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Theme 1, project 2: user feedback

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Our mandate

- Evaluate with the target group (blind and vision-impaired users) the tool developed at CRIM to let users choose the level of video description
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Previous project

- Validate the typology we developed (20 types of information given in described productions)
 - Refine the method used to show when the description episode is recited in relation to the shot it describes (before, during, after, and how far away)
 - Analyse the video description in 11 films, including 2 feature-length
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This project

- The tool developed at CRIM:
 - of the 20 kinds of information in our typology, the player incorporates the 3 that could be automated
 - these also happen to be the most frequently used (data from our previous project)
 - one additional kind of information, describing the action, provided by a human
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How these translate

- The 3 kinds of information from our typology that were automated:
 - characters
 - site or décor
 - textual information
 - The kind of information from our typology provided by a human:
 - action
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The VD manager online

- The Video Description tool (VD manager) made available online for users to test
 - CRIM using this to analyse how users navigate in the system
 - The system offers the possibility to volunteer for a group screening
 - This helped us organise our viewing sessions
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Method

- Choose clips for groups to view:
 - public affairs programme
 - short comic film
 - Choose the level of video description :
 - automated
 - automated augmented with pauses
 - Recruit participants, form 3 groups of 5, based on:
 - level of vision loss (completely blind, or vision impaired)
 - Organise sessions, prepare documentation
 - Screen clips together
 - 2 versions of each clip
 - guided discussion after viewing each, discussion shot on video
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Data collection photos



Anne at the controls,
Claire behind the screen



Laure, Suzanne, Véronique, vision-impaired
participants discussing one of the clips

Preliminary results

- In general, very positive comments
 - Marked differences in the needs of blind users compared with vision-impaired users
 - Public affairs programme: VD helps fill out the information
 - Short comic film: some users want more information on the characters
 - Description of film before viewing greatly appreciated
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Difficulties

- The quality of the voice synthesis sometimes inadequate (however, some of this may be due to network buffering)
 - Sometimes VD episodes not well synchronised with the image (vision-impaired users)
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More work

- Much more work to do (our last viewing session was last Sunday afternoon)
 - transcribe the discussions from the video
 - categorise the issues discussed
 - write research reports
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Conclusions

- It's very helpful to let users choose how much description they want to hear
 - Some want much more description
 - Needs of the blind are one thing, but a very broad variety of needs among vision-impaired users
 - Overall, very positive and lots of hope generated!
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The End

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