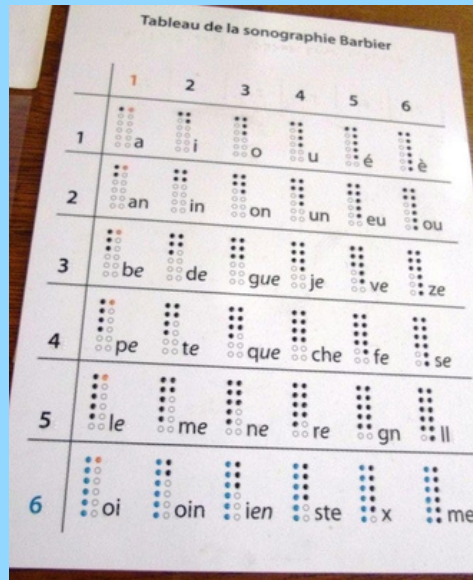


History

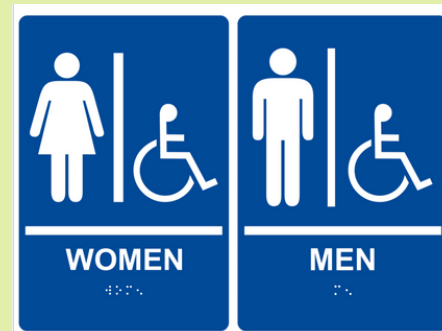


Military Night Writing

Braille was originated from the French secret military night writing code. It was originally made up of a 12 dot cell. 1 dot would notate for 1 letter or phonetic sound. Louis Braille accidentally blinded himself in one eye. His other eye went blind due to Sympathetic Ophthalmia. At 15 years old he tinkered with the secret military code and created Braille. He created a system where you could read the all the dots with one touch. Braille has stayed relatively the same since its invention by Louis Braille in the 19th century.

Accessibility

Individuals with Disabilities Act was founded in 1975. It granted free public education to the blind. In addition, it provided grants, education services, and research on behalf of the students educated. However, our public institution does not offer any classes on Braille. Students able to read English are not granted access to learning Braille through their standard education. A student would have to go out of their way to find both an interest and education for Braille.



Current Public School Braille Access

Broader Questions

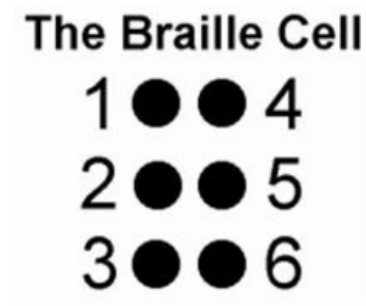
Why is communicating with Deaf and Blind people not a staple in our society?
Why are scripts and languages for Deaf and Blind individuals deemed unnecessary to learn and teach at a widely accessible level?

BRAILLE

Script Usage

Braille uses a 6-dot cell to represent letters and sounds. The patterns the 6-dot cells are placed into are read by touch of fingers. Braille is considered an alphabet that uses raised dots to notate speech sounds. It is not its own language but rather a tactile writing system used to notate for over 133 separate languages. It can even be notated for Chinese utilizing pinyin.

Louis' Creation



Louis Braille

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Art

Braille Art:
Vijaya Chauhan



Most museums disallow touching of art, not only creating an environment solely catered to visual individuals, but limiting Blind individuals' perceptions of the pieces on display. However, some artists are turning to Braille as a creative medium for Blind individuals to enjoy and relate to. Braille is used to create art that uses the tactile script to convey experiences of the community. Braille art has not only been available at museums but is widely accessible to the general population through graffiti of public areas.

Similarities to Chinese

Braille uses classifiers before certain groupings of dots to indicate switches to capital letters or numbers. Similarly, Chinese has indicating symbols called radicals that contextualize the characters for precise understanding. For example, the use of the radical Ren after a number to indicate the topic of conversation.



Chinese Radical Ren

to American Sign Language

ASL has different signs for the same meaning based on the location. For example, Texas and Iowa have different signs for the sign CANT, even though they both technically use the overarching language of ASL. Yet, signers across the USA and across the globe can sign with other countries' signers and understand their differences within days of communicating. This is similar to how Braille can be notated to over 133 languages. While different locations have different languages they notate under the overarching use of Braille, they all utilize the same 6-dot cell.