

“The Javascript-based SignWriting Keyboard for Use on Wikimedia and throughout the Web”

by

Yair Rand

Developer of the SignWriting Keyboard

yyairrand@gmail.com

In order to develop a functioning sign language internet, users must be able to both read the content and generally interact with it, including being able to input sign language text efficiently and seamlessly. While the SignWriting Viewer script, developed two years ago by Stephen Slevinski, made it possible for websites to easily include SignWriting text, the fact that users could not type has been a significant barrier to general internet use in sign language.

The SignWriting Keyboard script will enable users to seamlessly type SignWriting text directly into text boxes on the web, whether into a search box, a form, a chat room, or a discussion forum, as well as to edit a wiki page or other online document, to log in to a website with a sign language username, to write a blog or comment on a blog post in sign language, and so on. The aim is to allow users to add text more quickly than is possible with a point-and-click system, while providing a comprehensive set of available symbols.