

LIBERATED LEARNING



Liberated Learning

Accessible Information

Liberated Learning is a ground breaking technology application that automatically captions live speech and instantly creates accessible, searchable multimedia notes available online. The technology has been used successfully in university, museum, and corporate environments.

A Worldwide Consortium

This revolutionary accessibility tool emanates from the Liberated Learning Consortium: a unique partnership between a team of international universities and some of the world's most innovative companies.

A Classroom First

Liberated Learning began at the Atlantic Centre of Research, Access and Support for Students with Disabilities at Saint Mary's University (SMU) in Halifax, a national Centre of Excellence in the field of accessible education. As the world's first university to use speech recognition in its courses, SMU hosts the Consortium and also leads cutting edge research into classroom testing, technology development, and outreach into public and corporate applications.

SMU's first partner in this endeavor was IBM, renowned for its longstanding commitment to accessibility and dedication to innovation. For the past seven years, the world's top speech recognition scientists at IBM Research and worldwide Accessibility Centers have been working with Liberated Learning to develop IBM ViaScribe™, a first of a kind technology.

RBC Opens New Doors

In 2004, one of Canada's most respected corporations, RBC Financial Group, proudly joined SMU and IBM to develop new business applications for ViaScribe™.



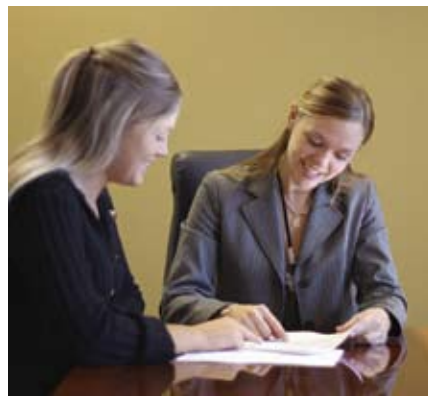
A revolutionary technology... a model for innovation.



From Classroom to Boardroom

SMU, IBM, and RBC collaborated to advance the technology in eLearning and corporate training environments to provide better access for employees.

Illustrating its core values of diversity and innovation, RBC became the world's first company to use speech recognition to caption its annual shareholder's meeting, providing a new level of accessibility for stakeholders.



RBC and ViaScribe

A next generation project beginning in the fall of 2006 will focus on using speech recognition to transcribe meetings and facilitate information retrieval. In keeping with RBC's commitment to accessibility, the project will also investigate using ViaScribe™ as a portable communication device for RBC employees and/or clients with hearing impairments.

A Clear Message

Research has demonstrated that Liberated Learning provides advantages to learners with and without disabilities. Automatically captioning speech and enabling efficient information retrieval from a variety of presentations, meetings, videos, and other multimedia has a compelling value proposition. Liberated Learning supports:

- greater access for diverse audiences, regardless of ability or disability
- easy indexing of information
- efficient search for specific information
- machine readable transcripts for simplified translation
- reduced cost of creating demonstration, eLearning, and training materials
- compliance with accessibility regulations

Contact Liberated Learning

We believe Liberated Learning will continue to evolve through ongoing research and development, fueled by collaboration with likeminded partners. In Canada, Saint Mary's is joined by Trent University, Cambrian College, and Cape Breton University's Alexander Graham Bell Institute in this endeavour. If you would like to learn more about Liberated Learning or to discuss applications within your organization please contact us at:



Liberated Learning Consortium

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