MT News International

Newsletter of the International Association for Machine Translation

In this issue . . .

Editor's note . . .

This is the second issue of MTNI to be published in San Diego. The process is proving to be faster, more efficient, and less expensive. We appreciate your patience during this transition! Issue #21 should have been the third issue for 1998. We are committed to bringing you three more issues before the end of 1999. Again, we welcome letters to the editor, contributions in the form of news and features, and all offers of assistance, especially volunteers to head up the departments.. —MV

Spotlight on the News

AMTA Launches Certification Initiative, Aims for International Adoption

MV

Ever since the IAMT regional associations were founded, there has been keen interest in giving some form of certification to commercial MT and related products that would serve as an educational and informative guide to potential users and others who follow this field. The panel at AMTA-98, "The AMTA Seal of Approval," chaired by AMTA President Eduard Hovy, not only sparked a lively debate at the conference but also fueled the long-needed impetus for action.

Starting with the panelists as a core, an ad hoc international committee was formed early this year under Hovy's leadership to propose a set of certification standards. The ad hoc committee will report to the IAMT Council, which is expected to eventually promulgate formal standards via an IAMT Committee on Certification Standards. The work being done is not for the benefit of any company or organization. It is not being paid. The certification initiative is an action being taken for the benefit and education of all who are concerned with machine translation. It is hoped to have a first version of the certification system in place by early 2000.

In the meantime, a number of draft proposals have been exchanged and discussed, and a rationalized consensus is emerging. The ad hoc committee has therefore decided to issue a formal statement that prefigures the certification. Basically, it is proposing that MT and related products be grouped into categories, and that

MT News International

Issue No. 21
February 1999

. . . Certification continued

each category have a "necessary and sufficient" set of criteria that describe it adequately and at the same time differentiate it from the other categories. Ultimately, a system will be *certified* in a given category because it meets the stated criteria.

There is agreement already that there should be two broad headings, (1) machine translation systems, and (2) translation support tools, and that each of these will be subdivided. It is proposed to categorize the MT systems by *levels*: basic, standard, and advanced. It is planned to break down the translation support tools into electronic dictionaries, terminology management systems, translation memory systems, etc. Each of the categories will be defined by a distinctive set of criteria, which are in the process of being developed.

The resulting statement will help orient users and MT developers in the rapidly expanding world of machine translation systems and will allow the ad hoc committee to collect more accurate feedback.

At this point the ad hoc committee wants to know what MT developers think, and a letter will soon be sent to them *outlining the detailed criteria for each category and inviting their comments*. The committee will be asking the developers (1) if they are open to having their systems classified; (2) whether they consider the categories appropriate; (3) what additional information the statement should contain; and (4) who the statement should be sent to.

If you or your company wants to be included in this process, please contact Eduard Hovy at *hovy@isi.edu*. He may also be reached by regular mail at the following address:

Dr. Eduard Hovy, President, AMTA
USC Information Sciences Institute
4676 Admiralty Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292-6695 ☐

L&H Readies Internet Translation in Multiple Languages

Capability Integrated into Linguistic Services Division

[Based on press release, 1/26/99]

BURLINGTON, Mass. — Lernout & Hauspie have announced plans to integrate its multilingual Internet service offerings into its Linguistic Division, a group that currently provides a variety of translation and linguistic tools and services primarily to large corporations. The integration is expected to provide customers with more comprehensive translation offerings and to increase the division's market opportunity by adding small to mid-sized companies in a variety of vertical markets. These services are expected to be available from the Internet in March.

L&H also announced that it has completed development of its Internet translation project in 14 language pairs. With the completion of this project involving the its iTranslator family of products, the company has met the milestones set forth under its agreement with the Brussels Translation Group (BTG), the private group that has invested in L&H&'s development efforts for Internet translation services. Said Florita Méndez, president of the Linguistic Services Division, "We expect that the L&H iTranslator offerings will match the demands of professionals looking for a high-quality, timely, multilingual solution."

The languages supported by the Internet translation services include: translations from English to and from Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish; French/German bi-directional translation; Italian to and from French and Spanish; Japanese/Chinese bi-directional; Russian/German bi-directional; Italian/German bi-directional and English/Chinese bi-directional translation.

Further information: www.lhs.com. Contacts: Ellen Spooren, Worldwide PR/IR: +1(781) 203-5344, espooren @lhs.com; Audrey Pobre, US corporate comm: +1 (781) 203-5341, apobre @lhs.com; Nick Spencer, media contact for Europe: +44 (1344) 873-445, nspencer@lhs.com; Annemieke Blondeel, investor contact for Europe: +44 (1322) 520-180, a.blondeel@dial. pipex.com. ◻

Logos-USA Gets New Headquarters

Logos Corporation, developer of Global Enterprise Translation Solutions™, has moved its American corporate headquarters from Mount Arlington to Rockaway, New Jersey. After over thirteen years, Logos had outgrown its former location.

