



Content

From the President's desk	2
Steno outlines on an ostrich-egg	4
IPRS: Shorthand meets Florence	5
An oath for reporter	6
Everyone's-touch-typist	7
Video Retrieval System for the Japanese Diet Deliberations	9
British Institute of Verbatim Reporters: Awareness week 2016	16
Council and IPRS-meeting in Zagreb – 5-8 October 2016	20

Council and IPRS-meeting in Zagreb – 5-8 October 2016



From the President's desk

In a recent conversation with colleagues of the Argentine Parliament I had the opportunity of focusing again on two main questions that might be interesting for our readers: what is Intersteno and what are its aims? And what are the competencies of a professional court or parliamentary reporter?

As you know, the Statute lists a certain number of aims, as they were revised in the Congress of Rome. Nevertheless I think that those rules are to be read mainly as a horizon; I prefer to consider them as hints, to be adapted and interpreted according to time and circumstances. As a matter of fact we are living in a time when changes occur more rapidly compared to the past decade. The communication and information processing industry is in the eye of the hurricane so Intersteno cannot stay still. As a professional association Intersteno must catch up with changes and provide to its members the added value that they expect by joining.

Yes, but how is this to be achieved? Information, clues for newer and better opportunities, updated knowledge, proposals for newer visions – all of these form the mainstream of our activity and we should not ignore the need to adapt our structure and our meetings so as to accord with change. The Board is well aware of such a task and operates in that direction, even if we must face natural doubts and resistances. Management's duty is to advance proposals and involve the whole of Intersteno in this challenge. It is not simple, unfortunately. Intersteno is an old organization that has coped with the changes of two centuries, but now it needs to enter in a "continuing renovation" mode. Year by year, congress by congress, we need to incorporate an attitude to changes - changes in our organisation, in attention to technological advancement and professional opportunities. This aim will be achieved if members and management together look beyond the present and the past, using courage, curiosity, knowledge as well as imagination and intuition. We need these skills as well as expertise to figure out what will be the shape of the reporting profession in the future taking into account the need to incorporate upcoming reporting services and new jobs.

And so we come to the second question: what nowadays are the competencies of a good speech reporter? The set of professional competencies (ISPC) is an attempt to provide a point of reference for the profession as it is now. It will be approved at the next Intersteno Council meeting that will be held in Zagreb in October 2016 (read more about the meeting organization on page 20) That document reflects the idea that speed and accuracy in capturing a speech, and expertise in managing steno technique are not the only qualities needed in carrying out our professional responsibilities. Recent experience in many countries teaches us that the education and certification of a court or parliamentary reporter cannot alone be considered sufficient. Account must also be taken of his or her deep general knowledge, of their awareness of the language and its syntax coupled with an acknowledged ability to manage technical equipment, and fully comprehend the detail of the proceeding. Furthermore, to keep up with the advances in professional requirements, a re-



porter should not under-estimate the importance of networking to gather updated information and improve marketing. Intersteno wants to encourage the attitude of looking beyond the limits of our immediate sight and seeks to achieve the continuous renewal of the reporting profession.

E-news #73 features an interesting presentation of the Video Retrieval System used at the Japanese Parliament, where the integration of text and multimedia open the door to newer and more efficient working and information tools. Read also the articles by Gian Paolo Trivulzio and Fabrizio Verruso on the initiative of the Italian Accademia “Giuseppe Aliprandi - Flaviano Rodriguez”. As has been announced, a number of steno notes of Dante Aligheri’s description of Florence were collected from around the world.

Happy reading!

[Fausto Ramondelli](#)

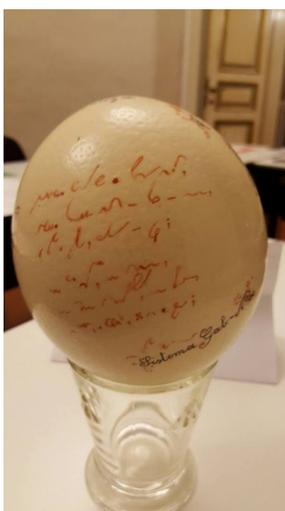
Steno outlines on an ostrich-egg

As announced in our previous release, the Italian Accademia “Giuseppe Aliprandi-Flaviano Rodriguez” of Florence, following a suggestion by Fabrizio Verruso, invited stenographers to send transcriptions in shorthand of a six-verse extract from Dante’s Divine Comedy, on the occasion of the 750th anniversary of the author’s birth.



