World Council for the Welfare of the Blind
Committee on Cultural Affairs

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NATURAL LANGUAGE ASSISTED PROCESSING:
PROJECT PIAF
by
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This research topic has been developed since 1971 by l'Equipe Intelligence Artificielle du Laboratoire d'Informatique et de Mathématiques Appliquées de GRENOBLE (IMAG).

In a parallel fashion, this research group is also interested in Robotics problems. The group consists of 15 persons: professors, researchers and engineers from the University and the C.N.R.S.

Computer processing of text information is basically different from other types of processing like administrative or scientific computation for three main reasons: the nature of the information to be processed, the difficulty to formalize composition rules for signs or group of signs, and the volume of data to be stored.

We have observed that the needs of handicapped users, like the blind and others raise problems of a very similar nature.

A - DEVELOPMENT OF BASIC TOOLS

We have tried to define interactive computing tools for the processing of natural languages for non-computer users. The basic processing tools constitute the building blocks necessary for long-term applications. These tools control the data input, the segmentation of sentences in elementary units. The translation of strings, the development of a dictionary and the construction of a grammar.