



MT News International

Newsletter of the International Association for Machine Translation

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Of special note . . .

- **Two MT systems change hands: Lionbridge buys Mendez (page 1), SDL buys Transcend (page 3)**
- **Reports on evaluation workshops and NAACL (pages 5-6)**
- **MT Summit VIII update (pages 7-8)**
- **New feature on IAMT divisions and people (pages 14-15)**
- **New MTNI editor (page 16)**

Spotlight on the News

Lionbridge Enters Agreement to buy Mendez from L&H

[Adapted from press releases]

Lernout & Hauspie Speech Products, announced on July 3 that it had reached an agreement to sell Mendez SA to Lionbridge Technologies, Inc. for US\$ 27 million in cash. L&H will receive a separate payment of approximately US \$ 6 million, upon consummation of the agreement, from Mendez to satisfy all outstanding inter-company liabilities due to L&H.

Lionbridge Technologies, Inc. (Nasdaq: LIOX), is a provider of solutions for worldwide deployment of technology and content. Mendez is the localization and translation division of L&H with approximately US\$ 80 million in annual revenue. Lionbridge will obtain the financing for the acquisition by selling preferred stock to a group of institutional investors led by affiliates of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. This acquisition will combine the Mendez iTranslator™ product family with Lionbridge's technology and services, creating one of the most comprehensive

globalization solutions in the industry. Mendez offers expertise in combining machine translation technology with human translation, and its global solution centers complement Lionbridge's. Some of Mendez' existing customers include British Telecom, Canon, Microsoft, Opel, Yahoo! and Yamaha.

The transaction, which is subject to US and Belgian bankruptcy court approvals, as well as to customary closing conditions, is expected to close during the third quarter of 2001. "Mendez' industry-leading translation technology is a superb match with Lionbridge's industry-specific workflow and multi-lingual content management offerings," said Rory Cowan, chairman and CEO of Lionbridge. "In addition, Florita Mendez has a long-standing and esteemed reputation in the translation technology and services arena. We look forward to welcoming Florita and her managers to the Lionbridge management team."

Approval by the U.S. Bankruptcy

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L&H status still unclear

MT groups seek buyout or sale

[Based on press releases and general news]

The previous issue of MTNI included a last-minute update on the incarceration of the company's founders, Jo Lernout and Pol Hauspie, in Belgium. Since then, there have been a number of additional developments, and the case is far from closed. For investors, the bad news is that L&H stock has now been delisted from the European NASDAQ and has a share price of well under a dollar in the United States.

In order to avoid final bankruptcy, CEO Phillip Bodson has said, "Creditors come first, employees second, and shareholders last. We have to be pragmatic, although it isn't pleasant." Bodson is currently trying to sell the Dictaphone medical transcription service, the company's speech technology, and its machine-and-human translation division, Mendez Translations, to raise money.

A preliminary agreement to sell Mendez to Lionbridge was announced on July 3rd (see cover story). The sale of portions of Dictaphone is possible, as are management buyouts or sale of the ApteK and Kurzweil business units. Although reports suggested that all of L&H's MT holdings were to be consolidated under Mendez, ApteK, like Mendez, remained a wholly-owned subsidiary of L&H.

Recent Events

A special meeting of shareholders held in Leper on April 27 approved a restructuring plan, and creditors later approved a plan to raise money. However the restructuring plan was rejected by a Belgian judge on June 20, saying that it "excels in vagueness and theoretical constructions based on wishful thinking." L&H now has until September 10 to produce a new restructuring plan. Bankruptcy protection has been extended until September 30. In other recent developments:

- A June 29 shareholders' meeting in

Boston voted to try to keep the company going as Bodson seeks buyers for assets.

- Jo Lernout, Pol Hauspie, former board member Nico Willaert, and former CEO Gaston Bastiaens have all been released from jail in Belgium pending trial on charges of falsification of documents and stock manipulation.

- L&H's auditing firm KPMG has come under heavy fire for failing to detect and report the accounting irregularities and is facing suit from L&H shareholders.

Bottom Line

According to general news sources, including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, and others, we can piece together the following picture:

Losses: L&H lost the equivalent of US\$ 1.7 billion (79.5 billion Belgian francs) in 2000 on sales of US\$ 299 million (14 billion Belgian francs) by its Dictaphone, Dragon, and Mendez divisions. Losses for 1999 were US\$ 100 million (4.9 billion Belgian francs) on sales of US\$ 152 million (7.1 billion Belgian francs)

Debts: Reports on the exact size of corporate debt vary. In April, the Wall Street Journal estimated corporate debts at over US\$ 600 million. On May 29, the Wall Street Journal reported the Belgian court's estimate of US\$ 492 million in debts in Belgium. The Boston Business Journal noted that US\$ 430 million of the debt is in loans from four banks.

Charges: CRM Daily reports that L&H is accused of falsifying up to US\$ 277 million in revenue over three years. Its former CEO in Korea fraudulently reported more than US\$ 100 million in revenue.

The future

What has concerned the MT community most, as the company's legal and financial problems have become public, is the possibility that all the technology that has been absorbed by L&H over the last few years would be lost, and human capital scattered – possibly to other industries.

Mendez and ApteK (along with Dictaphone and some other business units) remained wholly-owned subsidiaries and maintained separate books. As such, they are not implicated or involved in the investigations. L&H is now in a position to

Continued on next page ►

sell off these subsidiaries to raise money to stave off bankruptcy. In the midst of all this, a strategic bundling of Mendez products into Microsoft Office has somehow been accomplished (see separate report). Ironically, this circumstance may make them the object of some envy in the commercial MT community.

For further information, see the corporate websites: www.mendez.com, www.lionbridge.com, www.lhsl.com □

SDL plc Acquires TranscendRT™

[Adapted from press release]

SDL plc ("SDL International" or "the Company"), a leading provider of globalization solutions, acquired the Automated Real Time Translation Division from Transparent Language, Inc. ("Transparent"), for a total consideration of US\$ 9 million. The assets being acquired by SDL International include the intellectual property rights to Transparent's TranscendRT™ machine translation technology and related products, including the Enterprise Translation Server, which provide instant language translation of e-mail, web pages, and documents. SDL is headquartered in Berkshire, England, with 27 offices internationally.

The consideration will be satisfied with the payment of US\$ 1.5 million in cash and through the issue of US\$ 7.5 million in new ordinary shares of 1 p each in the Capital of the Company. The division being acquired made a net loss of US\$ 3.7 million for the nine months ended December 31, 2000, which reflects the cost of developing and launching the TranscendRT™ technology. The acquisition was expected to be completed by 15th February 2001.

The Directors of SDL International believe that combining the Enterprise Translation Server's real time translation technology with SDL International's leading edge products SDLX and SDLWebFlow, will enable the Company to provide a complete solution for companies to manage multilingual web site

content. The combination of SDL International's expertise in computer aided translation via its leading translation memory product SDLX with the high performance Enterprise Translation Server will provide a powerful commercial solution in the field of automated translation.

Strategy behind the Acquisition

SDL International's strategy is to consolidate its lead as the world's pre-eminent globalization solutions provider. The acquisition of Transparent's technology will allow SDL International to further its position as the leading software company in the fields of globalization and localization, and dramatically increases the leverage of the Company's existing software and multi-lingual content management products, namely SDLX and SDLWebFlow.

Commenting on the acquisition, Mark Lancaster, Chairman and Chief Executive of SDL International, said:

"The acquisition of Transparent's TranscendRT™ engine and Enterprise Translation Server technology significantly advances SDL International's involvement in real time automated translation. We believe that the technology being acquired offers the most comprehensive and advanced real time translation technology available on the market and brings forward by several years our intention of offering a fully automated and accurate globalization solution. Transparent's technology will compliment our leading multi-lingual content management and computer aided translation workflow systems.

"These solutions are geared towards companies that use internal Intranets and B2B web sites, as well as real time email translation functions. This complete solution addresses the requirements for businesses that have an international sales and marketing focus. We believe that SDL International is the first company to combine machine translation technology with computer aided translation technology and, when added to our workflow solutions and our complete integration of content management systems with companies

such as Vignette and Interwoven, we will have the ability to provide customers with the first real time, low cost solution to bridge all multilingual barriers."

Background information

About Transparent language, Inc., the Enterprise Translation Server, and the TranscendRT™ automated translation engine:

Transparent Language, Inc., (www.transparentlanguage.com) founded in 1990, is a specialist language technology developer and multilingual e-learning product company based in Merrimack, New Hampshire. Transparent employs 90 staff and had revenues for the year ended March 31, 2000 of US\$ 15.2 million. It has sales offices in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Miami, Hong Kong, Paris, London, Frankfurt and Brussels.

The Enterprise Translation Server and the TranscendRT™ engine are leading technologies that enable automated real-time translations to be performed on internal or external networks. Documents, emails, web pages and chat sessions can be translated in 23 different language directions. The technology links directly into Microsoft Outlook and Exchange, Lotus Notes and Sametime, Sybase Enterprise Portal and performs automated real-time translation of email, documents, chat, web pages and other content so each participant views all text in his or her language. Existing clients for this product include Lucent, Corning Cable, J&R Computer, EBSCO Publishing, EDS and Brady Manufacturing.

