

LREC-COLING 2024

**3rd Workshop on Tools and Resources
for People with REAding Difficulties
(READI 2024)**

Workshop Proceedings

Editors

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Núria Gala

20 May, 2024
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**Proceedings of the 3rd Workshop on Tools and Resources for People with
REAding Difficulties (READI 2024)**

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Message from the General Chair

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, and 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 adaptations are a powerful way to leverage document accessibility by using NLP techniques.

The 3rd Workshop on Tools and Resources for REAding Difficulties (READI), collocated with the International 2024 Joint International Conference on Computational Linguistics, Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC-COLING), aims at presenting current state-of-the-art techniques and achievements for text adaptations together with existing reading aids and resources for lifelong learning. The materials can be addressed to children struggling with difficulties in learning to read, to the community of teachers, speech-language pathologists and parents seeking solutions, but also to professionals involved with adults struggling with reading (illiterates, aphasic readers, low vision readers, etc.).

18 propositions have been submitted at this third edition, from which 9 were accepted, i.e., a 50% acceptance rate. This acceptance rate is lower than in the first and second editions, which had an acceptance rate of 66% and 71%, because the third edition takes place on a half-day, unlike the previous ones, which were full-day events. The accepted papers come from 41 different authors from 11 different countries (United Kingdom 6, Spain 4, Belgium 4, Germany 4, France 3, Japan 3, United States 3, Switzerland 2, Iceland 1, Italy 1, and Russian Federation 1). READI also features one invited speaker, Giulia Venturi from the Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale Antonio Zampolli (CNR, Pisa, Italy).

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

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Rodrigo Wilkens, CENTAL, ILC, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium

Invited Speaker:

Giulia Venturi, ILC-CNR, Pisa, Italy

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Whorshop Program

Monday, May 20, 2024

9:10–10:00 Invited speaker

9:10–10:00 *Putting the right book into the hands of the right reader" in the era of Large Language Models*
Giulia Venturi

**10:00–
10:30 Oral Section presentation**

10:00–
10:30 *Evaluating Document Simplification: On the Importance of Separately Assessing Simplicity and Meaning Preservation*
Liam Cripwell, Joël Legrand and Claire Gardent

**10:30–
11:00 coffee break**

**11:00–
12:00 Poster Section presentation**

11:00–
12:00 *Malmon: A Crowd-Sourcing Platform for Simple Language*
Helgi Björn Hjartarson and Steinunn Rut Fririksdóttir

11:00–
12:00 *Automatic Generation and Evaluation of Reading Comprehension Test Items with Large Language Models*
Andreas Säuberli and Simon Clematide

11:00–
12:00 *An Extensible Massively Multilingual Lexical Simplification Pipeline Dataset using the MultiLS Framework*
Matthew Shardlow, Fernando Alva-Manchego, Riza Batista-Navarro, Stefan Bott, Saul Calderon Ramirez, Rémi Cardon, Thomas François, Akio Hayakawa, Andrea Horbach, Anna Huelsing, Yusuke Ide, Joseph Marvin Imperial, Adam Nohejl, Kai North, Laura Occhipinti, Nelson Pérez Rojas, Md Nishat Raihan, Tharindu Ranasinghe, Martin Solis Salazar, Marcos Zampieri and Horacio Saggion

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12:00 *SIERA: An Evaluation Metric for Text Simplification using the Ranking Model and Data Augmentation by Edit Operations*
Hikaru Yamanaka and Takenobu Tokunaga

11:00–
12:00 *Transfer Learning for Russian Legal Text Simplification*
Mark Athugodage, Olga Mitrofanove and Vadim Gudkov

Monday, May 20, 2024 (continued)

11:00– *Accessible Communication: a systematic review and comparative analysis*
12:00 *of official English Easy-to-Understand (E2U) language guidelines*
Andreea Maria Deleanu, Constantin Orasan and Sabine Braun

12:00– Oral Section presentation
13:00

12:00– *LanguageTool as a CAT tool for Easy-to-Read in Spanish*
13:00
Margot Madina, Itziar Gonzalez-Dios and Melanie Siegel

12:00– *Paying attention to the words: explaining readability prediction for French as*
13:00 *a foreign language*
Rodrigo Wilkens, Watrin Patrick and Thomas François

