



MT News International

Newsletter of the International Association for Machine Translation

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Spotlight on the News

MT Summit VII attracts attendees to Singapore

Eduard Hovy
President, AMTA

Held in Singapore on September 13-17 of last year and featuring the theme “MT in the Great Translation Era,” the seventh MT Summit was interesting for many reasons—and a lot of fun besides. And where better to hold a Summit than Singapore? A historical crossroads, Singapore seems to function equally well in English, Mandarin Chinese, Malay, and Tamil; I remember seeing signs in four or five scripts at almost every street corner. For me, being in Singapore was a new and exciting experience—learning about its history, people, and economic status. Especially the contrasts interested me: after spending a long time in a most modern, state-of-the-art, expensive CD store, I enjoyed a full restaurant dinner for under US\$ 2.00.

All this formed a backdrop to the conference, which was very well organized and contained lots of interesting material.

The Kent Ridge Digital Labs (KRDL, pronounced “cradle”) on the campus of the National University of Singapore is a perfect site for a conference of this kind. The auditorium, finished literally two days before the conference, could not have been newer. It was fun sitting inside the sound operator’s booth and controlling the video cameras to spy on the audience. The never-ending cookies, pastries, and fish dishes during breaks were a delight. Locating the exhibitor booths in the passage between the entrance and the auditorium was an excellent idea.

The Program

The technical program, developed under the coordination of Jun-ichi Tsujii, Program Committee Chair and Vice Chair of the conference, had something for everyone. Professor Tanaka, President of IAMT and General Chair of the Summit, described next steps for MT development. Martin Kay’s invited talk on certain parsing techniques was, like all his talks, informative and clear, even to non-specialists, without being condescending. A panel of government funders from the United States, the European Commis-

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Editorial Board

CO-EDITORS:

Colin Brace

Language Industry Monitor
Tel: +31 (20) 685-0462
Fax: +31 (20) 685-4300
E-mail: cbrace@lim.nl

Muriel Vasconcellos

Tel: +1 (619) 449-3366
Fax: +1 (619) 449-3361
E-mail: MurielVasconcellos@compuserve.com

CONSULTING EDITOR:

John Hutchins

Library, University of East Anglia
Fax: +44 (1603) 25-94-90
E-mail: WJHutchins@compuserve.com

REGIONAL EDITORS:

AMTA: David Clements

Globalink, Inc.
Tel: +1 (619) 490-3680 x 302
Fax: +1 (619) 490-3684
E-mail: dclements@lhs.com

EAMT: Jörg Schütz

Institute for Applied Information
Sciences (IAI)
Fax: +49 (681) 389-5140
E-mail: joerg@iai.uni-sb.de

AAMT: Hirosato Nomura

Kyushu Institute of Technology
Fax: +81 (948) 29-7601
E-mail: nomura@dumbo.ai.kyutech.ac.jp

... *Summit from previous page*

sion, Japan, and China provided interesting perspectives on the priorities of the largest users of MT, namely governments. A final panel on MT for the next century featured lively interactions about the power of new automated techniques to create (low-quality, but still) MT systems rapidly. An invited talk by Jo Lernout, partner in Lernout and Hauspie, the firm that has been buying up so many MT companies, gave him a chance to outline the vision that has made L&H a common name in MT in only two years.

An extended series of poster sessions in the same room as the refreshments made browsing and chatting easy.

It was nice to see Muriel Vasconcellos honored as the second recipient of the IAMT Award of Honor (see Association News).

Here are some facts that I learned in the course of the presentations:

- In 1999 China had 4 million people connected to the Internet. The number has been doubling every year for the past five years.

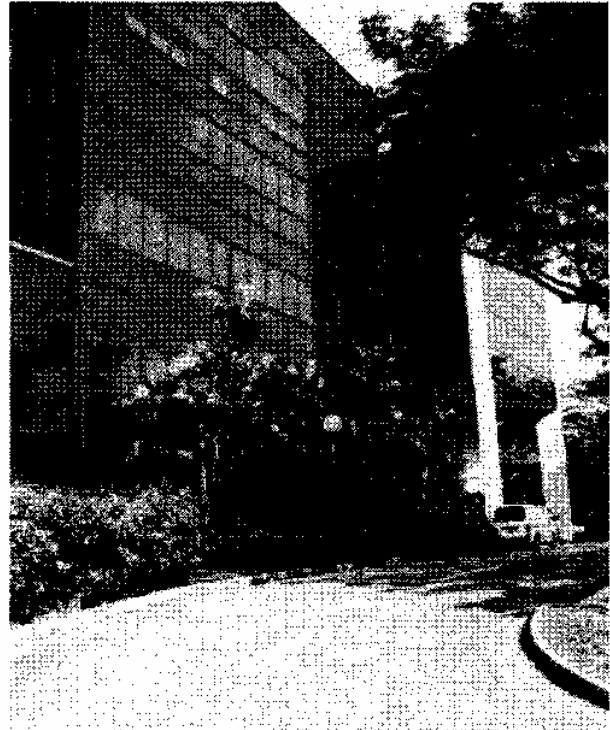
- By some estimates, in the world as a whole there will be 1 billion people connected to the Internet in five years. Every day 53,000 new users and 300,000 new Web pages are coming on-line.

- The CKY algorithm of 1960 can be seen as the first algorithm developed for computational linguistics per se.

- In the 1980s Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) spent US\$ 500 million on research and development in computational linguistics.

- China currently has about 40 research projects in computational linguistics, funded at approximately 20 million yuan RMB.

But finally, like all good things, the Summit came to an end. I enjoyed a ban-



The Kent Ridge Digital Labs (KRDL), site of MT Summit VII and "cradle" of advanced technology in Singapore.

quet that featured an impromptu unicycle demonstration by Chinese dictionary compiler Jack Halpern, and the chance to catch up with colleagues and friends from all over the world.

I left feeling that I had seen a new part of the world and gained an updated perspective on where MT is now and where it is going... little knowing that in Taiwan, where I headed next, a major earthquake was about to strike.

But that is another story. □

Editor's note: The foregoing report has been adapted from in the AAMT Journal, no. 28 (Jan 2000), with the kind permission of the Asia-Pacific Association for Machine Translation. That issue also contains a gallery of thumbnail photos from the conference, which can be seen and downloaded from <http://www.jeida.or.jp/aamt/mtsummit99/Photo/index.html>. — MV

Netscape incorporates Alis Technologies in its browser

[Based on a press release]

Netscape Communications, a subsidiary of America Online, Inc. (NYSE: AOL), and Alis Technologies Inc., a leading provider of integrated language-handling technologies and language-management solutions, announced April 5 that the new Netscape 6 browser offers AutoTranslate, a feature allowing automatic translation of Web pages via Alis Technologies' Gist-In-Time on-line translation software. AutoTranslate enables Netscape 6 users to access global content on the Internet by taking a Web page written in a foreign language and having it translated into the language of their choice in any of 14 language pairs available today.

Netscape users can access AutoTranslate free of charge, quickly and easily by clicking on "Translate" from the "View" menu in Navigator. Users can browse a Web page in a foreign language and select the language on that page, or any of its links, for automatic translation into another language.

AutoTranslate is directly available from the browser. It translates a wide range of Web page formats and languages, and it reproduces the Web page in its original layout with the translated text.

The AutoTranslate service also uses the Que™ application from Alis, a language identifier that enables the browser to immediately identify the language of the text appearing on the screen and automatically select the language from which to translate.

Claude Leinay, President and CEO of Alis Technologies Inc., said: "We're proud to form this partnership with Netscape. Users will now be able to benefit even more from the information resources available on the Web. Gist-In-Time and Que™ are just two in a range of industry-leading Web solutions offered by Alis to remove language barriers for users throughout the world."

