

IAAIS Report

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**The International
Association of Audio
Information Services
3920 Willshire Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049**

Editorial

Stuart Holland, editor

As you can see, the look, the length, and the format of the newsletter have undergone a change. Hopefully, you will like the changes, though I'm sure some will miss the depth that the former format allowed. We are intending the conference to be the time for longer, more in depth presentations. Please try to make coming to the conferences a priority.

Recently, I was approached by a research assistant from Harvard Medical School working with a study investigating sleep and the body clock in people with no light perception. 60% of totally blind people have cyclic sleep problems because their body clocks are not set to the 24-hour day.

Though I sent the information out to the list-serve, there are people who see the IAAIS Report who do not see the list-serve. Those people who are interested in receiving more information about the study being conducted by Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School should contact Joe Hull at 1-617-278-0857, or via e-mail at jhull@rics.bwh.harvard.edu .

15,000 Hours of Reading Leads to Volunteer of the Year Award

By Jennifer Nigro

The Kansas Audio-Reader Network's very first volunteer received a huge honor on February 22, when a panel of judges chose her as the recipient for Lawrence's Wallace Galluzzi Volunteer of the Year award. Eleanor, who started reading books for Audio-Reader before it went on the air in 1971, has put in 15,000 volunteer hours over the course of her reading career. She still records for at least 6 hours each week.

Eleanor was chosen from a pool of twenty nominees. This is the first time an Audio-Reader volunteer has won the award.

The IAAIS Board

President, Heather Lusignan
Treasurer/Past President, Ben Martin
First Vice-President, Kim Walsh
Secretary, Linda Ornt
Directors: David Binkley, Mike Duke, Diana Frederick, John Fullerton, Stuart Holland, Hal Kneller, Pete Loewenstein, Brad Martin, Michael Riksen, Lou Stanley, Gail Starkey, Stan Suarez

What's on the List-serve?

Stations who do not take advantage of the List-serve are missing out on some good discussions. The topics below are ones that have been discussed on the List-serve in recent months:

- ACB Reports
- Age Related Macular Degeneration
- Attitudes on Access
- Blogging
- Broadcast methods
- Congratulations to a member service
- Copyright restrictions
- Cross talk
- Digital equipment
- Equipment information
- Finding FM stations
- Golden Mark Radios
- Holiday cards for U.S. troops
- Holiday programming
- How to contact Brad Martin
- The IAAIS Newsletter
- Job opening
- Jobs programs
- Literacy programs
- Looking for equipment
- Newspaper articles on member services
- Nuisance links on computer
- Old Time Radio
- Password protection of webcasting
- Playing music on Webcast
- Population Statistics
- Postal regulations
- Program Share
- Programming decisions
- Programs on, and for, veterans
- Pronunciation Guides
- Radio coverage questions
- Public Radio affiliation
- SCA Radios
- SCA Translator questions
- Sharing personal news
- TV listings on the Web
- What is sent with new radios
- WireReady

Idaho Radio Reading Service installs Linux based LAN system

Beginning in February, Brett Winchester, manager of the Idaho Radio Reading Service, and his programmer developed and installed a Linux based LAN system for the service. Linux is an open-source (free) system, that is seen by many as a non-windows, alternative to Microsoft products and systems. Winchester says, "Our net cost has been low as all hardware and software have been donated. While accessibility is still in development, it has a web-based interface which JAWS works well with." Winchester says his programmer is willing to share the source code for this system if it is needed elsewhere. Please contact Winchester at bwinchester@icbvi.idaho.gov or by phone at 208-639-8386.

VOICEcorps reading service educates central Ohio voters with disabilities

VOICEcorps reading service, located in Columbus, Ohio, welcomed people with disabilities on Thursday, October 19, 2006 for a hands-on demonstration of the new iVotronic electronic voting system used by the local elections board. Registered voters visited VOICEcorps throughout the day to talk with Howard Heard and representatives of the Franklin County Board of Elections. Heard showed visitors how the accessible machines enable voters with blindness or other visual impairments to independently cast a secret ballot.

"This is the first time we've had a nearly day-long public event to promote voting, and it was a success," said Sandy Turner, VOICEcorps executive director. "We are pleased that our event educated people with disabilities."

An award-winning program hosted by Chuck Adkins, director of broadcast operations, also explained how to use the voting machines. Copies of the program were made available so that people could study the layout of the machine before going to the polls. VOICEcorps plans to repeat its voter education efforts leading up to the 2007 primary and general elections.

What is the PAIS?

In January, IAAIS was invited by NPR Labs to participate in a joint venture to develop a Personalized Audio Information Service (PAIS) which will bring TiVo-style timeshifting to accessible radios. The three-year project is unique in that when completed there will be consumer products going to market that would allow audio information service listeners to access the programming they want to hear when they want to hear it, rather than being tied to a traditional broadcast.

