



Dolphin Audio Publishing DAISY Solutions

Creating accessible content



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Dolphin Group



Who is Dolphin?

- Software specialists in access technology
- Established in 1986
- Over 60 employees world wide
- United Kingdom, USA and Sweden



Dolphin Divisions:



Dolphin Computer Access

- Screen reader, magnification and Braille
- Supernova, Hal, Lunar, LunarPlus etc.



Dolphin Speech Synthesis

- Developers of speech synthesisers
- Orpheus Announcer / Pronouncer



Dolphin Audio Publishing

- DAISY authoring and playback solutions
- EaseReader and EasePublisher



Setting the scene...

- Accessibility is a growing issue, 508, DDA
- Explosion of DAISY content in VI Market
 - Over 123,000 titles world wide
- Mainstream content is transcribed to alternative formats.
- Makes sense to produce mainstream content that is accessible from the start
- Research – A pilot project was needed to ascertain if:
- The Daisy format would open up the world of books and course contents for students with visual impairment.



A pilot was identified – to provide school literacy materials in DAISY format

- Partners:
 - Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB)
 - Department for Education and Skills (DfSE)
 - Dolphin



The pilot was initially aimed at pupils with impaired vision.....

- The trial involved pupils aged 11 to 14 year olds
- in three mainstream schools
- over the course of 12 months.



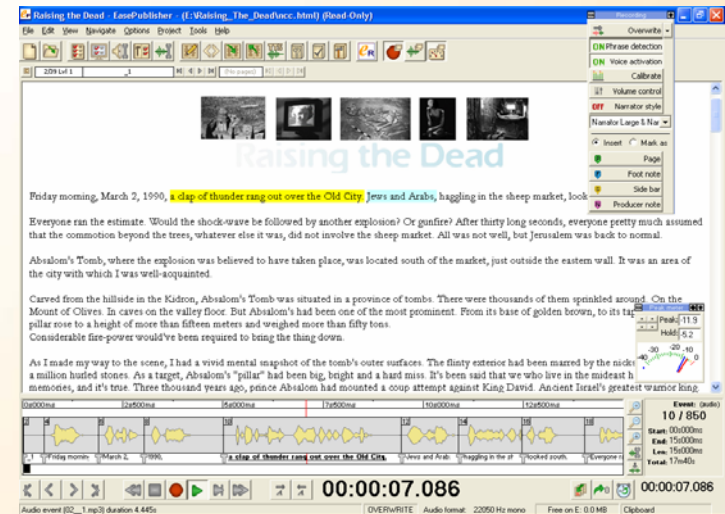
The main focus of research was to determine:

- The student's response to the "added value" provided by DAISY course materials.
- How students used the materials and the benefits over the previous methods.
- Improvements in motivation and self esteem
- Would the student's enjoyment of studying be enhanced by DAISY?



To conduct the trial:
Existing course materials were needed in the DAISY format.

Dolphin EasePublisher



RNIB produced 7 core National curriculum pieces:



- Rather than having to create separate books for the main content, for course notes, exercises and revision,
- using EasePublisher, it was possible to re-structure the total content so that all materials were contained in one, easy to use DAISY book.
- The students navigated to the appropriate section

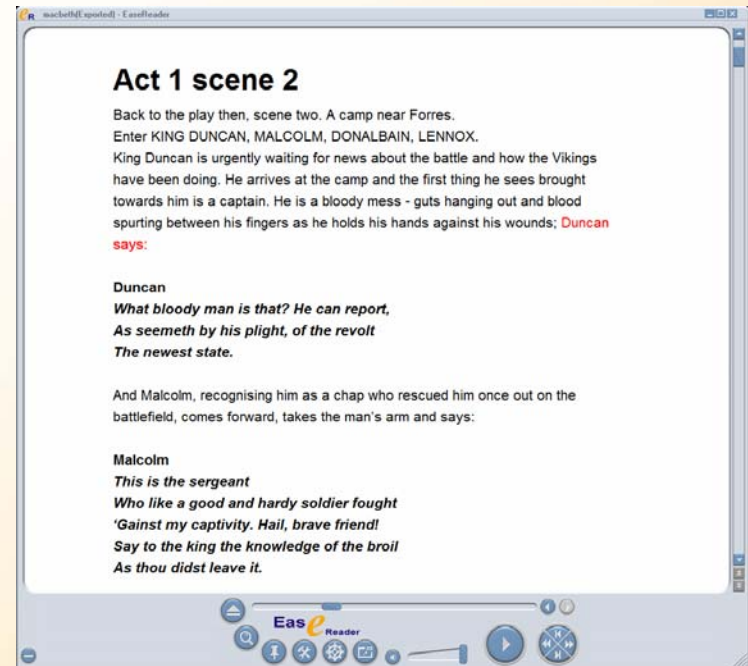


With the content created, the project also needed a flexible and universally designed delivery mechanism for the DAISY books.