A total of 24 stenographers positively reacted to this invitation. Many contributions came from Italy: Alessandra Bizzarro, Rosa Brocato, Andrea Chianello, Fabrizio Verruso, Francesco Verruso, Giacomo Federico Pomponio, and Luigi Zambelli wrote in Cima; Sergio Bassani, Rocco Cerone, Anna Maria Doronzo, Stefano Libri, Patrik Mirando, Marta Riccò, and Erminio Soldati wrote in Gabelsberger-Noe; Marialuisa Corti in Stenital; Giorgio Spellucci in both Gabelsberger Noe and Meschini; Loredana in both Cima and Gabelsberger-Noe; Giulia Torregrossa and Paolo Michela-Zucco in Michela-Zucco.

Several contributions also came from abroad: Erich Werner, Rosmarie Koller, and Daniela Bianchi from Switzerland wrote in Stolze-Schrey; Boris Neubauer from Germany wrote in the Unified German System Wiener Urkunde; Jaroslav Zaviačič from Czech Republic wrote in Herout-Mikulik; and Peter Walker from the United Kingdom wrote in Pitman.



Among the most eccentric contributions, the Italian teacher Marta Riccò sent her contribution written on a wooden plate while the member of the Education Committee Loredana Bettonte sent her contribution on an ostrich egg!

Worth noting are also multilingual contributions. Erminio Soldati wrote in Italian, French, English, Spanish, and Portuguese; Erich Werner wrote in Italian, French, and English; Boris Neubauer wrote in German and French.

Last but not least, the contributions by Giulia Torregrossa and Paolo Michela-Zucco were written in original Michela-Zucco stenotype layouts. It is to be noted that this year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of the inventor of the Italian Stenotyping machine Michela-Zucco.

The Accademia Aliprandi recently opened a page on Facebook where all outlines can be seen and commented.

[Gian Paolo Trivulzio](#)

IPRS: Shorthand meets Florence

A total of 24 writers using eight different shorthand systems displayed their work at an exhibition in Florence on 28th February. Entitled “Shorthand Meets Florence” the event was part of celebrations to mark the 750th anniversary of the death of Dante Alighieri and was held during the Annual General Assembly of the Italian Academy of Multimedia Writing and Communication. It formed part of a series of events held by the Italian Academy Aliprandi e Rodriguez, a non-profit organisation.



The Academy called for entries in shorthand of the description of Florence to be found in the 15th Canto of Dante’s Paradise (lines corresponding to the 97-102 of the original version). Authors were able to choose the stenographic system they wished to use and could transcribe whatever version they wished.

Shorthand writers from Italy the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Austria and the UK submitted texts. Among parliamentary reporters who participated were those using Michela (from Giulia Torregrossa, Senate) and the Sicilians Fabrizio G. Verruso, Rosa Brocato and Andrea Chianello (Sicilian Parliament).

Among friends from Intersteno who took part were Jaroslav Zaviacic and Boris Neubauer and Peter Walker, from the UK. The event resulted from a proposal of Fabrizio Verruso (member of the Executive Committee of the Academy) and approved by the entire committee.

The initiative was greatly appreciated by visitors to the exhibition. The president of the Academy, Carlo Rodriguez, expressed his satisfaction with the event and was grateful for the number of entries.

Fabrizio G. Verruso

Member Steering Committee IPRS



An oath for reporter

Every professional in the field of reporting has a mission: translating a speech into a written text. However this is not as simple as that. Reporting is much more than simply transcribing what is heard. Reporting is being able to give readers the same experience enjoyed by listeners, by respecting given textual and professional requirements. Moreover, reporting is respecting colleagues so that the profession is protected against the inevitable negative impact of a completely unregulated market. Similar to the Hippocratic Oath of physicians, and inspired by the Hieronymic Oath of translators, the Intersteno Scientific Committee proposes an oath for the reporting community that commits reporters to loyalty (to profession, speakers, readers), and quality (accuracy, acceptability and accessibility of target text). The Oath is dedicated to the most famous reporter of history, the person being considered as the inventor of shorthand, Cicero's freedman Marcus Tullius Tiro.



Proposal - The Tironian Oath

1. I swear to be a loyal member of the reporting world and to respect both its classical roots and its contemporary evolution. I will share my expertise with colleagues and pass it on to trainees.
2. I will not work for unreasonable fees, deadlines, or work conditions.
3. I will respect my readers by making my reports as accessible as possible, according to the conditions of each reporting task, and by using the necessary technological aids.
4. My reports will never represent their source texts in unfair ways.
5. I will always report to the best of my abilities. I will use my expertise to maximize communication and minimize misunderstanding across the dimensions of language.
6. I will respect the professional secrets of my clients, and not exploit them for personal gain. I will follow clients' instructions and inform clients to achieve the best outcome possible.
7. I will be honest about my own qualifications and limitations. I will not accept work that is outside my competence and possibilities. I will not exploit the job of younger colleagues or trainees for personal advantage.
8. I will inform clients of unresolved problems, and agree to arbitration in case of dispute.
9. I will do all I can to improve my competence, including all relevant linguistic, technical and other knowledge and skills.
10. I swear to keep this Oath to the best of my ability and judgement.

