

10 ISSCO, Geneva

The following information about the ISSCO was kindly supplied by Graham Russell.

ISSCO (“Istituto Dalle Molle per gli Studi Semantici e Cognitivi”) was established in 1972 by the Fondazione Dalle Molle, a private, non-profit organisation concerned with the effects of technology on the quality of life. Since 1976, ISSCO has been attached for administrative purposes to the University of Geneva, and has links with the Department of Computer Science, The Faculty of Letters, and the School of Translation and Interpretation.

Research at ISSCO has concentrated on various aspects of Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Processing; Machine Translation is a long standing interest, and recent work has included the following:

- Evaluation methodology and practice for machine translation and other NLP applications (King and Falkedal 1990).
- Belief modelling in multi-agent dialogue comprehension.
- Multilingual text processing: morphological analysis for rich tagging, sentence alignment, concordances (Catizone et al. 1989).

- Logical and linguistic techniques for document indexing and retrieval.
- Specification and implementation of a unification-based environment ("ELU": *Environnement Linguistique d'Unification*) for research in machine translation and other aspects of computational linguistics.
- Machine-readable dictionaries: management of on-line lexical database systems (database server, dictionary conversion and formatting, indexing and encryption of entries). A variety of monolingual and bilingual dictionaries are available for use over the University of Geneva local area network.
- Various "Initiatives" concerned with collection, classification, and distribution of text corpora: ACL Data Collection Initiative, Elsnet European Corpus Initiative, Text Encoding Initiative (in collaboration with the Universities of Edinburgh, Pisa, Pennsylvania, Oxford, Waterloo; New Mexico State University; Vassar College; BBN, etc.).

International collaborative projects are of particular interest to ISSCO. In this category, two are worth mentioning: the EUREKA project GRAAL (*Grammars which can be Re-used to Automatically Analyse Languages*) which aims to produce NLP tools and linguistic descriptions in a form which promote ease of re-use, development and maintenance. Testing and validation are to be done on several applications in indexing and translation.

The other project is entitled "Collocations and the Lexicalization of Semantic Phenomena". This is within the Eurotra ET10 framework and is concerned with the classification and analysis of collocations.

ISSCO itself is very much an international institute; among its current staff of eleven are representatives of Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Switzerland, the U.K., and the U.S.A.

To celebrate its 21st anniversary, ISSCO is to organise a Symposium in Geneva, 6-9 September 1993, with the theme "AI and NLP in Switzerland". Contributions have been invited from past members of the Institute, and speakers will include Eugene Charniak, Pat Hayes, Phil Hayes, Rod Johnson, Martin Kay, Anne de Roeck, Mike Rosner, Roger Shank, Manfred Wettler and Yorick Wilks. For further information, please contact;

ISSCO(SWAN-21)
54 route des Acacias
1227 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: (+41) 22 705 7115
Fax: (+41) 22 300 1086
email: issco-admin@divsun.unige.ch

References

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- M.King and K.Falkedal (1990) "Using Test Suites in Evaluation of MT Systems". *Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Computational Linguistics*, Vol.II,211-216.