ETEC 640 Assignment 2

Script for Video Documentary Project,

All about Braille,

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Title: All About Braille: Song the One Contraction Braille Song

Video of Student: What do you like about Braille?:

T: *What do you love best about reading and writing in Braille?*

S: *Cause I can do my school work just as fast as everybody else.*

T: *Anything else?*

S: *No*

Intro page (Music, the one cell word song)

Part One: The History of Blind Education

L' Hopital Quinze Vingts (1290): In the middle ages blind individuals were perceived as ineducable people who were often beggars or street musicians. Most relied on family and the community for funds. This ideology was perpetuated by a hospital in Paris called Quinze Vingts which was established by King Louis the 9th. The patients were given uniforms which entitled them to beg on the streets of Paris, or act as street musicians to collect funds to support the hospital.

Maria Von Paradis (1754-1824): (Music in background Sicillienne) A few blind individuals from the bourgeois class were tutored privately in their homes. This included Marie Von Paradis, a famous music composer who had become blind as a young child. She learned many things orally, but she also used wooden and pin prick letters to read and write. Her tutor created wooden music notes to play and compose music. Many blind people who were knowledgeable or successful during this time were considered to have gifts from God.

Valentin Haüy (Diderot 1749) (1784): Inspired by a letter written by Denis Diderot in 1749 entitled ``Letter on the blind for the use of those who can see" and the dislike in the way blind people were regarded, Valentin Haüy undertook the task of teaching a young blind by using

raised alphabetic letters. Haüy eventually established l'Institut National des Jeunes Aveugles (National Institute for Blind Children). It was the first school for the blind in Paris.

School for the Blind: At the school the children were taught to read raised alphabetic letters and were given templates for tracing letters to write. However, Haüy's method for creating written material was difficult to produce, and much of the curriculum was taught orally.

Part Two: Braille

Louis Braille: (1809-1852) One of the students who attended L'Institut National de Jeunes Aveugles was Louis Braille. While attending the school, Braille was intrigued by a visit from Charles Barbier who demonstrated a raised dot writing system that he had developed for soldiers. This was a night writing system that had been created for the soldiers of the French revolution, so that they could read messages using candlelight and not be detected by their enemies.

Braille Code (Barbier 1820) (1834): Louis Braille felt that Barbier's twelve dot system was too complicated. He decided to create a simpler code, and wanted the dot combination to be no bigger than a fingertip so that it would be quicker to read. This was to become the Braille code, which was first shown at an exhibition in Paris, in 1834.

Pattern of the Braille Code: There are 63 possible dot combinations in the Braille Code. It is a pattern. A to J have a specific dot combination. K to T are a repeat of thedot combinations with dot 3 added. U to Z are the same dot combinations as A to E with dots 3 and 6 added. The exception is the letter W. It was only included later, when this letter was included into the French alphabet.

Other Codes used by the Blind(1854): Braille was not officially adopted as the primary method of writing for the Blind in France until 1854, which was after Louis Braille's death. There were other forms of writing for the blind that were used during this time in both North America and Europe.

Moon Braille (1845) Moon Braille is one of the longest lasting writing codes for the Blind. It is a series of symbols designed from forms of the latin alphabet. It is still used in some countries today, often with adults who have lost their sight, or with students who have multi-needs.

US Systems in Nineteenth Century: (1860) Along with Moon code, a number of writing systems were being used in the United States in the 19th Century. The St. Louis School for the Blind began using the Braille code in 1860.

New York Point Braille (1868) In New York, the New York Point Braille system was developed in 1870 and was a dot system that was written initially with a slate and stylus.

Perkins School for the Blind (1832): The most famous American school, the Perkins School for the Blind in Boston was opened in 1932 by Samuel Gridley Howe. They did not use Louis Braille's code. They used Boston Line Type, which was raised alphabetic letters similar to those used by Valentin Haüy

Helen Keller (1880-1968) Helen Keller, was one of the most famous students who attended the Perkins school for the Blind. Helen has been recognized as "championing" the cause for Blind and Deaf individuals.

Video Student about Reading Braille:

T: What do you like most about reading Braille?

S: Well, I really love reading as soon as I get home from school and I find that I can learn a lot of new words (pause and grin) from reading.

