Adaptive Technology Resource Centre

Recent Grants and Activities, September 9, 2009.

The Adaptive Technology Resource Centre has continued work on over a dozen projects relating to the accessibility of information in multiple contexts, international accessibility standards for digital information and tools and information for developers of digital content. We have recently been awarded a number of grants that enable us to continue to pursue important and needed work in the area of the inclusive design of information. These new projects and other recent accomplishments include:

**The Inclusive Design Institute**
ATRC received funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and matching funding from the Ontario Research Fund-Research Infrastructure fund for the development of the Inclusive Design Institute. The IDI will conduct research in inclusive design of emerging mainstream ICT.

**ÆGIS Ontario**
The Ontario Research Fund-Research Excellence has granted the ATRC 2.57 million for the ÆGIS project, a large international research network developing a cross-platform accessibility strategy with 26 institutions worldwide and with involvement from leading private sector partners including RIM, Sun, IBM, AOL and others. ATRC will lead the Canadian partner and develop foundational software architectures and tools in the online, mobile and desktop realm, carry out usability studies & impact studies, develop guidelines, APIs, and research reports.

**Fluid Engage**
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has continued to fund ATRC work in the area of designing for diversity with a 1.26 million dollar grant for Fluid Engage a project to assist museum professionals in developing engaging user experiences in the mobile, in-house and on-line exhibit space. Partners include museums and galleries around the world.

**Decapod**
Decapod is a digitization system for rare and delicate artefacts suitable for small institutions with no digitization infrastructure. This project is funded by a 1.194 million dollar grant from the Mellon Foundation. ATRC is responsible for creating the user experience and workflow integration in collaboration with the University of Kaiserslautern and JStor.

**Open Cast**
Accessible Open Cast is an international project led by University of California, Berkley to research and develop an open source tool for academic webcasting of lectures. ATRC will investigate how this can be achieved accessibly and will contribute authoring tools for captions and descriptions.
Collection Space
Collection Space is led by the Museum of the Moving Image. Together with Berkeley and Cambridge Universities the ATRC will research and develop a Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) based, open source collections management system that supports both large and small museums and galleries.

Enabling Change
ATRC has developed and released a web-based tutorial on accessible web development that is free for all Ontarians. The project, funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, also includes development of an accessibility checker for obligated organizations. This project will be extended to explore the creation of an infrastructure capable of personally optimizing training for up to 65,000 public service workers.

UNESCO Open Source Summit, Vancouver
In August 2009, the ATRC hosted the UNESCO open source summit in Vancouver. This summit brought together open source community leaders and accessibility experts to talk about how to make the most of current investments in accessibility, in open source communities and related projects. The follow up to this meeting will occur in Toronto in October 2009 during open source week.

Tagin! Mozilla Firefox Extension
ATRC recently released the beta version of tagin! Extension. This extension to Firefox can be used to add tags to locations anywhere in the world where there are WiFi connections available. The version is currently under review and not for public release; however a developer version is available at https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/13227/