

A simulation about an idea that would use QR codes.

Margaret Gattenford and her niece Anne Johnson are visiting an art gallery.

They proceed around the art gallery, looking at the paintings, sculptures and ceramics on display.

After a while, Margaret Gattenford suggests that finding the art gallery café would be a good idea.

Carrying cups of peppermint tea, Margaret and Anne proceed to a table. The table has some crisp black and white printing running across it, built into the surface of the table.

Anne likes country music and says that the layout of the printing on the table in front of her made her think of a steel guitar set up ready to be played.

Upon closer inspection there are two rows of printing, the upper row consisting of fourteen characters in about a 48 point size, set out with space between them across most of the one metre or so width of the table: the lower row consisting of fourteen QR codes, one below each of the fourteen text characters. There is a fairly large space of table surface below the lower row of printing.

The upper row has the following fourteen characters.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 * 0 # & %

Margaret Gattenford explains.

“It is a facility to assist a person to make a telephone call using a mobile telephone that has a QR code reader, without the person needing to be able to push the buttons on the mobile telephone. It is a passive device. Each of the QR codes delivers one character to the mobile telephone software application, so the person simply needs to scan the QR code that is below the character. The first twelve of the characters correspond to the buttons on an ordinary telephone. The & is so that a double character can be entered. If 77 were to be entered, 7&7 would be used. Then, once the telephone number is set up, the two character sequence %1 can be used to make the call.”

She takes her mobile telephone out of her pocket.

She continues. “I have the application installed on my mobile telephone.”

Margaret holds out her mobile telephone to Anne.

“Please have a try to make a telephone call to your Uncle Albert.”

Anne Johnson slowly scans the telephone number into the mobile telephone using the QR codes and observing the number building up on the screen of the mobile telephone, much as if she were pressing buttons with her fingers.

“So a person who could not press the buttons of a telephone because of a disability could possibly, depending upon his or her particular disability, be able to enter the desired telephone number by scanning these QR codes” says Anne.

“Exactly” says Margaret Gattenford. “It may not be useful for everybody, but for some people it could potentially be a useful idea.”