According to Tom Lück, the company's president and CEO, "It was time for the corporation to relocate to a larger office space to accommodate a steadily growing staff. Our success in the market has mandated a move."

The new building is located approximately five miles east of Mount Arlington and offers a much better headquarters facility for Logos.

The move took place in late December, at which time Logos' principal American address became:

100 Enterprise Drive
Suite 501
Rockaway, NJ 07866
USA

Tel. 973-366-7225
Fax 973-366-7697

The Logos European corporate headquarters and the other offices remain in their former locations.

For further information, contact Scott Bennett, Director of Marketing, Logos Corporation, at scottb@logos-usa.com or +1 (973) 366-7225, ext. 104. ◻

Conferences

AMTA-98 Covers "MT and the Information Soup"

Gary A. Coen
Boeing Phantom Works

AMTA held the third conference in its biennial series at the Sheraton Bucks County Hotel in Langhorne, Pennsylvania, on October 28-31, 1998, with workshops on Tuesday, October 27. The full title of the conference was "Machine Translation and the Information Soup: MT in a Growing Field of Language Technologies," and it offered something to interest just about anybody who follows natural language processing technology.

Conference attendees characterized the current global MT culture: the participants included just under 200 MT theorists, developers, users, and others with related language technology interests from diverse governments, academic institutions, corporations, and elsewhere. As usual, members of AMTA's sister organizations in Asia (AAMT) and Europe (EAMT) were well represented.

The program, put together by Program Co-Chairs David Farwell and Laurie Gerber, featured tutorials on Wednesday, October 28, and both plenary and parallel sessions during the three-day conference proper.

Overview: MT Forging Full Speed Ahead on Information Highway

The overriding theme of the conference was that MT was entering the mainstream of information technologies. The featured speakers made this case from various perspectives. Gaston Bastiaens (Lernout & Hauspie) sketched his company's business outlook for MT technology. Louis Monier (AltaVista) related his company's experiences integrating MT into an on-line search engine. Gary Strong (National Science Foundation) described an approach for situating MT technology within the context of other information technologies. Gregory Grefenstette (Xerox) described his company's approach to cross-language information retrieval. Eduard Hovy (Informaton Sciences Institute, University of Southern California) reviewed multilingual text summarization technology. Finally, Pascale Fung (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology) and Dan Melamed (University of Pennsylvania) presented views on the future of the lexicon.

AMTA-98 demonstrated that, as technical and commercial MT matures, the MT culture remains in contact with the fundamentals of the enterprise—quality improvement, data coverage, and standards of approval. This point was made evident in the conference's three well-attended panel discussions. David Farwell (NMSU) moderated a discussion entitled "Breaking the Quality Ceiling" in which panelists dealt with issues involved in reducing the post-editing of MT output. Laurie Gerber (SYSTRAN) led a discussion of MT technology and low-density languages (*i.e.*, natural languages with little or no electronic representation). Eduard Hovy (conference chair, ISI/USC) led a panel entitled "The AMTA Seal of Approval," which explored issues pertaining to the organization's potential designation of approved software.

In my opinion, this sustained concern for fundamentals is the principal thread of commonality between MT and conventional information technologies. For MT, the newcomer, it represents the price of admission to the mainstream.

Pre-Conference Workshops Examine Interlinguas, Embedded MT

On Tuesday, October 27, Stephen Helmreich (NMSU) led a day-long workshop en-

titled "Second SIG-IL Workshop on Interlinguas and Interlingual Approaches to MT." On Wednesday, Clare Voss (ARL) and Florence Reeder (Mitre) led a workshop on the design, construction, and evaluation of systems with an MT component. Papers presented in the workshop on interlinguas explored relationships between interlinguas, ontologies, and lexical semantics, as well as the suitability of various interlinguas to different natural language analysis and synthesis scenarios, including interlingual support for the demands of Slavic tense and aspect as well as spoken dialogue.

> *"The MT culture remains in contact with the fundamentals of the enterprise— quality improvement, data coverage, and standards of approval."*

Presentations in the embedded MT workshop focused on speech-to-speech translation, MT and other language technology support for low-density languages, approaches to the language identification problem, and evaluation methodologies for MT components embedded within other systems.