The acquisition includes FreeTranslation.com, an automatic translation demonstration site that performs approximately 200,000 translation jobs per day. Also being acquired by SDL International is Transparent's PlusTranslation.com site, a leading Internet translation service bureau providing fast, efficient and reliable human translation services over the Web.

For further information: European contact: Philippa Thomas, Tel: +44 (0) 1628-410162, pthomas@sdlintl.com. North American contact: Suzanne A. Bellemore, Tel: (+1) 603-262-6336, sbellemore@sdlintl.com. Website: www.sdlintl.com/ □

Mendez integrates translation capabilities into Microsoft® Word 2002 and Office XP

[Press release May 31, 2001]

Mendez, the world's leading provider of integrated translation, localization and documentation solutions, services and technologies today announced an innovative new feature to be included in Microsoft Word and Office XP. Users of Word 2002 and Office XP will now be able to translate documents into a different language in real time, with the inclusion of an instant translation capability in Microsoft Word 2002, part of the new Microsoft Office XP suite. At the click of a button, Microsoft Word 2002 users can instantly access Mendez advanced machine translation technology providing 'gist level' translation of text for 16 different language pairs. Translations

are virtually instantaneous as Mendez' web-based machine translation servers can translate text at speeds of up to 5,000 words per minute and its large server farm can handle up to 84 million words per day.

Mendez iTranslator is also accessible via the Microsoft Office eServices web-site: office.microsoft.com/services. Both Microsoft Office eServices web site visitors and Office XP users are given unlimited access to free machine translation. Mendez iTranslator currently supports 16 language pairs including English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. Documents that need to be translated with 100 percent accuracy can be submitted to Mendez for an immediate online price quote. This human translation service is available in more than 30 different language directions and translations can be completed within 48 hours.

"The explosion we have seen in the number of Internet users and globalization of the world economy has fuelled the need for fast, easily accessible Internet-based translation services," said Florita

Mendez, President of Mendez. "Our relationship with Microsoft underscores this ever increasing need and, most importantly, helps us deliver our full range of translation solutions quickly and conveniently to a global audience."

"Microsoft Office customers, on a worldwide basis, increasingly need to communicate to a global audiences in multiple languages," said Jeff Olund, general manager for Office eServices at Microsoft Corp. "The availability of Mendez' online translation services will help users of Microsoft Office compete more effectively by giving them the tools to easily translate business and personal materials to and from their native language, quickly and cost-effectively."

"Choosing Mendez as a translation partner was a natural choice for us because of our long-standing relationship in areas such as translation, software and Web site localization and, more recently, the offering of iTranslator machine translation via the Microsoft Tools on the Web site," Olund added.

Further information: www.mendez.com □

Products

Polish now on-line from Ectaco

[Information submitted to MTNI]

Ectaco, Inc., a leading manufacturer of handheld electronic dictionaries and translating devices, has recently released its new English-Polish bidirectional full-text automatic translation system. A free on-line version of English-Polish translator is available at: www.poltran.com. Webmasters can add a free on-line translation form to their sites. The developers are confident that this facility will be of great usefulness to the English/Polish-speaking Internet community.

Ectaco offers MT translation in additional languages as well as other linguistic technologies.

Further information: www.ectaco.com and www.softwareoutsourcing.net. Contact: Denis Volkov MT Linguistic Research, Ectaco Development Center. □

New on-line service based on Reverso

[Information submitted to MTNI]

A new free service based on Reverso software is now available which permits the translation of texts, e-mail messages, and Websites pages. A pop-up window, "My Translator," which is always present on the screen, allows the user to translate words, phrases or full sentences from any site or application. It can be seen at www.reverso.net.

For serious translators, the appropriate tool is Reverso Pro, a PC software product that includes powerful features for terminology management, layout management, and postediting.

Further information: www.softissimo.com. Contact: Théo Hoffenberg, Softissimo, 7 rue Auber, Paris; tel: +33 (1) 4312 8505; fax: +33 (1) 4266 1154; e-mail: theo@softissimo.com. □

Newstran: Translation of Online News Sources

[Based on press release and general press]

In June, the New York Times ran a story on a new upstart translation service put together by Rick Perez, a Louisiana businessman and activist. The service harnesses Babelfish and other free online MT systems to enable real-time translation of online newspapers.

Newstran's own press release reports that Newstran.com automatically translates hundreds of newspapers from nine different languages (including Russian and Chinese) into English at no cost to the user. It also translates almost all major English-language newspapers into nine different foreign languages also at no cost. "People in China, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Cuba and dozens of other nations can now read the major Western

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Conference Reports

Hands-On Evaluation Workshops: A Report on a Continuing Series

Flo Reeder

Interested in Machine Translation Evaluation? Need some ammunition in the evaluation holy war? We have been having some interesting and useful exercises towards this end. The ripples of the ALPAC report can still be felt today throughout the MT community. MT evaluations are a classic hot-button issue in the MT community as a source of information, argument, dispute, and sometimes even misinformation. Yet, at the same time, the need for effectively evaluating what MT systems can and cannot do and how well they do them remains. In that light, a series of three workshops, sponsored by National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Swiss and Danish governments, have explored MT evaluation (MTE) in a hands-on fashion. This article is a summary of the workshops. Interested readers are given pointers to relevant web sites and are also cordially invited to the Evaluation Workshop at MT-Summit VIII.

Recent work seeks to standardize, normalize, and characterize MTE – the MTE taxonomy as being developed for the International Standards for Language Engineering (ISLE) is an important step towards the standardization of MT evaluation. The taxonomy is designed for MT developers, MT evaluators and MT users. High-level needs are broken down into lower level attributes that can be tested and measured. A user picks the aspects important to his task and uses these as his major evaluation criteria. Evaluating MT from the user perspective then becomes a matter of mixing and matching the features of the system or the features of the output of the system (i.e., MT output) to the user needs. The taxonomy is a work-in-progress and interested parties are encouraged to submit comments and ideas for update at: issco-www.unige.ch/projects/isle/taxonomy2/

In an effort to refine the taxonomy, a

series of hands-on exercises were planned and carried out to examine how well the taxonomy could fit user needs.

Co-organized with Eduard Hovy, the first workshop occurred at AMTA-2000 in Cuernavaca, Mexico. As the initial attempt at hands-on workshops, it had freer structure than the subsequent workshops. Participants were given a short tutorial on the history of MTE and then introduced to ISLE taxonomy as authored by Ed Hovy and Elena Filatova of University of Southern California, Information Sciences Institute. After the introduction, attendees received data for Spanish to English and Arabic to English language pairs. The Spanish to English data and translations originated from the DARPA 1992-1994 evaluation series and was a small, representative sample of the entire corpus, including both machine and human translations. The Arabic to English data included source documents and machine translation output, but excluded any human translations.

With this data, attendees were given a set of possible scenarios under which they might want to perform a black-box evaluation. Scenarios included information extraction tasks on the translated data; determining fidelity of the translation; rating intelligibility and binning of documents according to content. Evaluation teams formed and each team chose criteria and rating schemes based on their understanding of the taxonomy and the task given to them.

At the end of the workshop, each team reported their ratings of the systems and the factors and influences which might need to be addressed in the taxonomy. Results were, as expected, varied. Most teams attempted to constrain even further the tasking or exercises given so as to be able to complete something for the afternoon reporting. Additionally, participants discovered that translations at the lower

end of the quality spectrum responded to different criteria with varying degrees of success. That is, in some of the tasks, even low quality MT was sufficient while in others, low quality MT made the task of trying to measure quality too difficult (discussions of the degrees of badness followed this). In all, the workshop generated interest and interchange about MT and MTE. Information about the workshop and the taxonomy presented there are hosted at www.isi.edu/natural-language/conferences/AMTA2000.html.

Based on the reception of the first workshop, a second, more in-depth workshop was planned. It was organized by Maghi King, Sandra Manzi, Andrei Popescu-Belis, and Florence Reeder. Held at ISSCO (Institut Dalle Molle pour les Etudes Sémantiques et Cognitives) in Geneva, the second workshop included MT researchers, translators, translation teachers, funding providers and students. The 20+ attendees divided into seven teams.

Teams were given the DARPA 1992-1994 evaluation corpus (Spanish to English; French to English) including source documents, human translations, machine translations and scoring; a chemical weapons treaty (human translated into Russian, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, English) and access to some MT and TM systems which were used at ISSCO. Alternatively, the groups could use their own data and systems to reflect their individual MTE interests. Each team designed an in-depth evaluation and began executing it.

One commonality of the evaluations involved looking at the translation of portions of a text, such as noun phrases or named entities, as a prelude to other types of system processing including information extraction; information retrieval; translation memory in combination with MT. Another group examined classes of translation errors to see if they were indicative of the overall quality scores given by human assessors. A second focus of the evaluations viewed MT in light of procedural uses of the technology such as MT to support librarians in multilingual libraries.

Interested users can find reports on

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Hands-On Evaluation

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an enjoyable (despite the weather) and informative (because of the weather) week at the workshop web site:

www.issco.unige.ch/projects/isle/mueval-april01. It contains preliminary reports of the various teams, the tutorials presented at the workshop and an updated version of the taxonomy, including a comment feature. Papers resulting from these evaluations will be presented at a workshop at MT Summit VIII, issco-www.unige.ch/projects/isle/MT-Summit-wsp.html.

