Textbooks for All: The promise of accessible digital books for learners with disabilities

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Textbooks are key to education of children with disabilities

Textbooks are not available or accessible to many children, especially children with disabilities

Besides the serious problems with quality of content, cost of production and effective distribution of textbooks…

… many learners are "PRINT DISABLED".

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Overall Objective of Innovation

UNICEF seeks **to harness technologies to ensure ALL children can access books and assistance with learning**

- books need to be produced in text and digital formats

- Digital textbook need to be accessible to all children via open-source software and include guidelines and guiding principles.

DAISY Consortium

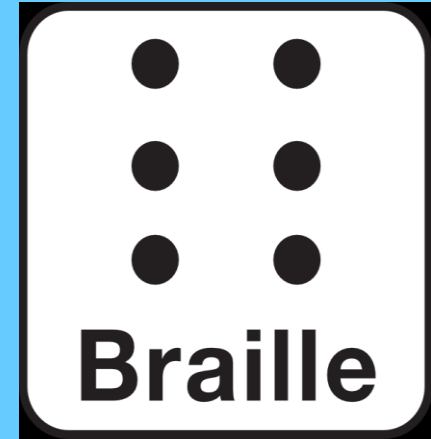Develops technology solutions to enable access to information for people with disabilities

Works on accessible reading in the most advanced nations, and in developing counties

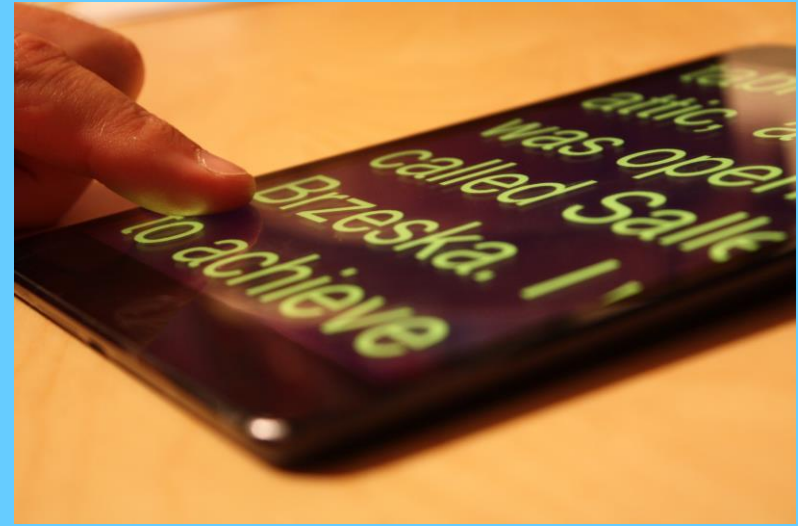Partners with the global technology giants and with teachers and end users

Luisterpunt is a member of the DAISY Consortium

What can accessible digital textbooks do now?

Choose size and style of text, magnify the pictures

Helpful for people who:

- have sight problems

- are Dyslexic or have other specific learning disabilities

Read the text aloud

Helpful for people who:

- are Dyslexic or other specific learning disabilities

- Are blind or partially sighted

Read the text as braille

Helpful for people who:

- are blind

- are deafblind

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But what about…

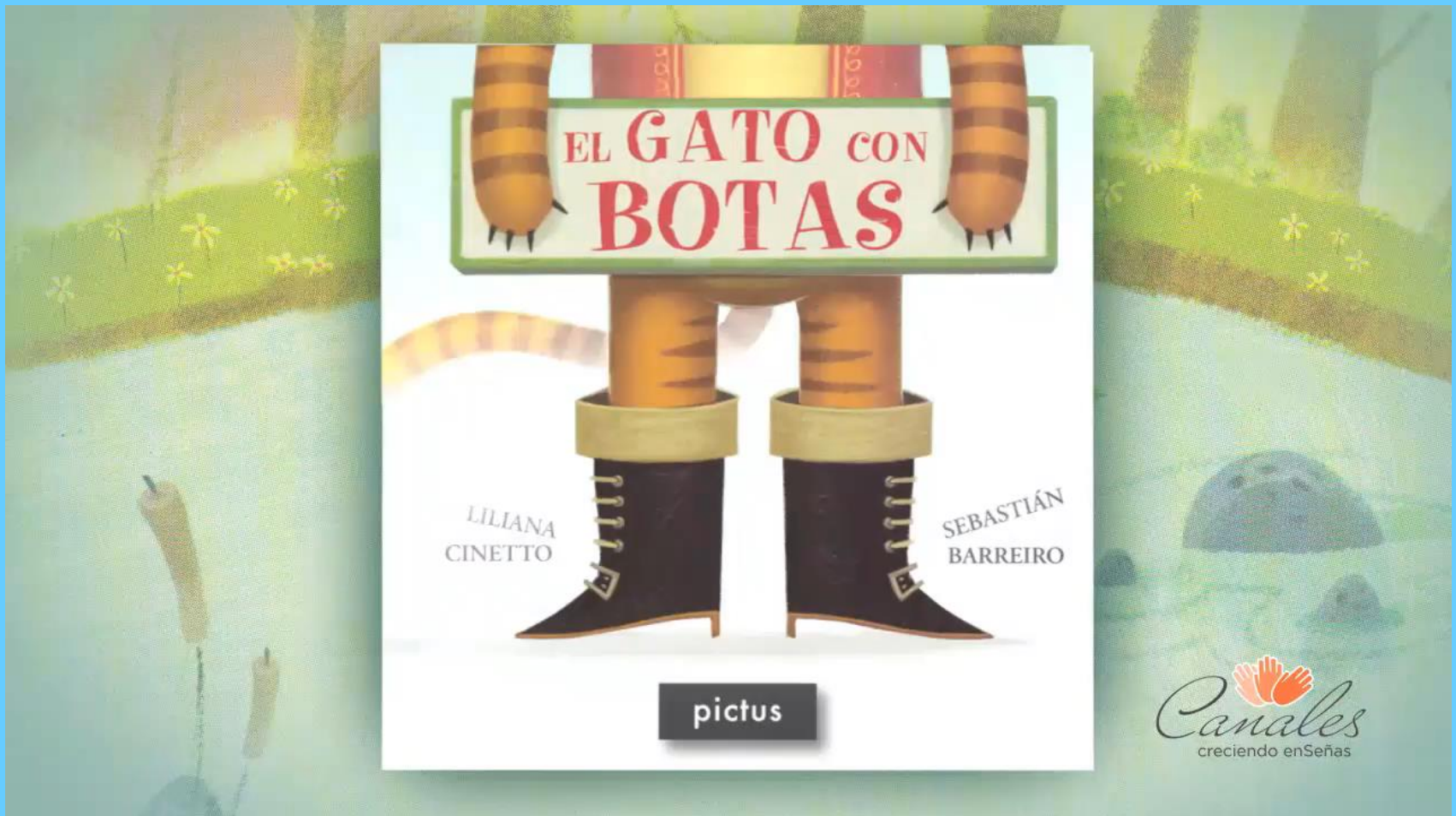- Sign language?
- Easy to read?