Tutorials Explore Wide Range Of Subjects in Depth

A number of tutorials were held on Wednesday. Harold Somers (UMIST) conducted a survey of methodological approaches to MT. Ed Hovy and Daniel Marcu (ISI/USC) provided an overview of multilingual text summarization technologies. Monica Woszczyna (CMU) reviewed speech-to-speech MT technology. John White (PRC) reviewed historical and current approaches to MT evaluation. Patricia O'Neill-Brown (U.S. Department of Commerce) surveyed language learning technologies. Gregory Grefenstette (Xerox) presented a view of multilingual text retrieval technology, and Sergei Nirenburg (CRL/NMSU) presented a framework for ontological semantics within a knowledge-based MT framework.

Exhibits and Demos Show Off Latest MT Developments

MT systems and translators' tools were demonstrated in a theater-style setting as part of the regularly scheduled program and in the Exhibition, organized by Kimberly Belvin.

In general, the MT vendors demonstrated significant advancements beyond what was available in commercial products, for instance, at the beginning of this decade. Standalone and distributed client-server packaging of MT services are now common, as are platform-independent, Java-enabled clients. Consumers may now select between MT vendors who offer software integrated to support text capture from remote sources, normalization of captured text (e.g., spell-checking, grammar-checking, and pre-editing), interoperability with translation memory services, and various other sophisticated features in skillfully crafted products with MT engines that are sufficiently robust, customizable, and scalable to provide useful service to government agencies, academics,

businesses, and individuals. To an observer with a historical perspective, it is now clear that ALPAC's predictions were dead wrong, despite its rigorous evaluation methodology.

As evidenced in these exhibits, MT vendors have focused on access to World-Wide Web resources as a critical marketing strategy.

Keynoter Sees Global Village On the Horizon

In his keynote address, Lernout & Hauspie CEO Gaston Bastiaens observed that the Web, as a public forum, is working hand-in-glove with the silicon revolution to speed the transformation of the world into a global village.

In the current global economy, business expansion needs are driving multinationals to embrace language technologies that support local cultural diversity. The European Commission must now support 15 language pairs; soon that number will be 24. Microsoft alone invests $300-$400 million per annum on software localization, and World-Wide Web usage is the driving force behind this multilingual information revolution. English is already becoming a minority language in the global village, and that trend is accelerating.

MT technology will facilitate solutions

AMTA-98: A True Milestone

Virginia Teller
Hunter College

AMTA '98 was a watershed event in the history of AMTA, signaling a true coming of age for the organization. For the first time the conference proceedings were published by Spring-Verlag as a volume in Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence, which will be disseminated to libraries throughout the world. The contents of this volume include contributions from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and the Far East as well as from the Americas on topics as diverse as cross language information retrieval, language learning, and text summarization that touch on every aspect of language technology, not just machine translation. In addition the journal Machine Translation is now officially linked to AMTA.

I doubt that any of us who attended the first meeting of the initial Board of Directors, which was held just seven years earlier, on July 1, 1991, at MT Summit III in Washington, D.C., believed that AMTA could accomplish so much in such a short period of time. ☐

to many of the problems posed by these developments, but it must continue to evolve. Commercial MT coverage of western European languages has stabilized, and expansion to include the standard Pacific Rim languages is under way, but rudimentary in quality by comparison.

A telling diagnostic for the current state-of-the-art in MT technology is the observation that no single commercial product exhibited at the conference provides unidirectional translation from English to each of the target languages Korean, Japanese, Turkish, and Arabic, even though this modest list identifies a strategic constellation of cultures and information flow, given the global political economy.

AMTA President and General Chair Eduard Hovy

Challenges Remain

As of this writing, technology development is trailing demand. Further, AMTA-98 conference vendors exhibited technology sufficient for gathering and disseminating information but insufficient for, say, export translation of product publicity. *Caveat emptor.* Fully automatic high-quality machine translation is yet a distant ambition. Translation bureaus and localization services will expand alongside MT vendors as stabilizing forces during this multilingual information revolution.

Innovative Papers Address Many Problems

Papers presented during the conference addressed many of the familiar challenges and some that are entirely new. A survey of a representative sample follows.

Innovative approaches to utilization of World-Wide Web resources were offered in several papers. One described a method for identifying parallel corpora on the Web (P. Resnik). Two others documented multilingual information retrieval approaches utilizing query translation in support of document retrieval, one of which treated the issue generally (S. McCarley and S. Roukos), while the other focused on a context involving Web resources (G. Bian and H. Chen). A fourth paper presented an analysis of real-time MT usage on the web (J. Yang and E. Lange).