The third workshop in the series took place at NAACL-2001 in Pittsburgh. zAgain, this was a one-day workshop, co-organized with Eduard Hovy, which featured very constrained exercises for participants. Participants were from diverse backgrounds and included MT researchers to MT users.

The participants were given a subset of the DARPA-94 Spanish data (with human and machine translations). For this data, they were given an entity-relationship tracking task. Each team was requested to report on the rating of the systems based on their ability to perform the task with the output of the system. As a second exercise, the participants were given a keyword spotting task for chemical data in the language pairs Chinese to English and Arabic to English. In this afternoon exercise, members rated a system on their ability to perform the given tasks. The data has been collected and is being correlated. Preliminary reports indicate the need for making sure that the data suits the exercises – better translations seem to be needed for the second task than could be obtained. Additionally, teams discovered and discussed many of the human factors issues involved in MTE. More details can be found at: www.cs.cmu.edu/~ref/naacl2001.html.

MTE is an exciting field for the adventurous few willing to tackle it. The continuing series of MTE workshops allow participants to find this out firsthand. We encourage and invite those interested in joining in the fun in the future! issco-www.unige.ch/projects/isle/MT-Summit-wsp.html □

NAACL 2001 Conference Promotes MT

Carol Van Ess-Dykema

Machine Translation technology and research figured prominently throughout the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics' (NAACL) 2nd annual meeting hosted by Carnegie Mellon University from June 2–7, 2001, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. There was a dedicated conference session on MT comprising 3 papers on Wednesday, June 6; and MT exhibits and demonstrations were available on both Tuesday and Wednesday, June 5 and 6. In conjunction with the opening reception on Monday evening, June 4, Carnegie Mellon held an open house where conference participants could view and discuss its Language Technology Institute (LTI) projects, many of which have an MT focus.

NAACL 2001 demonstrated that linguistic rule based methods, statistical approaches, memory-based algorithms, and various combinations of them have all contributed to the reported progress in system performance. Emphases on high quality MT, MT for low density languages, and MT embedded in a specific user task all continue as viable MT technology goals.

Four companies exhibited their MT products. Apptek's Mudar Yaghi presented its integrated foreign language processing tools for monolingual users. These tools augment MT. Translation memory, historically an independent track of software development, is converging with rule-based MT systems to introduce a statistical and machine learning dimension to MT. The Apptek foreign language information acquisition environment comprises data extraction, name finding, name/event searches, thematic searches, morphologically enabled searches and query translation.

Robert Levin, CEO of Transclick, Inc. presented Transclick real-time translation services. The system allows for customizing dictionaries for specific domains to increase translation

accuracy. Current capability includes translating text and HTML bi-directionally between six European languages paired with English. Both a stand-alone laptop version and mobile Blackberry PDA version were demonstrated.

Multicorpora R&D, Inc.'s Dan Gervais and Gerry Gervais showed its new generation CAT tool called MultiTrans. The new tool is corpus-based, instead of Translation Memory-based, eliminating the need to align all sentences of legacy documents before using them.

Christina Spies from US East, Trados Corp., demonstrated its Translation Memory technology.

During the demonstration session on Tuesday, Carnegie Mellon researchers demonstrated the KANTOO MT System's controlled language checker and knowledge maintenance tool. The researchers included Teruko Mitamura, Eric Nyberg, Kathy Baker, David Svoboda, Enrique Torrejon and Michael Duggan.

Philippe Langlais, George Foster and Guy Lapalme from RALI/DIRO at the University of Montreal, demonstrated the TransType system, a user-oriented interactive MT system.

Three groups of researchers from AT&T Labs-Research; Spoken Language Technology, Sony US Research Laboratories; and the Department of Computer Science at Johns Hopkins University presented MT papers during the conference.

Srinivas Bangalore and Guiseppe Riccardi of AT&T, described their architecture for speech translation in limited domains. They explained their method for learning stochastic finite-state models for lexical choice and lexical reordering that are trained automatically from pairs of source and target utterances. They use this method to develop models for bidirectional English-Japanese translation on speech and text in the context of a call routing task for unconstrained speech utterances.

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Update on MT Summit VII

Santiago de Compostela, Spain, September 18-22, 2001

www.eamt.org/summitVIII

A List of accepted papers is now on the conference website!: www.eamt.org/summitVIII/papers.html

The European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT) invites you to participate in the Eighth "Machine Translation Summit" which is being held in Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain from the September 18-22, 2001. The MT Summit conferences bring together the global MT community to review the state of the art of machine translation, translation support tools, and multilingual tools, both in the commercial world and in the research sphere. It is a unique opportunity to learn about the latest developments in the field, for researchers, users and vendors to exchange experiences and to get valuable feedback, and for meeting others involved in this technology. There will be a full programme of papers, presentations by invited speakers, panel sessions, exhibitions, demonstrations, and workshops (on the day preceding the conference and on the final day). There will be excursions, a banquet and a folk music performance, and also some activities for spouses and partners of delegates.

Venue

The conference is taking place in Santiago de Compostela in North West Spain (Galicia), famous as a pilgrimage destination since the early Middle Ages, a city full of ancient buildings, from its eleventh-century cathedral to its seventeenth and eighteenth century houses, convents and palaces. The old town has been listed as a 'world heritage city' by Unesco. The venue for the conference is the Hostal de los Reyes Católicos (Hostal dos Reis Católicos), originally founded in 1499 as a Royal

hospital for pilgrims, a magnificent building in the Spanish Renaissance style. It is now both the oldest and one of the most impressive hotels in the world. The opening session and the banquet will take place in the Comedor Real, other sessions will be in the hotel's auditorium and other rooms, and the exhibition and demonstrations will be housed in the Chapel. The opening reception will take place in the Pazo de Raxoi (City Council), an 18th century building next to the Hostal.

Hotels

Santiago de Compostela is a major tourist centre attracting many visitors throughout the year. We have reserved

accommodation in the Hostal itself and in a number of hotels close by (many restored 17th and 18th century buildings). All except one are within walking distance of the Hostal venue. (A bus will be provided for the Hotel Puerta del Camino). Because of the high demand for hotel rooms in Santiago and the substantial deposits, we ask for about half the full hotel charge when booking, and we encourage you to book early to be certain of your preference.

Flight Discounts

Iberia Airlines is offering participants a 25% discount (or more) on many of its flights (*for details see: www.eamt.org/summitVIII/goto.html*). On registration you will be sent a password, in order to take advantage of this offer. □

**Hotels are getting full.
Please register and book
as soon as possible!**

Conference Programme

Tuesday, September 18	Workshops, welcome reception, opening of exhibition
Wednesday, September 19 ...	Opening session, first day of conference
Thursday, September 20	Second day of conference
Friday, September 21	Third day of conference, IAMT general assembly, folk music entertainment
Saturday, September 22	Workshops, excursion to Coruña, special panel, banquet
Sunday, September 23	Excursion to southern Galicia and northern Portugal

The accepted papers can be seen at:
www.eamt.org/summitVIII/papers.html
42 Research papers
13 System presentations
8 User studies
8 Poster presentations

Invited speakers and panels will be announced soon! See the programme page for regular updates:
www.eamt.org/summitVIII/programme.html

Also on the programme page: banquet, excursions, and activities for travelling partners.

Summit Registration

Registration should preferably be made via the online registration form at the MT Summit website: www.eamt.org/summitVIII/register.html. Alternatively, you may ask for a registration form from Carlos Paz, Service de Traduction, European Commission, Rue de la Loi 200 - JECL 4/200, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium; tel: +32-2-296.05.59; fax: +32-2-296.59.68; email: Carlos.Paz-Carneiro@cec.eu.int

Conference Fees

Registration fee for the conference (September 18-22)

	IAMT members*	Non-members
After July 15	€ 325	€ 375

* members of the Asia-Pacific Association for Machine Translation (AAMT), Association for Machine Translation in the Americas (AMTA), European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT)

Pre- and post-conference workshops & terminology meeting (September 18, 22)

Full-day workshops	€ 50
Half-day workshops	€ 25

Banquet and excursions

Banquet (September 22)	€54
Coruña half-day excursion (September 22)	€10
South Galicia/Portugal excursion (September 23)	€45

Note: The conference fees do not include meals, but there are numerous good-value restaurants nearby in the city, which you will have opportunity to enjoy during the conference.

Cancellation policy: After July 15 and before September 1, 50% of the registration fee will be refunded. After September 1 no refunds.