Jim Hamerly, Vice President of the Client Product Division at Netscape, said: "As we were developing Netscape 6, we saw the need to include a user-friendly language-comprehension tool for use in the global marketplace. Netscape is a

global company with users in over 125 countries. Our international customers need to have the same accessibility to information on the Internet as our users here in the United States, and vice versa. Users can now easily access global content and quickly find the information they're looking for."

AutoTranslate offers a wide selection of languages to choose from, and new languages will be added as the Alis portfolio grows. It currently offers the following translation pairs:

- To English from German, French, Japanese, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian; and
- From English to German, French, Japanese, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Traditional Chinese, and Simplified Chinese.

Netscape 6 Preview Release 1 is available for public download on Netscape Netcenter. The new browser is small in size and it can run across a wide variety of platforms, from traditional PC desktops to new computing devices. It offers users the flexibility to customize the browser to fit their individual needs.

Since 1981, Alis Technologies Inc. has helped companies communicate more efficiently by providing unique enterprise-wide and Web-based language-management solutions for removing language barriers. It has offices in five countries.

The Alis service can also be accessed directly at the company's Website: <http://www.alis.com/>. Further information: Head office: 100 Alexis Nihon Blvd., Suite 600, Montreal, PQ, Canada, H4M 2P2; e-mail: info@alis.com; tel: (514) 747-2547; fax: (514) 747-2561. Contact: Bryce Finley, e-mail: bfinley@alis.com; tel: (514) 747-2542, ext. 263.

Netscape is based in Mountain View, CA. Contact: Catherine Corre, e-mail: corre@netscape.com. For additional information on Netscape via e-mail: info@netscape.com; Website: <http://home.netscape.com>; Corporate Sales: tel: +1 (650) 937-2555. □

LanguageWare.net rolls out multilingual e-business solutions

[Based on a press release]

Accent Software has changed its name to LanguageWare.net and is introducing a wide array of multilingual global e-business solutions. Some of these offerings include multilingual Website development and maintenance, along with the ability to view, search, and build multilingual databases on English-language operating systems, and database and desktop capabilities that allow Asian (double-byte) characters to be viewed on English-language operating systems.

In addition, LanguageWare.net offers a fully integrated on-line machine and human translation portal, with real-time multilingual, multicultural customer support and sales system development, software localization services, and a network of thousands of in-country, native-speaking translators that are instantly screened and accessed via LanguageWare.net's Internet server technology.

Website: <http://www.LanguageWare.net> □

Uniscape.com offers on-line translation

[Based on a press release]

The recently launched Uniscape.com is a technology-powered translation portal that manages business-to-business translation for global companies. More than just an online translation services brokerage, Uniscape.com is designed to make the translation of Websites, documentation and software quicker, more efficient, and reusable.

Users of Uniscape.com can work with translators anywhere in the world, and they have free use of Uniscape's XML-based Translator Studio. The technology is designed specifically to aid the human translation process by offering access to a scalable translation memory database, workflow automation, content management, reporting, and filtering technology.

Website: <http://www.uniscape.com> □

LanguageForce launches UTStarGate

[Based on a press release]

LanguageForce Inc. announced on April 14 the launch of a new Internet communication product called UTStarGate™. This product incorporates IBM ViaVoice™, Microsoft Explorer™, and its own Universal Translator™ Technology system to provide translation of electronic documents, voice and typed messages, voice chat, and Web pages in 10 languages over the Internet.

UTStarGate has the following features:

- Instant messenger: translation of e-mail messages; keyboard and font support available for all languages including Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and Arabic on any PC based operating system.
- Voice chat: users can communicate by voice with numerous IRC chat servers, chat in more than one room, and even create unique rooms or forums.
- Meta-search: users can search the world in any language with the power of multiple search engine lookup.
- Website translation and editing: in addition to invoking the translation engine, users can modify the content of Web pages using UTStarGate's internal HTML editor.
- E-mail translation: the free e-mail and e-mail translation capability supports HTML completely and allows users to send messages in multiple languages with graphics and formatted text.
- IBM ViaVoice dictation, voice commands, and text-to-speech: all applications are "voice-aware," allowing users to dictate and to hear text spoken in English or another language, as well as to use voice-activated commands, browsing and exploring the Internet hands-free; both IBM ViaVoice and Microsoft Speech are supported.
- Entertainment center: international broadcasting receiver interfaces allow the user to tap into Internet radio and TV stations around the world; the MP3 player lets users explore the Internet's quality CD libraries and build their own jukebox.
- GateKeeper: the latest in "MS Agent" technology allows users to carry on two-

Continued on page 14 . . .

Products

L&H offers Simply Translating Deluxe

[Based on a business wire]

L&H's new translation product, Simply Translating Deluxe, provides users with language reference tools for 41 languages, from Arabic to Zulu. It provides English- and non-English-speaking users an easy way to obtain the language help they need when drafting reports, e-mails, or correspondence. The program also translates, based on the context of the sentence, English to and from Spanish, German, French, Italian, Portuguese and Japanese.

L&H Simply Translating Deluxe integrates with Microsoft Word and Corel WordPerfect to provide seamless translations that preserve the original formatting.

The estimated price of L&H Simply Translating Deluxe is \$69.95.

Website: <http://www.lhs.com> □

Global Sight introduces multilingual Ambassador

[Based on a press release]

Global Sight's Ambassador version 1.8 is designed to transform a monolingual Website into a centrally managed multilingual and multicultural Web presence.

The software utilizes centralized translation memory to enable companies to leverage previously translated content across the site for faster localization turnaround times, reduced translation costs, and improved translation quality and consistency.

Global Sight's centralized translation memory supports the industry-standard TMX format for importing legacy translation memory data, allowing organizations to build on translation assets from previous localization efforts.

Website: www.globalsight.com □

LTC Organiser adds flexible report module

[Based on a notice in MT-List]

LTC Organiser 2.51 is a project management software tool specifically customised for translation and localisation businesses. It includes a translator database, client database and sophisticated project management features. The new report module creates a variety of management reports, including financial reports. In addition, it generates detailed reports for project managers by taking any combination of data taken from the translator, client, or software database and presenting it in the form of an easy-to-read graph or list.

LTC's software developers have designed the report module to allow maximum flexibility. For many users the wide range of standard reports provided will satisfy their day-to-day information needs. However, the module is an open system; the user can create new reports and edit and customise existing reports using Crystal Reports software. For businesses that do not have access to Crystal Reports, LTC will provide tailored solutions as part of the services that it offers.

The report module's export function allows reports to be exported to other programs including HTML, Excel, Word, Access, and Text.

This new addition makes the LTC Organiser a complete solution for project management needs.

Contact: Adriane Rinsche, The Language Technology Centre Ltd., e-mail: rinsche@langtech.co.uk, or tel.: +44 (0)20 8549.2359. Website: <http://www.langtech.co.uk> □

Corel upgrades its localization tools

[Based on a press release]

Corel Corporation's latest localization tools are Corel CATALYST Enterprise and Corel CATALYST Quickship, a free editing companion to CATALYST Enterprise.

Corel CATALYST Enterprise is designed to better streamline the localization process of Windows-based applications and facilitate the near simultaneous shipment of localized products. While operating on the same principles as current versions, Corel CATALYST Enterprise has the added ability to create translation tool kits (TTKs) which can then be edited using Corel CATALYST QuickShip.

Coordinators of translation projects and translators working in the localization industry will benefit from the following new developments:

- It is no longer necessary to purchase a copy of Corel CATALYST for vendors, as Corel CATALYST Quickship can be downloaded for free at www.corel.ie/catalyst.
- There is no longer a need to compile translation kits and burn CDs; "transkits" can now be sent electronically.
- Sending dongles—a hardware key that prevents piracy—to vendors is a thing of the past, as no hardware key is necessary to operate Corel CATALYST QuickShip. The translator can be working on the TTKs within minutes of its creation.