Carlo Eugeni

Everyone's-touch-typist

From Mail Online I report here the main results of an investigation which was carried out jointly by Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, US and Kobe University in Japan .

A team of cognitive psychologists from those universities were studying automatism - the ability to perform actions without conscious thought or intention, when they made their discovery.



The screenshot shows the MailOnline website interface. At the top, there are social media links for Facebook (3.5M likes), Twitter (@MailOnline), and DailyMail. The date and time are Friday, Mar 18th 2016 10AM 10°C. The main navigation bar includes Home, News, U.S., Sport, TV&Showbiz, Australia, Femail, Health, Science (highlighted), Money, Video, Travel, and Fast. Below the navigation bar, there are sections for 'YOU MIGHT LIKE' with five featured articles: 'Sparta: The Strategy Game Phenomenon of 2015', 'Aged 35 he speaks 11 languages - his 11 tricks to learn any la...', 'Pirates: Finally a Free and Addictive Strategy Game!', 'Specialists Speak: 2016 Trends & Predictions in Collec...', and 'Denti bianchi gratis! Nessun prodotto costoso, Ne sforzo...'. The main article headline is 'Everyone's a touch typist! Technology addiction means that the average person can type 72 words a minute without looking'. Below the headline, there are two bullet points: 'In the study, 100 students completed a short typing test' and 'In the experiments the average person was able to hit six keys a second.' There is also a search bar and a Dacia advertisement on the right side.

The research, published in the journal Attention, Perception & Psychophysics, found that skilled typists cannot identify the positions of many of the keys on the QWERTY keyboard while novice typists don't appear to learn key locations in the first place.

Lead author of the study, Vanderbilt University's Dr Kristy Snyder, said: "When you are typing away at your computer, you don't know what your fingers do. This demonstrates that we're capable of doing extremely complicated things without knowing explicitly what we are doing."

One hundred students and locals completed the short typing test.

Then they were shown a blank QWERTY keyboard and given 80 seconds to write the letters in the correct location.

On average they typed 72 words per minute with 94 per cent accuracy.

But they could accurately place an average of only 15 letters on a blank keyboard.

For more than a century scientists have recognised the existence of automatic behaviour of this type from such tasks as tying shoelaces or making coffee to factory assembly-line work

to riding a bicycle and driving a car.

Scientists had assumed that typing also fell into this category, but had not tested it. What surprised them was evidence that conflicts with the basic theory of automatic learning that holds that it starts out as a conscious process and gradually becomes unconscious with repetition.

According to the widely held theory, as you repeat the task it becomes increasingly automatic. This allows you to think about other things while you performing the task but your conscious recollection of the details gradually fades away.

But the researchers were surprised when they found evidence that the typists never appear to memorise the key positions, not even when they are first learning to type. Evidence for this conclusion came from another experiment included in the study. The researchers recruited 24 typists who were skilled on the QWERTY keyboard and had them learn to type on a Dvorak keyboard, which places keys in different locations. After the participants developed a reasonable proficiency with the alternative keyboard, they were asked to identify the placement of the keys on a blank Dvorak keyboard. On average, they could locate only 17 letters correctly, comparable to participants' performance with the QWERTY keyboard.

Gordon Logan, Professor of Psychology at Vanderbilt, who supervised the experiments said: "It appears that not only do we not know much about what we are doing but we can't know it because we don't consciously learn how to do it in the first place. When I was a boy people learned to type by taking a typing class and one of the first assignments was to memorise the keyboard.

'The lack of explicit knowledge of the keyboard may be due to the fact that computers and keyboards have become so ubiquitous that students learn how to use them in an informal, trial-and-error fashion when they are very young.'

GPT comment: What drew my attention to this and therefore the wish to reproduce this article is this part which I copy here in Italic: What surprised them (the researchers) was evidence that conflicts with the basic theory of automatic learning that holds that it starts out as a conscious process and gradually becomes unconscious with repetition.

Do we share this conviction? Members of our Scientific Committee and keyboard experts can comment this and other parts of this article.

You can check the article at this link

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2594078/Everyones-touch-typist-Technology-addiction-means-average-person-type-72-words-minute-without-looking.html>

Gian Paolo Trivulzio

Video Retrieval System for the Japanese Diet Deliberations

Introduction

In seeking innovative ways to provide universal access to policy information, we have launched an internet video retrieval system for the Japanese Diet. We offer in this paper an overview of the video retrieval system we have developed and demonstrate how one can retrieve video streaming on user terminals that do not support Japanese language input.