Exhibition

Exhibition space will be provided in the Chapel of the Hostal for up to 25 companies and will be active throughout the conference. Fees for exhibitors will be € 1200. Contact Joerg Schuetz (joerg@iai.uni-sb.de) for details, and see the Summit website:

www.eamt.org/summitVIII/exhibits.html

Registered Exhibitors

The following organizations have already registered to exhibit products or services at MT Summit VIII:

- Ampersand Traducción Automática
- CJK Dictionary Institute
- Fujitsu Software Corporation
- Global Words/Logos
- IBM
- Language Technology Centre
- NTT Communication Science Labs
- OKI Japan
- Pan American Health Organization
- SAIL Labs
- Softissimo
- STAR
- Trados/Reinisch
- Translation Service of the European Commission
- Xunta de Galicia

Workshops & Meetings

For more details see Summit Workshops website with links to individual workshop pages:

www.ccl.umist.ac.uk/staff/harold/mtsummitworkshops.html

Tuesday September 18

- Towards a roadmap for MT (half day)

Organiser: Steven Krauwer

- Example-based machine translation (full day)

Organisers: Andrew Way and Michael Carl

Saturday September 22

- Teaching machine translation (full day)

Organisers: Mikel Forcada and Derek Lewis

- MT evaluation: who did what to whom (full day)

Organisers: Ed Hovy, Maghi King, Sandra Manzi and Florence Reeder

- Open Meeting on terminology exchange and synchronization: SALT, OSCAR, OLIF (full day)

Organizer: Alan Melby (See www.ttt.org)



Organizers

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Joerg Schuetz (exhibitions)
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Harold Somers (workshops)
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Carlos Paz (registration and local arrangements)
Carlos.Paz-carneiro@cec.eu.int

Anthony Clarke (finance, EAMT treasurer)
Anthony.Clark@cls.ch

Viggo Hansen (publicity, EAMT secretary)
vha@hofnan-bang.dk

Colin Brace (website) cb@lim.nl

Conferences and Events

LISA Forum USA and Annual Meeting

Chicago, USA
August 29-31, 2001

Call for Participation

The LISA (Localization Industry Standards Association) Forum will examine the transition from traditional means of business interchange to the realities of delivering world-ready products and services in spite of budget cuts and reorganizations. Learn how to increase profitability, cost-effectively manage outsourcing, and automate web operations

Featured Topics

- Optimizing Content Management
- Going Global—Beyond the Internet
- Case Studies: Key lessons from successful Clicks and Mortar companies
- Why and how companies are investing in globalization
- Workgroup discussions – Quality metrics, Resources & Technology, OSCAR
- Customer Roundtable – Production Priorities and Outsourcing Challenges
- The SME Perspective – Why Bigger is Not Always Better!
- Managing Translation Quality

Full-day Workshops

- Internationalizing Products and Websites
- Evaluating Web Globalization Tools
- Localization Project Management Automated Workflow Tools and Services Exhibition
- Multilingual e-Business Solutions and Technologies

LISA Forum participants will learn globalization best practices and technologies from the key-implementers and decision-makers around the world by exploring how the trend towards globalization influences new and traditional companies alike – and what tools and programs managers have used to facilitate the globalization process.

Exhibition

The industry's leading technology developers and globalization, internationalization, translation and localization solutions suppliers will demonstrate their products and services.

Website: www.lisa.unige.ch/events/2001chicago or www.lisa.org □

MT Summer School in Spanish: Curso de Verano Sobre Traducción Automática

San Sebastián, España
septiembre 3-5, 2001

Este verano, entre los días 3 (lunes) y 5 de septiembre, tendrá lugar un Curso de Verano de la Universidad del País Vasco en el Palacio Miramar de San Sebastián, de gran interés para todos aquéllos que estén interesados en la Lingüística Computacional o en la Traducción, y en particular la Traducción Automática. El título del curso es: "Traducción automática en el umbral del siglo XXI: sistemas y herramientas" y sus directoras son las Dras. Elena Bárcena (Facultad de Filología, UNED, Madrid) y Arantza Díaz de Ilarraza (Facultad de Informática, UPV, San Sebastián).

El curso ha sido estratégicamente organizado para complementar otras dos grandes reuniones científicas que tendrán lugar en España también en el próximo mes de septiembre: MT Summit (see separate announcement) y SEPLN 2001 (el congreso anual de Sociedad Española para el Procesamiento del Lenguaje Natural, que tendrá lugar en Jaén los días 12-14 de septiembre de 2001; sepln2001.ujaen.es), el principal foro estatal para expertos sobre el Procesamiento del Lenguaje Natural en general y la Traducción Automática en particular.

Destinatarios

El curso está destinado especialmente para estudiantes, investigadores y profesores, tanto lingüistas como ingenieros, interesados en el área, con diversos niveles de conocimiento sobre la misma. También está pensado para profesionales cuyas empresas guarden relación – como productoras o meras usuarias – con la Traducción Automática, y por tanto se beneficiarían de recibir mayor información precisa y de actualidad sobre el tema. No es necesario en absoluto ser un experto en Traducción Automática para seguir el curso.

Objetivos

El objetivo principal del Curso es hacer un balance sincero sobre el conjunto de la Traducción Automática: los objetivos conseguidos y los obstáculos aún por lograr. Este es sin duda un buen momento histórico para pararse a reflexionar tras más de medio siglo de existencia de esta disciplina y encontrándonos en el umbral del siglo XXI, tras haber asistido a notables avances en las dos disciplinas que vertebran la Traducción Automática: la Lingüística Teórica y la Informática. Se presentarán los principales sistemas y herramientas de TA comercializados ahora mismo en el mundo (durante el curso habrá varias demostraciones prácticas de compañías estatales y extranjeras que mostrarán sus productos), haciendo una valoración comparativa de los mismos. También se reflexionará sobre la naturaleza de los problemas que tiene la Traducción Automática para progresar y las posibilidades que se prevén para la solución o mejora de los mismos, explicándose a los alumnos los pasos que se están dando en la actualidad para conseguirlo.

Naturalmente, no se puede obviar el impacto que también sobre la TA ha tenido Internet. En efecto, hoy en día Internet y la Web están alterando sustancialmente el acceso de la sociedad a la información tanto monolingüe como multilingüe. Aunque el progreso de la actividad investigadora

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Curso de Verano

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en materia de TA sigue su camino al margen de este hecho, esta nueva demanda y oferta de información está abriendo nuevos horizontes para esta disciplina. Por ello se dedicará un parte del curso a estudiar el papel concreto que juega la TA en Internet y las perspectivas en este sentido.

Profesorado

El curso cuenta con un variado elenco de expertos en TA, que investigan y publican desde hace años activamente en esta área, comenzando por una autoridad mundial como es el Professor Harold L. Somers, Director del Departamento de Ingeniería Lingüística de UMIST (Manchester, Reino Unido). También se cuenta con profesores de la UNED, la UPV y la Universidad de Deusto que trabajan en TA desde sus respectivos departamentos de lingüística o informática. Para completar este rico abanico de bagajes y perspectivas, el curso cuenta también con un ponente de la empresa privada y otro de un organismo público, ambos expertos en TA.

En resumen, se trata de un curso con un claro objetivo práctico y sintetizador, en el que:

- se reflexionará abierta y sinceramente sobre los resultados y perspectivas de la Traducción Automática, analizando las líneas de investigación presentes y anticipando las que se prevé prosperen durante los próximos años;
- se informará sobre los sistemas y herramientas existentes en la actualidad, evaluándolos comparativamente desde una doble perspectiva teórico-práctica;
- se presentarán y demostrarán algunos sistemas y herramientas punteros existentes en el mercado;
- se dedicará especial atención a aquéllos que guardan relación con Internet.

Idioma oficial del curso: castellano

Procedimiento de matriculación:
Dirigirse a la dirección: www.sc.ehu.es/srwwwwsu/matricula.htm con el código de curso 0.4. □

American Translators Association

Los Angeles, California
October 31-November 3, 2001

Call for Participation

ATA's 42nd Annual Conference will feature over 150 educational sessions; a Job Exchange for translators and agencies; over 60 exhibits featuring the latest publications, software and services available; translator accreditation exams

Hotel

The Biltmore Hotel, the conference venue, is conveniently located in downtown Los Angeles at 506 South Grand Avenue. Conference rates of US\$ 150/175 available until October 9, or until all rooms in the ATA block are reserved. Tel: 1-800-245-8673 or 213-624-1011.

Job Exchange

The Exchange offers freelance and independent contractors an excellent opportunity to network and market their services while agency owners and employers peruse resumes and meet prospective contractors and employees.

Conference attendees are eligible for discounted travel fares through Stellar Access travel (specify ATA Group #505): 1-800-929-4242 (U.S. and Canada only) or 619-232-4298. Or book online and pay no transaction fee: www.stellaraccess.com.

More information at: www.atanet.org



LREC2002: Third International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation

Las Palmas
Canary Islands - Spain
May 27 - June 2, 2002

Call for Proposals

In the recent past, language engineering and research and development in language technologies have led to important advances in various aspects of written, spoken and multimodal language processing. Although the evaluation paradigm has been studied and used in large national and international programmes, including the US DARPA HLT programme, the EU HLT programme under FP5-IST, the Francophone AUF programme and others, particularly in the localisation industry (LISA and LRC), it is still subject to substantial unsolved basic research problems. The European 6th Framework program (FP6), planned for a start in 2003, includes multilingual and multisensorial communication as one of the major R&D issue, and the evaluation of technologies appears as a specific item in the Integrated Project instrument presentation.

Conference Goals

The aim of this Conference is to provide an overview of the state-of-the-art, discuss problems and opportunities, exchange information regarding language resources, their applications, ongoing and planned activities, industrial

Important Dates for LREC2002

Deadline for abstracts for posters and papers, outlines for November 20, 2001 demos, and proposals for panels and workshops

Notification of acceptance of workshop and panel proposals December 10, 2001

Notification of acceptance of papers, posters, and demos February 2, 2002

Deadline for final versions April, 2 2002

use and requirements, discuss evaluation methodologies and demonstrate evaluation tools, explore possibilities and promote initiatives for international cooperation in the areas mentioned above.