Using Corel CATALYST Quickship, localization companies can package their translation files, instructions and glossaries into a single downloadable QuickShip object. Translators can then download this over the Web.

Within Corel CATALYST Enterprise, the QuickShip Expert assists project coordinators to create a Transkit file. This feature allows the user to include any number of TTKs, glossary files, or any files of the user's choice, along with the instructions for the translator, into a compressed, self-extracting, executable file.

Price: The recommended retail price of Corel CATALYST Enterprise is US \$4,999. Users of advanced versions of Corel CATALYST 2.5 are eligible to receive an upgrade discount of US \$500 upon return of the dongle.

Website: www.corel.com/catalyst □

Conferences

AMTA-2000: Envisioning Machine Translation in the Information Future

Cuernavaca, Mexico, October 10-14, 2000

The Association for Machine Translation in the Americas (AMTA) is happy to announce plans for its fourth biennial conference, to be held October 10-14, 2000, at the Misión del Sol on the outskirts of Cuernavaca, about one hour south of Mexico City.

The concept

This year's theme is "Envisioning MT in the Information Future." The focus will be on the articulation of future visions of MT: in the '00s decade, the twenty-first century, and even in the third millennium.

Ubiquitous, instant Internet access will soon be available from a host of sources. Later on, ways of thinking about the universe of information will transcend our current metaphors of networks, clients, servers, and communication. How will these and other possible paths into the future affect our exponential need for translation? Will the process of translation become transparent? How long before we each have a true babelfish in our ear? Will the quality ceiling finally be broken by incremental improvements, or by an as yet unimaginable breakthrough? Will translation even be necessary?—will globalization lead to a single language, or will translation allow for the growth of local languages?

Such will be the fare at AMTA-2000. Every current topic in multilingual information processing is germane to this discourse, especially as it points the way to the near- and long-term role of MT in the information world of the future.

AMTA invites everyone interested in machine translation to attend—developers, researchers, users, professional translators, managers, marketing experts—anyone who has a stake in the vision of an information world in which language issues become transparent to the information consumer.

The schedule

As in the past, the conference will feature a lively and engaging variety of invited speakers, panel discussions, demonstrations, workshops, tutorials, and technical papers by researchers, developers, and users.

Workshops will be held on Tuesday, October 10, tutorials on Wednesday, and the conference proper will begin on Thursday, October 12, and continue until the early afternoon on Saturday.

In keeping with tradition, there will be a welcoming reception on Wednesday evening and a banquet on Friday. The banquet will be held at the Hacienda de Cortés, founded in 1532.

The site

The conference site, Misión del Sol, is located just outside Cuernavaca in a fertile valley surrounded by mountains. Advertised as "A haven for the soul," it is a tranquil campus of newly built adobe villas, lush vegetation, and ponds, with a meandering brook running through it. The facilities are modern and impeccable in every respect. It is also a spa, and many treatments and activities are available for those who wish to arrive early or stay over a little longer.

Participants can have a single or double room for US\$ 108 (\$135 on Friday), or four people can share a villa (two bedrooms and a living-room) for \$205 (\$250 on Friday).

Website: www.misiondelsol.com.mx □

Organizing Committee

David Farwell, General Chair
John White, Program Chair
Laurie Gerber, Workshops and Tutorials
Muriel Vasconcellos, Local Arrangements
Kim Belvin, Exhibits
Debbie Becker, Registration

Website: <http://www.isi.edu/natural-language/conferences/AMTA2000.html>



Misión del Sol, site of AMTA-2000.

EAMT Workshop: Harvesting Existing Resources

Jubljana, Slovenia, May 11-12, 2000

This workshop, the first MT event to be held in Slovenia, brings attention to language management issues in that country, including the translation of EU legislation, bilingual terminology extraction, the development of bilingual corpora and dictionaries for MT, and a system for the automatic translation of job offers from Slovene into English.

The topics programmed for the workshop focus on ways to take advantage of existing resources in practical settings in a variety of modalities.

Website: <http://ml.ijs.si/eamt00/> □

Cross-Language Evaluation Forum

Lisbon, September 21-22, 2000

Call for Participation

A Cross-Language System Evaluation activity is now being launched in Europe. The activity is sponsored by the DELOS Network of Excellence for Digital Libraries in collaboration with the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the TREC Conferences.

The Cross-Language Evaluation Forum (CLEF) will run three main evaluation tracks in 2000, testing multilingual, bilingual and monolingual (non-English) information retrieval systems. There will also be a special sub-task for domain-specific cross-language evaluation.

The results of the activity will be presented during a two-day Workshop on Multilingual Information Access, to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, on September 21-22, 2000, immediately after the fourth European Conference on Digital Libraries (ECDL-2000; see <http://www.bn.pt/org/agenda/ecdl2000>).

Those intending to participate in CLEF 2000 are asked to contact Carol Peters at IEI-CNR (carol@iei.pi.cnr.it; tel: +39 050 315 2897; fax: +39 050 315 2810) as soon as possible, indicating in which task (s) they intend to participate.

Further information: <http://www.iei.pi.cnr.it/DELOS/CLEF> □

Workshop: Evaluation of Machine Translation

Athens, May 29, 2000

To be held in conjunction with the LREC Conference in Athens, this workshop will look at the evaluation of machine translation taken in the broad sense, referring to all types of tools used to aid in the translation process (e.g., machine translation, translation memory, terminology management, etc.).

It will be the first in a series of workshops on the topic, which will have the following goals:

- To discuss the establishment of a theory on the methodology for evaluating machine translation;
- To develop a general framework in which existing evaluation measures for any particular application of MT can be housed in a systematic and organized way;
- To illustrate the theory and methodology, and to take further the previous work of EAGLES by creating a specific framework for evaluating several machine translation systems and other tools for translation.

This work involves not only taxonomizing pertinent aspects of the nature and use of MT, but also gathering and classifying individual evaluation measures in the most suitable groupings, and creating criteria for the application of each measure.

The results of this workshop will be a first step toward outlining a general framework to guide MT evaluators, which will ultimately include a taxonomy of the most important aspects pertinent to MT evaluation, evaluation measures associated with each aspect, and a set of example studies. The work begun in this workshop will be augmented and further elaborated in future workshops.

In addition, this workshop will be linked to the international MT system certification initiative currently being developed by the IAMT.

Registration

The registration fee for the workshop is 60 EURO for those not attending LREC and 40 EURO for those attending LREC. Proceedings are included in the registration fee.

Questions about organizational matters should be addressed to the LREC secretariat: LREC2000@ilsp.gr; see also:

Website: www.elda.fr/lrec2000.html □

Organizing Committee

Bente Maegaard, Center for Sprogteknologi, Copenhagen; e-mail: bente@cst.ku.dk

Maghi King, TIIM ISSCO, ETI, Geneva; e-mail: Margaret.King@jssco.unige.ch

Eduard Hovy, USC/ISI, Los Angeles; e-mail: hovy@isi.edu

MT-2000: Machine Translation and Multilingual Applications in the New Millennium

Exeter, United Kingdom, November 20-22, 2000

Call for Papers

The Natural Language Translation Specialist Group (NLTSG) of the British Computer Society (BCS) and the University of Exeter announce an international conference, to be held at the University of Exeter (UK) on November 20-22, 2000. The event is a follow-up of the successful conference, "Machine Translation: 10 Years On," held in 1994 in Cranfield.

Against the backdrop of an increasingly multilingual society, MT-2000 will look at the main challenges to MT and multilingual NLP at the dawn of the new millennium. The focus of this year's conference is not only recent machine translation research and products, but also the latest multilingual developments in general. The organisers aim to attract a wide range of contributions from researchers, users, educationalists, and exhibitors in the field of multilingual language engineering.

The conference will take the form of addresses from invited keynote speakers plus individual papers. All papers accepted and presented will be available as a volume of proceedings at the conference. A selection of papers will be published in book form soon after the conference. There will also be an exhibition area and an opportunity to hold poster sessions.

