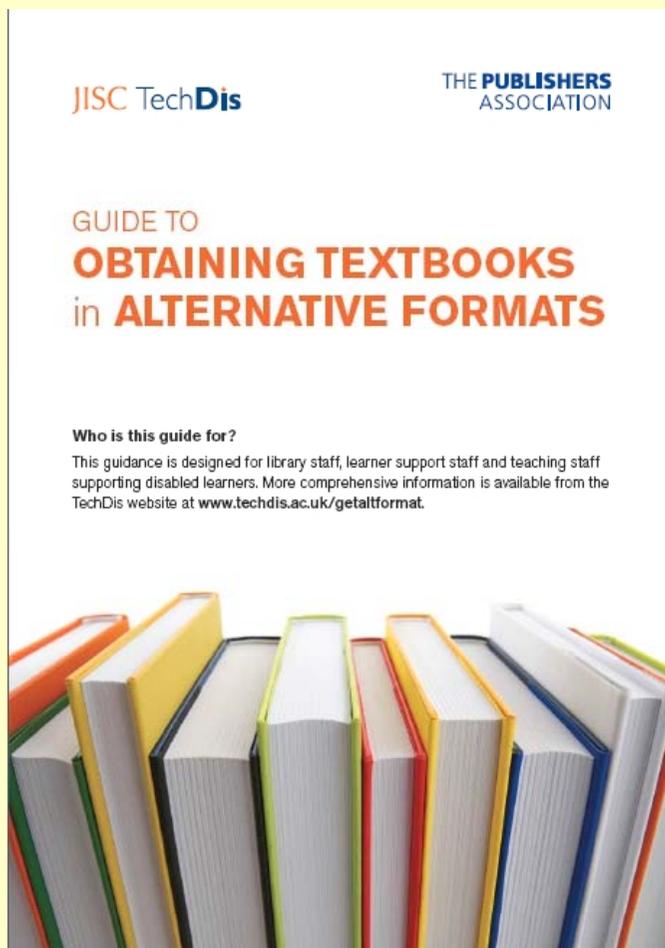
Collaboration

- Wikis
- Blogs
- GoogleDocs
- Gabbly
- Vyew



The screenshot shows a Wikipedia article titled "DNA sequence". The article text includes: "A **DNA sequence** or **genetic sequence** is a succession of letters representing the primary structure of a real or hypothetical DNA molecule or strand, with the capacity carry information. The possible letters are A, C, G, and T, representing the four nucleotide subunits of a DNA strand - adenine, cytosine, guanine, thymine bases covalently linked to phospho-backbone. Typically the sequences are printed abutting one another without gaps, as in the sequence AAAGTCTGAC, going from 5' to 3' from left to right. A succession of any number of nucleotides greater than four is liable to be called a sequence. With regard to its biological function, which may depend on context, a sequence may be sense or anti-sense, and either coding or noncoding. DNA sequences can also contain "junk DNA". Sequences can be derived from the biological raw material through a process called DNA sequencing." To the right of the text is a chromatogram image with the sequence "A A C A C T T C" below it. The interface includes a top navigation bar with "Edit", "Collaborate", "Publish", "Blog", "Revisions", "HTML | Preview", and "Help | Report a bug". Below the navigation bar are tabs for "article", "discussion", "edit this page", and "history". A left sidebar contains icons for "File", "Tag", "Insert", "spell", and "No one else is editing".

Guide to Obtaining Alternative Formats



Document created with Publishers Association on how to obtain alternative formats in the quickest and smoothest way.

www.techdis.ac.uk/getaltformat

Database of contact info for alternative formats at each Publisher:

www.publisherlookup.org.uk

[http://www.techdis.ac.uk/community/
course/view.php?id=79](http://www.techdis.ac.uk/community/course/view.php?id=79)

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