Conference Topics

The following non-exhaustive list gives some examples of topics which could be addressed by papers submitted to the Conference:

Issues in the design, construction and use of Language Resources (LR)

- Guidelines, standards, specifications, models and best practices for LR
- Methods, tools, procedures for the acquisition, creation, management, access, distribution, use of LR
- Organisational issues in the construction, distribution and use of LR
- Legal aspects and problems in the construction, access and use of LR
- Availability and use of generic vs. task/domain specific LR
- Methods for the extraction and acquisition of knowledge (e.g. terms, lexical information, language modeling) from LR
- Monolingual and multilingual LR
- Multimodal and multimedia LR
- Integration of various modalities in LR (speech, vision, language)
- Documentation and archiving of languages, including minority and endangered languages
- Ontological aspects of creation and use of LR

•LR for psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic research in human-machine communication

•Exploitation of LR in different types of applications (information extraction, information retrieval, vocal and multisensorial interfaces, translation, summarisation, WWW services, etc.)

•Industrial LR requirements and community's response

•Industrial production of LR

•Industrial use of LR

•Analysis of user needs for LR

•Internet-accessible metadata descriptions of LR

LREC2002 Dates

Conference: May 29-31, 2002

Pre Conference Workshops:

May 27-28, 2002

Post Conference Workshops:

June 1-2, 2002

•Mechanisms of LR distribution and marketing

•Economics of LR

Issues in Human Language Technologies evaluation

•Evaluation, validation, qual-

ity assurance of LR

•Benchmarking of systems and products; resources for benchmarking and evaluation

•Evaluation in written language processing (text retrieval, terminology extraction, message understanding, text alignment, machine translation, morphosyntactic tagging, parsing, semantic tagging, word sense disambiguation, text understanding, summarization, localization, etc.)

•Evaluation in spoken language processing (speech recognition and understanding, voice dictation, oral dialog, speech synthesis, speech coding, speaker and language recognition, spoken translation, etc.)

•Evaluation of document processing (document recognition, on-line and off-line machine and hand-written character recognition, etc.)

•Evaluation of (multimedia) document retrieval and search systems (including detection, indexing, filtering, alert, question answering, etc)

•Evaluation of multimodal systems

•Qualitative and perceptive evaluation

•Evaluation of products and applications, benchmarking

•Blackbox, glassbox and diagnostic evaluation of systems

•Situated evaluation of applications

•Evaluation methodologies, protocols and measures

•From evaluation to standardisation of LR

General issues

•National and international activities and projects

•LR and the needs/opportunities of the emerging multimedia cultural industry

•Priorities, perspectives, strategies in the field of LR national and international policies

•Needs, possibilities, forms, initiatives off/for international cooperation

•Open architectures for LR

For authors guidelines and details on submissions, see the conference website: www.lrec-conf.org

Program

The Scientific Program will include invited talks, papers accepted for oral presentations, papers accepted for poster presentations, referenced demonstrations and panels. A special workshop will be organised on National Projects in LR and evaluation.

LREC98, in Granada, had 197 papers and posters presented, with about 510 registered participants from 38 different countries from all continents. Among these, the largest group came from Spain (81 participants), followed by France (75), USA (73), Germany (47), UK (43) and Italy (41). Registered participants belonged to over 325 different organisations. LREC2000, in Athens, had 129 oral papers and 152

LREC 2002 Program Committee

Nicoletta Calzolari, Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale, Pisa, Italy

Khalid Choukri, ELRA, Paris, France

Bente Maegaard, CST, Copenhagen, Denmark

Joseph Mariani, LIMSI-CNRS, Orsay, France

Angel Martin Municio, President of the Real Academia de Ciencias, Madrid, Spain

Daniel Tapias, TELEFONICA I+D, Madrid, Spain

Antonio Zampolli, Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale, Pisa, Italy (General chair)

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LREC 2002

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posters presented, with more than 600 participants from 51 different countries from all continents. Among these, the largest group came from Greece (117), followed by USA (70), France (59), Germany (45), UK (43), Japan (35) and Italy (29). Registered participants belonged to 319 different organisations. We anticipate a similar number of participants in LREC2002. We therefore expect the exhibits at LREC2002 to have a large audience.

Exhibits

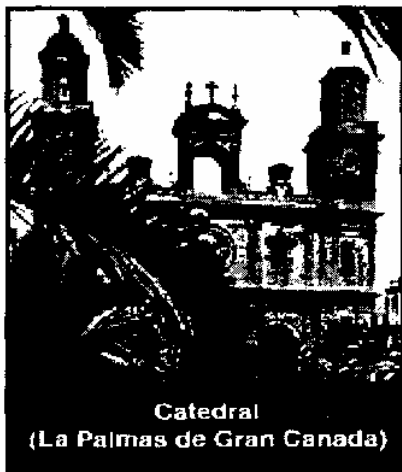
An exhibit area will also be made available at LREC2002. Please note that the exhibits of LR are different from system demonstrations. The exhibits will run in parallel with the Conference for 3 days and the exhibit hall will be located near the general conference rooms. For more information, please contact the ELDA office at: choukri@elda.fr

Consortia and Project Meetings

Consortia or projects wishing to take this opportunity for organising meetings, should contact the ELDA office: choukri@elda.fr

Website: www.lrec-conf.org

For more information about ELRA (the European Language Resources Association), see: www.elda.fr, and the Resources column in this issue of MTNI (page 16). □



Catedral
(La Palmas de Gran Canaria)

16th World Congress of the International Federation of Translators Vancouver, Canada August 7-10, 2002

Call for Proposals

The Congress theme, "Translation: New Ideas for a New Century", will be addressed during the Congress through the following streams:

- Literary Translation
- Translation Studies
- Scientific, technical, legal and commercial translation
- Conference, court, medical and community interpretation
- Terminology
- Localization
- Multi-media
- Technology and Translation
- Ethics, Status and the Future

The Program Committee invites proposals on the Congress theme for papers, workshops or panels. A paper (20 minutes) is a presentation that does not require audience participation. A workshop (90 minutes) is a practically oriented session requiring audience participation. A panel (90 minutes) involves 4 or 5 participants who deliver short individual presentations and then discuss a topic.

Proposals should include: Name and affiliation; Address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address; Paper or Workshop or Panel proposed; Title of presentation; Stream in which presentation can be included; Language of presentation (English or French); Abstract of 250 words.

Proposals should be sent to: Portfolio Event Management, 1383 Homer Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 5M9, Fax: 604-685-5787 Email: portfolio@intouch.bc.ca

Website: www.fit-ift.org □

Important Dates

Deadline for proposals September 1, 2001

Special Issue of *Machine Translation*

Embedded MT Systems: Leveraging for Real World Applications

Call for Submissions

An "embedded machine translation (MT) system" is a computational system with one or more MT engines embedded among its components. These systems accept various well-formed and degraded types of multilingual and multi-modal input, including

- hard-copy pages (original and OCR-ed image)
- online files (web pages, word processing files, email)
- video (image and text)
- speech (natural signal and transcribed)

From this range of input, such systems enable users to access the original, foreign language information in their own language.

Traditionally, the term "MT" has been associated with the task of single document translation. More recently, MT engines embedded within larger systems have been used to facilitate tasks that require processing multilingual information both within and across documents. Several real-world applications have led to the widespread use of embedded MT systems for cross-language tasks, such as:

- content extraction
- document filtering
- information retrieval
- question-answering
- summarization

This call is for original or updated research articles on embedded MT systems. Authors should address two or more of the following foci in their papers:

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Important Dates

Deadline for papers October 19, 2001

Notification to authors February 22, 2002

19th International Unicode Conference

San Jose, California
September 10 - 14, 2001

Call for Participation

The Nineteenth International Unicode Conference will address topics ranging from Unicode use in the World Wide Web and in corporate and government Intranets and databases, to the latest developments with Unicode 3.1, Java, XML and Web protocols. Conference attendees will include managers, software engineers, systems analysts, and product marketing personnel responsible for the development of software supporting Unicode as well as those involved in all aspects of the globalization of software and the Internet.

The International Unicode Conferences are held twice yearly, and are of particular value to anyone implementing the Unicode Standard or working on internationalization. A variety of tutorials and conference sessions cover current topics related to Unicode, the Web, software and internationalization. Participants can learn about new developments and implementing Unicode.

International Unicode Conferences are the ideal place to interact and exchange ideas with others in the field of internationalization, including experts, implementers, clients and vendors. The interactive format makes the International Unicode Conferences a great place to meet leading experts, find out about the needs of potential clients, or find out what Unicode enabled products are available.

For more information, see the conference home page:

www.unicode.org/iuc/iuc19

The conference program is available online at:

www.unicode.org/iuc/iuc19/program.html □

20th International Unicode Conference

Washington, DC, USA
January 28 - February 1, 2002

Call for Papers

Whether it's internet commerce, network access to data, or highly portable applications, Unicode makes a solid foundation for the network, global enterprises, and software users everywhere.

