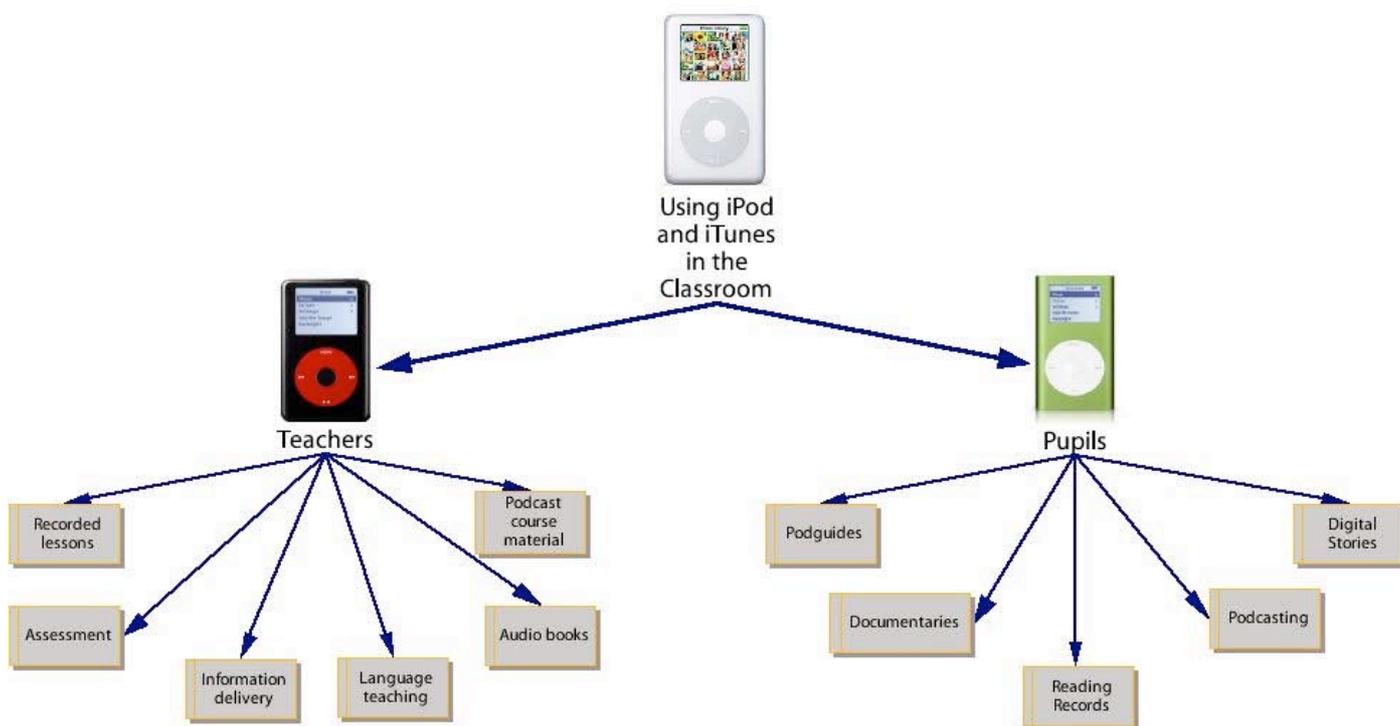


Classroom Uses for iPod and iTunes

With the entrance of the iPod into popular culture over the last few years there has been an increased interest in the use of the devices in education. It is becoming apparent to educators that the combination of iTunes and iPod and with the advent of Podcasting this potential is now a reality. This article explores the educational uses for teachers and pupils of the iPod – iTunes combination in the classroom.



Teachers

There has been a recognition for some time that the iPod – iTunes combination has the potential to be a powerful content delivery platform and this can now be exploited in a number of different ways.