Topics

We invite papers covering multilingual aspects of any NLP task/application. The following list of possible topics is not exhaustive and is intended to indicate areas of probable interest:

- Machine translation (developments, techniques, applications)
- Translation aids
- Controlled Languages
- Terminology
- Lexicography
- Computer-assisted language learning
- Corpora (construction, annotation, exploitation)

- Evaluation
- Part-of-speech tagging
- Parsing
- Information retrieval
- Information extraction
- Automatic abstracting
- Word-sense disambiguation
- Lexical knowledge acquisition
- Anaphora resolution
- Text categorisation
- Dialogues systems
- Web-based NLP applications
- NL generation
- Speech processing

Invited speakers@b

Martin Kay (Xerox Parc)

Jun-ichi Tsujii (UMIST and University of Tokyo)

Yorick Wilks (Sheffield University)

Programme Committee

Co-Chairs: Derek Lewis (University of Exeter) and Ruslan Mitkov (University of Wolverhampton).

A complete list of the Programme Committee appears on the conference Website (see below).

Venue

The conference will be held at the Crossmeads Conference Centre at the University of Exeter. Exeter is an historic city in the heart of Devon in the South West of England. The campus is celebrated as one of the most beautiful in the United Kingdom. Exeter's international airport is a few miles away. There are good rail and coach links to London, Birmingham and other UK cities.

Exhibitions

The conference will host exhibitions of software products and books related to multilingual NLP. Companies and organisations interested in exhibiting their products should contact Derek Lewis (see below).

Call for participation

A call for participation, including the conference program and attendance fees, will be posted in August on the conference Website (see below).

Submission guidelines

Authors are requested to submit full-length papers, which should be written in English and should not exceed seven single-column pages (preferred font: Times New Roman 12) including figures, tables and references. The first page of the papers should feature the title of the paper, the author's name(s), and surface and e-mail address(es), followed by keywords and an abstract. Electronic submissions (attached postscript files, pdf, rtf or Word files) are encouraged.

The address for e-mail and paper submissions is: D.R.Lewis@exeter.ac.uk. In addition, the abstracts of the papers should be e-mailed separately to Ruslan Mitkov (R.Mitkov@wlv.ac.uk).

The papers will be reviewed by three members of the Programme Committee. Authors of accepted papers will be sent guidelines on how to produce the camera-ready versions for inclusion in the Proceedings.

Further information

Additional information may be obtained from Derek Lewis, Queen's Building, University of Exeter, Exeter, United Kingdom EX4 4QH, tel/fax: +44 (0) 1392 264296 / 264306; e-mail: D.R.Lewis@exeter.ac.uk, or from David Wigg, NLTSG, tel: +44 (0) 1732 455446; e-mail: wiggjd@bcs.org.uk. Conference Website: <http://www.bcs.org.uk/siggroup/nalatran/mt2000/index.htm>; Exeter University Website: <http://www.exeter.ac.uk> □

Important Dates

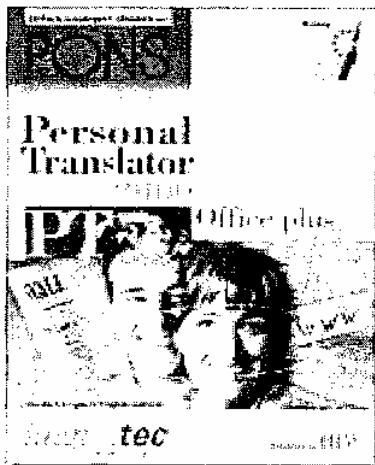
Paper submission deadline	June 1, 2000
Notification of acceptance of papers	August 1, 2000
Deadline for camera-ready papers	September 30, 2000

See more conferences!
This section continues on page 14 ➤

Users' Forum

Personal Translator 2000 Office Plus

Review by Heather Morgan and Bob Clark



Munich-based Linguatec Language Technologies, in collaboration with PONS dictionary publishers, have recently released an updated version of their Personal Translator. There are three versions available: PT 2000 Home, PT 2000 Office and PT 2000 Office Plus.

Personal Translator is a machine translation software program based on IBM's Logic-based Machine Translation System, which translates English into German and vice versa (a French version is planned for later release). Updated features in PT2000 include:

- Improved grammar analysis
- Increased translation speed
- Choice of traditional or new German spelling
- Translations from the Internet directly in the browser
- More detailed dictionary entries

In addition, Office Plus offers:

- Compatibility with Word 2000
- Simultaneous search in up to 10 archives
- Voice output for English and German

Formats

RTF and TXT files can be processed directly in PT 2000, and the Word interface option allows the user to access PT from within the familiar Word for Windows environment. Once installed, a PT+ icon

appears in your Word toolbar and, by clicking on this, Word documents can be translated without having to launch PT. (PT is already set up to support Word 2000.)

Dictionaries

Besides the PT Office Plus system dictionary, which has been expanded to include 360,000 words (compared with 280,000 in the other two versions), up to 16 user-defined dictionaries can be accessed simultaneously. Before commencing the translation process, the subject field of the text can also be defined within <options/translation options>. Here science and technology can be subdivided down to highly specific levels, e.g., science/biology/microbiology/virology or indeed, technical/electrical/electric power engineering/power supply systems/electrical installation, and sport, which is rather curiously further subdivided into only tennis or boxing!

As with any computer software, the more information you can supply initially, the better the end result will be. Consequently, for longer texts it is worthwhile spending some time using the "unknown words" facility before beginning the translation, then reviewing these words and attempting to define as many as possible in your own user dictionary before translation takes place.

There is also an idioms dictionary, which appears to be particularly useful, as it can be used as a stand-alone feature even if you are not using the software itself to carry out a translation. Note: Translators will find that the idioms dictionary is both expansive and explicit in every sense of the word!

Sentence archives

Translators take note: you can also build up sentence archives in PT. The archive can be searched for matches before automatic translation takes place. Not only can this be done from texts processed by PT, but any previ-

ously translated document stored in its source and target languages, and aligned, can also be added to an archive. Anywhere else, this archive would be called a "translation memory," and that is exactly what it is. Sentence pairs, separated by a user-defined delimiter, can be imported into an existing archive or a newly created archive. We even successfully imported an English-Russian file, and PT happily extracted the sentences for us. Obviously, if a match were not found in the archive, the system would then translate the text into German. This means that if a translator wanted to use PT purely as a translation memory facility, theoretically there is no limitation on the language pairs involved. This also means that translation memories exported from other systems—e.g., Trados TWB, IBM Translation Manager, etc.—can be easily imported into PT. We encountered problems when we first attempted to import sentence pairs using the English interface. We reported it to Linguatec's technical support and received a fix immediately.

So, who should use PT 2000? We can safely divide users into two categories. The first, those with little or no knowledge of the source text, which we will call occasional users, and the second, professional translators hoping to increase productivity by using machine translation.

Occasional users

More often than not, this type of user is only interested in getting a reasonably accurate gist of the source text. PT 2000 will certainly provide this. Even before adding terms to the user-defined dictionary, we were getting a very understandable result. As long as the user is aware that syntax and word translations can go a bit wild, and that the result should NEVER be treated as material suitable for further dissemination, he or she should be satisfied with this product.

Professional translators

This is a much harder nut to crack. Historically, translators immediately assume that it will take much longer to clean up raw machine translation output in order to produce a polished translation than to translate the source document from scratch. For the purpose of this review,

Continued on next page . . .

