

Improving orientation and mobility skills through virtual environments for people who are blind: past research and future potential

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ABSTRACT

This presented paper describes and examines 21 virtual environments developed specifically to support people who are blind in collecting spatial information before arrival at a new location and to help people who are newly blind practice orientation and mobility skills during rehabilitation. The paper highlights weaknesses and strengths of virtual environments that have been developed in the past 15 years as orientation and mobility aids for people who are blind. These results have potential to influence future research and development of a new orientation and mobility aid that could enhance navigation abilities.

Full papers will be published in the Conference Proceedings and will be available to delegates at the conference on Sept. 10.

Full papers will be released on-line in the ICDVRAT archive on March 15.