T: (Chuckle) Do you prefer to read Braille or do you like to Braille your own short stories?

S: Well, I do like writing a lot, but I prefer to read a lot of books.

T: Um hmm...Do you have any favorite books that you are reading right now?

S: Harry Potter, the Harry Potter series.

T: Thank you.

Braille Accepted Universally: (1932) In 1932 The English Braille code was accepted as the universal code for writing for the blind in English speaking countries. Although there are linguistic variations, Braille is now used in almost every country in the world.

Part Three: Tools for Writing Braille (Producing Braille Text)

Slate and Stylus: (late eighteenth to mid twentieth century) Most early Braille was produced using a slate and stylus. Because the holes are punched into the paper, the writing goes from right to left. This creates mirror image words that can be read properly when the page is turned over.

Typewriter (1808 and 1874): The blind also used typewriters, so that they could send letters without needing a scribe to write for them. The first typewriter was created in 1808 for a blind Countess. Commercial typewriters became available in 1874.

Raphigraphe: (1800-1950) A little known invention is the raphigraphe which was designed by Louis Braille and his friend the inventor, Pierre-François-Victor Foucault. This machine produced ten point dots that represented raised letters. Although it was very time consuming to produce each individual letter, this device was used by many students at the school for the blind in Paris.

Many other typewriting and Braille Inventions (late nineteenth and early twentieth century) There were a number of different Braille writers that were designed in the late nineteenth and early 20th century. A visit to the American Printing House for the Blind Museum website shows a large collection of the different Braille writers that have been used.

The Stainsbuy Wayne Braille Writer (1841): The Stainsbuy Wayne Braille Writer was one of the more commonly used Braille writing devices, it had six keys, a space bar, with a bell to indicate the end of the line. The Braille was written from right to left.

Hall Type and Braille Writers (1840): In 1840, Hall invented a device called the Hall Type which produced Boston type Print. However, in 1892 he created the Hall Braille Writer which had six Braille keys and a space bar located at the centre. Paper was inserted into the device and the Braille could be produced from left to right.

Perkins Brailler (1900 and 1951) Although the Perkins school had produced braille devices as early as the 1900s, the Perkins Brailler manufactured in 1951 is the model that is still used today. Its practicality and durability have made it a popular model for Braille writing in many countries around the world.

Part Four: Braille Technology

Manual Book Production (late nineteenth and early twentieth century): Prior to the 1970's Braille Books were often created manually by a braillist and proofread by transcriptionists.

Thermoform (1962): In 1962, the American Thermoform Corporation created plasticized pages which went over a braille template. It was then melted over the mold to create a page of raised dots.

 Electronic Braille: As mainstream computers were being developed, so were systems to create electronic Braille. The demand for Braille Textbooks and other Braille manuals was increasing.

MIT Braille Translation Software (1960-1970) In the late 1960's and 1970's students at MIT undertook to develop a software program that would translate computer print into Braille. They also designed a device to emboss Braille documents.

First Commercial Embosser (1971): In 1971, the first Embosser was produced by Enabling Technologies. Books could now be printed many times, and production was much quicker.

Current Production: (2015) Today, Braille embossers can produce many pages very rapidly.

Electronic Braillers: As Braille transcription software and Braille embossers developed, so did electronic Braillers. Blind individuals wanted to use Braille input on their devices, and have the option of printing the document for their sighted peers or embossing the document for themselves.

Braille N Speak (1987) In 1987, the Braille N Speak was presented. This device not only printed and embossed documents electronically, but also had word processing, a calendar and organization capabilities.

Current Braille Technology (2015): In the year 2015, blind students have many types of technology at their fingertips. There is a wide variety of

 Braille word processors:

refreshable Braille displays,

screen reading and

voice activation software to choose from.

Learning about Assistive Technology and how it can be used in the classroom is a priority for a Braille student today.

Video Student using Braille Note

S: (Reading on Braille device) Forest…Little Red Riding Hood met her father (press advance button on device)

S: "It's like turning pages!"

T1: Exactly

T2 : Yes it is, you are doing an awesome job.

S: Thank you….(resumes reading) when….when…

T1: Is it a contraction?

Final Credits including References from Bibliography

Part Two of Braille Contraction Song **ETEC 640 Video Documentary: All about Braille by Lynn Seymour Lalonde**

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