... PT 2000 from previous page

we carried out a little test. Bearing in mind that the person who ran this test agreed entirely with the above point of view, the results were very interesting:

From a couple of simple tests carried out, it appears that it is possible to cut translation time by approximately 50%. A straightforward German business letter, with no technical details, took approximately five minutes to translate into English using PT and a further 30 minutes to postedit into a usable form, as opposed to an hour to translate 'manually.' Similarly, an extract taken from a catalogue of approximately 1,000 words was translated using PT in about five minutes. If we assume that a translator working from scratch would translate somewhere in the region of 280 words per hour, whereas postediting this amount of text took only half an hour, it is easy to see how much time can be saved.

It is therefore apparent that, even without accessing the user-defined dictionaries or archives, a translator can save substantial amounts of time just by using PT without supplying any additional information. The changes made during postediting do look somewhat daunting on the screen, but the majority of the necessary modifications are a matter of changing word order or choosing a more apposite word, although the one provided is not technically 'incorrect.' The time saved would soon recoup the initial outlay. However, I think that time spent filling user-defined dictionaries and archives would only be worthwhile for a translator who is certain to translate repetitive documents, perhaps for regular clients or such like. In the end, whether to use PT or not is a subjective decision, and, although it certainly saves time, for ad hoc translations I found it somewhat distracting to have one German text, one English, and one somewhere in-between!

German spelling reforms

Obviously one of the main reasons for an update has been to incorporate the recent German spelling reforms, enabling the user to make a choice between the tradi-

tional and new spelling systems. This choice is further refined between new conservative and new progressive. Thus, when translating English into German, three possible translations can be produced, depending on the German spelling norm selected.

"I know that a dolphin is not a fish" becomes:

Ich weiß, daß ein Delphin kein Fisch ist. (Old)

Ich weiß, dass ein Delphin kein Fisch ist. (New conservative)

Ich weiß, dass ein Delfin kein Fisch ist. (New progressive)

(Examples taken from the German user manual.)

For translations from German into English, the translator is also able to define rules for the use of commas according to the new spelling system: old or new liberal. The user's handbook recommends the use of new progressive spelling, together with new liberal for comma usage, if there is any doubt as to which spelling system was used in a German source text.

PT Web

PT can now translate html files directly from the Internet, enabling pages to be translated from the Internet while retaining their original layout. This facility can be accessed from the Start menu/Programs/PT Web. It translates Web pages as they appear in the Internet browser, although it does so rather slowly. Nonetheless, there is an icon which shows the progress of the translation while it is taking place. Another useful little feature on the toolbar is an icon which allows you to look up individual words that appear on the Web site. By highlighting the word in question and then clicking on the dictionary icon, a translation of that particular word will be displayed in a dialogue box. Note: Archives are not available from PT Web.

If you do not wish to work directly in PT Web, pages that have been downloaded from the Internet as HTML files can be translated directly in the PT software (provided you have a Web browser or at least Word 97 which is able to display html documents). To do this, select the option <translate html file> from the main file menu within PT.

PT Direkt

This option can be accessed from the Start menu/Programs/PT Direkt. It enables you to translate text from within any Windows application via the clipboard. Note: Archives are not available from PT Direkt.

Voice output

PT 2000 Office Plus now offers a voice output facility. This additional function is also new, although to what extent it is advantageous seems questionable. The handbook suggests that mistakes in sentence construction and semantics become more obvious when the text is read aloud, but since that the target text is usually quite rough, this seems doubtful.

Text-to-speech output

Obviously, there are limitations as to what a machine translation program can achieve, and the advantages are best seen in simple, straightforward texts. For longer, more complex documents, the time taken to postedit texts produced by machine translation or to make the necessary preparations before beginning must be weighed up against the time saved by machine translation.

Conclusion

Overall, PT is a simple-to-use package provided with a straightforward step-by-step manual. The on-screen display is clear and the commands are fairly self-explanatory, so that one can begin using the tool immediately after installation. However, by following the instructions in the manual in detail, optimum use can be made of this handy tool.

The most basic version, PT 2000 Home, aimed at the free-lance market, can be purchased for just under DM 100 (£35), while the deluxe PT Office Plus version is DM 498 (£178). For owners of a previous version, there are preferential deals on the above prices with savings of up to 50%.

Website: <http://www.personal-translator.de> (English-language version also available at this site). □

The Users' Forum is hosted by Peter Kjeldsen of Avalon Technologies, Ltd., e-mail: peterk@lingualizer.net.; tel/fax: +35(3)(0)402-33220. Contributions are encouraged!

Association News

Muriel Vasconcellos Receives IAMT Award of Honor

By Eduard Hovy

The second IAMT Award of Honor was presented to Muriel Vasconcellos at MT Summit VII in Singapore in September 1999. This award recognizes the long and outstanding contribution Dr. Vasconcellos has made to the field of machine translation.

Muriel's career has spanned nearly the whole of MT to date. As a graduate student at Georgetown University, she witnessed some of the earliest MT experiments. After working as a professional translator for some years, she joined the Pan American Health Organization in Washington, D.C. At PAHO, she eventually led the machine translation service that has regularly produced volumes of up to 200,000 words a month since December 1980—nearly 20 years.

After retiring from PAHO in 1992, Muriel moved to San Diego, California, where she has worked as a free-lance translator and currently shares the editorship of *MTNI* with Colin Brace.

In fact, she embodies several of the personas that comprise our field: translator, user, system developer, and organizer. She has played a central role in the crystallizing of MT as a professional field. Recognizing the need for an international association for MT, she was one of the originators of IAMT, and she was the founder and first president of the Association for Machine Translation in the Americas (AMTA), on whose board she still occupies the position of Wise Councillor. Among the numerous events that she convened and chaired were the MT Evaluation Workshop in San Diego in 1992; the first biennial AMTA conference, AMTA-1994; and MT Summit VI in San Diego in 1997.

It was during the formation of the IAMT and AMTA that Muriel's particular qualities of cooperative leadership were most apparent. It is not too difficult to start an organization, but it is very difficult to start one that flourishes. To do



Muriel Vasconcellos

so, one has to create a welcoming atmosphere and share participation among as many people as possible, yet retain a firm sense of direction lest the energy dissipates. It is a testimonial to her leadership and character that the IAMT, and in particular the AMTA, flourish today.

The IAMT Award of Honor was created in 1997 to recognize individuals who have served MT in some special way. The award takes the form of a medal, a financial gift (in this case, kindly donated by SYSTRAN), and a plaque, which was accompanied by the following tribute:

*To Muriel Vasconcellos,
For her outstanding contribution to the success of both IAMT and AMTA since their foundation (as a co-founder of IAMT and as founder of AMTA), for the development at the Pan American Health Organization of two of the most successful working MT systems, SPANAM and ENGSPAN, for her continuous and highly influential encouragement of the use of MT and translation tools within the translation profession as a whole, and for her promotion of the real needs of translators and users of MT systems.*

Vasconcellos is the second recipient of the award. The first award was given to Professor Makoto Nagao of the University of Kyoto at MT Summit VI in 1997. Professor Nagao is co-founder of IAMT and founder of the Asia-Pacific Association for Machine Translation (AAMT). □

New address for EAMT

The European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT) has moved its headquarters to:

EAMT Secretariat, c/o TIM / ISSCO
Université de Genève
École de Traduction et d'Interprétation
40, blvd du Pont-d'Arve
CH-1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 705 86 84; fax: +41 22 705 86 89
E-mail: admin@issco.unige.ch
or: Gisella.Ansbach@issco.unige.ch

People

A Chat with John Hutchins, Incoming IAMT President

Interview by Colin Brace

John Hutchins, president of the European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT), assumed the presidency of the International Association for Machine Translation in September 1999 following MT Summit VII. Colin Brace recently had the opportunity to interview him for MTNI.



MTNI: Tell us something about yourself and your career.

JH: I graduated from Nottingham University in 1960 with a B.A. in German and French and after that obtained a Diploma in Librarianship (now equivalent to a Master's degree). My first job was in a London public library. After earning my degree in librarianship I took a position at Durham University and then later went on to Sheffield University. During my tenure at Sheffield I was seconded to the Library School for two years. I finally ended up at the University of East Anglia, where I had the position of Sub-Librarian for 20 years, until my recent retirement.

