



Hello! We are the [FIRST Project](#). As you probably know, we're developing Open Book – a new tool to convert text and documents into a form that is more accessible for people with autism. Welcome to our third newsletter and we hope you find some interesting and useful new information about technology and autism herein.

Sincerely,

The FIRST Project Team

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OUR PROGRESS

Open Book will be completed in **late 2014**. That's a long time to wait, but you can see how close we're getting:

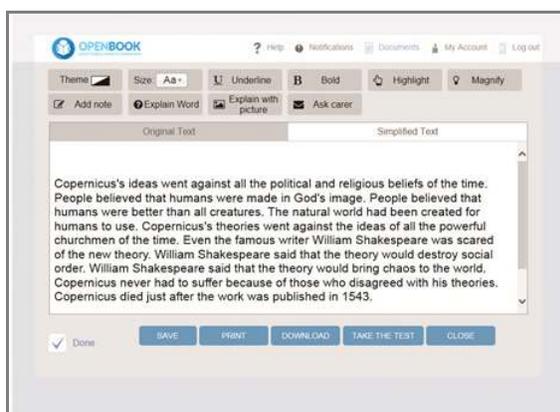


Latest Open Book prototype demonstrated at the ICT 2013 conference

The latest prototype for the Open Book text simplification tool has been demonstrated at the [ICT 2013 event](#) in Vilnius, Lithuania, in November.

The technical team has been working extra hard recently to get this latest prototype ready, including incorporating the results of all the research with people who have autism into the design of the tool to ensure that the tool will be as effective as possible.

The latest prototype of the tool is not the final version, but it has received excellent feedback from the crowds at ICT 2013.



NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR AUTISM

New online directory of apps for autism

A new online directory of apps for autism has been launched, with some evaluation of the evidence for each app's effectiveness.

The directory lists many apps that have been created for people with autism and provides basic information on the level of research evidence that is available to support whether the app is effective or not.

Visitors can also provide comments and their own ratings for each app, contributing to the overall ratings for the apps.

The directory has been created by Autism Speaks, an autism charity from the United States.

[Visit the online app directory](#)

Participate in online research to explore how technology is used by families of children with autism

The University of Edinburgh is conducting a research project to explore how technology is used by families of children with autism, in the home and on mobile devices.

Families of children with autism are invited to participate in the research survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/technology_autism_at_home

The research will also include interviews with parents in Scotland and it is expected that similar surveys will follow, aimed at people with autism themselves and exploring the use of technology in non-domestic contexts, such as schools and clinics.

More information and the results of the research can be sought by contacting researcher, Dr Sue Fletcher-Watson at the University of Edinburgh: sfwatson@staffmail.ed.ac.uk

EVENTS

Conference – International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), Atlanta, Georgia, United States, May 14 - 17, 2014

The next annual conference of the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, from May 14 to 17, 2014.

This international conference provides autism researchers from around the world with a focused opportunity to share their research in the rapidly moving scientific investigation of autism.

[More information](#)

Conference – Second autism and technology conference in Europe, Paris, October 3 - 5, 2014

The second Innovative Technologies for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ITASD) Conference will be held in Paris from October 3 to 5, 2014.

The second conference follows the success of the first one which was held in Valencia, Spain in July 2012.

the conference, called 'Technology and Autism: Tools, Trends and Testimonials' was held in and featured the latest research in the field of autism and technology, including the FIRST project.

The conference also provided an opportunity for parents and people with autism to come together with researchers and software developers and network, give feedback and participate in a forum to discuss the future of technology for autism.

[More information & proceedings of the 2012 conference](#) (English & Spanish)

OTHER NEWS

Vodafone Foundation Mobile for Good Europe Awards 2013

The Vodafone Foundation Mobile for Good Europe Awards will award the best Android and iOS applications that clearly benefit society.

There are awards in four categories: accessibility, health, education and public services. Entrants will be competing for a share of the €200,000 prize fund.

The winners will be selected via a two-stage jury process and winners will be announced in December.

The Awards are a joint initiative between the Vodafone Foundation, AGE Platform Europe (AGE) and the European Disability Forum (EDF).

Hurry! Entries close on October 15, 2013.

[More information](#) (English only)

Recent news on how technology industries are creating employment opportunities for people with autism

There have been numerous articles in the media reporting on how people with autism are finding employment in technology firms, including [a report on this firm](#) set-up by two parents of boys with autism, and the German software development company SAP who recently launched [an autism-specific recruitment drive](#).

Initiative to recycle old mobile phones and provide iPads for children with autism

A [mobile phone recycling scheme](#) has been launched in the United Kingdom in which old mobile phones can be exchanged for new technologies like iPads. For example, by providing 165 old mobile phones, any family can get an iPad, and they will also be helping children with autism.

A similar recycling scheme also exists in Ireland.

The initiative is supported by [Hearts And Minds](#), a charity based in Manchester.

OUR SISTER PROJECT



ASC-Inclusion interactive emotion games for children with autism

The ASC-Inclusion project is creating interactive games to assist children with autism to understand and express emotions through facial expressions, tone-of-voice and body gestures. It will be ready in late 2014, but meanwhile you can check it out here: www.asc-inclusion.eu/

The FIRST Project is 'clustered' together with the ASC-Inclusion project because this project is also creating an innovative new technology for social inclusion of people who have autism (and also funded by the European Union).

Like what we're doing? Then 'like' Autism-Europe on Facebook to receive updates and don't be shy about sharing with your friends! www.facebook.com/autismeurope.AE

Want to know more? Go to www.first-asd.eu or contact us [contact\(at\)first-asd.eu](mailto:contact(at)first-asd.eu)

Got something to tell us? If there's something you think people who are interested in autism and technology should know, please tell us by emailing: nikki.sullings@autismeurope.org

Don't want to hear from us anymore? Aw, that's a shame ☹ Well, just send us an email with **unsubscribe FIRST** in the subject line and we'll take you off the mailing list: nikki.sullings@autismeurope.org



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