Several papers treated the rapid assembly of MT systems from extant components. Collaboration between CMU and Bilkent University produced a paper describing rapid assembly experiences in the development of interlingual

Keynoter Gaston Bastiaens

English-Turkish MT (D. Hakkani, G. Tur, K. Oflazer, T. Mitamura, and E. Nyberg). Other papers described rapid assembly approaches for domain-specific English, French, and Arabic MT (M. Palmer, O. Rambow, and A.

Nasr) and the semi-automatic assembly of a transfer-MT knowledge base for low-density languages (D. Jones and R. Havrilla).

In contrast, other writers described a more deliberative approach to MT in the context of production systems. Two papers described experiences inserting MT technology into industrial information infrastructures. One report focused on the domain specificity of industrial MT at General Motors (K. Godden), and the other addressed issues associated with the integration of multilinguality in the enterprise workflow at

Program Co-Chair Laurie Gerber

various European Union automotive manufacturers (J. Schütz and R. Nübel).

A number of papers reported empirical approaches to MT research utilizing sentence alignment or example-based machine translation strategies, among others. One paper presented an analysis of naming in parallel texts (P. Danielsson and K. Muhlenbock). Two papers dealt with the statistical extraction of bilingual lexicons, one using parallel corpora as a knowledge source (D. Melamed) and another using non-parallel corpora (P. Fung). A novel approach was presented in a paper describing a methodology for producing sentence alignment using machine-readable dictionaries (MRDs) (A. Meyers, M. Kosada, and R. Grishman). Indeed, MRDs were reported as a critical knowledge resource for various research frameworks.
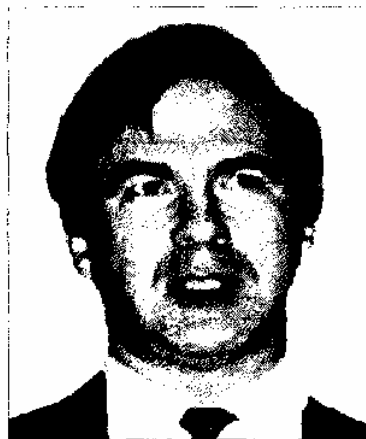
In one paper, a bilingual MRD served as a knowledge source in the prediction of Mandarin verbal thematic structure from English sense definitions assigned to the Mandarin verbs (M. Olsen, B. Dorr, and S. Thomas). In another, a semantic hierarchy was extracted from information presented in an MRD.

Conclusion

AMTA-98 brought together many people interested in the machine translation of hu-

man languages, and it provided a balanced forum for the discussion of the leading ideas current in the field. The conference proceedings document (*see below*) the state of the art for a technical audience.

The conference program included invited speakers, panels, and system demonstrations that were approachable for anyone with translation interests, including commercial system developers, researchers, sponsors, and others who are studying, evaluating, and attempting to understand the science of MT. ☐

AMTA-98 Proceedings

Starting with AMTA-98, the AMTA conference proceedings are being published by Springer-Verlag. The bibliographic details are as follows:

Farwell, David; Gerber, Laurie; Hovy, Eduard (eds.). *Machine Translation and the Information Soup*: proceedings; Langhorne, PA, USA, October 28-31, 1998. Berlin, Heidelberg, etc.: Springer, *1958*. Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence, 1529. ISBN: 3-540-65259-0. Price: US$ 79.

The volume may be purchased from Springer-Verlag in New Jersey. Phone orders: +1 (800) SPRINGER [i.e., 1 (800) 777-4643], or (201) 438-4033 in New Jersey (8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET). Mail orders should be addressed to:

Springer-Verlag New York, Inc.
P.O. Box 2485
Secaucus, NJ 07096-2485

Mail payments may be made by check, purchase order, or credit card. Add applicable taxes and $4.00 s&h.

For further information, see www. springer-ny.com/catalog/np/jan99np/3-54065250-0.html. ☐

Test Yourself!

Elliott Macklovitch
RALI, DIRO
University of Montreal

Advancing age and a receding memory have turned me into a compulsive note-taker. So when our MTNI editor asked me for a critique of AMTA-98, my first reaction was to reach for my trusty notebook. And there I discovered, much to my own stupefaction, thirteen (13!) densely packed pages of illegible scrawl, vaguely reminiscent of the Dead Sea scrolls. Mustering all the linguistic savvy at my command, I managed to extract from these a delectable collection of quotations, which I originally intended to offer up as my contribution to the annals of MT. But then I thought to myself: "Not so fast there, Mister! People can SUE YOU for this kind of thing!"

