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**1st Workshop on Tools and Resources to Empower People  
with REAding Difficulties (READI)**

# **PROCEEDINGS**

Edited by  
Núria Gala and Rodrigo Wilkens

**Proceedings of the LREC 2020 first workshop on  
Tools and Resources to Empower People  
with READING Difficulties  
(READI)**

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## Preface

Recent studies show that the number of children and adults facing difficulties in reading and understanding written texts is steadily growing. Reading challenges can show up early on and may include reading accuracy, speed, or comprehension to the extent that the impairment interferes with academic achievement or activities of daily life. Various technologies (text customization, text simplification, text to speech devices, screening for readers through games and web applications, to name a few) have been developed to help poor readers to get better access to information as well as to support reading development. Among those technologies, text simplification is a powerful way to leverage document accessibility by using NLP techniques.

The “First Workshop on Tools and Resources to Empower People with READING Difficulties” (READI), collocated with the “International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation” (LREC 2020), aims at presenting current state-of-the-art techniques and achievements for text simplification together with existing reading aids and resources for lifelong learning, addressing a variety of domains and languages, including natural language processing, linguistics, psycholinguistics, psychophysics of vision and education. A particular focus is put on methods, tools and resources obtained through automatic text adaptation, ultimately addressed to children struggling with difficulties in learning to read, to the community of teachers, to speech-language pathologists, to parents seeking solutions, and to those professionals involved with adults struggling with reading (e.g. illiterates, aphasic readers and low vision readers).

These proceedings comprise the papers of the workshop, initially foreseen for May 11, 2020, in Marseille (France), but postponed at the time of preparing these proceedings due to the COVID-19 situation around the world. 21 propositions have been submitted from 62 different authors from 12 different countries (France 5, UK 4, Italy 2, Spain 2, Sweden 2, Switzerland 2, Belgium 1, Brazil 1, Germany 1, Iceland 1, Netherlands 1, Pakistan 1). The total rate of accepted papers is 66% (14 papers), 5 of them chosen as oral presentations and 9 for the poster session. READI also features one invited speaker, Arne Jönsson from Linköping University.

We are thankful to the authors who submitted their work to this workshop, to our Program Committee members for their contributions, to the reviewers and the additional reviewers who did a thorough job reviewing submissions, to Arne Jönsson who kindly accepted to be our invited speaker, and to LREC committee for including this workshop into their program.

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**Invited Speaker:**

Arne Jönsson, Linköping University, Sweden

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