MTNI: How did you become interested in MT?

JH: This came about primarily from an invitation I received in 1977 to survey the state of the art for the *Journal of Documentation*, the principal UK research journal for librarianship and information science. The editor, Karen Sparck Jones, knew of my long-standing interest in linguistics and information retrieval (by this time I had written books and articles on both topics) and she knew that I had led the Sheffield Library School survey of the foreign language knowledge and translation needs of UK academic staff and postgraduates. In 1977, the European Commission had just bought Systran and had held its conference "Overcoming the Language Barrier," while in Canada translations from the TAUM-Météo system had begun to be

publicly broadcast. Librarians and information scientists had long been interested in MT as a 'solution' to the problems of disseminating information, so it was felt that with this revival of activity more should be found out about the real prospects. (As elsewhere, in Britain the 'image' of MT was tarnished by the memory of ALPAC just a decade earlier.)

As a result of writing this survey, I went to the first Aslib conference in 1979 – also held because of the recent revival of MT – and there I met Yorick Wilks and Juan Sager and his colleagues at UMIST (I had already met Frank Knowles and Margaret Masterman in previous years at other conferences on information science. Out of these contacts came an invitation to give a paper at the Aslib conference in 1982 on the historical development of MT and to write a book on MT (the one published in 1986). So by the mid-1980s my two main interests in MT had started: (a) surveys of the current situation, and (b) investigations of the history of the field.

MTNI: Perhaps you would like to compare the current scene with that in 1987 at the first MT Summit in Japan?

JH: In 1987, MT was still dominated by university research; there were a few commercial systems and a few large organisations using MT, but these were still a minority. Most research (even for commercial systems) assumed an 'academic' view, i.e. that the

overall aim was to produce systems which could produce high-quality translations with as little human intervention as possible. The main changes then seemed to be the fact that the Americans were getting involved in MT research again, after a gap of some 15 years. The main interest was the group at Carnegie Mellon University (Jaime Carbonell and Sergei Nirenburg), which was investigating artificial intelligence, as opposed to the exclusively linguistics-based approaches of the Europeans and Japanese. The conference had many presentations from the Japanese groups, a number of them inspired by the research at Kyoto University. However, the longest established groups were European (e.g. Grenoble, Saarbrücken), and of course, there was much interest in the Eurotra project.

My recollection is that translation aids and tools were largely ignored by speakers in the conference itself – the only exception being a typically hard-hitting critique by Martin Kay. Even the commercial MT systems and their users received much less attention than they would now. There were sessions on MT in use, but the examples given seemed rather low-key (then and in retrospect). There was an exhibition where (mainly Japanese) companies showed their systems, but few of them seemed to be anywhere near being real commercial prospects.

Today the situation is quite different. Academic researchers are definitely in a minority, and the emphasis is on what the MT developers and vendors are doing and on how MT systems are actually being used. Commercial systems are now viable, their numbers are growing rapidly, and there are many more users (large and small). Above all, there is the impact of the Internet, which was not even dreamed about in 1987 – although there were expectations that global telecommunications would speed up the demand for and provision of translations, and that MT would play a major role in this development. The situation is now much healthier: there is genuine and close collaboration between researchers, commercial developers, and major users of systems. These changes have come about largely thanks to the successful MT Summits and to the conferences and workshops organised by AMTA, AAMT and EAMT.

Continued on next page . . .

In the 1980s, the usefulness of less-than-perfect MT was scarcely considered. It was widely assumed that MT was for the production of 'good' translations (after human revision) or for subject experts to get some idea of what a document was about. Now, with on-line real-time MT, 'crummy' translations appear to be welcomed by the general public. The concern for quality has (temporarily?) been overshadowed by demand for accessibility, for more languages, for cheaper systems, and for integration with computer-based systems (database searching, summarisation, TV captioning, etc.). MT is no longer a relatively closed world of researchers, vendors and major users; it is of increasing interest to a much wider community. Part of the reason for this is undoubtedly the popular attractiveness of speech translation (however long term in practice). In the late 1980s this was still a distant dream, scarcely even considered at the first MT Summit; now it is at the leading edge of MT research.

MTNI: You are the incoming president of the IAMT. What is your vision for the next few years?

JH: In my address prepared for MT Summit VII, I looked at what IAMT might be doing according to its statutes (see *MTNI*, issue no. 23). We are limited to some extent by the fact that all our efforts have to be voluntary. Unlike organisations such as ELRA and LISA, we do not have full-time staff. Nevertheless, there is much useful work that we could do in coordinating and encouraging joint projects by IAMT members.

MTNI: Tell us about the long-awaited MT Compendium

JH: The purpose of the Compendium will be to provide a listing, as comprehensive as possible, of all current commercially available 'translation software', with basic information about languages, computer requirements, dictionary contents and sizes, and prices. Translation software covers not just MT systems of all kinds, but also translation aids from electronic dictionaries to translator workstations and localization support tools, and also the growing number of Internet translation services based (partly or wholly) on MT systems.

The draft version has been printed by EAMT and sent to all IAMT members. This draft has been produced both to show what is possible and also, more importantly, to encourage members to send corrections, additions, information about new systems, notices that systems are no longer available, etc.

In my opinion, tIAMT and its regional associations should aim to be recognised by the general public and the media as first resources for reliable and authoritative information about MT and translation technologies. The Compendium is intended as a contribution towards this goal, and I hope that members will help to make it as comprehensive and up to date as possible. They can help to do this by checking any and all entries which they know about, and by informing me of any changes that need to be made. Even if entries are absolutely correct, I would still like to know.

The aim at present is to produce a first edition for sale to the general public. EAMT will publicise it as widely as possible. IAMT members will be able to purchase copies at a discount.

EAMT had put an electronic version of the draft on its Website (www.eamt.org), and it will do the same with the first edition. We are also investigating the possibility of compiling it in the form of an on-line database, which would be more accessible, easier to search and simpler to keep up to date.

MTNI: What else are you up to these days?

JH: My main activity at present is the editing of a collection of reminiscences by and memories of the pioneers of machine translation — i.e. those who were active between the mid-1940s and late 1960s. The major motive for doing it is to get a record of what it was like in the early days of MT before all the eyewitnesses have gone.

I have asked 'pioneers' to write about how they got into the field, what they achieved, their memories of other personalities of the time, etc. (The pioneers include Booth, Kulagina, Lamb, Lehmann, Mel'chuk, Oettinger, Wada, Yngve, Zarechnak.) For the pioneers already dead I have contacted those who worked with them to provide biog-

raphies and assessments of their contributions (e.g. Ceccato, Dostert, Garvin, Hays, Ljudskanov, Masterman, Reifler, Richens, Vauquois). In total there are over 25 articles of various lengths and various styles, and there is an introduction by myself. The collection will be published by John Benjamins of Amsterdam, and I'm hoping it will be on sale before the middle of this year.

MTNI: How about a nice anecdote from it to whet peoples' appetite?

JH: Here is a story from an interview with Anthony Oettinger of Harvard University:

Vjacheslav Ivanov [one of the MT project leaders in Moscow] invited me to a birthday party for his father, Vsevolod Ivanov, a famous poet, at his dacha outside Moscow; so I went with my Intourist guide and with Igor Mel'chuk, who had been assigned as my 'shadow'. There were about twenty at the party and it was lively, but I remained somewhat cautious in what I replied to what I thought were rather leading questions — the American marines were in Lebanon, I was among people I did not know outside Moscow, etc. — I did not want to end up in Ljubjanka prison. The man next to me was described as a colleague in translation; he was translating Shakespeare into Russian. When I got home I told this story to Roman Jakobson in the Slavic Department. He knew about Ivanov; "who was the other?" I remembered he was called Boris — Boris Pasternak. "Haven't you heard of Dr Zhivago?" — "Who is Dr. Zhivago?" It was the summer when Zhivago had been published in the West, and Pasternak had been offered the Nobel Prize, which he later had to decline. Nobody had mentioned a word about him while I had been in the Soviet Union, but now I realised that I had been among Soviet dissidents. Sometime much later, after emigrating to the West, Igor Mel'chuk revealed that conversations at this party had set him on the road to his own dissidence, and to his eventual expulsion from the Soviet Union in 1977.