Well, I pondered this one for a good while, and I finally came up with the following compromise. I'll give you the quotations all right; at least as best as I can reconstruct them. (I'm not a man to back down in the face of danger.) Only I won't tell you who said them. That's for YOU to figure out. (Hey, why should I do all the work?) In this way, those of you who attended can test your own memory to see how carefully you were listening . . . or how soundly you were sleeping . . .

So here we go!

AMTA-98 QUIZ

Can you recall who said the following at AMTA-98? And why?

1. "In five years' time, we'll all be talking to our operating system."

2. [Referring to Babelfish] "Probably the best advertising investment I ever made."

3. [Referring to the development of MT systems for neglected languages] "The problem isn't technology; it's money."

4. "Our objective is a translation that uses correct terminology and is grammatically and semantically accurate. We don't care about style."

5. "Everything we could parse, we could translate."

6. [Referring to cross-lingual information retrieval] "If you use MT, it's a crap shoot."

7. "I'm an ordinary person. What the ordinary person wants to know is: Do you gets what you pay for?"

8. "The only remaining question is: Who will be the first to use [these empirical methods] to their advantage in the MT marketplace?"

9. "We're getting a lot better at producing crummy MT systems a lot faster, for a lot less money."

10. "I did NOT have sexual relations with that woman . . . Ms. Lewinsky." ☐

Translating and the Computer 20

London, November 12-13, 1998

JH

Aslib has been organising its annual series of conferences for translators and others interested in developments in MT since 1978. To mark the twentieth in the series, the organisation provided once more a wide-ranging and interesting perspective on the current state of the art in its conference, held again in the splendid surroundings of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

The proceedings were opened by a survey from John Hutchins of the previous conferences since the first one-day meeting in November 1978 held in response to the (for many translators) surprising reawakening of interest in MT after the 10 fallow years since the notorious ALPAC report of 1966. Their interest had been aroused by news that the European Commission had decided to tackle its translation problems by installing the SYSTRAN system. Since that date, the Commission has been a prime mover in MT developments in Europe both directly and indirectly. The proceedings of the Aslib conferences have reflected many of these and other world-wide developments, and John Hutchins' talk, although restricted specifically to papers given at the Aslib events, provided many participants with a general view of 20 years of MT development.

Dorothy Senez and Dimitri Theologitis provided valuable insight into current developments in the European Union, the former with an account of the present post-editing facilities provided for users of SYSTRAN in the Commission, the latter with his description of the EURAMIS system being introduced at present, which combines many translation tools, vast lexicographic resources, the text databases of the Commission (notably CELEX), and the SYSTRAN translation systems.

Current software developments were the subject of talks by Steve McLaughlin from Lernout & Hauspie, whose recent acquisitions of a number of MT systems has aroused much speculation; by Svetlana Sokolova, who provided an update of the software products from ProMT of St. Petersburg (Russia); by Kaarina Hyvänen from Finland, with an account of the Kielikone Finnish-English MT system in practical use by various Finnish companies; and by Jörg Schütz, in a detailed review of the MultiDoc system being developed for a number of European car manufacturers for the production, management, and translation of technical documentation and after-sales information. In addition, Thomas Lück gave a look into the future from the perspective of the Logos Corporation.

A session devoted to translator training (a popular slot in recent Aslib conferences) consisted of a joint presentation by Tony Hartley (Brighton, UK) and Klaus Schubert (Flensburg, Germany) on devising courses to incorporate MT as integral components, and a talk by Pascale Mertens (Brussels) on her personal experiences in teaching about MT to translators in training.

Three talks covered various aspects of translation support: Jeanette Oersted described the consultancy services for small and medium sized companies that are provided by LCC (Language Consulting Center) in Denmark; Klemens Waldhär (Nuremberg) described the integrated translation environment offered by the EPTAS system, a client-server translation platform capable of supporting various MT systems, text converters, translation memories, etc.; and Dawn Murphy (Multilingual Technology Ltd., Luton, UK) described tools for controlled authoring and language management, and their benefits for translators, translation memory, and MT systems.

In a final session, Sophia Ananiadou (Manchester) gave a comparative overview of the research and commercial scenes in Europe and Japan. The topics covered in this informative and wide-ranging review included the differences in MT user profiles, questions of localisation and standardisation, the changing roles of MT providers, translation tools, and MT services. As an appendix to the printed paper, the author provides a useful listing of current Japanese MT products.

