

**ECP-2005-CULT-038137**



**TOWARDS AN ACCESSIBLE SCIENCE: FACILITATING  
ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC DIGITAL RESOURCES FOR  
VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS**

**Progress Report**

**1 October 2007 – 30 March 2008**

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***eContentplus***

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a multiannual Community programme to make digital content in Europe more accessible, usable and exploitable.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 79, 24.3.2005, p. 1.



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## 2 Summary

The aims of this period were:

- analysis of copyright management strategies in order to deliver content in digital format to people with visual impairment;
- definition of best practices and guidelines as for lessons, preparation of scientific resources in accessible formats to be exploited at transnational level;
- best practices for university support services and sharing of accessible scientific resources;
- dissemination toward specialist and non specialist organizations.

The consortium analysed the Intermediate Review Report and gave the highest priority set out a plan based on the recommendations in the report. To this purpose the following collaboration actions have been undertaken with universities and multiplier organizations which represent the wider community:

- dissemination together with the JEM network. It was set up as follows:
  - participation of @Science representatives to all JEM Network meetings, workshops and seminars, by presenting accessibility problems and guidelines to make scientific digital content accessible and usable by sight impaired;
  - invitation of JEM Network representatives to @Science conferences;
  - proposal to some of the JEM Network institutions to adapt their scientific content in order to be usable by visually impaired;
  - sharing of news and information through feed RSS aggregators. JEM Network website subscribers will know the @Science activities and viceversa;
- collaboration with Associazione Italiana Editori (AIE), as follows:
  - organization of dissemination meetings to publishers;
  - co-operation in defining guidelines which can be applied by publishers;
  - invitation of AIE representatives to @Science conferences.
- collaboration with the Open Access community representatives in order to set a document repository which can get advantage of search engines and metadata harvesters according to the Open Access Initiative protocols;
- collaboration with institutions which have success experiences in delivering copyrighted content for sight impaired in order to define which policies can be

adopted by @Science members, too. In particular, two institutions were chosen: BrailleNet in France and NLB in Norway (see D4.1);

- involvement of university support services, as follows:
  - invitation to the @Science conference of support services representatives;
  - invitation to participate to the website;
  - organization of a meeting with university support service representatives at ICCHP 2008 conference;
- collaboration with companies and universities which do not focus on disability, but which focus on tools for scientific content management. In particular:
  - Design Science Inc.. Collaboration aimed at facilitating localization activities of Design Science tools. Design Science distributes MathType to enter mathematics in MS-Word documents and produces MathPlayer which renders MathML expressions in XHTML pages both in visual mathematical notation and in speech, too. Mathplayer supports spoken English only. Thanks to the collaboration with the @Science members, localization activities were undertaken to extend MathPlayer for Braille rendering in national Braille codes and for speech rendering of European national languages. Trial releases of Design Science products were included in @Science dissemination material;
  - collaboration with Science Access Net in Japan. It is led by Kyushu university and 6 other Japanese universities are involved. The aim of this network is to develop InftyReader for optical character recognition of printed mathematics and generate digital documents which are accessible for everyone. This tool turns to be essential for blind students and tutors in university support services, who prepare scientific documents in accessible formats.

The following collaboration activities were undertaken: invitation of Science Access Net representatives to the @Science conferences, distribution of special releases of InftyReader in the @Science dissemination material, meetings with Kyushu university representatives in order to embed in InftyReader software tools for generation of mathematical expressions in national Braille codes and joint participation to conferences focused on mathematical knowledge management;



- VEIA Progetti SRL. It is an Italian company that develops and sells the LAMBDA System, which enables students to work with scientific documents through their own national Braille and speech preferences. Two collaboration activities were undertaken: invitation to the @Science conferences and distribution of the LAMBDA System in the @Science dissemination material;
- EuroBraille. This company develops software for note takers; in particular, a mathematical editor for note takers. EuroBraille representatives were invited to the @Science workshop in Paris;
- collaboration with the MathML-in-DAISY working group. DAISY (ANSI/NISO Z39.86) books are very useful for blind and partially sighted especially to read highly structured content. Scientific DAISY books are in their early development. Representatives of this working group were invited to @Science events to present how these books can be produced and how the resulting DAISY book can be exploited by end users;
- collaboration with universities where advanced projects about access opportunities to science for blind and partially sighted. In particular, Karlsruhe University, Dublin City University, Technical University in Dresden, Stuttgart University, San Francisco University, New Mexico University and University of Texas at Dallas.

