

Captions and Video Description: Educational Tools for Hispanic Children with Disabilities

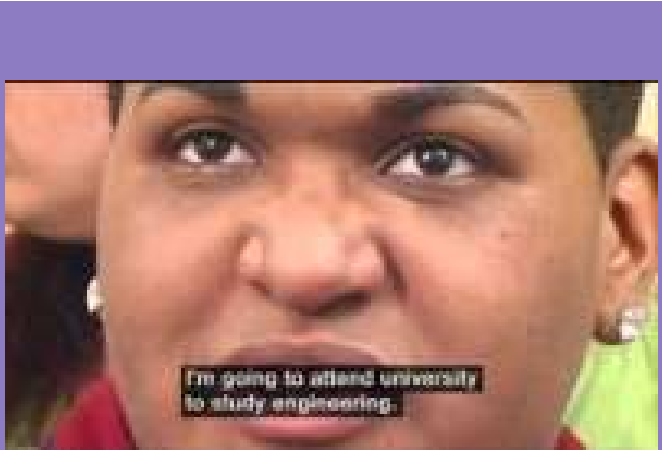
Date: December 2021

Final Report Television Access-H327C150009



The purpose of this project was to enhance and expand learning opportunities for Hispanic children in the United States who are blind, have low vision, are deaf, or are hard of hearing. The objective was accomplished by producing high-quality captioning and video descriptions for widely available educational television programming.

The following sections summarize the outcomes, barriers, unanticipated products, and proposed next steps of the six-year project. This project's contributions to the access to media field are also remarked through the report.



Profile of the Beneficiaries

Aligned with Dicapta's mission, the H327C150009 project funded by The US Department of Education, Office of Special Education-OSEP allowed us to serve children with sensory disabilities-especially those of Hispanic origin.

By making educational content accessible for those children, their parents, teachers, and service providers, this project has contributed to reaching the ultimate goal of inclusion and equal opportunities for all children to access education.

Services under the project addressed the cultural and linguistic needs of the beneficiaries utilizing their native language (Spanish) as a bridge to facilitate inclusion into the broader culture.

The key for the success of the project: A Team of Committed Individuals guided by A Diverse and Expert Advisory Committee

For the final report of the project H327C150009, the main four areas of the project are presented: Production, Outreach and Collaboration, Research, and Technology

Production

**Outreach and
Collaboration**

Research

Technology



Our partnerships with broadcast and cable TV producers, as well as with independent filmmakers increased from three to nine partnerships by the end of the project!

Content partners of this project have been the following: [HITN](#), [Discovery en la Escuela](#), [Semillitas](#), [SupereÑe](#), [Sorpresa from Olympusat](#), [WUCF-PBS](#), [POV-PBS](#), [Discover Florida Channel](#), and [New Day Films](#).

Their support and commitment to accessibility were fundamental to reaching the beneficiaries. Samples of the programming made accessible through H327C15009 following this link: [Accessible programming](#)

Television and Film Industry: Strategic partners in the success of the project

Check out the following video clips that are samples of our partners' campaigns aired to promote the accessible educational content produced under the Television Access H327C15009 project.



[Go to video](#)



[Go to video](#)



[Go to video](#)

Performance measurements - H327C150009

100%

Widely available
programming

Accessible educational
programming distributed nation
wide

- Broadcast
- Cable
- Through the Described and Caption Media Program-DCMP

124%

Production actual
performance

By incorporating emerging
technology in the production
process

- 903 hours of video description and 594 hours of captioning delivered
- 725 hours of services expected

100%

High-Quality services
provided

An independent review panel of
qualified experts validated the
quality of products and services of
the project

- Educational value of the programming
- High quality of captioning
- High quality of video description

As a result of the input from the deafblind community, new best practices for captioning production regarding including identification of the speaker were incorporated in our captioning production procedure. The report of the data collected was disseminated among other key players in the industry looking to increase the impact of the findings.



Collaboration with our TV partners, consumer organizations, and other projects funded by the Office of Special Education- OSEP of the US Department of Education was fundamental to reaching the beneficiaries and spreading the word about the project products and services.

The COVID 19's challenges strengthened our collaborations,
and nurtured our creativity

Check out the following PSA's that have been part of the campaign "For an Accessible TV". Television Access H327C15009 project.



[Go to Video](#)



[Go to Video](#)



[Go to Video](#)

Workshops

Thanks to the support of our Advisory Committee, the workshops “Let’s Go to the Movies” and “Describing” to inform, train, and raise leadership and advocacy among parents and teachers were conducted in California, Puerto Rico, New Jersey, Florida, Texas, and New York.

Let’s Describe-Online

Due to Covid 19’s restrictions, a new format was designed to reach the audience: the Online Workshop-Let’s Describe in English and Spanish hosted today by the DCMP. Funded by this project, the workshop is available thanks to the collaboration between the DCMP and Dicapta.

“For an Accessible TV”, a campaign

Using Public Service Announces-PSA’s, this campaign was broadcast and distributed on national TV and was also part of the 7th [Global Accessibility Awareness Day](#). The initiative was also highlighted by the United Nations as part of the celebrations of the [International Day of Persons with disabilities](#).

