Evaluating and using emerging technologies to enable access to MSOR content

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Access to MSOR content

To access MSOR content a student might require

- Reasonable adjustments made by the institution

together with

- Assistive technology
- Human support

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- Help towards the cost of
  - Items of specialist equipment
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Needs assessment identifies requirements

$\longrightarrow$ Assistive IT suppliers provide equipment

$\longrightarrow$ Assistive technology tuition

University of Bath

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- As reported previously, for **mathematics**:
  - OCR software did not produce useful output
  - Screen reading technology produces incorrect speech
  - Input and manipulation of text in Word is difficult
  - Cannot input into Mind Maps

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  $\longrightarrow$ stored equations, cut and paste
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- **Demonstration!**

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- MathPlayer did not work with TextHelp Read & Write 7

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- Trial was advertised to students, basic instructions and examples were provided along with a survey.
- A disappointing formal response means we cannot make conclusions regarding SmartDraw
- Informal feedback from small group of students suggested that MathType was well received

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- Documents created with MathType require MathType fonts/free version to display

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- Conflict involving XP SP3 and MS Speech API4 resolved by provision of ChattyInfty variant
- Possible conflict with ZoomText
- JAWS scripts supplied but questions regarding other screen reading software? Untested

Evaluation

- Introduced into current transcription processes to evaluate performance in day-to-day use
- Staff logged experiences when correcting OCR output
- Short series of time trials comparing processes
- ChattyInfty trial (with support) offered to small group of students, one student has now evaluated the software

Evaluation

For mathematics this would be the OCR of choice — to stick in a piece of paper that you didn't know the context of... knowing that InftyReader is powerful — this is the most powerful thing that I have.

There are some documents that this would mean I can handle quite safely on my own — especially when working with classmates etc. although if it is a long book or something like that — you'd want someone else to scan it anyway.

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- ChattyInfty permissions must be resolved
- Seems unlikely software could be used without training

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- Are some research outcome technologies unsuited to provision through DSA? How can the situation be improved?
- Should Universities provide and support access to such technologies? How can we improve knowledge and understanding of new technologies?