Promotion of standardisation activities together with standardisation bodies as for the existence of different Braille codes in countries was not undertaken by the @Science Consortium. The existence of different Braille codes in European countries is due to differences which cannot be unified by a standard Braille code. For example, the frequency of accents is different according to the language, so the most readable dot combinations should be used for more frequent characters. Therefore, the improvement in transnational use and exploitation of digital resources is bound to the existence of high quality Braille and speech rendering tools for scientific documents, which can be distributed in certain digital formats with some restrictions. So, localization activities were encouraged by @Science collaborations.

Dissemination and awareness activities through participation at conferences begun in year 1 went on. Papers about the best techniques to make scientific content accessible were presented at: ASSETS2007, seminar on technology for blind at the Iranian Scientific-Cultural Society of University and School, International Webmaster Association conference about accessibility to web 2.0, CSUN2008 and AAATE2007. Paper and poster submissions were



done for coming conferences in 2008. Some meetings with blind students and Braille transcribers were held by Unione Italiana Ciechi in January and March.

Two preliminary activities started for organizing ICCHP @Science workshop and Special Thematic Session: a call for papers with deadline February 2<sup>nd</sup>, and paper review just after the call for paper. On February 26<sup>th</sup>, before the first @Science Expert Workshop, papers for ICCHP conference were selected and the invited speakers for the workshop were chosen.

### 3 Status

#### 3.1 Resources employed

Resources employed for the reporting period (person-months)							
Beneficiary short name	WP 01	WP 02	WP 03	WP 04	WP 05	WP 06	TOTAL
USM	1.5		1	1.5	4	1	9
JKU-IS			0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2
K.U. Leuven			0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2
FMFI UK			0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2
UICVR	0.1				0.5	0.5	1.1
UPMC					0.5	0.5	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	1.6		2.5	3	6.5	3.5	17.1

### 3.2 Work Package Overview

#### Work package description

Work package number :	1	Start date:	1	End date:	24
Work package title:	Project Management				

#### Objectives for the period

The main objectives were:

- co-ordination of planned activities;
- planning of future activities based on review report;
- monitoring of key performance indicators.

#### Description of work carried out and achievements

Based on the Review Report, the highest priority has been given to setting up collaborations with multiplier organizations and wider communities. Thus, great attention was paid to participating at meetings of wider groups (e.g., JEM Thematic Network, IWA Association, Bibliostar), and to the organization of the @Science events with the new collaborating institutions. Key performance indicators were monitored through statistics.

#### Deviation from work plan & remedial action

The work on the guidelines has been delayed due to the attempt to involve more institutions and associations (e.g. Associazione Italiana Editori) to collaborate to the editing of the guidelines. The remedial action was to go on disseminating those well-established guidelines and best practices through papers, presentations and tutorials in conferences and meetings.

Forward budget for travel and subsistence for network members was prepared. Comenius University seemed not to exploit much more budget than they exploited the first year, so it was established to use it to the purpose of reaching more external institutions by inviting their representatives at the @Science conferences.

The number of registered people to the website was slightly increasing. The remedial action was to enrich the website with new content coming from the first @Science workshop (slides and audio files from the presentations), and to send a CD of the conference proceedings to those who subscribed at the website and wished to receive it.

<b>Work package number :</b>	3	<b>Start date:</b>	2	<b>End date:</b>	24
<b>Work package title:</b>	University Support Services				

### Objectives for the period

Two objectives were foreseen:

- dissemination of best practices for university support services;
- collection of best practices.

### Description of work carried out and achievements

Dissemination activities went on especially through meetings (e.g., a meeting in March between Unione Italiana Ciechi and Karlsruhe support service; a meeting between Bratislava University and Chisinau support service representatives), and at the first @Science Workshop, where representatives of the support services of Karlsruhe University, Dresden University and Dublin City University participated.

### Deviation from work plan & remedial action

Delayed collection of best practices in a document. The remedial action was to disseminate anyway the practices which were discussed and presented even without a specific document available.

<b>Work package number :</b>	4	<b>Start date:</b>	4	<b>End date:</b>	24
<b>Work package title:</b>	Scientific resources usable by visually impaired: text books, lessons, examinations				

### Objectives for the period

The main objectives were:

- analysis of copyright regulation and analysis of success experiences in distributing copyrighted digital content;
- definition of guidelines to prepare scientific textbooks and to prepare educational material and examinations accessible for blind and partially sighted;
- set up of a document repository which can receive contributions from many libraries and distribute accessible content to blind and partially sighted persons.