Recorded lessons

With an iPod and microphone or suitably equipped computer it would be very simple for a teacher to record a lesson and to put these online for pupils to access after a lesson. This could be to help those pupils who missed the lesson or to help pupils to review their lessons later on. The recording and sharing of lessons or lectures could be an interesting way for educational

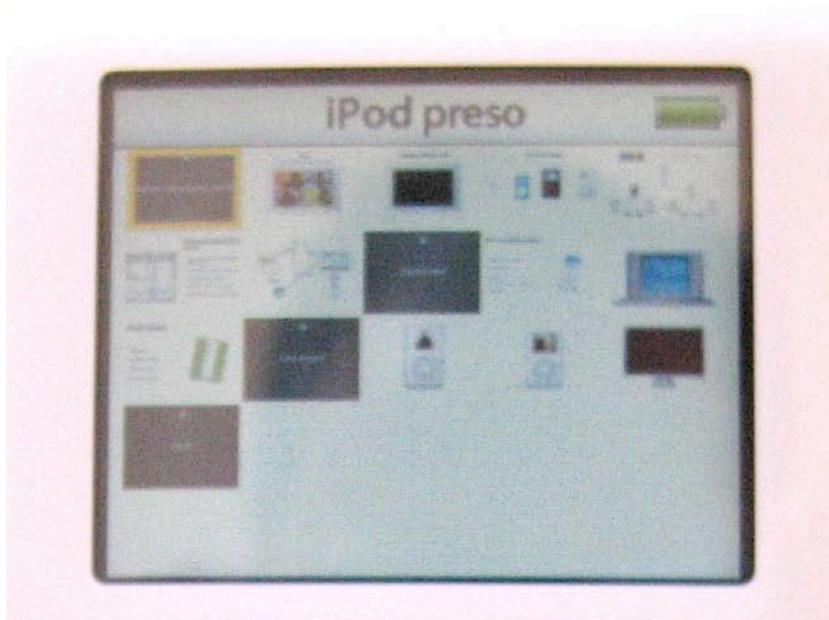
institutions to share teaching resources. This might be particularly relevant for small secondary schools or Further Education colleges.



An iPod with the iTalk microphone

Assessment

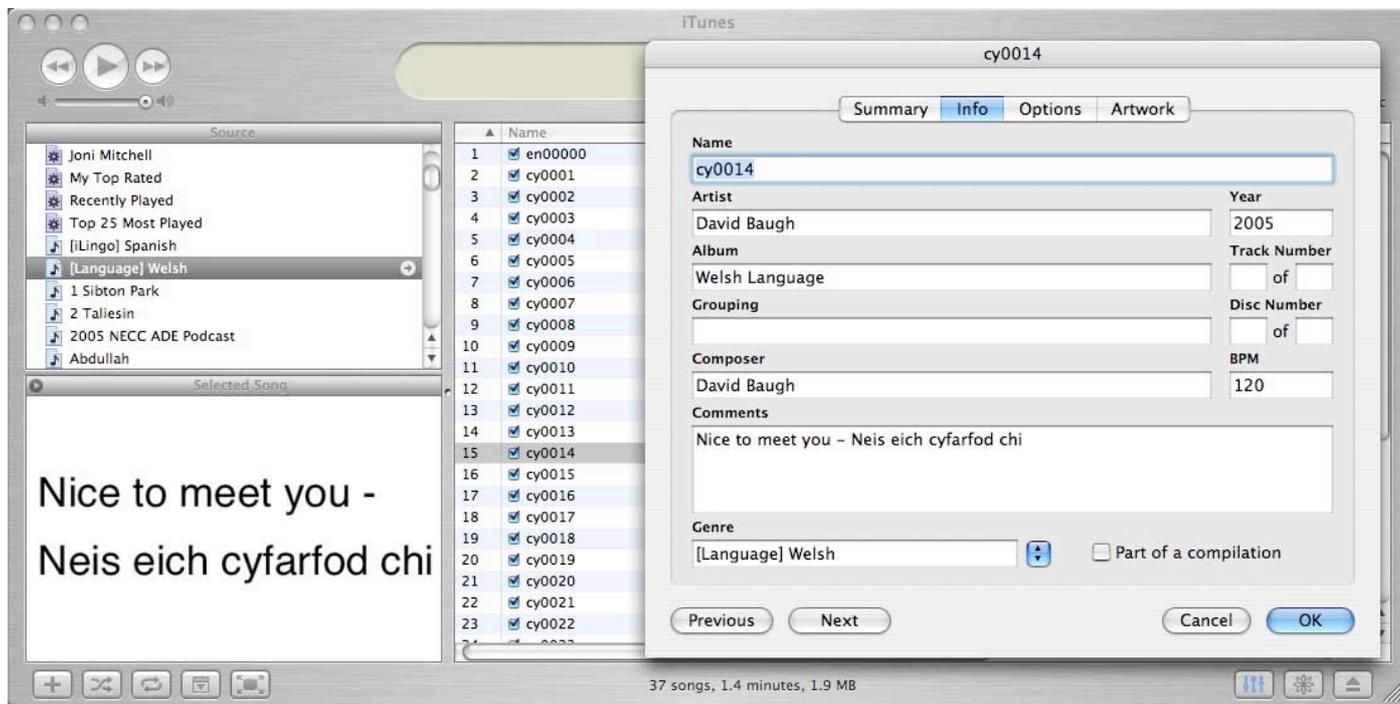
An iPod could be used to record a pupils progress in reading, foreign language or in their understanding of a subject. For example a teacher could record a student reading over a period of time and keep this as a record of progress to be shared with colleagues or parents. This could be stored in iTunes, on an iPod or burnt to CD for archiving and sharing. A colour iPod could be used to store other material such as a portfolio of still images or presentations.