Presentations should be geared towards a technical audience. Suggested topics of interest include, but are not limited to: internationalization features of portable devices; implementing new features of Unicode Version 3.1; Unicode normalization, and collation; programming languages and libraries (Java, PERL, et al.); the WWW and Unicode; character set issues; web search engines and Unicode; library and archival concerns; Unicode in operating systems; Unicode in databases; Unicode in large scale networks; Unicode in government applications; the results of using Unicode applications (case studies, solutions); language processing issues with Unicode data; migrating legacy applications to Unicode; cross platform issues; printing and imaging; optimizing performance of Unicode systems and applications; testing Unicode applications; usability evaluations of Unicode applications; internationalization and localization.

The conference program will include a wide range of sessions including: keynote presentations, workshops/tutorials, technical presentations, and panel sessions

The Conference will have an Exhibition for corporations or individuals who wish to display and promote their products, technology and/or services.

See: www.unicode.org/iuc/iuc20 □

Important Dates

Submission deadline	September 21, 2001
Notification to authors	October 12, 2001
Final papers	November 2, 2001

IEEE Conference on Software Maintenance Florence, Italy November 6-10, 2001

Theme: Systems and Software Evolution in the era of the Internet ICSM is the major international conference in the field of software and systems maintenance, evolution, and management. In addition to the main conference are associated workshops: IEEE SCAM, IEEE WESS, IEEE WSE, TABOO.

The conference is sponsored by IEEE and supported by the: EC-IST, University of Florence, O-Groupi, IBM Italy in collaboration with: TABOO, AICA, AIIA, ERCIM, UNINFO, CESVIT, and others.

The conference will include outstanding keynotes such as: Prof. David Lorge Parnas and Prof. Dieter Rombach. Kent Beck, 110 technical presentations, 4 workshops, industrial papers and experiences, research papers and award, tutorials, tool expositions, dissertation forum and award, workshops, panels, and other exciting activities have been planned.

See: www.dsi.unifi.it/icsm2001 □

8th International Conference on Web Site Globalization New Orleans, Louisiana September 23-25, 2001

Conference theme: A Focus on Content Management and Transactional e-Commerce. Organized by the International Quality and Productivity Center (IQPC). Designed for internationalization strategists and web site country managers.

Presentations by leading companies about their global e-Commerce strategies. Specifically, hear how: Nortel Networks implemented its globalization strategy step-by-step; Adidas has committed itself to becoming an international brand presence; Dow has organized its e-initiative center in Europe—and why; UPS handles its international commerce and logistics.

See: www.iqpc.com, and look under "functions: web development" □

Association News

IAMT and the Regional Divisions: AMTA

This column is the first in a 4-part series looking at IAMT and its regional divisions. Each installment will cover the current officers and regular activities of one organization. We begin with the Association for Machine Translation in the Americas, AMTA.

Regular Events and Activities

AMTA conference: Held in even-numbered years beginning in 1994. The program includes juried papers, invited speakers, and panels, as well as demo sessions and an exhibition of commercial products. Proceedings are now published by Springer-Verlag in the "Lecture Notes in AI" series.

General membership meeting: Held at the AMTA conference, the meeting covers association business and officer election results.

Elections: In odd-number years, three board members are elected. In even-number years, the executive board and three board members are elected.

Publications

Yellow book: AMTA regularly compiles and distributes a handy directory of members, cross referenced by name and specialization.

Bylaws: The AMTA bylaws are included in the 1995 and 1998 editions of the "Yellow Book" (The 1995 Yellow Book also includes the IAMT bylaws)

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Interlinguas: moderated by Steve Helmreich <shelmrei@nmsu.edu>

Mtranslatability: moderated by Arndse Bernth <arendse@ibm.us.com> and Claudia Gdaniec <cgdaniec@us.ibm.com>

Standards and APIs for MT Systems moderated by Steve Richardson <steveri@microsoft.com>

Evaluation of MT: moderated by John White <white_john@prc.com>

New AMTA Web Address

www.amtaweb.org

People

This column is the first in an open-ended series profiling key people in the international MT community. We will start with the regional association presidents, and then cover other researchers, developers, users, and thinkers who shape the agenda and direction of this community. (Who would you like to know more about? What unsung hero should get some print-space? Send suggestions to MTNI@eamt.org) We begin with Elliott Macklovich who was elected president of AMTA in October, 2000.

Introducing Elliott Macklovich

While you may have heard Elliott speak French as often as English, he was born and grew up in the minority English-speaking community in Montreal, Canada, and was basically a monolingual until he began his university studies. Meeting his French-speaking wife-to-be Lison shortly thereafter probably increased his moti-

vation to master Canada's other official language. In any event, Elliott eventually became functionally bilingual and the Macklovitch's two grown sons (David and Alain) now consider French their first language.

Elliott's involvement in machine translation dates back to 1977, when, following graduate studies in generative linguistics at McGill University, he joined the TAUM project at the University of Montreal. TAUM was the group that had developed the well-known METEO system for translating weather bulletins, and its members were then working on a new system for aircraft maintenance manuals, a far more difficult challenge. Although the project got off to an encouraging start, it was discontinued after an independent government evaluation in 1981, and the TAUM group disbanded soon thereafter. In Elliott's view, the basic problem was one of conflicting expectations. He compares the success of METEO to that of the Wright Brothers achieving first flight; TAUM was then asked by the funders of the Aviation project to design a system to put a man on the moon. The effect of TAUM's demise on MT funding in Canada was comparable to that of the 1966 ALPAC report in the U.S. The government concluded that the cost of developing MT was higher than the cost of the human

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AMTA Officers

Executive committee - elected in October 2000 for 2-year terms:

President: Elliott Macklovich, University of Montreal RALI <macklovi@iro.umontreal.ca>

Vice President: Laurie Gerber, Language Technology Broker <lgerber@gerbersite.com>

Treasurer: Steve Helmreich, New Mexico State University, CRL <shelmrei@nmsu.edu>

Secretary: Karin Spalink, Ericsson <kspalink@intrex.net>

MTNI Regional Editor: David Clements, Lernout&Hauspie <David.Clements@lhsi.com>

Board of Directors - half elected each year for 2-year terms representing the developer, user and researcher communities.

Developer (1999-2001): W. Scott Bennett, One Page <sbennett2@att.net>

Researcher (1999-2001): Robert Frederking, Carnegie Mellon Univ. <ref@cs.cmu.edu>

User (1999-2001): Kurt Godden, Just Talk <kgodden@justtalk.com>

Developer (2000-2002): Jin Yang, SYSTRAN Software <jyang@systransoft.com>

Researcher (2000-2002): Florence Reeder, Mitre Corp <freeder@mitre.org>

User (2000-2002): Robert Cain, Foreign Broadcast Information Svc. <arcane1@ix.netcom.com>

Elliott Macklovich

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translation it was trying to replace.

Following this discouraging closure, Elliott passed the Canadian state qualifying exam for French->English translators, and began a new career as a human translator. It was an episode he remembers fondly, both for his colleagues, who earned his admiration for their skill, sophistication and professionalism, and because of the excellent training and mentoring he received in the art of translation. "Good experience," he maintains. "for anyone with an interest in translation automation." Indeed, he retains a strong sense of loyalty to those former colleagues. "I remember all too well how hard translators work," he says. "I would never want to impose automated tools on them that would cause the quality of their working conditions to deteriorate. Besides, my wife is a translator..."

In 1983-84, through a collaborative agreement between the French and Canadian governments, Elliott spent a year as a visiting researcher in Grenoble, France, at the GETA MT group. His time there spanned the transition between Bernard Vauquois (who devised the triangle diagram often used to characterize the levels of analysis in MT systems), and Christian Boitet, who continues to direct the GETA. Both men made a lasting impression on him. Following his return to Canada, he spent two years in Ottawa working for the Canadian government on MT evaluation trials. In part, this involved monitoring ongoing improvements to the METEO system, as well as evaluating other commercially available machine translation systems. The time in France and Ottawa were the only years that Elliott has lived away from Montreal.

In 1985, he was offered the opportunity to join the CWARC, a newly-formed Department of Communications research lab (CWARC stands for Canadian Workplace Automation Research Center; the name was later changed to the CITI - the Center for Information Technology Innovation). The machine translation group there was headed by Pierre Isabelle. This time, Pierre, who had also been a member of TAUM, took great care to avoid the strategic mistake of the TAUM project and maintained a clear distinction

between research activities and development activities. This formula led to a highly successful 12-year collaboration that came to an end in 1997, when the government, in an effort to reduce its deficit, closed several major research labs. One of the significant accomplishments of the CITI's MT group was the development of the CRITTER system. Applied to agriculture market reports, CRITTER was one of the first reversible MT systems: it employed the same English grammar and dictionary for both analysis and generation, and similarly for its French linguistic compo-



nents. This was important in maximizing the efficiency of development effort, and cost effectiveness of the project.

Elliott is a consummate team player who is quick to credit others and slow to acknowledge his own role or contributions. Long-time colleague Pierre Isabelle (now at Xerox Research Center Europe) comments. "He brings the team a lot of credibility about translation and translator's issues, because he is a bona fide translator, and a good one! (In case you do not know: one of Elliott's hobbies is literary translation; he has translated several novels from French into English.) This proved especially important when the team's focus moved away from pure MT towards translation support tools, around 1991. Elliott's contribution to the TransCheck prototype has been groundbreaking, both in terms of the technical work and of the communication work (papers, demos)."

