

Accessibility in Virtual Conferences: Captioning

With the incursion of the pandemic, there has been a rise in the number of virtual conferences we all have attended. Among the hardships of moving to an online platform, we have seen an increased awareness of the importance of accessibility. The access I will be focusing on is captioning. Not only is captioning necessary for the Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing community, but it is very useful for all attendees in our global community. Unfortunately, the current software for auto-generated captions is grossly inadequate for the scientific community and actively excludes scientists from participating. In this talk, I will describe the current capabilities of captioning software in comparison with having a live captioner present, the importance of including live captioning in the budget for every virtual conference, and look ahead to the AI research being performed for more accurate auto-captioning in science.

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Yes

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