Activities to Date

- Development of Prototypes
- Engaging with Publishers/Authors
- Evaluation with end users (students and teachers)
- Conducting Expert Workshops

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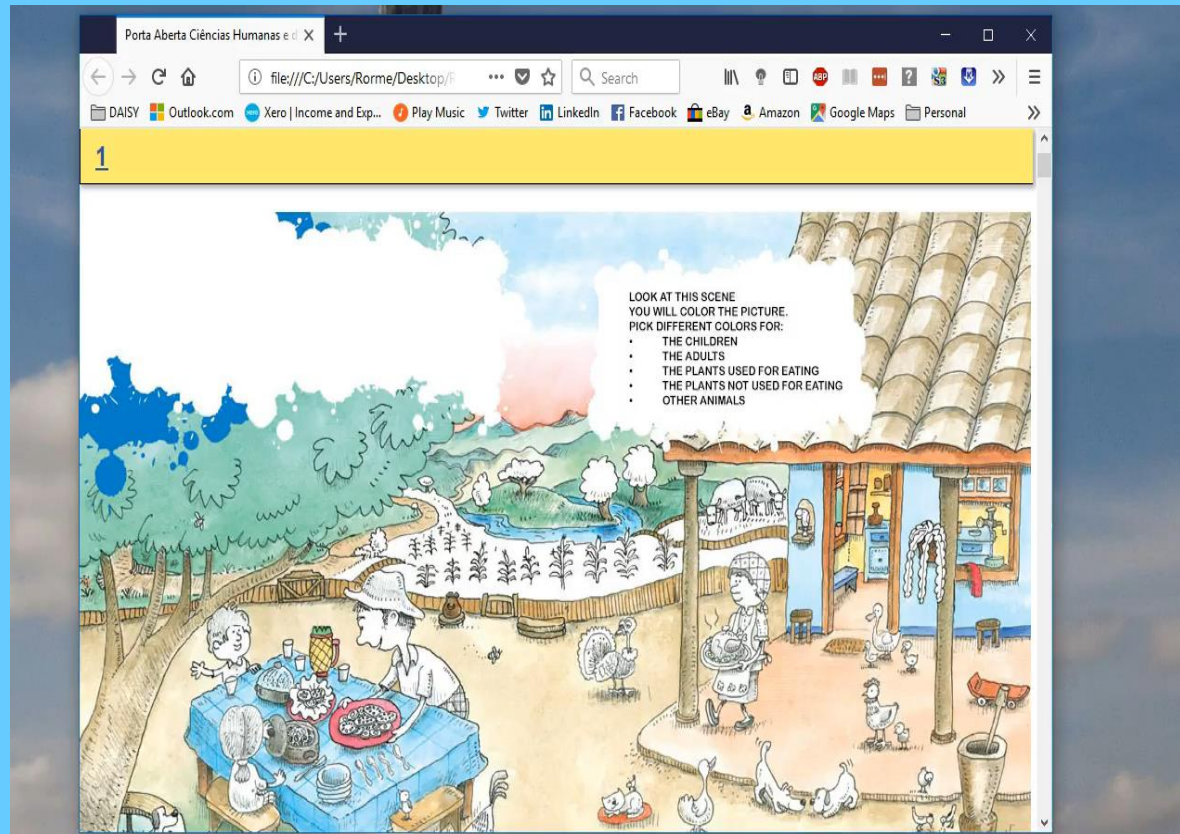
El gato con botas- signed video

Workshop at Galluadet, US university for people who are deaf or hard of hearing

Universal design textbook prototypes

Universal design textbook prototypes

Accomplishments

- Innovative reading software applications are currently under development

- First accessible digital textbook prototype of Brazil being tested and validated in 30 schools

- In Paraguay, ten children's books with sign language and narration were launched

- Publishers and authors engaged through presentations and dialogue at the London Book Fair and other fora

Conclusions

- Currently digital textbooks provide great accessibility for many learners with disabilities- but not all

- The existing technologies could be extended to include signed and simplified content

- More evaluations with learners and teachers are required to ensure technical solutions solve the human issues

For more information

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