Together, We Are Better

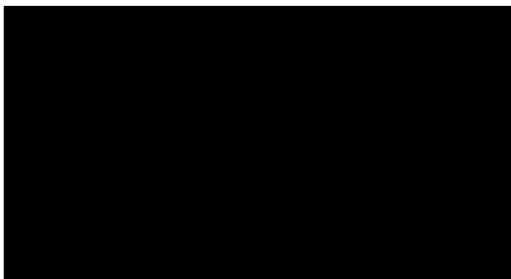


The lack of evidence-based research in access to media has limited the opportunities, contributions, and new R&D projects that facilitate access to content for children and adults with sensory disabilities, especially those from Hispanic heritage. Under the H327C15009 project, and thanks to the support of the PR public school system, and the Universidad de Puerto Rico, our Director of Research, Dr. Juanita Rodriguez, and our Project Director, Dr. Maria-Victoria Diaz, published their findings of studying the benefits of using accessible media to enhance students from Hispanic origin with sensory disabilities' reading skills. The full article can be accessed following the

link: <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1159754>

Contributions to the field

The following video clips are samples of the video clips utilized during a pilot study under H327C150009 as follows: 1) to collect opinion on the use of ASL as accessibility asset; 2) to collect opinion on the use of synthetic voices to create video description; 3) to illustrate the barrier faced by people with disabilities to access video description.



[Go to Video](#)



[Go to Video](#)



[Go to Video](#)

Pilot Study - ASL

Literature review, and initial opinions of users on the benefits of using the American Sign Language version of the audiovisual as an accessibility tool for children who are deaf, created under this project, is available for future research and best practices. A sample of more than 25 ASL versioning titles of selected educational content was used for the pilot and is currently distributed by the DCMP.

Pilot Study- Synthetic Voices

Literature review and data collection of users' opinion on the use of synthetic voices to create video description was gathered during the project as part of the foundation for the development of technology to reduce cost and improve turnaround in the production of video description.

Pilot Study - Universal Repository of Accessibility

Initial feasibility study data collection to support the need for a Universal Clearinghouse of accessibility elements to address wider availability and sustainability of the accessibility elements created using funds by the OSEP's Television Access program is available for future research and development.

Overcoming Covid 19's restrictions, surveys online were utilized to collect data



Based on the data collected from 1)our Advisory Committee, 2)users, 3)parents, and 4)teachers of children with disabilities, two technology products were developed with the support and partnership of the University Carlos III of Madrid.

- PlayMeAudio, a technology tool for the creation of audio description
- Access4All app, to provide accessibility assets in second screen

Dr. Angel Garcia, from the University, and Dr. Maria-Victoria Diaz, Project Director, with the guidance and opinions from our Advisory Committee, defined the initial specifications of the products that are planned to be refined during the next cycle of the Television Access grant awarded by Dicapta H327C210001 2021-20216

Using the Power of Technology to Overcome Barriers

Watch the following videos to overview the main features of the technology that was born under the Television Access H327C15009 project.



[Go to Video](#)



[Go to Video](#)

July 2016



The Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired- AER International Conference hosted our first workshop under the project H327C150009. "Let's Go to the Movies" [Read More.](#)

September 2016



Discovery en la Escuela launched its accessible portal including all the accessible programming produced under the TV Access grant H327C 150009., [Read More....](#)

December 2016



The Cable channel Sorpresa, from Olympusat, started offering accessible programming through our partnership. [Read More...](#)

December 2017



We launched our campaign "For an Accessible TV" celebrating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities [Read More...](#)

February 2018



We welcomed SupereÑe to our group of partners. [Read More...](#)

July 2018



Results of our research presented at Edulearn18 in Spain [Read More.](#)

July 2018



Our recent partnership with New Day Films, allowed us to make accessible wonderful films using Access4All. [Read More.](#)



December 2018



We welcomed Canal 22 International to our group of partners and recognize the channel's efforts on accessibility by creating an accessible programming slot on the weekends. [Read More...](#)

May 2019



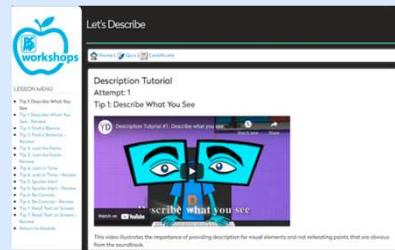
From then, several series from Canal 22 Internacional with captions and audio description at the Described Media and Captioned Media Program (DCMP) site.. [Read More...](#)

July 2020



WUCF-TV, your PBS affiliate in Central Florida, is supporting access to TV for audiences with sensory disabilities under the H327C150009 project from OSEP. [Read More....](#)

November 2020



Dicapta's Describing Workshop for Parents and Teachers Now Available Online at the DCMP. [Read More...](#)

February 2021



The Oscar nominated short "Feeling Through", accessible now Accessible 4All [Read More....](#)

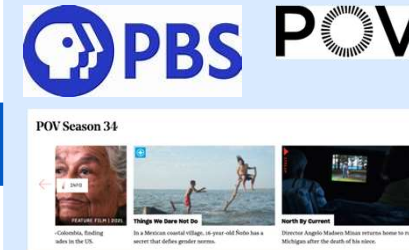
March 2021



The Outsiders Club Season 1, a Crawford Entertainment series, accessible using Access4All, and available at the DCMP thanks to the funds from the project H327C150009 from OSEP. [Read More.](#)



April 2021



We celebrated our partnership with POV ! Independent Films broadcasted nationwide in PBS. [Read More...](#)

This communication was developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Cooperative Agreement #H327C150009. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer: Jo Ann McCann (October 2015- September 2019) and Glinda Hill (October 2019-September 2021).

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Thanks to all the participants of this project, especially to our project officers from OSEP: Jo Ann McCann, and Glinda Hill who supported us and encouraged us to overcome barriers to better serve the needs of children with sensory disabilities!

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Amanda Cadena
Carol Colmenares
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Luz Helena Olarte	

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