### **Description of work carried out and achievements**

In order to achieve the first objective, namely to define how manage copyrighted content, the following actions were undertaken:

- meeting with publisher associations (in particular Associazione Italiana Editori and Federation of European Publishers at the eAccessibility forum in Paris, see 4.2) in order to discuss which are the opportunities in delivering copyrighted content in digital formats;
- investigation about how the European Copyright Directive has been up to now transposed in member states especially concerning distribution of content to people with disability by libraries and educational establishments. To this purpose member states representatives of associations and universities have been contacted;
- investigation of policies concerning open access repositories. To this purpose, representatives of the Open Access Initiative were contacted for information. Members of the SHERPA project and of Oaklist project were contacted in order to know how most publishers deal with pre-prints and post-prints self-archiving in Open Access repositories. Moreover, further publishers were contacted to include them in Appendix A in Deliverable 4.1 as for self-archiving rules.

In order to define guidelines for accessible textbooks and for accessible educational material, the work went on as follows:

- after a meeting in February with the representatives of Associazione Italiana Editori (AIE), it was established to analyse digital files of two scientific textbooks from two publishers to be chosen by AIE. The objective was to adapt sample parts in accessible digital formats in order to provide publishers with samples. At the end of March 2008 AIE communicated that two publishers, namely Fabbri and ETAS-RCS were available to give the digital files of two books for analysis purposes. The books were: "GALILEO" corso di scienze+materiali di scienze, 2 volumi, autori Flaccavento-Romano, ed. Fabbri, ISBN 8845106195 and MATEMATICA TRE, autore coautore: LAMBERTI LAMBERTO, MEREU LAURA, NANNI AUGUSTA, ed. ETAS (RCS LIBRI), ISBN 8845131831;
- preparation of samples of accessible educational resources started. In particular, examinations samples were adapted in accessible formats by getting advantage of best practices and to the purpose to collect these samples in books of guidelines;

- localization problems of players, both with respect to Braille and speech, were discussed with software producers, in particular as for Design Science products and InftyReader product. Guidelines are effective only if players can actually enable readers to access scientific content through their national Braille codes and their national language.

As for the creation of a repository which can store contributions from different content providers, two activities were undertaken:

- analysis of Open Access protocols and sets of metadata (OAI-PMH, Z39.50, Dublin Core, Qualified Dublin Core);
- choice of the repository system. The choice was led by accessibility features both in content delivery and in adding content, support of OAI-PMH protocol, management of multiple communities and long-term maintenance. The following repository management systems were compared with respect to their accessibility features: E-prints, CDSware, Greenstone and D-Space.

#### **Deviation from work plan & remedial action**

The guidelines were delayed. The remedial action was to deliver anyway the samples and the best practice both at conferences and meetings. The second remedial action concerned the organization of a second meeting with AIE representatives, which were late in communicating the choice of books and making available files to @science members.

Accessibility issues as well as configuration and set up problems were met with most of the repository management systems tried. The remedial action was to start to design a fallback repository to be used until one of the repository management systems was available.

<b>Work package number :</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Start date:</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>End date:</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Work package title:</b>	<b>Shared information network and devoted knowledge bases</b>				

#### **Objectives for the period**

Two objectives:

- continuous updating of website content;
- support communication among institutions and users.

### Description of work carried out and achievements

The website has been continuously updated with step by step achievements: events to which the network members took part, @Science upcoming events, dissemination material for ICCHP @Science Special Thematic Session and Workshop, papers and reports. All the slide presentations of the first @Science Workshop were uploaded on the website. Participants to this workshop were invited to collaborate at the website with content and sample files. In particular, Science Access Net provided sample files of their optically recognized documents. As for students, informational meetings were organized by Unione Italiana Ciechi with secondary school students who are going to choose university courses. This meetings aimed at facilitating discussions about opportunities in science learning.

### Deviation from work plan & remedial action

The mailing list has been mostly unattended. The attempt to enliven it concerned the uploading of new material (e.g., the slide presentations of the first @Science Workshop), and promoting discussions about the presentations among the participants of the workshop through the mailing list.

<b>Work package number :</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Start date:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>End date:</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Work package title:</b>	<b>Awareness and dissemination</b>				

### Objectives for the period

In this period, three dissemination and awareness objectives were supposed to be achieved:

- participation to national and international conferences with papers and poster presentations and informational brochures;
- organization of meetings with institutions and individuals interested in science accessibility opportunities;
- first @Science Workshop.

