**A Glossary to support Deaf access to Scientific Journal Systems**

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**Abstract**

This research presents a proposal for structuring a Bilingual Glossary (Brazilian Sign Language / Brazilian Portuguese) of terminology related to scientific communication. And also, demonstrates its application in the development of an user interface that enables deaf accessibility to Open Journal Systems, a software widely used in the publication of Scientific Journals.

Deaf representativeness in the digital environment is a constant challenge to be overcome by the information society in which we live. Sign language, one of the communication means used by deaf people, have benefited from the ability to communicate via video and also written notations which may be more easily represented in digital media.

In this scenario, the development of information systems that present sign languages as the main mean of communication in their interfaces is a determining factor for the affirmation of Deaf`s linguistic rights.

One of the problematic issues that Deaf people face is the scarcity of terminological lexicon in sign language, in the case of Brazil, Libras (Língua Brasileira de Sinais). According to Lima (2014), the lack of technical terms in different disciplines makes access to knowledge inefficient, discouraging them, for example, from reaching higher education.

In the proposed glossary, a term will be represented in three different ways: (1) Portuguese in written form; (2) Video of the sign in Libras, (3) Libras in written form. Signwriting (SUTTON 2009; BARRETO 2015) will be used for Libras writing. This form of writing is derived from a notation for recording dance movements, and has been adapted for recording movements and gestures of sign languages, becoming increasingly popular with deaf community and used from their literacy learning to scholarly communication.

In the Open Journal Systems interface, illustrated in figure 1, the signs in Libras will be presented using Signwriting, where an interaction model, to be developed, will allow access to the record in the glossary of each term or phrase.



Figure 1: OJS User Interface
Source: <http://swojs.ibict.br/ojs/>

In addition to terminological development, there is also a challenge regarding the presentation of signs on the software interface, given that Signwriting occupies more space than the characters of the Latin alphabet.

This study is expected to expand access to scientific and technological information for the Deaf, and also to offer a tool for learning Signwriting.

The research has a multidisciplinary character, proper to Terminology, aiming at the production of glossaries in the scientific, technological, linguistic, artistic and cultural areas. The theoretical assumptions used were related to Lexicology and Terminology: Lima (2014) among others, aiming at the production of Bilingual Terminological Glossaries (Brazilian Portuguese / Brazilian Sign Language). Research in the area of Signwriting: Barreto (2015) and typological functional linguistics, such as: Aikhenvald (2008), Brito (1995, 2003), Dixon (2010), Felipe (2001), Lillo-Martin, D.; Klima (1990), Meir, I. et al. (2006), Quadros (1999, 2003), Quadros; Karnopp, (2001), Schembri (2003), Stokoe (1960) etc.

Finally, it is understood that Sign Language is the main Assistive Technology that Deaf need.

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**Keywords:** Brazilian Sign Language, Deaf Accessibility, Scientific Communication, Open Journal Systems, Signwriting.

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