Although many parliaments offer online video streaming of speech and debate, these video library systems merely provide us with the search engine to retrieve videos by the date and theme of parliamentary meetings. However, even if we successfully retrieve the parliamentary video we want, we need to watch the video from the beginning until we reach the speech or debate we are particularly interested in. By using the latest sound recognition techniques to create timestamp data to match up parliamentary video feeds and the minutes of proceedings, we have developed an internet video retrieval system for Diet deliberations in which one can pinpoint and play the parliamentary video clips corresponding to the minutes of proceedings through a keyword search.

With our video retrieval system one can directly retrieve the moment of video feeds he or she is particularly interested in, visually understand the flow of parliamentary debate, and check the facial expression and body language of the speaker. By captioning the videos, our system can also offer alternative ways to utilize the parliamentary deliberation clips for those who have visual and hearing impairments. Since it is easy to share the URL identifying the moment of video feeds via SNS, our system has great potential to boost the usage of Diet debates videos by researchers as well as ordinary citizens.

In this paper, we offer an overview of the video retrieval system we have developed, and demonstrate how one can retrieve video streaming on user terminals that do not support Japanese language input. We believe that our endeavour sheds new light on the future development of parliamentary video streaming systems in other countries as well.

Video Retrieval System for Diet Debates

The Japanese Constitution stipulates that each house of the Diet shall keep a record of proceedings and give it general circulation. While not considered as “official” records, the Diet Library currently provides via internet the digitized minutes of parliamentary meetings since the opening of the Imperial Diet in 1890, which are amenable to keyword searching. On the other hand, we can watch the online live streaming of proceedings at the secretariat website of each house. Also, we can search the video library and watch the video streaming of parliamentary proceedings. Both houses originally started making video streaming of plenary and committee meetings available for only one year, but the House of Representatives alone changed its policy so that the videos of proceedings since 2010 are currently available to watch:

<http://www.shugiintv.go.jp/index.php>, <http://www.webtv.sangiin.go.jp/webtv/index.php>.

Diet debates videos can be searched by meeting date, meeting title, subject and speaker, although only the first two search options are offered in the English interface. However, even if we successfully retrieve the Diet debates video we want, we need to watch the video streaming from the beginning until we reach the speech or debate we are particularly interested in. It is not uncommon for a committee meeting to take more than 7 hours. While the breakdown of the video by questioner is available in the Japanese interface, video streaming usually takes 30 to 60 minutes. No such breakdown is available in the English interface. Moreover, the answers to parliamentary questions are included in the video by questioner. Thus, we have no way to search the Diet debates videos of prime ministers and cabinet ministers answering parliamentary questions.

By linking the Diet Library's proceedings database and the Diet secretariats' debates video libraries, our "Video Retrieval System for Diet Debates" makes it possible for one to retrieve the debates video clips corresponding to the minutes of the proceedings through keyword searching. For instance, our system allows us to pinpoint and play the video clip when we see the an item such as "An MP X made a remark Y in parliamentary debate." With our system we can directly retrieve the portion of video feeds we are particularly interested in, visually understand the flow of parliamentary debate and check the facial expression and body language of the speaker, which is impossible by simply reading the minutes of parliamentary proceedings.

Unlike the Diet secretariats' websites, our system creates and adds subtitles to the Diet debates videos, and thus offers a way for those who suffer from hearing impairment to utilize the debates video library. Moreover, the Diet Library's website is not suitable for screen readers to assist blind and visually impaired users. Even if we can successfully search the proceedings database and reach the speech or debate of particular interest, we need to use text vocalizing software to produce synthetic voices that no longer resemble the original speaker's. In contrast, our video retrieval system allows us to see the video in which what was actually spoken in the Diet can be instantly reproduced.

Technically speaking, our video retrieval system consists of two sub-systems. One of the sub-systems creates timestamp data to match up the Diet Library's proceedings database and the Diet secretariats' debates video databases, by using the latest sound recognition techniques. The second sub-system uses the timestamp data to search the Diet proceedings and retrieve the Diet debates videos corresponding to the minute of the proceedings through keyword searching. The results of keyword searching are debates video links, and the portion of video feed we are particularly interested in can be partially played by clicking the URL link for the debate video stored in the Diet secretariats' databases.

"Video Retrieval System for Diet Debates" has been in operation and publicly available since November 2012.

<http://gclip1.grips.ac.jp/video/>

Below, we briefly describe how our video retrieval system works. Figure 1 shows the top page of our web-based search interface that allows us to search for the debates videos by typing any keywords. The English interface will appear by clicking "English" at the right top corner.