### Description of work carried out and achievements

The @Science members went on presenting papers, communications, posters, and delivering brochures at international conferences:

- AAATE 2007. This conference is organized by the international Association of Advancement of Assistive Technology. It was held in Spain from October 3rd to October 5th. It is addressed to hundreds of attendees. Università degli Studi di Milano and Katholieke Universiteit in Leuven presented the paper: @Science: a thematic network on access to university scientific courses by visually impaired students. Johannes Kepler Linz university presented the paper: Mathematical Working Environment (MAWEN). This works are available in AAATE 2007 proceedings;
- ASSETS 2007. The ASSETS conference is organised by the ACM (Association for Computer Machinery), in Tempe (USA). The conference proceedings are available in the ACM digital library which is accessed by up to 50 thousands people all over the world. Only 30% of paper submitted were accepted. Université Pierre et Marie Curie presented a paper about the MathML based model developed to allow synchronisation of graphical view of a mathematical expression and its Braille transcription. During the talk the @Science Network wa presented and in particular, it was advocated the use of MathML to include mathematical expressions in digital contents, thus providing great benefits to people with visual impairment;
- Techshare. This conference was hold in UK from October 4th to October 5th. Università degli Studid i Milano together with Unione Italiana Ciechi representatives participated to the conference. Individual presentation of the @science network were done and brochure distribution was carried on. In particular were met: Adobe representative of Adobe access project, Dolphin representatives, RNIB representatives, DAISY consortium representatives;
- SMAU 2007. This conference is held in Milan, Italy, each year. It focuses on technologies and has a section on accessibility to the web. Brochure distribution was achieved and informational meetings were done with International Webmaster Association members;
- Accessibility Web 2.0. This national conference was held in Italy in Bologna on November 8th, 2007. Università degli Studi di Milano participated in order to inform International Webmaster Association (Italy) representatives about the opportunity to use MathML for accessible content;

- The very first international seminar on technology and disability. This seminar was held in Teheran from December 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 2007. About 500 persons were present. Università degli Studi di Milano participated with two papers: New opportunities for blind students: assistive tools for science learning and Improving tactile graphics with Mathematica. The papers are available in conference proceedings and on the website of the Iranian University and School Students Scientific-Cultural Society. After the conference a meeting was held with 23 blind and partially sighted students who attend secondary schools all over Iran and 5 blind students who attend university courses at Teheran university. Collaboration about providing information on development of assistive technology for science learning was undertaken with the association which organized the conference. In particular two leading members of the association subscribed at the @science website;
- L'evoluzione dell'accessibilità informatica. This conference was organized by the International Webmaster Association (Italy) in Venice on December 14th, 2007. @Science contributed by speaking about the need of MathML in web content in order to be accessible by blind and partially sighted;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> European eAccessibility forum. This conference was held in Paris on 28 January 2008. Università degli Studi di Milano, Johannes Kepler Linz university and Katholieke Leuven Universiteit contributed with one presentation concerning access to digital documents, in particular to generate accessible PDF documents. Some meetings were held in this conference: meeting with Associazione Italiana Editori (dr. Mussinelli) to plan future collaboration and meeting with Dedicon representatives (dr. Persoon) about MathML in DAISY books and the production of these books at Dedicon (the Netherlands), meeting with Dr. Gylling TPB (Sweden) about production of DAISY books at TPB through the DAISY pipeline, meeting with Mr. Osborne, head of Library and production services at RNIB (UK) and Mr. Burger, head of BrailleNet association (France) about distribution of copyrighted content in UK and France (see deliverable 4.1). All of them were invited to the first @Science workshop in Paris and to ICCHP @Science events;
- Bibliostar 2008. This conference was held in Milan on 6th and 7th, March, 2008. Exhibitors and speakers present up-to-date technology for libraries and the latest e-services for scholarly content distribution (e.g., e-journals, e-books, etc.). Università degli Studi di Milano presented issues and possible solutions in make access possible

for blind and partially sighted to scientific journals in digital format (in particular, ACM conference proceedings and Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science);

