

**‘Specialization in ICTs and Special Education: Psychopedagogy of Integration’
Postgraduate Program
DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE Department of Greek Philology
in collaboration with
NCSR DEMOKRITOS Informatics and Telecommunications Institute**

**«TACTILE MAPS AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR BLIND AND PEOPLE
WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS»**

GKANIDI MARIA

**POSTGRADUATE
THESIS**

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Συνεργάτιδα Ερευνήτρια Ι.Π.Τ. Ε.Κ.Ε.Φ.Ε. “ΔΗΜΟΚΡΙΤΟΣ”

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ABSTRACT

Until recently, the medical model of disability dominated, but times and views change so that the model of social inclusion is now the guideline. It is therefore the broad acceptance of the social model of disability that leads to these changes and assistive technology is the main tool that allows social inclusion. In this paper an attempt it is made to investigate Greek and international bibliography regarding the design, the use and the effectiveness of haptic maps. This bibliographic research is divided into three main parts, each of which is divided into sub-chapters. The first part describes the method followed, the search sources and the exclusion criteria. Definitions are also included in this part. The second part of the study covers the bibliographic review including sub-chapters. In the second chapter there are researches concerning the field of geography with emphasis on the use of the map through cognitive, neurological, behavioral and social models. In the third chapter there are researches related to the structure, form and operation of the haptic maps and, more generally, of the individual characteristics to be taken into account in their creation. Finally, in the fourth chapter, there is a brief presentation of the new technologies for blind and visually impaired people.

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