Figure 1: Keyword Search Interface in Japanese

As shown in Figure 2, one can type any keywords in English in the search field, separated by spaces, and they will be automatically translated into Japanese and used in keyword searching.

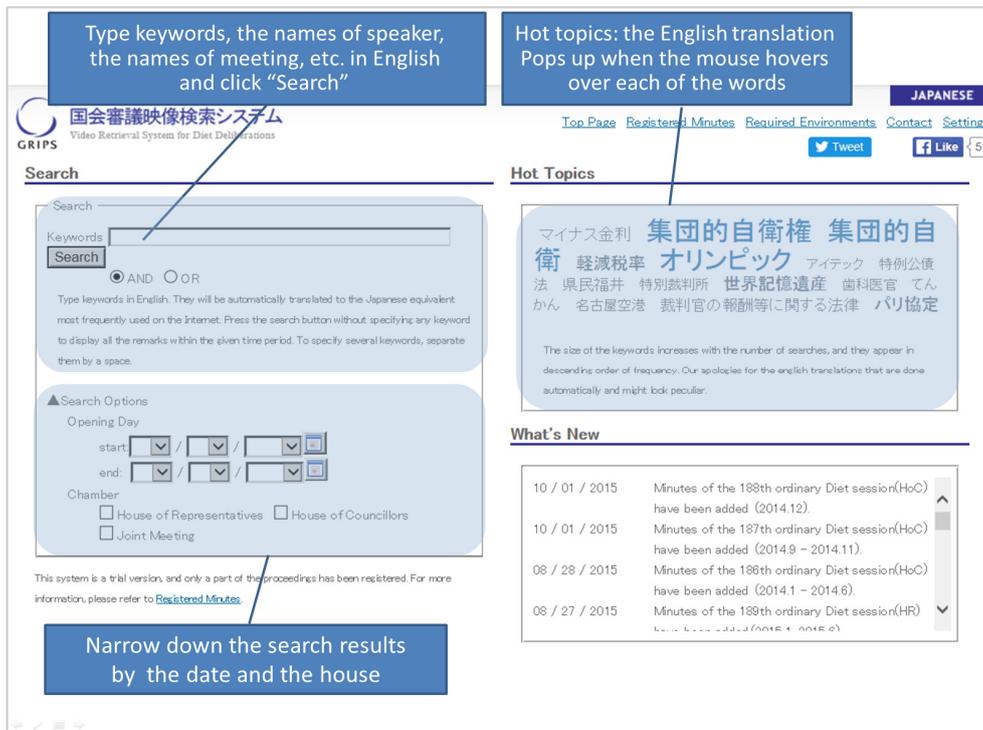


Figure 2: Keyword Search Interface in English

By marking one of the boxes under the search field we can specify the AND/OR search op-

tions. In addition to filtering the search results by the date we can limit the search to either or both of the two houses, or to the joint meetings of the two houses. Once we hit the search button a screen shot like Figure 3 is displayed, which lists the search results in the order of date (keywords “constitution amendment” in the House of Representatives for the period between September and December in 2015), and offers additional search options to indicate the meetings (top 10) and the speakers (top 5) with the words matching the search text, which allows us to further narrow down the search results by marking one or more of the boxes for the meetings and the speakers.



Figure 3: Video Feed Link

The search results are listed as URL links. Once we click one of the video feed links a screen shot like Figure 4 is displayed. Sub-titles are shown under the video. The speech list is shown on the right side, in which the speech playing is highlighted. The video keeps playing for either one minute or three speeches. Alternatively, we can keep playing the video by clicking the play button in the toolbar under the video. By double-clicking any speech in the list on the right side, we can instantly watch the video stream of the speeches before and after the speech searched by keywords. Once the user has moved on to another speech, the original speech searched by keywords remains highlighted in yellow.

Further, the URL identifying the moment of video streaming is shown under the video, and we can easily share the URL via SNS, by clicking the tweet button next to the URL bar while playing the video stream. The speech and the URL will immediately show up in the tweet box by clicking the tweet button. To assist keyword searching, “Hot Topics” on the right side of the top page lists 15 words in descending order of the frequency occurring in the Diet proceedings, placing more weight on the frequency in later parliamentary meetings than earlier and in one meeting than in more than one meeting. The size of the words in-

creases with the number of searches, reflecting the attention given to Diet debates videos. The English translation pops up when the mouse hovers over each of the words.



Figure 4: Video Replay Interface

Our video retrieval system can be utilized in a variety of ways. For instance, we can create a list of search results with the query “Constitution Amendment” by the speaker “Abe Shinzo.” By clicking one of the video links in the list we can instantly reproduce the speeches made by the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in relation to constitutional amendment, with his own voice, facial expression, and body language.

