

Making Media Aphasia Friendly

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Background

- **Aphasia**
 - Language disorder caused by damage to the language centers in the brain
 - Structures involved in expressing and understanding written and spoken language
 - Often acquired after a stroke or brain injury
 - Limits participation & marginalizes people
 - Makes it hard to understand spoken language in videos & hard to understand written language in captions

Project Aim

- **The need:**
 - Just A.S.K. (justaskri.com): Established in 2019 to provide individuals, caregivers and stakeholders a way to connect, locate and share resources specifically but not exclusively related to aphasia
 - Summer online conference – 4 Saturdays, 1–2-hour sessions
 - Conference is for people with aphasia and their families
 - Recorded with videos online, but these are difficult for the people with aphasia
- **Our plan:**
 - Make online media accessible for people with aphasia (per families' request)
 - **Develop protocol:** Identify and use linguistically and clinically informed edits
 - Use protocol on videos from the Just A.S.K. summer conference
 - Ultimately: help reduce the impact of people's disability on their lives and participation

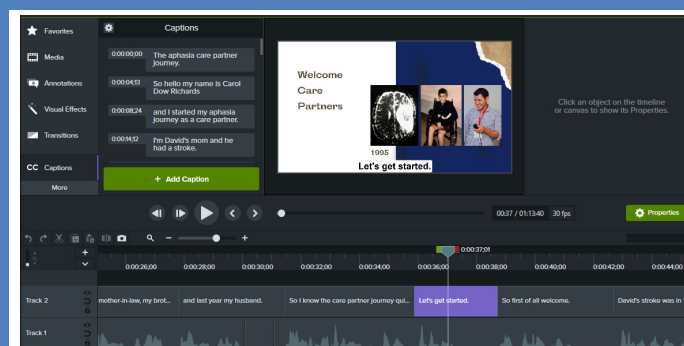
Why is this Important?

- Aphasia is a common disorder
 - Approx. 2 million in U.S. have aphasia, with 180,000 new cases each year (National Aphasia Association, 2024)
- Other cognitive-communication disorders can affect verbal and reading comprehension
- Access to media helps people participate in social and life events and reduces social isolation
 - Social isolation decreases communication skills especially in older adults (Gurevich et al., 2020)

Standard captions help with **verbal comprehension** but rely on **written comprehension**. Aphasia affects both!

Methods

- **Materials**
 - Approx 1-2-hour long videos from summer aphasia conference
 - Camtasia software
 - Video transcription software (Aiko) to create accurate captions
- **Protocol**
 - Segment longer videos into manageable sections
 - Slow videos down to 75% of normal speed
 - Ensure each frame is at least 4 seconds long (so can be paused)
 - Ensure the captioning for each frame is full phrases (to help parse) & make captions large and bold
- **Piloting**
 - Individuals with aphasia and their families provided feedback and we adjusted our protocol accordingly



References

- Gurevich, N., Ramrattan, H. M., Kubalanza, M., Osmelak, D. R., & Boese, J. (2020). Recommending Hearing Assessment for Individuals With Dementia: A Survey of Medical Professionals. *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups*, 5(5), 1297–1305. https://doi.org/10.1044/2020_persp-20-00054
- Just A.S.K. (2025). <http://www.justaskri.com>
- National Aphasia Association. (2024). *What is aphasia*. <https://aphasia.org/what-is-aphasia/>