

# Advances in Alternative & Augmentative Communication

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(AAC)

Suzanne Martin



# New Ideas?



“There is no such thing as a new idea. It is impossible. We simply take a lot of old ideas and put them into a sort of mental kaleidoscope. We give them a turn and they make new and curious combinations.

**Mark Twain**

# The challenge

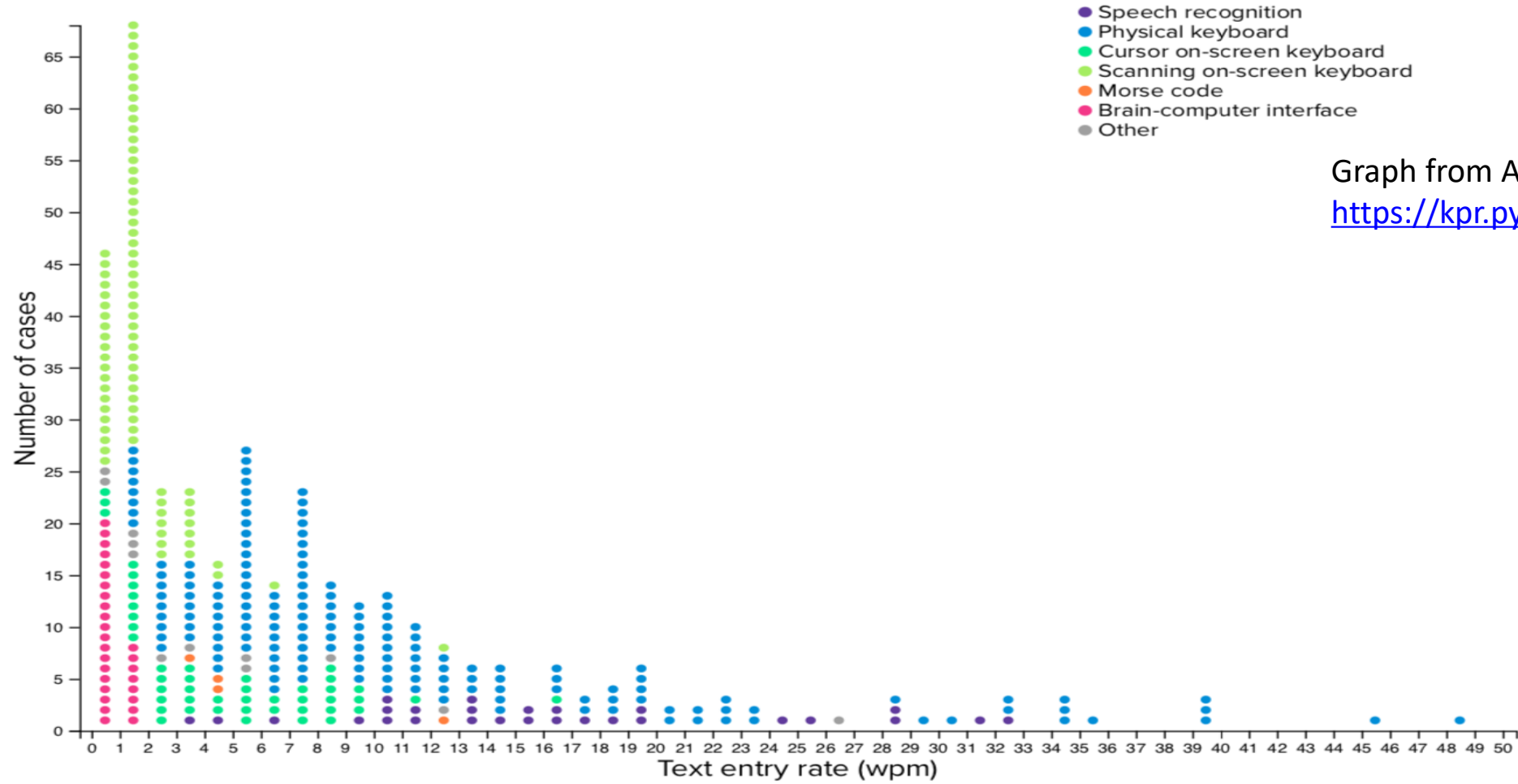


- Good cognition
- Good literacy skills
- No/minimal speech
- Direct access to technology for communication might not always be possible
- Alternative Access methods

# Text entry rates?



Gender  Age  Word prediction



Graph from AT-Node  
<https://kpr.pythonanywhere.com>

# Dasher

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an information-efficient text-entry interface

<https://vimeo.com/758016903/403c716586>



# Yvette

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A literate, competent dasher user

<https://vimeo.com/758017471/d268902991>



# Mark

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A literate, competent eye gaze user

<https://vimeo.com/758017758/f180c0d788>



# Why don't many people use Dasher?



Assistive Technology professionals said:

- "That looks too hard for me to learn let alone the people we work with!"
- **Teaching** non-traditional access solutions **needs to be done**
- Don't overlook things because they **look** difficult

**Remember – for some users new to technology it ALL might look hard!**

Further development required – V6 coming soon!



# Auditory Scanning

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What if visual difficulties are a barrier to access?



# David

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Auditory Scanning

<https://vimeo.com/758017915/439bebc646>



# PASCO



- Replicates smart human communication partners – as much as tech allows!
- FREE!
- Available as a web app and on iOS
- Search PASCO from Ace Centre on Apple AppStore

<https://bit.ly/3rEfoFE>



# Thank You

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