Most people generally agree, when approaching MT development, that a compromise has to be made either on quality, automation, or coverage. In Canada, where both French and English have equal and official status, it was particularly important that MT systems NOT compromise on quality. This led the CITI's MT group to investigate the possibility of interactive systems and specialized systems designed for restricted domains. In addition, a lot of effort was focused on the development of translators' tools and a translators' workstation. Elliott was particularly active in the latter project.

When the CITI closed in 1997, Elliott and the other members of the MT team moved to the University of Montreal to form the RALI (Laboratoire de Recherche appliquée en Linguistique Informatique), within the computer science department. After Pierre Isabelle's departure in 1999, Elliott took over as Coordinator of the RALI, which now consists of 4-5 full-time researchers, plus three affiliated professors and their students. The group continues to develop language technology, with a particular focus on tools for translators. Unlike other university research groups, the RALI must finance its own activities, and to so it has developed and sold some real-life applications, including SILC, its automatic language identification program, which is incorporated in the latest version of Netscape; and Réacc, its automatic reaccentuation software, which is used in the Canadian government's SchoolNet project, as part of the preprocessing of email before it is machine translated. "TSrali.com", the latest version of the group's popular bilingual concordancer, is now being sold by subscription over the internet. More information on the lab's various projects can be obtained at the RALI's Website: www-rali.iro.umontreal.ca.

In addition to his research work and publications, Elliott has been very active in the MT and CL professional communities. He played a key role in the organization of such memorable events as TMI'92, AMTA'96, and COLING/ACL '98, all of which were held in Montreal. He served as a board member and Vice President of AMTA before being elected President in October 2000.

Elliott Macklovich can be reached at macklovi@iro.umontreal.edu □

New MTNI Editor

With this issue, I take over the editorship of MTNI from Muriel Vasconcellos who is stepping down after 4 excellent years. Stepping into this role, I am the beneficiary of an established team: the regional editors David Clements, Jörg Schütz, and Hirotsato Nomura; Contributing Editor Colin Brace; and two veteran editors - my predecessors - Muriel Vasconcellos, and John Hutchins. John will continue in his role as consulting editor. I feel very lucky to count both of these people among my personal mentors and am grateful that both will continue to be available, formally or informally, as advisors.

MTNI is published three times a year, which doesn't sound like much until you have to produce one! MTNI has had only two editors so far, John Hutchins from its inception in 1992 to 1997, and Muriel Vasconcellos from 1997 to the present. A regular publication like MTNI can take on a permanent and timeless quality - as though it exists on its own momentum. But building institutions and maintaining their vitality demands a lot of work behind the scenes, and in the case of MTNI it is a labor of love. With that labor Vasconcellos and Hutchins have given a tremendous gift to the MT community. It is with both gratitude and humility, that I step in and attempt to continue the quality and spirit of the tradition they have established.

I would like to alert readers to the importance of submitting news and giving feedback. We are grateful for press releases about new developments and products. Please submit these and other news to your regional editor, whose contact information is on page 2. We also welcome your comments and suggestions. MTNI can be counted as one of the tangible benefits of membership in AMTA/EAMT/AAMT and we would love to know what would make it most valuable to you. You can reach me directly at MTNI@eamt.org.

Laurie Gerber
Editor-in-Chief
MTNI

□

Resources

Laurie's Links

Laurie Gerber

When compiling candidates for the resources column, I try to include things that newcomers may not know about, and which old-timers will never mention because they assume that everybody knows about them. I also hope to keep the attention of the established community with items that even old hands may not be aware of. This time, the well-known resource is the text and data repositories at ELRA and LDC. The hidden gem is the mailing lists at Yahoo!

Text and Lexical Resources

ELRA & ELDA

[information provided by ELDA]

ELRA, which stands for European Language Resources Association, was created 6 years ago, as an organisation for the collection, the distribution, and the validation of speech, text, and terminology resources and tools. ELRA also addresses legal issues connected to the distribution of Language Resources and provides legal advice to its members and suppliers in the field. The European Language resources Distribution Agency (ELDA) was created as ELRA's operational and organisational infrastructure to carry out its various activities, and handle all the commercial and business-oriented tasks, drafting and concluding the distribution agreements on behalf of ELRA.

In addition, the association got recently involved in the evaluation of systems, tools and products related to Language Engineering and in the production of Language Resources. (ELDA also organizes the popular LREC conferences, see the announcement of LREC 2002 in this issue.)

Further details about ELRA & ELDA and access to its catalogue of LRs are available at: www.elda.fr/

LINGUISTIC DATA CONSORTIUM

[from the LDC website]

The Linguistic Data Consortium is an open consortium of universities, companies and government research laboratories. It creates, collects and distributes speech and text databases, lexicons, and other resources for research and development purposes. The University of Pennsylvania is the LDC's host institution. The LDC was founded in 1992 with a grant from the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA).

The operations of the LDC are closely tied to the evolving needs of the research and development community that it supports. Since research opportunities will increasingly depend on access to the consortium's materials, membership fees have been set at affordable levels, and membership is open to research groups around the world.

A catalog of LDC offerings and membership information are available at: www ldc.upenn.edu/

Mailing Lists

A number of mailing lists are available for special interests groups translation at Yahoo! However, finding what you need in Yahoo's taxonomy can be a challenge. Groups discussing translation and translation tools hide under the headings of society, artificial intelligence, general, science, and software. The addresses here will take you to the sign-up pages, where you can also browse the contents of the public lists.

• dir.groups.yahoo.com/dir/Computers___Internet/Software/Globalization (10 mailing lists on globalization and localization, including some non-English lists.)

• groups.yahoo.com/group/dejavu-1 (A very active list on Déjà vu CAT tools)

• groups.yahoo.com/group/transit_termstar (A list all about Star Transit TM)

• groups.yahoo.com/group/tmx_lisa (Translation memory exchange standards)

• groups.yahoo.com/group/catmt (Computer aided translation and machine translation) □

NewsTran

...continued from page 4

news media (and almost anything else on the web) in their own languages without fear of being "traced" and punished by repressive governments or snooping bosses."

Recently added features include SilentSurf, which provides users with security and anonymity, and the ability to conduct foreign-language meta-searches using the ixquick.com search engine. Ixquick search results are automatically translated when accessed through Newstran.

Contact: Rick Perez

Tel: (504) 833-4452

Email: rick_perez@hotmail.com

Website: <http://www.newstran.com> □

NAACL

...continued from page 6

Keiko Horiguchi from Sony described an approach to MT that places qualitative, linguistic information at its foundation in order to achieve high quality translation. This method has also been implemented for English to Japanese translation. She described a method for natural language transfer that integrates translation examples (represented as typed feature structures with source-target indices) with linguistic rules and constraints. The linguistic information used is general and domain-independent; domain-specific translation knowledge is confined to the example database.

Johns Hopkins University researchers Gideon Mann and David Yarowsky presented a method for probabilistically inducing translation lexicons based on transduction models of cognate pairs via bridge languages. They induce bilingual lexicons within language families using probabilistic string edit distance models. Translation lexicons for arbitrary distant language pairs are generated by a combination of the intra-

family translation models and one or more cross-family online dictionaries. They report that up to 95% exact match accuracy is achieved on the target vocabulary (30-68% of inter-family test pairs), thus accurately generating substantial portions of translation lexicons for languages where no parallel corpora or bilingual dictionary exist. The potential of this work is the ability to leverage a single bilingual dictionary into translation lexicons for its entire language family, without any additional resources beyond raw wordlists for the other languages in the family.

Carnegie Mellon researchers demonstrated five Language Technology Institute MT systems at various stages of development during the LTI open house. C-STAR II is a system for speech-to-speech translation for travel planning. A "traveler" and "travel agent" are able to speak in their native languages while planning an international trip. During the automatically translated conversations, the travel agent will show the traveler pictures, train schedules, and panoramic views of their destinations, allowing them to view hotel rooms and imagine the trip as it's being planned.

LingWear aims to develop wearable language support to assist tourists, visitors, humanitarian and military personnel that are moving in a foreign language environment. LingWear includes language translation, navigation assistance and information access by voice, handwriting, gesture and image processing.

The KANTOO MT System, also mentioned above, comprises a variety of rule-based knowledge sources which must be maintained, primarily the syntactic grammars for the source and target languages. The biggest challenges for updating rule-based knowledge sources effectively rest in the potential complexity of the debug/test cycle. Changing a particular rule might result in widespread changes in grammar coverage, or regressive failures. The Knowledge Maintenance Tool is used by the developer to test individual updates, with recourse to full regression testing on various reference corpora. All changes to the knowledge are man-

aged under explicit version control, so that it is straightforward to synchronize the knowledge sources for different releases. The KMT also includes an interactive tracing and debugging environment which utilizes the KANTOO Analyzer and Generator servers.

DIPLOMAT/TONGUES is a system for the unrestricted translation of speech in one language into speech in another, intended for quick (a few months) development and deployment between new language pairs. TONGUES was recently field-tested for Croatian-English translation in Zagreb, Croatia. It was developed under a sponsored-research contract with Lockheed-Martin.

The NICE project (Native language Interpretation and Communication Environment) is developing a new machine learning method, seeded version space learning, for learning MT transfer rules from controlled data. Carnegie Mellon has formed partnerships with three native communities: Mapuche, Chile; Siona, Colombia; and Inupiat, Alaska.

