

Timeline of Interpreting and Sign Language Interpreting

~3000 BC

Evidence of interpreting in Egypt

~1900 BC

Evidence of Interpreting in Germanic, Scandinavian, Slavic languages

300 BC

Rosetta Stone: stone containing same message in three languages (Egyptian hiero, Egyptian script, and Greek); evidence that translating facilitated communication between groups

~200 BC

Evidences of yi (interpreting) in China

@100 AD

Roman philosopher Pliny documents paid (professional) interpreters

150–400 AD

Roman Empire: Interpreters required for Roman troops conquering nations and lands

@100–1500 AD

Bible translations appear from Aramaic and Greek to Latin, German, Old English

1529–1630 AD

Published by Charles II in 1681, *Las Leyes de las Indias* governs how interpreters are used

~1600 AD

Governmental recognition of interpreters (trade with China)

1919–1946
League of Nations

Formed from numerous European and Asian countries after WWI

S 1964

Workshop on Interpreting for the Deaf; June 14–17

Ball State College, Indiana; Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf organized

ASL books and curricula: 1961–1980
ASL “dictionaries” and printed lexicons make their way into mainstream pedagogy: Reikehof (1961), Watson (1964), Stokoe (1965), Baker & Cokely (1980), O'Rourke (1980), and Fant (1983).

A 1966

National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) forms interpreter training program (ITP)

A 1972

RID conducts first certification examinations

P 1975

Education of All Handicapped Children Act (PL 94-142)

Requires all disabled children to be educated in “the least restrictive environment,” begins widespread mainstreaming of Deaf children

P 1990

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Expands Section 504's powers; businesses with 15 or more employees must make “reasonable accommodations”; law says interpreters should “interpret effectively, accurately, and impartially...”

P 1998

Telecommunications Accessibility Enhancement Act (TAEA)

Federal government must provide relay calls to, from, and within itself

1945
United Nations

Formed after WWII; political peace-keeping and quasi-governmental organization; simultaneous interpreting substandard until 1971

A 1965

California State University, Northridge (CSUN) establishes first interpreter training program (ITP)

A 1969

St. Paul Technical Vocational Institute and New York University form community interpreter programs

P 1973

Title V, Section 504

Rehabilitation Act Amendments; provides access for Deaf persons participating in “programs or activit[ies] receiving Federal financial assistance...”

P 1977

Bilingual, Hearing, & Speech Impaired Court Interpreter Act

Federal courts must appoint and pay for interpreters for Deaf persons in Federal criminal and/or civil actions initiated by the government

P 1990

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Reaffirmed PL 94-142, sustained needs for interpreters in mainstreamed classrooms

P S (ongoing)

Title IV—Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Title IV does not mandate but regulates and allows for reimbursement of video relay services; FCC reports that VRS calls average two million minutes per month (2006)

1945–1949
Nuremberg Trials

Birth of modern conference interpreting

1934 Communications Act: US telecommunications companies must make services “functionally equivalent”