- CSUN 2008. This conference was held in Los Angeles from 10 to 15 March, 2008. Università degli Studi di Milano and Johannes Kepler Linz university presented at the conference. Università degli Studi di Milano presented the paper: Mathematics Input by Speech: a case study for the Italian language. This paper analysed performance advantages for the Italian language in using speech input for producing scientific content in digital formats accessible for blind and partially sighted. Johannes Kepler Linz university presented the paper: Web Accessibility for All Users. This paper focused on web access opportunities, by remarking the use of MathML instead of images in web pages for mathematical expressions. Some meetings were held at CSUN: meeting with dr. Soiffer (Design Science) about transnational use of MathPlayer (e.g. collaboration with @Science members in localizing speech output for Italian and German languages), meeting with Science Access Net representatives (prof. Suzuki, dr. Yamaguchi, Kyushu university, dr. Kanahori, Tsukuba university) about recognition of scientific documents in different languages (namely the integration of Inftyreader software with other OCR software for text), meeting with the head of ViewPlus inc., prof. Gardner, about the experience of adapting Physical Review Letters journal undertaken by ViewPlus together with the American Physics Society in 2008, meeting with representatives of Università Federico II, Napoli (Italy) about the development of the software BlindMath, which aims at facilitating writing and editing of mathematical expressions through Braille, speech and visual output, meeting with DAISY consortium representatives about the development of the specification MathML-in-DAISY. To ensure collaboration with Design Science Inc., Science Access Net and ViewPlus Technologies Inc., representatives of these groups were invited to ICCHP @science session and to final @science conference in Milan.

The @Science members also organized some devoted meetings and participated to JEM network activities:

- meeting with Italian Blind Union local districts representatives and meeting with blind students. It was organized by UIC on January 26th, 2008 in Rome. It aimed at illustrating the opportunities to access scientific studies both to secondary school blind students and to leading representatives of local UIC districts. Participants were 27, 19

students and 8 UIC representatives. Especially, one student (Mr. Mioso) stated to be sure to go through studies in computer science in Trento university and appreciated the technological opportunities which were unknown;

- meeting with Karlsruhe university representatives. It was held by Italian Union of the Blind to share experiences between Italian blind students and German blind students. It took place in Karlsruhe university on March 11th, 2008. Localization issues and transnational exploitation of content were discussed. In particular all agreed with the use of MathML so as to make content exploitable through the web and localized Braille or speech renderers;
- meeting with chief representatives of Italian library for the blind in Monza. It was held by Unione Italiana Ciechi on March 26th, 2008. They were informed about how to generate accessible PDF scientific documents by using tools such as MS-Word and MathType and alternative text for formulae and graphics. The meeting also illustrated how to generate XHTML+MathML accessible documents which can be exploited at transnational level and informed about DAISY books containing MathML;
- participation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> JEM Network Workshop in Barcelona, Spain, on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2008. The @Science Network contributed with a presentation by Pierre et Marie Curie Université (prof. Archambault) about issues met by blind students in accessing scientific courses and solutions employing MathML. Also representatives of Università degli Studi di Milano and Unione Italiana Ciechi participated to the workshop. At the workshop were discussed with prof. Caprotti, JEM Network co-ordinator, mutual collaboration activities. It was decided to: exchange information through feed RSS on both websites and joint participation at the @Science and JEM events. Further meetings were done. In particular with GeoGebra representatives. GeoGebra is getting more and more used in secondary schools and in some universities especially in Austria, Norway and Germany. Possible accessibility solutions were discussed. A long-term collaboration was set up, due to the difficulty to turn GeoGebra generated documents into totally accessible ones. The @Science members also took part to the meeting of the OpenMath society.

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the first @Science Workshop was held in Paris. For more information about the workshop and the participants list, see deliverable 6.4, with conference program and proceedings.

### Deviation from work plan & remedial action

No deviation was met, but more attention was focused on meetings and setting up collaborations than in participating through papers to upcoming conferences.

### 3.3 Deliverables Status

#### Deliverables List

Deliverable No <sup>1</sup>	Deliverable title	Delivery due date <sup>2</sup>	Actual date of delivery <sup>3</sup>
D1.4	Financial Statement	13	30 October 2007
D1.5	1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Report	13	30 October 2007
D4.1	Copyright management: analysis of current copyright laws and their implications in a development of a shared digital scientific library	15	23 Sept. 2008
D3.1	Best practices for university support services : best practice to support sight impaired students in university	18	
D4.2	Guidelines to prepare scientific textbooks usable by visually impaired: it defines guidelines to spread to editors for the publishing of accessible textbooks; these guidelines will be made available through a published accessible book	18	
D4.3	Tools to enable communication among university libraries and distributed digital library implementation: it includes a set of tools to facilitate the access by visually impaired to digital library	18	

<sup>1</sup> Deliverable numbers in order of delivery dates: D1 – Dn. Deliverable numbers must indicate which workpackage they relate to, e.g. D2.1 for the first deliverable from workpackage 2).