A presentation transferred to iPod

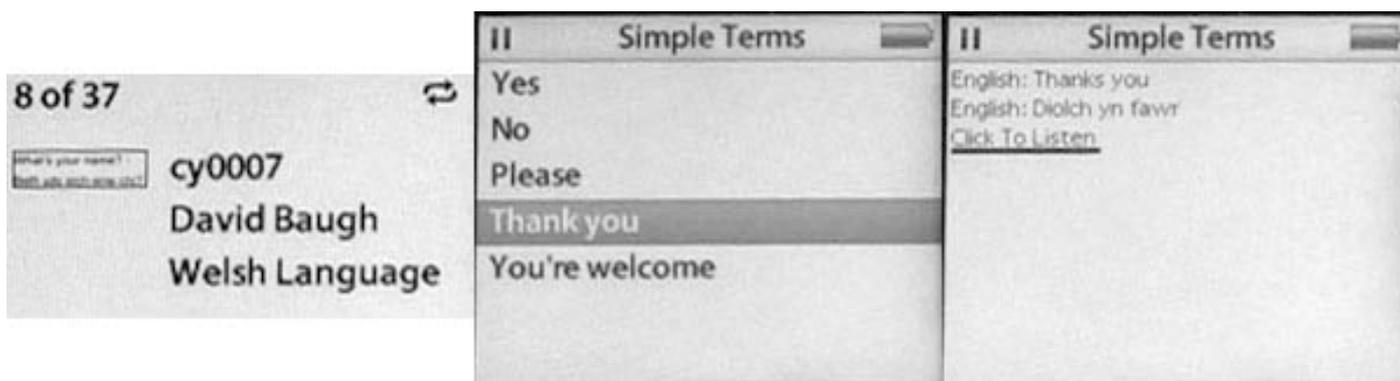
Language teaching

Both iTunes and iPod can be used to teach languages very successfully. iTunes can use recorded words and phrases accompanied by adapted cover art images or words to teach a language. The audio can also be given meta data via the comments section of the audio files information settings that will enable iTunes to be searched.



Additional information included in audio files

iPod can use audio files in a number of ways. It can use conventional playlists and cover art plus the note reader feature of iPod found in the Extras menu. This allows a menu to be created that links to audio files on the iPod. This means that a teacher could create a set of phrases that show the written text in both languages and on a button click will provide an audio version of the file.