The proceedings are available from Aslib, Staple Hall, Stone House Court, London EC3A 7PB, UK; tel: +44 (171) 903-000; fax: +44 (171) 903-0011; e-mail: pubs@aslib.co.uk. Further information: www.aslib.co.uk. ☐

EAGLES Workshop
Pisa, January 19-20, 1999

JH

The EAGLES Workshop, held in Pisa under the auspices of the Consorzio Pisa Ricerche, brought together researchers and experts in human language technology from Europe and the United States. Its intention was twofold: to present the most recent results from the three workshops that now constitute EAGLES (Lexicon, Spoken Language, and Evaluation), and to explore future links with groups of similar interests and aims in North America.

The working group on the Lexicon reported impressive agreement on proposed standards for semantic relations, frames and tagging, while admitting that much more needed to be done on the 'word sense problem'; and closer cooperation with workers in the US in this field was a major priority. The Spoken Language Workgroup had the most concrete result to present, a handsomely printed *Handbook of Standards and Resources for Spoken Language Systems* (published in 1997 by Mouton de Gruyter), with contributions by experts worldwide. Discussion in this session

centred on further necessary work on 'dialogue annotation' of corpora, multimodal systems and their evaluation, terminology (with a database already accessible on the SLWG Web site), and the question of updating the handbook and its dissemination.

The workgroup of most interest to the MT community was that on Evaluation Methodology (chaired by Maghi King and Bente Maegaard). A report of its results can be found at www.cst.ku.dk/ projects/eagles2.html. The group has focussed on methodologies for 'adequacy evaluation', developing standard descriptions of types of users, tasks, systems, devising metrics for functionality, reliability, usability, efficiency, portability, etc., and testing its proposed methodological framework on spelling checkers. The framework developed by the workgroup

is now advanced enough for application to other language technology tools, and it was proposed that attempts be made to apply the methodology to spoken language systems and to machine translation. Eduard Hovy, who presented his own detailed proposals for MT evaluation methodology, suggested that a group in Europe and a group in the United States should each apply the EAGLES methodology to existing MT systems. For Europe, the most appropriate would appear to be the systems of the European Commission. Co-operation between those involved in MT evaluation and certification in Europe and North America was clearly desirable, and concrete proposals arising from decisions made at the meeting are expected within a short time. ◻

TMI-99: "Modalities and MT—Where Can MT Be Used?"

Chester, UK, August 23-25, 1999

The eighth conference in the series Theoretical and Methodological Issues in Machine Translation will be held in the historic city of Chester, UK, this coming August 23-25. The conference will be preceded by tutorials on August 22 and followed by workshops on August 26.

TMI-99 is supported by EAMT and by Aslib, The Association for Information Management.

Full details of the program, including a synopsis of each tutorial, a schedule, and details of how to register, may be found at the conference Website, *www. ccl.umist.ac.uk/events/tmi99/.*

Tutorial Program

Tutorial participants can choose either a one-day introduction to MT and translation tools, or a half-day tutorial on acquiring knowledge for MT in low-density languages., the latter to be conducted by Sergei Nirenburg.

The Introduction to MT will start

with an overview by John Hutchins, followed by sessions on localisation (Reinhard Schaeler); translation workstations (Ian Gordon); the EU translation service (Dimitri Theologitis); and MT evaluation (Jörg Schütz).

Workshops

After the conference there will be two parallel one-day workshops .

The first, "Constraints on Machine Interpretation," is being convened by Susanne J. Jekat and Jan Amtrup. Full details are available at *http://crl.nmsu. edu/~jamtrup/tmi99/.*

The second , "Problems and Potential of English-to-German MT Systems," is being convened by Claudia Gdaniec. Details at *www.research.ibm.com/ people/g/cgdaniec/tmi99.html.*

Conference Officers

The General Chair of the conference series is Sergei Nirenburg of CRL, New Mexico State University, and the Program Chair of TMI-99 is Francis Bond, NTT CS Labs, Kyoto.

The Local Chairs are Arturo Trujillo and Harold Somers, both of UMIST, Manchester, UK.

All inquiries should be addressed to Francis Bond, *bond@cslab.kecl.ntt.co. jp.* ◻

1999 EAMT Workshop: "EU and the New Languages; Translation — Possibilities, Policies and Practicalities"

Prague, April 22-23, 1999

The European Association for Machine Translation, in collaboration with the Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, are pleased to announce that the 1999 EAMT Workshop will be held at the Krystal Hotel, Jose Marti Str., Prague 6, Czech Republic, on April 22-23, with a welcoming reception on Wednesday, April 21.

