The Information Society: e-Inclusion challenges and opportunities
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New Technologies

About RNID

• The largest charity representing the 9 million deaf and hard of hearing people in the UK
• Membership charity, 35,000+ members
• 1,200+ employees, £44 million turnover

We aim to achieve a radically better quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing people

• Campaigning and lobbying vigorously
• Raising awareness of deafness and hearing loss
• Providing services
• Research and Development
• Partnerships
A world of information and communication

- Information Society
- Changing the way we live, work, educate,…
- Not just a trend, fundamental revolution in societal order
- Impacts on all of us
A historical development

- Millions of years of human development
- 1 Million years of Homo Sapiens
- All known history: final 97 seconds on the clock

Prehistory to History
From hunter-gatherers to space flight...

- 99% of human history: hunter-gatherers, nomadic lifestyle
- 10,000 BC = Neolithic Revolution
- Late 18th Century = Industrial Revolution
  - Leading to current Information Society
  - And it’s only the beginning...
Technology: both opportunity and threat

• Great potential to overcome barriers
• But can cause new barriers too
• We’re all affected
• Individual is not the problem
• Products/Services not designed for accessibility
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The Digital Divide...

• ...is a fact
• Technical, economic, educational, cultural, social divide
• Interaction of different aspects of the divide
Inclusion

- Challenge for us all
- Ethical motivation
- Economic motivation
- Legal motivation
- Accessibility at the heart of inclusion strategies
Inclusive design

- But call it what you wish
- Human-centred, user focused
- Horizontal principle, not afterthought
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Transforming the Information Society...

...into an Inclusive Society

THE ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEAF PEOPLE
Thank you!

Questions?
Comments?