SignWriting 2001 Year-End Report
Important Events in the Year 2001

SignWriter 4.4 Upgrade

The SignWriter 4.4 upgrade provides new features:
1. **Print to Postscript** solves old printing problems
2. **Export to BMP** gives improved graphics
3. **New Instruction Files** in PDF Format on the web
4. **Installation From A CD** when purchased
The Upgrade is free to registered SignWriter users.
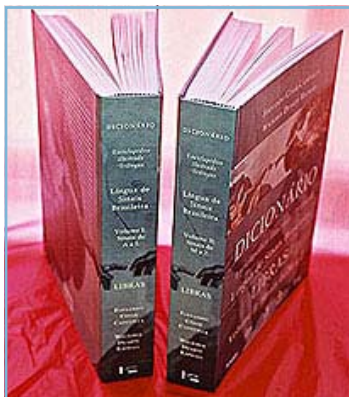
Google Search Engine For Web Sites

James Short linked our SignWriting and DanceWriting Web Sites to the Google Search Engine. Web visitors go to a search page, type in a search word, and the Google Search Engine, which is continually updated, finds the topic on one of eight "SignWriting-related" web sites.

SignWriter Software Additions

1. New SW 4.4 Shareware was posted on the web for Brazil, Colombia, Finland, Germany, Nicaragua, Spain, German-Switzerland and the USA.

2. SignWriter Manuals & Lessons Translated
into Spanish - Colombian Sign Language by Hector Devias, and into Arabic - Saudi Arabian Sign Language by Mohamed Mahmod Abushaira.
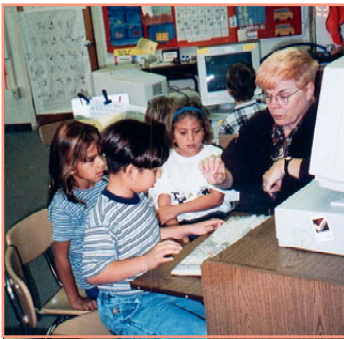
SignWriting Publications in Brazil

1. The Brazilian Sign Language Encyclopedic Dictionary
SignWriting is on every page of this thick 2-volume encyclopedia, published by Dr. Fernando Capovilla at the University of Sao Paulo. Valerie Sutton contributed a foreword and introduction to the Encyclopedia, plus a web article.

2. Other Brazilian SignWriting Publications
Sutton's Lessons in SignWriting was translated to Portuguese and Brazilian Sign Language by Marianne Stumpf. Marianne and Charles Butler worked on a LIBRAS-ASL dictionary. The **SignWriting Journal** was established on the web by Dr. Antonio Carlos da Rocha Costa.

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Deaf Children Demonstrate Literacy
Using SignWriting to Express Grief...

1. Children in Albuquerque, New Mexico
The days following the terroist attack on September 11th inspired deaf children, who do not normally write their feelings, to use SignWriting to tell their parents how they felt. Teacher and researcher Cecilia Flood (photo left) encouraged the students, and posted the student's SignWriting commentaries on the SignWriting List, for other teachers to read.

2. Children in Osnabruck, Germany
Little Irina was born-deaf to deaf parents. She lives in Germany, far away from Albuquerque, New Mexico. She uses SignWriting with her teacher, Stefan Woehrmann at the Osnabruck School for the Deaf. When Irina saw the pictures of September 11th on TV, she wrote a letter in German Sign Language to Valerie Sutton, and Valerie responded in American Sign Language. This was posted to the SignWriting List.
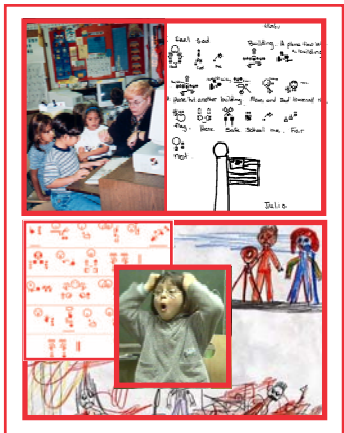

3. Children in Gore Bay, Canada
When Tini Pel's hearing students in Canada read the Deaf children's SignWriting messages on the SignWriting List, they became inspired and wrote SignWriting pen pal letters to the deaf children in Albuquerque and Germany, expressing their grief over the terrorist attack as well. This exchange resulted in a new web posting on Sept 15, 2001 on the SignWritingSite:

Deaf Children Around the World
www.SignWriting.org/forums/teachers/deafchild

4. The Result? A New Booklet: "Deaf Children Around the World Express Their Grief Over The Terrorist Attack"

If anyone doubted that SignWriting leads to literacy, then the events of September 11th provided proof. The deaf children's communication written in SignWriting added to the children's self esteem, and their parents learned about their own children. Like a 'snowball effect", the children's writing stimulated new countries, including a prayer for world peace written in Saudi Arabian Sign Language from the Arabic Nations.

FileMaker's visual user-interface is harnessed to create a breakthrough in Deaf Education...

SignBank® 2002

The SignWriting® Online Dictionary Database
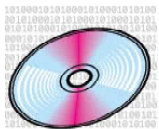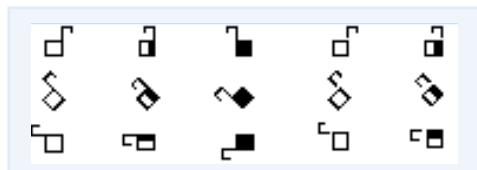Designed in FileMaker 5.0 for Macintosh and Windows

SignBank 2.0 Beta Test Release

Sutton's new design for SignBank in FileMaker Pro 5.0 was implemented by FileMaker developer Todd Duell, giving SignWriting special database software on the Macintosh and Windows. **SignBank 2.0** provides SignWriting users with a dictionary database sorted by the visual symbols of SignWriting, the Sign-Symbol-Sequence. Beta testing will start in Spring, 2002, with an official release in Fall, 2002.

The Forschungszentrum für Gebärdensprache (Center For Sign Language Research) in Basel and GS-MEDIA in Zurich, Switzerland, both directed by Dr. Penny Boyes Braem, will test SignBank for use in linguistic research. The Swiss Center's seed funding in 2001, for SignBank development, has given SignWriting users around the world a useful tool.

SymbolBank Data Entry

Valerie Sutton spent three months of 2001 creating 7000 tiny symbol pieces called GIFs. Each GIF was entered into a database called **SymbolBank**. This important work documents the detailed symbols in Sutton Movement Writing, plus it provides the tool for sorting signs by Sutton's Sign-Symbol-Sequence in **SignBank**.

CD Web Capture

Bill Reese gave a gift to SignWriting users by capturing the SignWritingSite on a CD, making it possible to access our site without an internet connection.

Map by Bill Reese

SignWriting Spreads to 27 Countries in 2001

27 dots on Bill Reese's map show that 27 countries are now using SignWriting. Small groups of teachers, researchers, Deaf organizations and students are accomplishing so much that each project deserves many pages. We want to express our thanks to everyone for your contributions! To read about each country, go to the SignWritingSite: **Who Uses SignWriting?** www.SignWriting.org/about/who/who.html.

Help Deaf Literacy

Please Support

The SignWriting Literacy Project For Deaf Children

USA donations are tax-deductible.

I would like to donate:

____$35   ____$50   ____$100   ____$500   ____$1000   _____Other

___**Enclosed is my check written to:** Center For Sutton Movement Writing

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