Preliminary Programme (as of 3/15/99)

Welcome and Introduction

Eva Hajicova, Prague, Local organizer

John Hutchins, EAMT president

Bente Maegaard, Copenhagen, Programme Committee chair

- "Government Language Policy: Translation of EC Legislation into the Czech language"—*Pavlina Obrova, Czech Coordinative Centre for Translation of EU materials, Prague*

- "EU: Preparing for New Languages"— *Dimitri Theologitis, EC Translation Services (SdT), Luxembourg*

- "Experience from Translation of EU Documents"—*Gábor Proszeky, Morphologic, Budapest*

- "Aligning and Extracting Translation Equivalents from EU documents: A Possible Look on EU Integration"—*Elena Paskaleva, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia*

- "Local Business with a Translation Need" (e.g. because of machine directive, patents) (TBA)

- "The SYSTRAN Approach to Development of Tools for the New Languages"—*D. Sabatakakis, SYSTRAN, France*

- "The New Logos Concept: Translation Technology, Language Services, Consulting"—*Tom Lück, Logos*

MACHINE TRANSLATION SUMMIT VII
"MT in the Great Translation Era"

Singapore, September 13-17, 1999

2nd Call for Papers

MT Summit VII is now soliciting submissions of research papers, system presentations, and user reports in the broad field of machine translation and natural language processing. Details are given in the "Paper Submission" section at right.

The Summit program will also include many invited presentations by researchers, users, and policymakers from all parts of the world. A preliminary version of the program appears on the next page in the "Invited Speakers" section.

The seventh Machine Translation Summit, organized by the Asia-Pacific Association for Machine Translation (AAMT), will be held at Kent Ridge Digital Labs on the campus of National University of Singapore on September 13-17, 1999. Meetings of the MT Summit have been held once every two years since 1987 under the auspices of AAMT, EAMT (European Association for Machine Translation), and AMTA (Association for Machine Translation in the Americas). MT Summit VII, which is the last conference of the 20th century in the premier series of conferences on machine translation, will provide a forum for discussing the prospect of MT and related areas in the coming century. MT Summit VII will feature an expanded program including research papers, reports on users' experiences, discussions of policy issues, invited talks, panels, exhibitions, tutorials, and workshops. AAMT invites all who are interested in any aspect of machine translation—researchers, developers, providers, users, and watchers—to participate in the conference.

Schedule			
Monday, 13th:	Tutorials		Reception
Tuesday, 14th:	Main conference	Exhibition	
Wednesday, 15th:	Main conference	Exhibition	Banquet
Thursday, 16th:	Main conference	Exhibition	
Friday, 17th:	Workshops		

Paper Submission

MT Summit VII seeks original papers in all aspects of machine translation. Topics of interests include, but are not limited to:

- Methodologies for MT (rule-based, knowledge-based, analogy-based, statistics-based, etc.)
- Practical MT systems (MT for professional translation, MT for the Internet, MT for localization, etc.)
- Translation aids (translation memory, terminology databases, etc.)
- Speech and dialogue translation
- Natural language analysis and generation techniques
- Dictionaries and lexicons for MT systems
- Text corpora for MT and knowledge extraction from corpora
- Human factors in MT and user interfaces
- Evaluation techniques
- Standards in text and lexicon encoding for MT
- Cross-lingual information retrieval
- MT and related technologies (information retrieval, text categorization, text summarization, information extraction, etc.)

There will three categories of papers:

Research Papers

Submissions are invited for reports of significant research results in any aspect of machine translation and related areas. Such reports should include a substantial evaluative component. Papers should be in English, not longer than 5,000 words.

System Presentations with Demos

Submissions are invited for reports on the design, implementation, operation and evaluation of operational and prototype systems. Reports should be in English, not longer than 2,000 words.

User Studies

Submissions are invited for reports on users' experiences with applying MT to some task, evaluation of MT systems, analysis of MT markets, etc. Reports should be in English, not longer than 5,000 words.

All types of papers should be submitted to the address in the box and must be received by the date indicated. Papers should include a cover page containing the following information:

- Paper title;

- Author(s)' name(s), affiliation(s), address(es), and e-mail address(es);

- 200-word abstract;

- *For research papers*: up to 5 keywords;

- *For system presentations with demos*: the heading SYSTEM PRESENTATION WITH DEMO and specification of the hardware, software, and network requirements for the demonstration;

- *For user studies*: the heading USER STUDY.