The Diet members increasingly present information about their activities on the websites. Some use their websites to reproduce minutes of parliamentary proceedings, and even edit and upload debates videos on their websites. In contrast, our video retrieval system allows us to identify the URL for the moment of video streaming and create a list of video links without downloading and editing the video files.

Also, we can use Twitter to create a list of parliamentary speeches. For instance, prime ministers customarily begin answering questions in plenary meetings by saying “There is a question regarding X.” We thus narrow down the above-mentioned search results to the speeches beginning with “There is a question regarding constitutional amendment,” and tweet the speeches and their video links to create a list of Prime Minister Abe’s plenary speeches on the issue of constitutional amendment.

Another example for utilizing the interfaces for keyword searching and partial replay is to post debates video links to internet news.

On February 13, 2014, Shinzo Abe told a Lower House Budget Committee that he is the “ultimate arbiter” of affairs concerning the constitutional interpretation.

For instance, we find a report like this in the internet newspaper, featuring the remarks

made by Prime Minister Abe in the Diet. The internet news can be enhanced in its visual performance by using our video retrieval system and inserting the following video link for the moment of video streaming in question.

http://gclip1.grips.ac.jp/video/video/1117/speech_id/832311#main

The minutes of the proceedings are an important source of what was discussed in the Diet, but they are not the whole story. For instance, supplementary materials are often used in parliamentary meetings, and discussions are substantially based on graphic materials such as figures and tables. Such supplementary materials are not included as part of the minutes unless requested is made to do so by the Diet members. Although the secretariats and the library of the Diet keep the supplementary materials used in parliamentary meetings, their existence is not widely known and they are hardly used. We are currently working on an analysis of committee debates videos by using pattern recognition techniques to distinguish between those portions of videos that do or do not focus on the speaker so that we can create a list of thumbnail videos focusing on supplementary materials used in committee meetings.

Moreover, the minutes are silent as to non-verbal communication. For instance, a committee meeting may be suspended due to disorder or irregularities. The committee chair and senior members usually take to under-the-table negotiations to deal with the situation, and there may be no written records of the suspension. In contrast, visual information may be useful in this regard. By checking deliberation videos, we may be able to get a sense of how long it takes to resume and how the situation is dealt with during the suspension.

By taking advantage of our system combining the interfaces for keyword searching and partial replay, we may be able to conduct experimental studies to analyze how visual information affects the understanding of Diet debates. We can think of the informatics of Diet deliberations as the multidisciplinary scientific approach to parliamentary debates, not only as text information, but as sound and visual information.

Conclusion

Although our video retrieval system is still at the preliminary stage we believe that our system offers alternative ways to utilize parliamentary video streaming for those who have visual and hearing impairments. By incorporating automatic translation into the web-based keyword search interface, we have made our system available for those using a computer not capable of typing in Japanese. The sound recognition techniques to create timestamp data to match up video and text information are applicable to a wide range of proceedings, including those of local assemblies and administrative councils, as well as other types of videos such as TV news clips.

In short, our video retrieval system has great potential to boost the usage of videos in relation to policy-making. Much remains to be done but we believe that our endeavour encourages research to utilize visual information in policy-making and marks a step forward in providing universal access to policy information, regardless of knowledge and abilities to use information technology and language.

Mikitaka Masuyama

Notes

Mikitaka Masuyama is professor of political science at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo, Japan. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. His research interests include legislative institutions, Japanese politics and political methodology. He is the author of Agenda Power in the Japanese Diet: A Duration Analysis of Lawmaking (Bokutakusha, 2003) and Legislative Power and Democracy (University of Tokyo Press, 2015).

This paper is based on an earlier one (Mikitaka Masuyama and Kaori Takeda, "Instant Parliamentary Deliberations Are in Our Reach" Presented at the American Political Science Association Conference, Washington DC, USA, August 28-31, 2014) and supported by JSPS Kakenhi Grants Number 22223002 and 15H0527.

Keyboard Web Learning with tuition by a Champion.



The illustration shows a pair of hands in black suits typing on a yellow keyboard. A black-bordered box with white text is overlaid on the keyboard. The text in the box reads: 美タイピング入門 (Beautiful Typing Introduction) and より速く、正確な入力を身につける (Learn to type faster and more accurately).

On March 14th Takahiro Sumino who, among other qualities, is a typewriting champion in Japan, started a web-based touch typing training course by web using the platform "Schoo".

This platform is not for peer-to peer-lessons. Many people can attend the class at the same time. The major feature of it is that the teacher is able to see the feedback of students in realtime. Consequently, the teacher can reflect the feedback to optimize assistance to the class.