If you have never attended an Association for Computational Linguistics conference, and desire more information about the association, please consult www.acl.web.org/. □

Odds and Ends

Proceedings of EAMT 2000
Ljubljana Workshop Now Available Online at:

www.eamt.org/archive/index.html

September 30th is International
Translation Day

L10N? I18N?

These funny-looking abbreviations stand for:

L10N = Localization (L + 10 letters + N)

I18N = Internationalization (I + 18 letters + N)

MT Special Issue

...continued from page 12

Input Focus, such as

- Processing methods for the range of system input
- Real-time analysis of input
- Channel-specific feedback processes from system components to correct noisy input
- Multiple document or channel input integration for summarization or other tasks

MT Methods Focus, such as

- Symbolic, statistical, or hybrid techniques for translation
- Machine learning applied to construction of MT engine components
- Weighting of candidates for selection of high quality MT output
- Quick ramp-up MT engines

System Design Focus, such as

- Architectures to support novel cross-language tasks
- Systems with multiple MT engines
- Pre-MT compensation components or strategies that adjust speech and OCR degraded input
- Post-MT processing of output for display to user
- Integration of system output within application software

Evaluation Focus, such as

- Linguistic measures of MT component performance
- Task-based measures of system effectiveness
- Experimental designs for assessing or comparing system effectiveness
- Software tools for assisting or automating evaluation process
- Algorithms

The idea of this special issue originates from workshops at ANLP/NAACL-2000 and AMTA-98. Authors from these workshops are encouraged to submit papers describing progress on their systems and incorporating feedback from workshop participants. We also encourage other researchers developing embedded MT systems to submit papers.

For this special issue, two types of papers will be considered: long papers (20 pages or more) and short papers (less than 20 pages). Longer papers are advised for research projects that have been implemented and evaluated. Shorter papers are appropriate for recent research initiatives.

Questions about submissions should be directed to the two Guest Editors by email, rather than the Journal or Publishing Editors.

Guest Editors: Carol Van Ess-Dykema, U.S. Department of Defense, cjvanes@afterlife.ncsc.mil and Clare R. Voss, Army Research Laboratory, voss@arl.army.mil

Details on submission are available on the website: lamp.cfar.umd.edu/Embedded_MT_Systems/ □

Lionbridge

...continued from page 1

Court for the District of Delaware and the Ieper Commercial Court of Belgium is a process that entails, among other procedures, a public auction of Mendez that would allow third parties to make competing bids to acquire the subsidiary. After approval by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court of the bidding procedures to be followed, the Company will organize a public auction in early August under the supervision of this court. The agreement with Lionbridge, or with another bidder making a higher or otherwise better offer at the auction, will be subject to final approval by both the U.S. Bankruptcy Court and the Ieper Commercial Court of Belgium.

About Mendez

Mendez is an industry-leading provider of integrated translation, localization and documentation solutions, services and technologies for businesses and the Internet. Mendez enables global companies to adapt products, technical information and corporate messages to international markets. Mendez offerings include software localization, document translation, web site globalization, and the iTranslator

product family that combines advanced machine translation technology with high-quality human translation. Employing more than 950 full time staff and 5,000 consultants, Mendez operates on a worldwide basis with offices in 19 countries. For more information, visit www.mendez.com.

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New Individual Membership Category in LISA

LISA (Localization Industry Standards Association) is accepting individual members for the first time. This membership category is designed for skilled professionals who want to be recognized individually for their contributions to the Globalization, Internationalization, and Localization (GIL) Industry - independent of corporate affiliation.

If you are a Project Manager, GIL Consultant, Global Product or Service Engineer, Website developer, Multimedia Specialist, International Business Consultant, Localization Specialist, Terminologist, Freelance Translator or, in essence - a skilled professional actively involved in contributing to the enterprise globalization process - then joining the LISA is the perfect opportunity for you to network and exchange ideas with other industry professionals.

See: www.lisa.org □

Calendar

2001

August 29-31: LISA Forum USA and Annual Meeting. Drake Hotel, Chicago, IL, USA. Theme "The Globalization of Clicks and Mortar: Being Global before Going Global". See: www.lisa.unige.ch/events/2001chicago/ or www.lisa.org

September 3-5: International Conference on Translatio n. Langkawi, Malaysia. Closing date for registration August 27, 2001. See: web.uum.edu.my/ict

September 3-5: Machine Translation summer school in San Sebastian (north of Spain). Organized by Drs. Elena Bárcena (Facultad de Filología, UNED, Madrid) and Arantza Díaz de Ilarraza (Facultad de Informática, UPV, San Sebastián). *Procedimiento de matriculación: Dirigirse a la dirección:* www.sc.ehu.es/scrwws/matriculacion.htm, con el código de curso 0.4

September 3-7: Eurospeech 2001, the 7th European Conference on Speech Communication and Technology. Organized by ISCA, the International Speech Communication Association. Aalborg, Denmark. See: eurospeech2001.org

September 10-14: 19th International Unicode Conference. San Jose, California. Organized by the Unicode Consortium. See: www.unicode.org/iuc/iuc19

September 12-14: SEPLN 2001 (Sociedad Española para el Procesamiento del Lenguaje Natural). Jaén, Spain See: sepln2001.ujaen.es

September 18-22: MT Summit VIII, Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Organized by European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT). September 18 & 22: Workshops; September 19-21: Main conference. General Chair: John Hutchins (Univ. East Anglia); Program Chairs: Bente Maegaard (CST, Denmark); See: www.eamt.org/summitVIII.

September 18: Workshops preceding MT Summit VIII: Chair: Harold Somers; See: www.ccl.umist.ac.uk/staff/harold/mtsummitworkshops.html.

Example-based MT. Organizers: Andrew Way (Dublin City Univ.); Michael Carl (IAI, Saarbrücken). See: www.compapp.dcu.ie/~away/EBMT.html.

MT-2010: Towards a Road Map for MT. Organizer: Steven Krauwer (Elsenet & Univ. Utrecht). See: www.elsnet.org/mt2010.html.

Note: the Machine Interpretation and MT Evaluation workshop has been cancelled.

September 22: Workshops following MT Summit VIII:

Teaching Machine Translation. Organizers: Mikel Forcada (Univ. d'Alacant) and Derek Lewis (Univ. Exeter). See: www.dlsi.ua.es/tmt/.

ISLE Workshop on Evaluation. Organizers: Eduard Hovy (ISD), Bente Maegaard (CST, Denmark), Maghi King and Sandra Manzi (Univ. Geneva), and Florence Reeder (Mitre). See: www.issco.unige.ch/projects/isle/MT-Summit-wsp.html.

Note: the Interlinguas workshop has been cancelled

September 23-25: 8th International Conference on Website Globalization. New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Organized by the International Quality and Productivity Center. See: www.iqpc.com

October 31-November 3: 42nd Annual Conference of the American Translators Association, Regal Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles. See: www.atanet.org.

November 6-10: IEEE International Conference on Software Maintenance 2001: Systems and Software Evolution in the Era of the Internet, Florence, Italy. See: www.dsi.unifi.it/icsm2001.

November 29-30: Translating & the Computer 23, London. Organized by the Association for Information Management (Aslib) and supported by the Institute of Translation and Interpreting, the British Computer Society, and the European Association for Machine Translation. Program Chairs: Daniel Grasmick, SAP; Ruslan Mitkov, Univ. Wolverhampton;

Chris Pyne, Lionbridge Deutschland; and Olaf-Michael Stefanov, United Nations. See: www.aslib.co.uk/conferences/index.html. Contact: Nicole Adamides, Aslib, Staple Hall, Stone House Court, London EC3A 7PB, tel: +44 (0) 20 7903 0000; fax: +44 (0) 20 7903 0011; e-mail: nicole.adamides@tinyworld.co.uk.

2002

January 28-February 1: 20th International Unicode Conference. Washington, DC, USA Organized by the Unicode Consortium. See: www.unicode.org/iuc/iuc20

February 28 - March 2: II International Conference on Specialized Translation, Barcelona, Spain. See: www.upf.es/dtf/activitats/2icst/2ctradsp.htm. Conference Secretariat: Dept. Traducció i Filologia, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, La Rambla 30-32, E-08002 Barcelona, tel: +34 (93) 542-24-09 / 542-22-75; fax: +34 (93) 542-16-17; e-mail: 2congres@grup.upf.es.

July 7-12: ACL-2002. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA. Organizers: Martha Palmer (Local Arrangements) .

August 7-10: 16th World Congress of the International Federation of Translators, "New Ideas for a New Century" Submission deadline, September 1, 2001. See: www.stibc.org/fit2ki.htm.

August 24-September 1: COLING 2002. Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan. Organizers: Chu-Ren Huang, Academia Sinica (Conference Chair), Winfried Lenders (Program Chair), University of Bonn, Germany. Deadline for Workshop Proposals: January 15, 2002. Deadline for paper submission: February 15, 2002. Conference schedule: Tutorials: August 24 - 25 (Academia Sinica); Conference: August 26 - 30 (Howard International House); Post-Conference Workshops: August 31 - September 1, (Academia Sinica). See: www.coling2002.sinica.edu.tw/.