Dolphin EaseReader



DAISY software player





Demonstration of some accessible content

K-12 and further educational material



Here's what we learnt

- About the usefulness of the content
- Authoring tools needed
- Publishers concerns



Usefulness of content

'T', one of the students involved in the pilot, said that;

*“using the DAISY books made reading
a lot easier.”*

- Teachers remarked that her reading speeds had considerably improved as she was now able to skim read and could adjust the playback speeds to suit her own requirements.
- She was in control



Independent Research

RFB&D and John Hopkins University

Effects of audio texts on the acquisition of secondary-level content by students with mild disabilities” – RFB&D 2003

Combined text and audio can increase learning effectiveness by nearly 50%



It's not fair.....the project evolved

- Mainstream students found themselves disadvantaged
 - Trial kids were able to answer the questions much quicker than the others.
- Trial evolved to wider audience
 - Teachers used the content on interactive whiteboard.
 - The whole class used the same content, they just used it differently.



An all-inclusive format

- This supported the concept of producing content once that suits the individual user.
- EaseReader's universal design
 - No wedge making them different
- This resulted in the pupils feeling
 - much happier
 - Increased interaction with each other
 - Increased motivation and self esteem



Publishers concerns

- Publishers
 - All encompassing authoring solution
 - Dolphin EasePublisher
- Educationalist – inverse relationship
 - Quick and easy solution
 - Synthesised content
 - Dolphin Producer
- Intellectual Property Protection
 - Within Daisy Standard

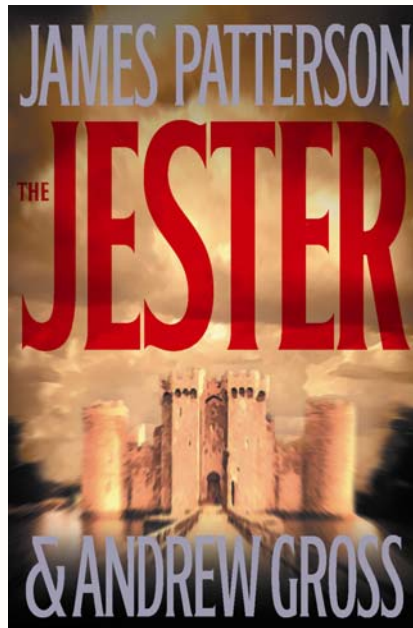


- Dolphin solutions empower you to create content that is accessible from the start
 - Any type of content
- Dolphin EasePublisher (content, resources)
 - Publishers
 - Universities
 - Governments
- Dolphin Producer (periodicals, handouts...)
 - Teachers K -12
 - Students themselves
- Dolphin EaseReader – all inclusive design



The World's first commercially available DAISY book

Time Warner



“The Jester” by James Patterson
Released March 2003
Full Daisy CD ROM including
EaseReader player.



Recognition

New York, 24th June 2004
In recognition of its accessible content



‘Helen Keller Achievement award’ for The
Jester by James Patterson



Conclusions

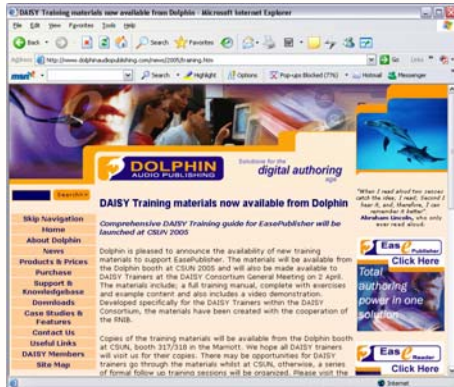
- DAISY versions provided an all-inclusive resource
 - Used by all when and how they wish
 - Backed by a world wide standard
- Significant improvement in learning efficiency
 - 50% increase
- Significant improvement over traditional formats
- They engaged and found it enjoyable – It was fun....



Further information...

In you delegate pack, and in the exhibit area

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