There is video assistance showing who is attending the live lesson, and this can be viewed by the absent students or used as additional reinforcement by the students who attended and wish to review some points that were not fully understood or practised.

British Institute of Verbatim Reporters: Awareness week 2016

One of the highlights of the week was the visit on Friday 5th February of Intersteno's President, Fausto Ramondelli, bringing with him the proposal that the Institute should become the British National Group of Intersteno.

Accepting the offer, Leah Willersdorf, President of the Institute, said:

"Our profession is a global profession, as evidenced not only by the array of nationalities we have within our membership but by the number of countries that have been members of Intersteno for a very long time. You don't need me, an Aussie, to tell you that the United Kingdom is a major country in Europe, but it was (until last year) rather conspicuous by its absence in not being a member of Intersteno, whether as the National Group or as an Associate Member. 'The first meeting from which Intersteno was born, took place in London on September 1887'...it's only natural that we become the British National Group. Intersteno has worldwide recognition and I think to be a member of it can only be a good thing."



Reporting to Institute members on the success of the week Leah commented:

One word. WOW!



As you all know, the week culminated with our London Exhibition on Friday, 5 February. The support we received was absolutely fantastic; from members, from non-members, from students, from principals, from reporting agencies (local AND international), from captioning agencies, from international organisations, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera (in the words of Yul Brynner in *The King & I*!).

The entire day surpassed certainly my expectations and has kept me grinning from ear to ear, even up to the point I write this. In the days leading up to the event I felt like you do when you throw a party and you always wonder if anyone is actually going to turn up!

It's over a month now since BAW and I hear reporters still talking about it and employees/principals from some of the agencies still commenting on the day. I reckon it's pretty safe to say that BIVR Awareness Week was a huge success.

The stream of visitors throughout the day was constant. Except for a slight lull at lunchtime, the room was absolutely filled with a hubbub of activity.



The day ended with us popping the first bottle of Prosecco at around 5.45pm, and we went on to consume another eight!

All in all, it truly was wonderful to see old faces and friends, make some new connections

and re-establish old ones.

Now we know what to expect, the next one will be bigger and better, and with plenty more notice!

Before our awareness week we didn't really use the public Facebook page, just the Closed (private) Facebook group. The good news is that our public page, which had a mere 24 Likes before BAW, now has 244, and is growing every week. This means that our Institute is getting recognised all over the world!

Thanks to everybody who attended the day and/or helped out.

[Leah Willersdorf](#)

President of the British Institute of Verbatim Reporters



A new President of the Austrian Association for Shorthand and Word Processing (ÖSTV)

After many years in office our honorary president, Ms. Marlis Kulb (Vienna), has handed the presidency of the Austrian Association for Shorthand and Word Processing (ÖSTV) to a younger generation. From now on Mr. Michael Köpl is the new President of ÖSTV.

Ms. Kulb still supports the association actively as vice-president. She thanks the international community for its excellent collaboration and friendship.

The Austrian national group remains represented on the INTERSTENO council by Mr. Harald Liebhart.

On behalf of the INTERSTENO federation we congratulate Michael on his new function and we wish him and the ÖSTV good fortune. To Marlis we express our gratitude for her many years of leadership of ÖSTV. The yearly legendary 'Vienna Jugendwettbewerb' she organized brought hundreds of young people to the Vienna youth in keyboarding competition.

On this occasion our thanks are also addressed to her husband, Leo, who supported his wife not only in 'logistic matters' but who always knows to amuse and entertain the international community. To both we wish good health and hope to see them on many future INTERSTENO occasions.





ECOS 2016

The European Conference of Speech-to-Text (ECOS) 2016 will take place in Berlin from 26th to 28th August 2016.

As most of you already know speech-to-text (STT) interpreting is a type of intralingual interpreting mostly used by late deafened and hearing-impaired persons who have a spoken language as their first language.

The topic of this meeting is "Alternating between closeness and distance. Speech-to-text-reporters between the poles of social, ethical and economic norms"

