Mathematical education for braille readers

This is an invitation for mathematics teachers of braille readers to fill in a questionnaire about mathematics education for braille readers. The emphasis is on the representation of expressions and equations in braille.

Dear colleague,

My name is Annemiek van Leendert. I am a PhD student at Utrecht University and Erasmus University and I work as an expert in mathematics for braille readers at Royal Visio (the Netherlands). This organization provides education and care to people with visual impairments. The subject of my research is "Improvement of mathematical skills or Braille readers".

I recently started a partial study with the working title "Mathematical expressions in braille". The way mathematical expressions and equations are represented is crucial for the understanding of braille readers and for the verbal communication of braille readers with their classmates and teachers. We assume that this also depends on the context. For example, a certain representation may be too complicated for a braille reader who attends a regular school, but very suitable for a braille reader who attends a special school - where teachers are more skilled at reading braille.

In this partial study, we want to investigate which characteristics of a representation of a mathematical expression support braille readers and what that support exactly is. Your participation in the research will be of great importance to map out all the different representations and underlying principles and objectives. You are therefore kindly requested to complete the questionnaire (see appendix). The questionnaire consists of two parts. It takes approximately 10 minutes to complete the first part. It is difficult to predict how long it will take to complete the second part. That depends, among other things, on the complexity of the braille code used in your country. You can complete the questionnaire in Word or on paper. I kindly request you to complete this questionnaire before 6 September and send the completed Word document or a scan of the completed printed version to A.J.M.vanLeendert@uu.nl.

If you have questions, you can contact me by email. Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

Annemiek van Leendert (the Netherlands)