

UNIVERSITY OF Southampton

Submission

It is now relatively easy to bookmark or link to a complete podcast or video recording. What is far more difficult is for students to tie their notes or other resources to a particular part of a recording. The result can be like trying to use a textbook without a contents section, index page or page numbers.

This problem has been solved by the University of Southampton's application Synote, which uses speech-recognition techniques to synchronise audio, video, screen capture and narrated PowerPoint lectures with a transcript, notes or tags.

The material can be organized using "bookmarks" known as Synmarks. The provision of verbatim, synchronised transcripts means that students can concentrate on learning and need take only brief notes. While this benefits everybody, it is particularly useful for non-anglophones and those who are dyslexic or hearing-impaired, given the difficulty of taking extensive notes while lip-reading or watching a sign-language interpreter. It also makes such students feel more included, since they no longer have to sit at the front of every class and ask the teacher if they can make (poor-quality) recording of their lectures on personal digital recorders.

"From an excellent field," said judge Chris Cobb, chief operating officer and university secretary, University of London, "the Southampton Synote system captures the judges' interest owing to its combination of innovation, application and impact.

"The combined synchronization and transcription of audio and video sources has a multitude of uses, not least for the enhancement of learning and teaching and improving access to resources for disabled students."