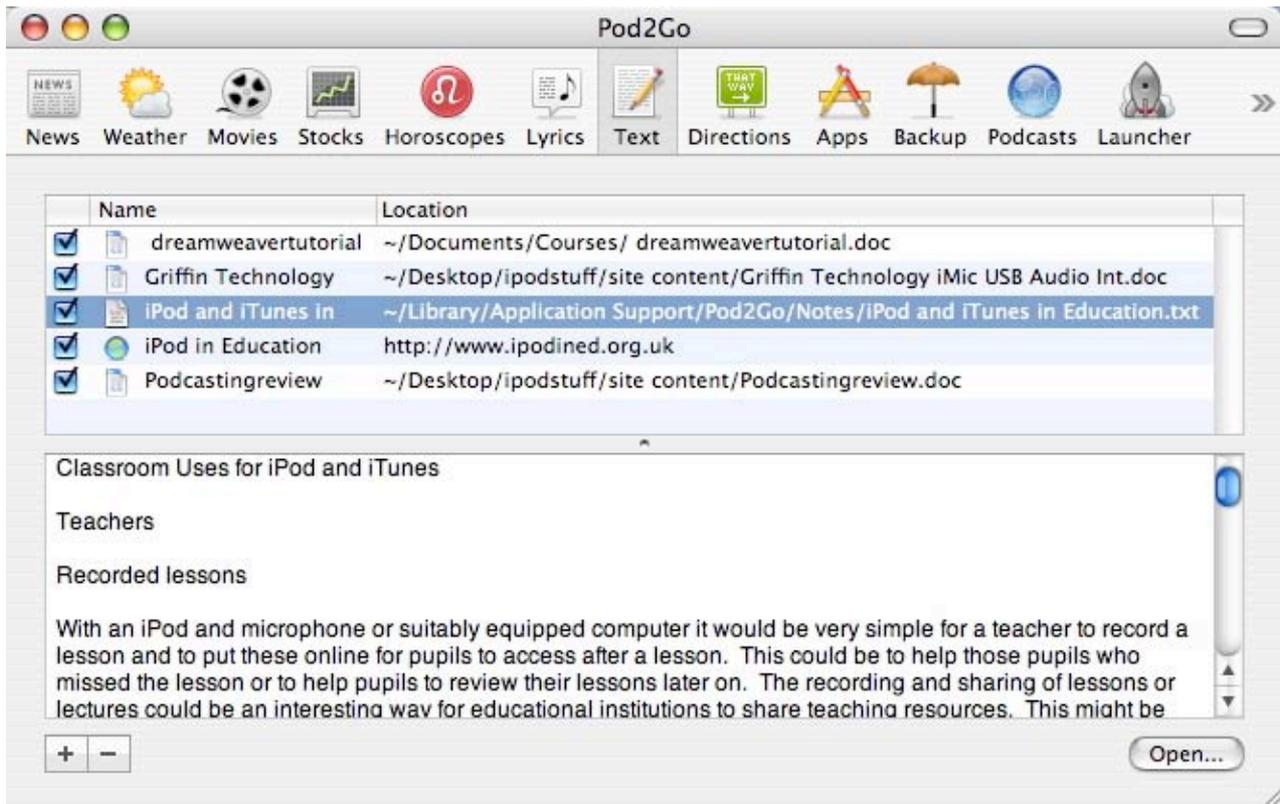


Language files on an iPod

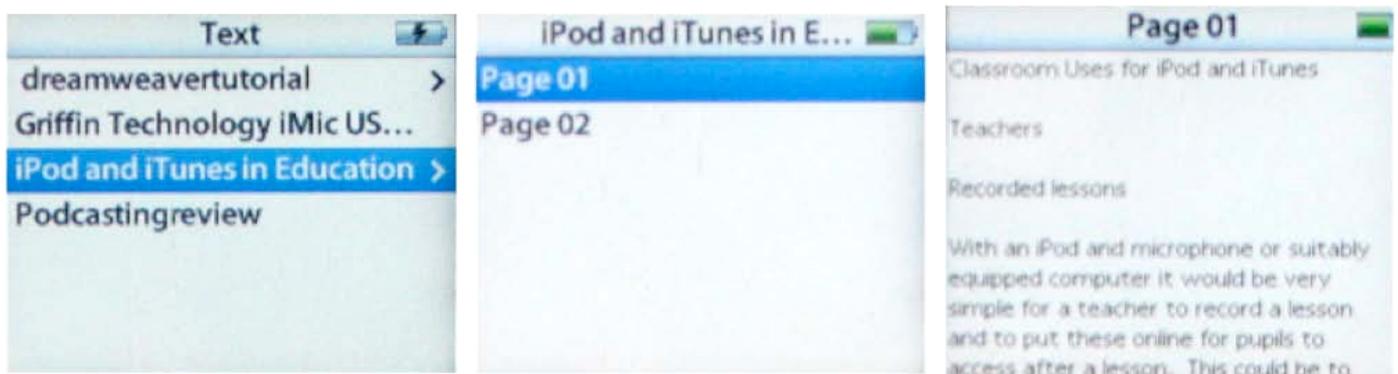
Information delivery

Because of its ability to handle audio, images, text and, in the case of iTunes video the iPod – iTunes combination is great for the delivery of all sorts of information. This could be, for example, audio commentaries on a subject being undertaken by the pupils such as a piece of literature. The information could be in the form of a PDF in iTunes or as a text file on an iPod. The teacher might want to give the pupils information via a short video clip that is to be discussed in class or in an assignment.