At a teleconference meeting Monday January 22nd, the IAAIS Executive Committee unanimously voted in favor of the PAIS proposal and potential three-year project as a fully-funded partner organization and further agreed that IAAIS will commit time, effort and professional expertise towards the success of the PAIS Project.

In the letter of support, President Heather Lusignan wrote:

The International Association of Audio Information Services (IAAIS) is an association of independently operated, volunteer-driven services that have been distributing print media in audio format for more than thirty years. A mixture of public and privately supported audio services provide free, timely access to national, regional and local newspapers, magazines and other print media for blind, vision-impaired and other print-restricted consumers, including seniors – the largest single consumer base for audio information services. Over one hundred services in the US, many of which operate under the auspices of Public Radio Stations, reach more than one million print-restricted American consumers.

IAAIS has worked with NPR Labs on a number of accessibility-related projects and we are delighted to partner with them in this unique, landmark project to develop a Personalized Audio Information Service (PAIS) product for the benefit of an underserved market – American consumers with limited or no access to print media.

IAAIS supports the PAIS Project for the following reasons:

- It now is technologically possible for audio information service listeners to have access to more than a fixed receiver and a rigid program schedule for their information needs
- Audio information service users, like sighted consumers, should have access to a diversity of on-demand programming of their choice
- As the number of vision-restricted Americans increases so will the percentage of people within that group who are less leery of emerging technologies and eager to embrace those with off-the-shelf accessibility

- In this age of technological advances disabled and senior consumers should share in the advances of mainstream media concurrently with their sighted counterparts
- Print-restricted Americans are also electronics consumers

Technology Update

David Noble and Hal Kneller (from IAAIS technology committee) were at the (Consumer Electronics Show) CES in January. HD Radio had a very strong presence. 2007 IS the year of HD Radio receivers being available in large supply, in many styles, and easy to find, some for as low as \$99. We've waited a long time for this. We saw everything from high-end home theatre AV receivers with HD Radio in them to small profile table radios to car converters.

NDS is the company working with iBiquity to build conditional access into the HD Radios. We saw a working demo of this in the iBiquity booth. There were two Sangean receivers, one off-the-shelf, and one modified to receive a radio reading service transmission which has been encrypted. The off-the-shelf models displayed "NOT AUTHORIZED" and showed a phone number to call. No audio came out of that channel. On the modified unit, we could see the RRS on the display by name, and could hear the audio in good quality. This will be shown at NAB in April in Las Vegas, and before that time, will be tested at the RRS in Tampa on WUSF. Currently we are scheduled to install test equipment during week of March 19th. On May 9th we will have a demonstration hosted by member station WUSF-FM. Stuart Holland and Brad Martin from IAAIS will attend.

Any IAAIS members going to NAB, please attend the Harris booth and the IAAIS/NDS conditional access display to create additional broadcast industry visibility for the demonstration at NAB.

Donate to the IAAIS by.....

Please consider an additional gift to the IAAIS. You may designate it for specific purposes, for example, to support the conference scholarship fund, or to be put toward our government or technology work. You may send checks to Lori Kesinger, Kansas Audio-Reader Network, P.O. Box 847, Lawrence, KS 66044.

Volunteer Reader Reviews

By Jennifer Nigro

When you coordinate volunteers, you do a lot of listening. And I don't just mean to the latest story about a grandchild, a health problem or an upcoming trip. I mean listening to their recordings. With close to 300 volunteers under my supervision, that's a tall order—but an important one. Each year, I do a formal evaluation for each volunteer. This involves listening to a good portion of a recording and giving them feedback on everything from speed and diction to inflection and choice of articles.

Another helpful tool is the self review. I often burn CDs for volunteers and ask them to listen, then answer a series of questions about those recordings. It's time consuming on my part, but the self review is a great way to point out problems to a volunteer who may not be very receptive to your feedback. For a copy of the forms I use, you can contact me at jnigro@ku.edu.

However you decide to do it, feedback is important, even for volunteers who don't give you any trouble. Many need a pat on the back on top of all the thanks they get for volunteering. Our listeners don't often give them the feedback they crave—so it's up to us to do it.

The Coming Conference

Plans are shaping up for the next conference, May 17 – 19, 2007, in Jackson, Mississippi. There will be a lot of exciting presentations, including one on designing your web page, a two-part workshop on volunteers, a demonstration of how SCA's will be kept private on HD radio, one on the Program Share, how to do special-event fundraising, how to write grant proposals, and more.

The hotel in Jackson is the Edison Walthall Hotel in downtown Jackson. It is an historic hotel, though the rooms are quite modern and up to date. There is a lovely dining room on the ground floor, and the hotel is only a short walk from main government buildings of Mississippi (it's across the street from the governor's mansion).

Room rates for the conference are only \$85 for a single, \$95 for a double (plus tax). For reservations call 800.932.6161, or 601.948.6161. Be sure to mention that you are with the IAAIS/Radio Reading Service of Mississippi group for the best rates. The conference rate can be extended slightly before or after the conference upon request, so don't miss the sights!

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