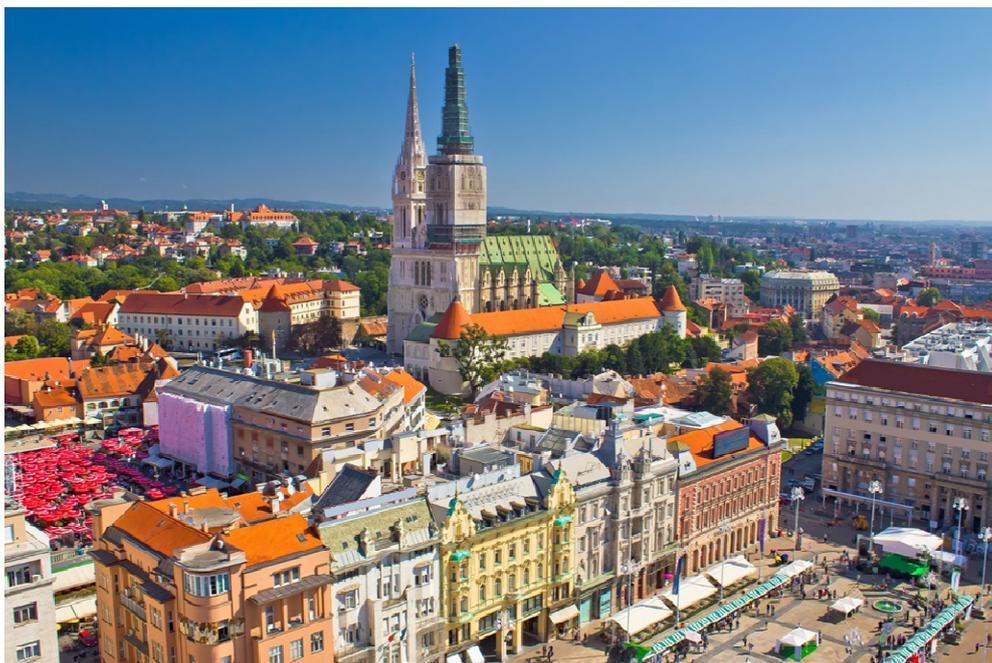
The venue of this event will take place at Berliner Stadtmission
Lehrter Str. 68
10557 Berlin

Registration is at the web page: <http://www.ecos2016.org>

The organizers of this event invite you to contribute to the programme of ECOS 2016 by submitting and presenting papers to this year's topic as set out above.

Papers that focus either on theory or practice are welcome. Proposals will be reviewed by the ECOS programme committee. Speakers are asked to write a brief summary of their presentation. We also welcome proposals for organising workshops either following a presentation of a paper or as an independent session. Please send your proposal to info@ecos2016.org

Council and IPRS-meeting in Zagreb – 5-8 October 2016



The **Hrvatsko Stenografsko Društvo** (Croatian Shorthand Association) is ready to welcome the INTERSTENO Council and IPRS members to the Council and IPRS meeting in Zagreb, 5-8 October 2016.

Venue

Arcotel Allegra Hotel, Ul. kneza Branimira 29, 10000, Zagreb. Tel.: +385 1 4696 000.

Program

Wednesday, October 5, 2016		
Morning	Arrival of the board members	Board
Day	Arrival of all participants	All
14.00	Board meeting	Board
20.00	Welcome dinner	All
Thursday, October 6, 2016		
09.00	Council meeting 1	Council
12.00	Lunch	All
13.30-16.30	IPRS meeting 1	IPRS
17.00-20.00	Council meeting 2	Council
	Free evening	All
Friday, October 7, 2016		
09.00	Council meeting 3 - IPRS meeting 2 (parallel)	Council/IPRS
12.00	Lunch	All

13.30-16.00	Guided city tour	All
	Visit to the Croatian Parliament	All
20.00	Gala dinner	All
Saturday, October 8, 2016		
All day	Excursion – Plitvice National Park	All - optional

Participation fees

Basic package (single room, 3 nights)	400,00 EUR
Basic package (double room, 3 nights, 2 persons)	680,00 EUR
Extra night, single room	79,00 EUR
Extra night, double room, 2 persons	93,00 EUR
Optional excursion to Plitvice Lakes National Park	60,00 EUR
Hotel parking garage (per day)	13,00 EUR

The basic package includes:

- 3 nights with breakfast in Arcotel Allegra Hotel, Zagreb
- welcome dinner at the hotel
- 2 lunches at the hotel
- use of conference rooms and technical equipment the hotel
- coffee break once a day (or more, if requested)
- mineral water on the tables, in quantities as needed
- guided tourist tour of the city
- gala dinner at a Croatian restaurant in Zagreb
- tourist tax
- use of fitness and wellness facilities at the hotel, as well as massage services, with booking at least 12 hours in advance.

Registrations and payments

Registrations will start in the next few weeks, directly on the website of the Croatian Shorthand Association www.stenograf.hr. We will inform you as soon as possible.

The participation fee should be paid to the following account, all bank costs at your charge:

Name: Hrvatsko Stenografsko Društvo, Ulica Nikole Tesle 5/I, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia-
Bank: Zagrebačka Banka, Zagreb, Trg bana Josipa Jelačića 10

IBAN: HR2723600001101514909 – BIC/SWIFT: ZBAHR2X

Many thanks to Peter Walker for linguistic revision, and to Daniela Bertolini for the layout.

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