Actually, Mel'chuk has a slightly different recollection of this event, which he has included in his contribution to the collection.

MTNI: Thank you for sharing your thoughts with our readers. □

Resources

Laurie's Links

Laurie Gerber

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the "Resources" column. Our goal is to provide pointers to information, data, software, etc., that *MTNI* readers may find useful in their pursuit of excellence in MT. We hope to address the needs and pique the interests of readers from all our constituencies—developers, researchers, and users. In each issue we will present a few items of interest. All the information appearing here will also be made available on the EAMT Website at <http://www.eamt.org/resources>.

Before we get into the resources themselves, we would like to solicit contributions and suggestions from readers: What sorts of MT-related resources do you need? Have you encountered an on-line or published treasure that you think others should know about? Pass on your requests and recommendations to the resources column editor, Laurie Gerber, lgerber@usc.edu.

MT marketplace

If you aren't already receiving the monthly e-mail newsletter from *Multilingual Computing* called "Language Tech Net News," you're missing out. Each issue begins with a convenient and brief summary of the contents, so you can go right to what you're interested in. From press releases by developers to announcements of events, this is an easy way to stay informed about developments in the commercial world. "Language Tech Net News" is broad, covering software localization and language learning in addition to translation and other multilingual technology.

Multilingual Computing also maintains a Website that is packed with well-researched Web links, including job openings relating to language technology, current books in language technology (sold through the *Multilingual Computing* Website), upcoming conferences, and their own hand-picked set of Web resource links. Explore and subscribe at <http://www.multilingual.com>.

Users and translators

The Technical Communicators Forum at <http://www.tc-forum.org/selectio/content0.htm> has a *Translation Issues* section. It is a collection of "war stories" and commentaries from translators who have worked with MT, translation tools, and controlled language. The level of discussion is high—well informed and very practical.

Researchers and developers

Many universities and other organizations make some handy software tools available for free on-line. The two sites listed here have collections of tools from various sources and can help you to generate a concordance (KWIC list) or even write a grammar. The Summer Institute of Linguistics distributes software for all kinds of linguists, although their primary mission is helping linguists (including field linguists) in the work of describing new languages. Website: <http://www.sil.org/computing/catalog/>

The Linguist List is an e-mail mailing list which also maintains a Website, including free software resources: <http://www.linguistlist.org/software.html>

MT-only mailing list

I can't leave out our own MT mailing list, moderated by Colin Brace. Last fall, the EAMT started "MT-List" for the discussion of MT-related topics. It now counts upwards of 400 members around the world.

The on-line exchanges run fast and furious, ranging in topic from basic questions to frank debates with developers about product claims, to advice on MT engine design from the experts. Contributions are kept temporarily in the message archive accessed through the Website, <http://www.eamt.org/mt-list.html#archive>, where they may be viewed either by date or by subject.

To subscribe, send an e-mail to mt-list-request@eamt.org, with the subject, "Subscribe." For further details and additional options, see the Website, <http://www.eamt.org/mt-list.html>. □

Publications

Language and Documentation acquired by Crux

[Based on a notice in *MT-List*]

The *International Journal for Language and Documentation* was acquired by Crux editions on February 1, 2000. Formerly known as *Language Today*, it has a new layout and extended readership, and it is now for sale on-line (see Website below).

Language and Documentation is an independent bimonthly magazine for both scientists and professionals using language technology or language services. News and events form an important part of the content, but considerable space is also given to analysis, opinion, reviews, and background information.

The key areas covered are:

- Technical trends
- Market developments
- Management
- Language technology
- Translation (including machine translation, alignment, and controlled language)
- Speech recognition
- Multilingual documentation
- Human resources
- Applied linguistics
- Technical writing

Besides easily readable reports about technological or scientific innovations in the areas of machine translation, multilingual documentation, or computer-assisted language learning, *Language and Documentation* offers case stories and evaluations.

Feature articles will be abstracted in both German and French on the Website, which can be updated on a daily basis. It is expected that Dutch abstracts will soon be included as well.

For the those looking to expand their horizons, *Language and Documentation* has a growing section for job advertising.

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The rates to subscribe in Europe via airmail and rest of the world via surface mail are:

6 issues (one volume): 45 EURO, 31.5 GBP or US\$ 50

12 issues: 90 EURO, 61.5 GBP or US\$ 99

To subscribe via airmail outside Europe:

6 issues: 58 EURO or ¥7,200

12 issues: 115 EURO or ¥14,000

Contact: Lode Goukens, publisher, Crux Editions bvba, Vliegenstraat 19, B2060 Antwerp, Belgium; tel: +32 3 2131254; fax: +32 3 2329067; e-mail: info@crux.be; Website: <http://www.crux.be>. □

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way conversations with GateKeeper.

■ UT Knowledge Base: UTStarGate is a "living" Internet product; the technology will grow and adapt to users by "learning" and applying their input. The more users work with UTStarGate, the more it will improve, because the Universal Translator Knowledge Base™ (UTKB) analyzes the behavioral patterns of its users.

UTStarGate will be available at retail stores including Best Buy, Micro Center, Staples, and Fry's in the United States and Canada, and through distributors such as Ingram Micro, Tech Data, and Merisel. It will be made available in localized foreign versions that support Japanese, Chinese, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

Other LanguageForce products include Universal Translator™, Universal Translator Deluxe™, Universal OCR™, and the Instant Language 2000™ Learning Series (French, German, Russian, and Spanish).

LanguageForce, Inc. is an Internet technology developer specialized in language communication and translation solutions that enhance global e-commerce, trade, and communications.

Founded in 1996, the company is privately held.

Further information: Corporate headquarters are located at 1601 East Lincoln Avenue, Orange, CA 92865. Tel: +1 (714) 279-9080; fax: +1 (714) 279-9368. Website: <http://www.LanguageForce.com>.

Conferences (cont.)

TTIT-2000: Colloque international de traduction Tunis, September 28-30, 2000

Call for Participation

English summary: The International Colloquium on Translation, to be held at the University of Letters, Arts, and Human Sciences in Tunis, will deal with human translation, machine translation, interpretation, terminology, and language for special purposes (LSP). The official languages of the conference will be English, Arabic, Spanish, and French. The keynote speaker will be Eugene Nida.

Registration fees: 500 FF (100 DT); students, 100 FF (20 DT) with student ID. Payment: Bank draft payable to *Amicale des anciens de l'ISEFC, Banque du Sud, Le Bardo, Tunisia, Account No. 04 401 075 4044001172 43, or check made out to Amicale des anciens de l'ISEFC (Trad-2000).*

The Organizing Committee has arranged for special rates at several local hotels. Reservations should be made through the conference secretariat at the address below.

Further information: TTIT-2000, ISEFC, 43, rue de la Liberté, le Bardo 2019 Tunisia; e-mail: taieb.baccouche@ceres.rnrt.tn; tel: +216 (1) 56 33 43; fax: +216 (1) 56 89 54.

