

Enhanced Captioning Research Project

The Enhanced Captioning project takes conventional closed captioning further by involving the creation of an "emotive captioning" palette to enable a mockup and display system for all non-word sound.

This project is a catchall for a series of smaller graduate student and grant-based research projects at our Centre that explore opportunities for the creation of new caption delivery systems with broadband, interactive, and digital TV (DTV). We are exploring modality conversion to a much greater degree than what has been applied to commercial closed captioning efforts. Currently, we are exploring audio to visual and audio to tactile experiences. One of our ongoing projects involves the creation of an "emotive captioning" palette to enable a mockup and display system for all non-word sound.

The digital revolution has finally caught up to the television industry. As a result of this revolution and the increased available bandwidth accompanying it, access to television and television programming for people with disabilities is poised for significant improvements. The digital television industry is just beginning to develop and as a result there is an important window of opportunity to provide useful and cost-effective access solutions for digital television that can benefit many viewers. One salient and obvious focus of research is to examine opportunities for enhancements of closed-captioning.

While the new digital standard for closed-captioning, EIA-708, provides for some limited enhancements such as different fonts and different colours, it does not address the need for capturing and transmitting all of the audio information in a broadcast with a different form (e.g., sound effects, music and emotion). We are exploring a number of concepts and models that provide graphical and tactile expressions of non-speech audio information.

Exhibit: Deaf Filmmakers - The Future of Film

A display of our captioning research is being exhibited at the Deaf Culture Centre from December 2008 until December 2009. For more information please visit: www.deafculturecentre.ca