Using a Program like Pod2Go a teacher could make sure that specified files from a server or Websites were downloaded to pupils' iPods containing the content that a teacher wanted the pupils to study.



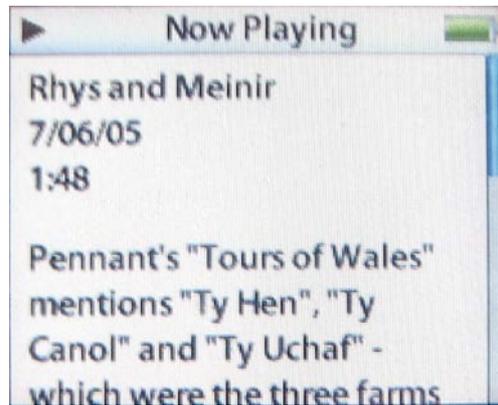
Pod2Go



Pod2Go files on an iPod

Audio books

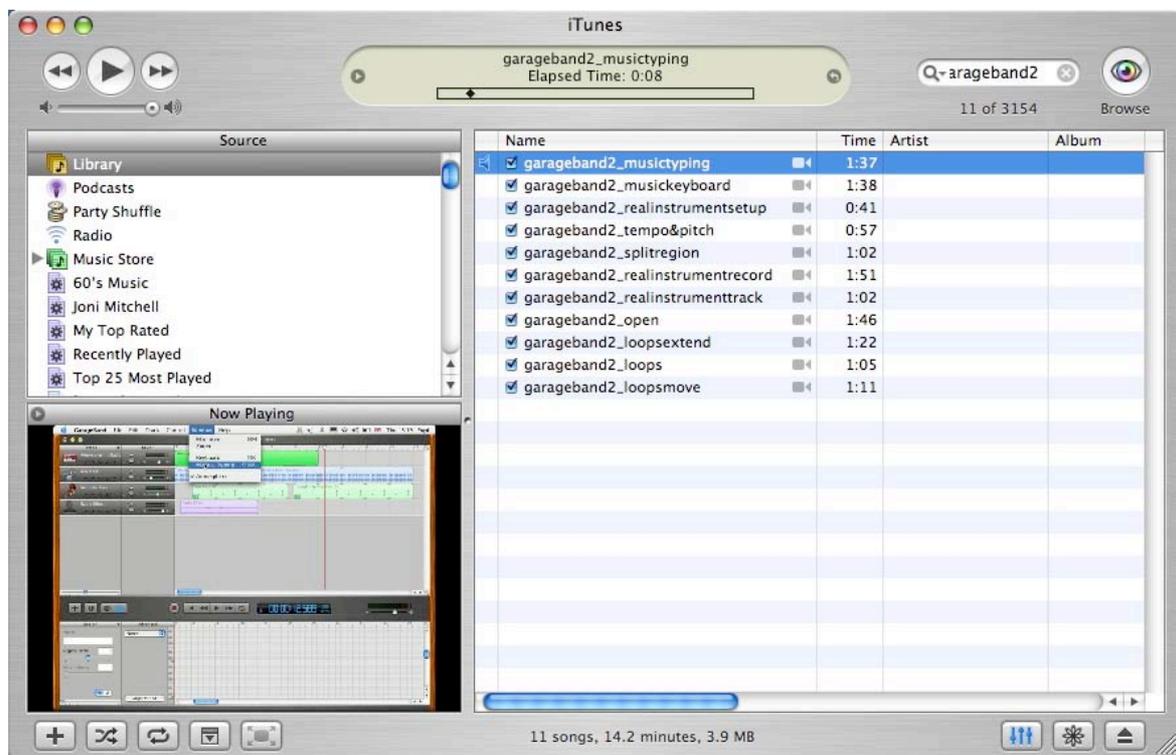
Audiobooks are a powerful way of getting pupils interested in reading and there are now large numbers of them available. The combination of iTunes and iPod means that it is possible to combine written text and images within the audio book format to enhance the experience. For example the text could provide a teachers commentary on the text in the form of notes or it could include the actual text if needed. The audiobook format also remembers where you were the last time you were listening to the audio file.



