

IWA Position Paper, by Alessio Cartocci & Roberto Ellero

Inside the project www.webmultimediale.org, a Web resource dedicated to the multimedia techniques and content conceived by Roberto Ellero, has been developed by Alessio Cartocci a "flash-based" player with additional functionality that supports the parsing of the SMIL files, and with these other interesting features:

- support of all the standard captioning formats: SMIL, DFXP, SAMI, QuickTime txt and Real rt;
- the extensive support of SMIL (first example in the world) allows to arrange in a quite simple way, in a synchronized file, the multilingual subtitling, the multilingual audiodescription and the Sign Language interpretation through a secondary synchronized video stream, inside a resizable and moveable window to avoid overlaps with the main video;
- support to screen-readers;
- full keyboard control;
- the console allows to activate and deactivate the alternatives for the accessibility.

At the following URL is available a demonstration of these features:

http://www.webmultimediale.org/SC_1.2.5

With this video player we have three big advantages:

- the Flash format ensures the maximum interoperability with all browsers and Operative Systems, an interoperability that other audio-visual formats for the Web do not allow;
- the ActionScript language flexibility allows the best use of aggregative features in synchronizing multimedia elements (audio, video and textual tracks);
- the captioning file format type is automatically recognized by the player, while it is loading, ensuring a full autonomy of decision to the multimedia content members of the editorial Staff.

This solution ensures to meet the techniques shown for Success criterion 2.1.5 of WCAG 2.0.

Here is an example of sign language interpretation through a secondary synchronized video stream in SMIL 1.0 with Flash Video format, displayed in an internal draggable viewport, Flash Player and concept developed by Alessio Cartocci:

http://www.webmultimediale.org/SC_1.2.5/

The URL in the Object tag calls the SMIL file, which calls two flv, txt and Mp3 files in the Swf player. Cartocci's Flash Player supports Smil, Sami, DFXP, QuickTime txt e Real rt. (the audio tracks are used for a demonstration of the features, not for audiodescriptive purpose, in this example).

So it is a good exemplification and resource for:

<http://www.w3.org/WAI/GL/WCAG20/WD-WCAG20-TECHS-20070220/Overview.html#SM13>

It is possible to move and resize the window with Sign language, choose text/audio in English or Italian and deactivate Sign language, captioning and audio.

The Player used to transmit a theatrical event (The Tall Red Nude, by Marco Pernich), with Sign language, audiodescription and multilingual captioning (English and Italian):

http://www.webmultimediale.org/il_grande_nudo_rosso/

Naturally it is a work in progress and there will be new steps along standards and accessibility.