

ABSTRACT

Formal SignWriting covers the fundamentals of Sutton SignWriting, focusing on its encoding system that transforms the spatial and temporal aspects of sign languages into a structured, character-based format suitable for computational processing.

Key topics include character sets of Formal SignWriting in ASCII (FSW) and SignWriting in Unicode (SWU), along with the design and application of two-part words that encapsulate both time and space in written signs.

Software tools that support the creation, visualization, and manipulation of SignWriting text are highlighted. These tools enable the generation of SVG and PNG images, the embedding of SignWriting into web pages, and the precise searching of sign language databases using regular expressions.

The use of query languages and transformations for efficient searches and regex operations demonstrates the power and versatility of Formal SignWriting in linguistic research, education, and digital communication.