Problematique

Si les découvertes technologiques et scientifiques ont développé la somme des connaissances diffusées largement par la traduction, la mondialisation, à l'aube de ce 3e millénaire, impose encore une prise de conscience plus large des besoins de la communication internationale, accentue la nécessité impérieuse d'un plurilinguisme et renforce les besoins de la traduction. Notre millénaire, qui s'ouvre, sera marqué par la numérisation de tous les éléments de notre vie et par la prise en compte indéfectible de l'accès mondial à toute la documentation indispensable. Notre ère sera celle de la stabilité et de l'innovation. Stabilité, car nos schèmes de pensée s'appuient sur des références constantes antérieures

et intègrent le nouveau; innovation, car nos façons de faire ne sont plus tout à fait les mêmes, la résolution des problèmes qui se posent à nous fait appel aux découvertes nouvelles. L'ordinateur est un réservoir de possibilités et Internet, on le sait, va jouer un rôle de plus en plus important et fondamental dans nos savoirs, dans nos formations et dans nos recherches. On peut donc, sans risque de se tromper, prévoir une croissance explosive des besoins du marché de la traduction et de l'interprétation, et par conséquent, certains changements ou modifications, ou peut-être plus précisément des transformations plus radicales. Si la traduction littéraire et culturelle de façon plus générale joue encore un rôle et doit continuer à le faire, il n'en demeure pas moins que tout bouge. Les connaissances augmentent sans cesse, l'interdépendance est de plus en plus marquée, l'échange est devenue une première nécessité, la communication instantanée est acquise partout.

Ces constatations nous amènent infailliblement à nous interroger sur l'évolution des besoins de la traduction à l'aube de ce 3e millénaire. Que nous réserve l'avenir? Quels sont les changements prévisibles? Quels sont les changements des données fondamentales en traduction et en interprétation? Quels changements faut-il intégrer dans la formation des traducteurs et des interprètes? Quelle pédagogie adopter? Quels changements technologiques sont indispensables à l'approche traduisante? Est-ce que des changements dans l'approche théorique modifient nos façons de faire? Peut-on se préparer aux changements des méthodes de travail? Est-ce que les données géopolitiques et géo-économiques transforment notre approche traduisante? Quels sont les besoins pour faire face à l'interdisciplinarité, à la technicité croissante? Que nous apportent les recherches dans les sciences cognitives? Est-ce que la traduction est plus une adaptation ou même une récréation? Quel rôle joue la traduction littéraire dans la formation? Les questions sont multiples et diverses. Nous aimerions lancer une réflexion sur toutes les questions de méthodologie, de formation, d'innovations technologiques, de modèles théoriques, etc., bref faire un bilan de nos acquis et explorer l'avenir.

La problématique posée ici est donc générale et les axes de réflexion diversifiés. □

Important Dates

Deadline for proposals (15-20 lines):	April 30, 2000
Notification of acceptance:	June 15, 2000
Deadline for final papers:	August 30, 2000

ASIS SIG Classification Research Workshop

Chicago, November 12, 2000

This one-day workshop, the 11th meeting of the Classification Research Special Interest Group of the American Society for Information Science (ASIS), brings together disciplines concerned with classification and ontologies. It is being held in conjunction with the 63rd Annual meeting of ASIS in Chicago on November 13-16 (see Calendar).

The scope of the workshop includes such topics as ontologies and interlinguas; the organization of knowledge for natural language processing, information extraction, summarization, or machine translation; and the evaluation of ontologies and knowledge organization systems.

The scope also includes the organization of knowledge for complex information systems and for intelligent information retrieval and question-answering in order to better support users, as well as tools, methodologies, and frameworks for assisting users in constructing their own knowledge organization systems.

The workshop emphasizes both presentation and discussion of ideas. In addition to theoretical and applied papers that advance the thinking about classification and ontologies, with focus on the use of these tools in a wide range of application domains, the workshop will include an "idea mart." This latter activity will provide an opportunity for informal presentation and small-group discussion of emerging ideas, research topics and proposals, and prototypes of innovative systems.

The papers will be published in *Advances in Classification Research*, vol. 11: Proceedings of the 11th ASIS SIG/CR Classification Research Workshop.

Further information: Website: <http://uma.info-science.uiowa.edu/sigcr>. Contacts: Padmini Srinivasan, University of Iowa (SIG/CR Chair), e-mail: padmini-srinivasan@uiowa.edu; Barbara Kwasnik, Syracuse University, e-mail: bkwasnik@mailbox.syr.edu; Dagobert Soergel, University of Maryland, e-mail: ds52@umail.umd.edu. □

Calendar

2000

May 11-12: EAMT-2000: "Harvesting Existing Resources," Austrotel Hotel, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Information: <http://nl.ijs.si/eamt00/>. [*]

May 29: Workshop on the Evaluation of Machine Translation, Athens, in conjunction with LREC-2000. Information on administrative matters: Website: <http://www.elda.fr/lred2000.html>; e-mail: LREC2000@ilsp.gr; contact re program: Bente Maegaard, e-mail: bente@cst.ku.dk. [*]

May 31-June 2: LREC-2000: 2nd International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation, Athens. Organized by the European Language Resources Association and the Institute for Language and Speech Processing. Information: www.icp.grenet.fr/ELRA/lrec2000.html. Contact: LREC2000@ilsp.gr. Despina Scutari, LRED Secretariat, c/o ILSP. Tel: +30 (1) 680 0959; fax: +30 (1) 685 4270.

September 21-22: Cross-Language Evaluation Forum (CLEF), Lisbon, following the 4th European Conference on Digital Libraries (ECDL-2000: see <http://www.bn.pt/org/agenda/ecdl2000>) Information: <http://www.tei.pi.cnr.it/Personal/carol.html>. Contact: Carol Peters, Istituto di Elaborazione della Informazione, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Area della Ricerca di Pisa, via Abivieri, 1, 56010 Ghezzano, Pisa, Italy; e-mail: carol@iei.pi.cnr.it; tel: +39 050 315 2897; fax: +39 050 315 2810. [*]

September 28-30: TTIT-2000: Colloque international de traduction, Tunis. Information: TTIT-2000, ISEFC, 43, rue de la Liberté, le Bardo 2019 Tunisia; e-mail: taieb.baccouche@ceres.rnrt.tn; tel: +216 (1) 56 33 43; fax: +216 (1) 56 89 54.

October 12-13: 2nd Annual Symposium on Multilingual Documentation for the Automotive Industry, Dearborn Inn, Dearborn, MI. Sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers. Information: Kurt Godden, Manager, Translation Process Development, GM Service Operations, 480-205-196, 30007 Van Dyke, Warren, MI 48090; e-mail: kurt.s.godden@gm.com; tel: +1 (810) 492-7735; fax: +1 (810) 492-4252.

November 12: 11th ASIS Classification Research Workshop, Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Chicago, IL. Information: <http://uma.info-science.uiowa.edu/sigcr>. Contact: Padmini Srinivasan, SIG/CR Chair, e-mail: padmini-srinivasan@uiowa.edu. [*]

November 13-16: ASIS-2000: Knowledge Innovations: Celebrating Our Heritage, Designing Our Future, 63rd Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science, Chicago, IL. Information: <http://www.asis.org/Conferences/AM00/am00.html>; e-mail: am00@asis.org. Contact re program: Nancy K. Roderer, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894; e-mail: Nancy_roderer@nlm.nih.gov

November 20-22: MT-2000: Machine Translation and Multilingual Applications in the New Millennium, Crossmeads Conference Center, University of Exeter, UK. Organized by Exeter University and the Natural Language Translation Specialist Group of the British Computer Society. Information: David Wigg, Chairman, BCS-NLTSG, e-mail: wiggjd@sbu.ac.uk; tel: +44 (0) 1732 455 446, or Derek Lewis, Queen's Building, University of Exeter, Exeter, UK EX4 4QH, e-mail: D.R.Lewis@exeter.ac.uk; tel/fax: +44 (0) 1392 264 296 or 264 306. Conference Website: <http://www.bcs.org.uk/siggroup/nalatran/mt2000/index.htm>. [*]

2001

September 18-22: MT Summit VIII, Santiago de Compostela, Spain. □

*See Conferences section of this issue for further details.