ABSTRACT

NAME OF INSTITUTION : De La Salle University – Dasmariñas

ADDRESS : 284 Doña Macaria St., Pamplona Village, Las Piñas City, Metro Manila

TITLE: A Computer based approach to the learning of the manual alphabet for the deaf

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FUNDING SOURCE: Parents COST: P7, 000

DATE STARTED: December, 1998 DATE COMPLETED: February, 1998

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

A. GENERAL

The main objective of the study is to develop an effective CAI software for the manual alphabet.

1.) Be seen as a part of the improvements of educational services for the deaf

2.) Answer the growing need for individualized attention for deaf pupils

3.) Alleviate the tediousness for teachers, so that they can have more time for planning more individualized teaching

B. SPECIFIC

1.) Design lessons for those learning the manual alphabet for the first time, particularly seven-yr.-old deaf pupils who will incorporate the manual alphabet towards the introduction of basic vocabulary and reading skills.

2.) Generate a student record to keep track of the progress of the software user.

3.) Introduce the concept of computers as an alternative teaching supplement.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE:

This study will focus on the manual alphabet as a means of instruction for the deaf. It comprises only the manual alphabet also known as fingerspelling. This system contains 26 hand symbols, one for each letter of the (English) alphabet. The symbols are used to fingerspell words.

METHODOLOGY:

The prototype approach was used in software development defined as a looping process within the seven stages of: requirement analysis, system design, program design, coding, and testing. Different prototype versions were built until a final desired application met and satisfied all refined requirements.

OUTPUT OF THE STUDY:

The results of the author's research showed that there are deficiencies in educational services for the deaf. Deaf education in deaf schools suffer scarce resources and few teachers to boot. As a result there is a gap in the demand for individualized teaching attention for deaf pupils. On the other hand teachers have tedious teaching loads affecting the quality of instruction. The study proposed a computer assisted learning teaching supplement called "Quickfingers" to answer the above concerns.

CONCLUSIONS:

The study generated a software application to contribute to the improvement of educational services for the deaf by acting as an alternative teaching supplement to give individualized attention to deaf pupils and at the same time lighten the task of deaf teachers to help them have more time for planning more effective teaching.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The author recommends the inclusion of more sign language symbols, those which represent concepts, to further strengthen the foundations of literacy among the system's deaf users.