Text included in a audiobook format file

Podcast course material

With Podcasting the formats of enhanced Audio, movies and PDF can be delivered to a pupils computer and iPod automatically with no effort on the pupils behalf. All the student has to do is to subscribe and then make use of the material. This could be course notes, eBooks, videoed or recorded lectures, tutorial videos.... the list is extensive.



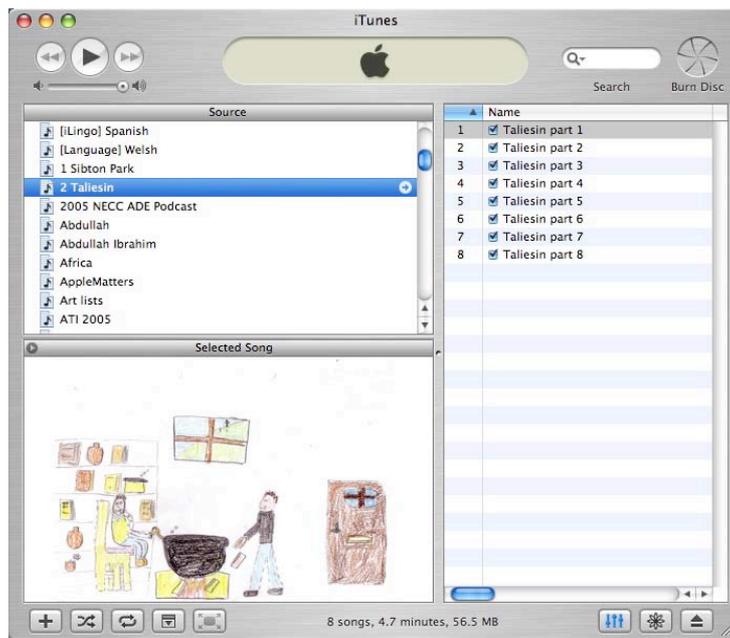
Course tutorial movies delivered via iTunes

Pupils

iPod and iTunes gives opportunities to pupils to create and share different media with a wide audience in different formats.

Digital Stories

Using an iPod or iTunes is a great way for pupils to deliver and share digital stories. The digital stories could be simply an audio story or a combination of images and audio. The images might be digital photographs or scanned images that the pupils have created. The digital stories could be delivered as a playlist in iTunes and on an iPod with the images being delivered as cover art.

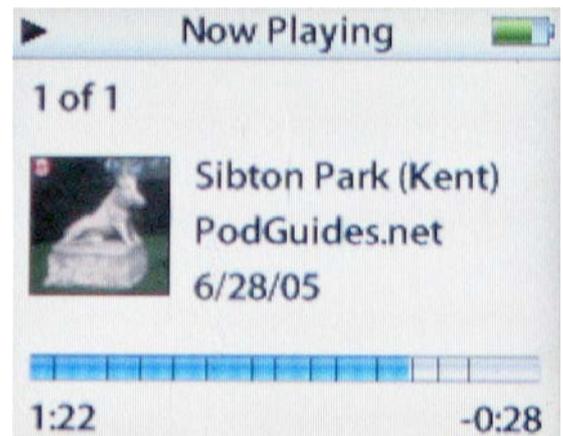


Or the digital story could be delivered as an enhanced audiobook file that has chapters and images.



Podguides

A Podguide is a variation on the audiobooks mentioned above but are designed to allow pupils to provide a guided tour of a variety of different situations. The sort of thing that could be produced could be a pupils' interpretation of a local museum, a guide to the local area or an explanation of a project they have completed such as a design and technology project.



Podcasting

Podcasting is a great tool for pupils to allow them to create content for a real audience. The Podcast content could almost be anything ranging from a traditional radio show to something with a sharp curriculum focus. These Podcast could be produced using the enhanced format that includes images, chapters and hyperlinks.



Documentaries

Using a suitably equipped iPod or computer pupils can easily record material that will help them create documentary type projects. This could include interviews with other pupils or with expert adults. The documentaries do not have only to include recorded material but images as well.

Reading Records

Pupils can use suitably equipped iPods and computers with iTunes to keep a record of their reading progress. This could include short reviews of books that they have read or recording of them reading out loud. This can be used by teachers and parents to review progress and for pupils keep an audio record of their reading progress over time. At the end of a stage of education the record could be burnt to CD or archived for transfer to the next stage.