

1. **Research activity:**

**SIGN ME IN accessibility and usability of MUST’s (Museo Universitario Scienze della Terra) explanatory panels for deaf visitors: an analysis**

After an analysis and an evaluation of the intelligibility of the explanatory panels’ texts of the exhibition Terra: che sorpresa! carried out involving deaf secondary school students, this project aims to produce a text adaptation and a LIS translation that will be accessible by deaf visitors through QR codes on the already existing panels, and to point out the critical aspects of scientific written communication targeted to a deaf audience. This project aims to: improve deaf people’s visiting experience of the MUST (Museo Universitario di scienze della Terra) by adapting and translating into LIS ( Lingua Italiana dei Segni- Italian Sign Language) the texts of the explanatory panels; involve the deaf community -especially secondary school students- in a permanent dialogue about museum accessibility; attract the interest of the deaf community to the scientific heritage of La Sapienza museums; increase, in perspective, the access of deaf students to scientific studies; make the museum’s cultural offering more available also to people with low education levels and/or a low literacy in the italian language; help laying the foundations for the MUST design and implementation that will take place during 2022-23 and act as a guideline for the activities that the MUST will promote in its spaces The assessment of the legibility of the explanatory panels’ texts will be made using the Gulpease index. This index, developed in 1982 by the University Linguistic Pedagogical Group of "La Sapienza", pairs the legibility of a text with the education level necessary to fully understand it. The higher the score of the index, the more readable the text. Once the level of education of the target audience of the museum is so determined, a corresponding deaf target audience will be selected and involved in assessing the effectiveness of the communication through comprehension tests on the texts of the explanatory panels. A revision / adaptation of the text of the panels based on the tests’ results will be then carried out with the aim of translating scientific information into a correct form, understandable by the highest possible number of people. (Venturini, Pasquaré, 2013). Comprehension tests with the deaf target audience will be carried out all through the revision process. The adapted version of the panels’ texts will be analyzed again with the Gulpease index at the end of the research to identify the readability index suitable for an effective scientific communication with the deaf public. A LIS translation of the revised version, made by the deaf students involved in the research, will be uploaded to the MUST YouTube channel and made available to the public through QR codes on the museum panels. The revised italian texts will be available to the public too, in the hope of providing a fulfilling cultural experience to the widest audience possible, regardless of their scientific literacy or education level. Museum visitors will be surveyed to assess customer satisfaction.

1. **Research products**
2. Publications (ISI journals)
3. Publications (NON ISI journals)
4. Manuscripts (submitted, in press)
5. Abstracts

**N.B. First-year PhD students in point 1 can enter the summary of the research project (max 1,000 words)**