<sup>2</sup> Month in which the deliverables will be available. Month 0 marking the start of the project, and all delivery dates being relative to this start date.

### 3.4 Performance Indicators

Indicators	Expected vs Actual					
	Year 1 (exp.)	Year 1 (act.)	Year 2 (exp.)	Year 2 (act.)	Year 3 (exp.)	Year 3 (act.)
Number of accesses to @Science website	100	1304	300	5453		
Number of subscription at @Science mailing list	20	18	40	23		
Number of subscriptions at @Science forums	20	18	40	23		
Number of downloaded documents	15	25	30	27		
Number of available titles	50	22	100	31		
Number of involved universities/high schools	10	11	20	21		
Number of involved student's associations	5	2	10	4		
Number of participants contributing to workshops, conferences, meetings	10	8	20	23		
Number of organizations participating at workshops, conferences, meetings	5	8	15	23		
Number of countries covered in anyworkshops/conferences/meetings organised by the network	10	16	15	21		
Number of relevant workshops/conferences/meetings where a representative of the network has participated	4	14	6	30		
Number of workshops/conferences/meetings where results of the network have been presented	3	12	5	21		
Number of stakeholders who have been informed about the network and its results	10	60	20	93		
Number of scientific textbooks prepared by stakeholders according to textbooks guidelines	-	-	2	-		
Number of courses/examinations prepared according to guidelines for educational resources	-	-	-	-		
Take-up of any Guidelines developed by the network	-	-	8	-		

## 4 Awareness and Dissemination

### 4.1 Overview of awareness and dissemination activities

Dissemination and awareness actions focused on participating to international and national conferences, on preparing and submitting contributions for future events, on organizing devoted meetings, and on planning @Science international events, which involve a worldwide public. In particular, events and meetings were chosen in order to reach all the target groups: universities, libraries, publishers, associations for blind and partially sighted and the scientific community which produces contents for publishing. Details about events are reported in section 3.1 in Work Package 6.

### 4.2 Events and meetings

#### List of Events & Meetings

Name	Location	Date
AAATE	San Sebastian, Spain	03-05/10/2007
TechShare	London, UK	04-05/10/2007
ASSETS 2007	Tempe, Arizona, USA	15-17/10/2007
REHA 2007	Germany	10/2007
SMAU 2007	Milan, Italy	17-20/10/2007
Accessibility, Web 2.0, and Public Administrations Promotion	Bologna, Italy	08/11/2007
The very first international seminar on information technology and the disabled in relation to the blind	Teheran, Iran	1-4/12/2007
L'evoluzione dell'accessibilita' informatica	Venice, Italy	14/12/2007
Meeting with UIC Italian representatives.	Rome, Italy	26/01/2008
2nd European eAccessibility Forum Accessible e-books: an opportunity for the disabled	Paris, France	28/01/2008
3 <sup>rd</sup> JEM Workshop	Barcelona, Spain	31/01/2008- 02/02/2008
@Science International Workshop – Access to science for blind and visually impaired	Paris, France	27/02/2008
Bibliostar 2008	Milan, Italy	06-07/03/2008
CSUN	Los Angeles, USA	10-15/03/2008
Meeting with Karlsruhe university representatives	Karlsruhe, Germany	11/03/2008



Meeting with chief representatives of Italian Library of the Blind in Monza.	Monza, Italy	26/03/2008
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## 5 Conclusions

In this period the activities undertaken in the previous period went on. Due to Review Report Results, more attention was paid to future planning in order to comply with recommendations. In particular, some multiplier organizations were chosen and contacted to set up collaboration (Associazione Italiana Editori, JEM Network, Science Access Net and MathML-in-DAISY Working Group).

Due to changes in the plan and late collaborations with some groups (e.g., AIE), deliverables concerning guidelines were postponed. Thanks to the collaboration with the Open Access Initiative community, the repository being developed will get advantage of open access harvesters and content aggregators. Unfortunately, because of accessibility problems, some widespread open repository management systems seem not to be usable. Further work is going on to choose a suitable repository management system. That delayed the implementation of the @Science repository.

## 6 Appendices

Financial statements if relevant
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