Please mail four (4) hard copies of the paper to the following address:

MT Summit VII
Asia-Pacific Association for
  Machine Translation (AAMT)
3F, Shiba-Koen Sanada Bldg., 3-5-12
  Shiba-Koen,
Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0011, JAPAN

In addition, please submit an ASCII version of the cover page electronically to:

aamt0001@infotokyo.or.jp

Important Dates

April 30, 1999

Deadline for paper submission
(*Note: This date has changed since the first call for papers.*)

May 30, 1999

Notification of acceptance

July 15, 1999

Final deadline for camera-ready copy

Invited Speakers

In addition to submitted paper sessions, the conference program will include a keynote speech, invited talks, regional reports, special sessions on selected topics, and panel discussions. Following is a list of invited speakers.

Opening Session

Representative of the Singapore Government

Representative of the Japanese Government Ministry of International Trade and Industry

Keynote Speech

Hozumi Tanaka, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan

(President, International Association for Machine Translation)

Invited Talks

Martin Kay, Xerox PARC and Stanford University, USA

Professor Kay, who has been a leading scientist in computational linguistics and machine translation, will present a technological perspective of MT.

Jo Lernout, Lernout & Hauspie Speech Products nv, Belgium

Dr. Lernout, one of the most successful entrepreneurs in the field of speech and language, will present an industrial prospect for MT and related technologies.

Toru Nishigaki, University of Tokyo, Japan

Professor Nishigaki, an interdisciplinary researcher in computer science and sociology, will give an enlightening talk on the social implications of MT.

Survey Reports on MT in Each Area

Asia

Hemant Darbari, Center for Development of Advanced Computing, India

Aiping Fu, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China

Hirosato Nomura, Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan

Europe

Rose Lockwood, Equipe Consortium Ltd., UK

North America

(TBA)

Special Sessions

"Controlled Language"

Hiroyuki Kaji, *Coordinator*, Hitachi, Ltd., Japan

Uus Knops, LANT nv, Belgium

Teruko Mitamura, Carnegie Mellon University, USA

"Localization"

Virginia Cha, *Coordinator*, Star+ Globe Technologies, Singapore

Michael Anobile, Localisation Industry Standard Association, Switzerland (TBC)

(TBA)

"MT and Speech"

Key-Sun Choi, *Coordinator*, Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, and Korea Terminology Research Center for Language and Knowledge Engineering, Korea

Hitoshi Iida, ATR Interpreting Telecommunications Research Laboratories and SONY Computer Science Laboratories Inc., Japan

Gianni Lazzari, Instituto per la Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologia, Italy

"Multilingual Information Access"

Vilas Wuwongse, *Coordinator*, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

Thomas Baker, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

Sung H. Myaeng, Chungnam National University, Korea

"MT from the Research Perspective"

Dominique Estival, *Coordinator*, University of Melbourne, Australia

(TBA)

(TBA)

"Views from Users"

Hirosato Nomura, *Coordinator*, Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan

(TBA)

(TBA)

"MT for the Next Century"

Jun-ichi Tsujii, *Coordinator*, University of Tokyo, Japan, and University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, UK

Eduard Hovy, University of Southern California Information Sciences Institute, USA

Shin-ichiro Kamei, NEC Corporation, Japan

Keh-Yih Su, Behavior Design Corporation, Taiwan

Yorick Wilks, Sheffield University, UK

(TBA—from MT users)

(TBA—from MT users)

Panels

"International Cooperation—From Funding Agencies' Point of View"

Antonio Sanfilippo, *Moderator*, European Commission, Luxembourg

Roberto Cencioni, European Commission, Luxembourg

Lianzhong He, Development and Planning Commission of China, China (TBC)

Akira Kubota, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Japan (TBC)

Ronald Larsen, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, USA

Gary Strong, National Science Foundation, USA

"MT Evaluation"

Margaret King, *Moderator*, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Eduard Hovy, USC Information Sciences Institute, USA

Benjamin K. Tsou, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

"MT Evaluation" (cont.)

John White, Litton PRC, USA

Yusoff Zaharin, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia

Closing Session

John Hutchins, University of East Anglia, UK

Exhibition

Many commercial and research systems, including a speech translation system by C-STAR Consortium (ATR, CMU, etc.), will be demonstrated in exhibit booths throughout the conference. About 30 booths will be prepared for exhibitors. Spaces will be allocated to applicants on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like to exhibit, please contact the Exhibition Coordinator, Vicky (e-mail: vicky@krdl.org.s).

About Singapore

Singapore is a vibrant, sophisticated city state of 3 million people offering the best of modern facilities and comforts while retaining her heritage and culture. A progressive, cosmopolitan city, Singapore has the world's best airport, Changi International Airport, and lies at the crossroads of Asia. Known for her food and shopping, Singapore is a thriving nucleus for tourism, trade and finance. The climate in Singapore is tropical all year round, with high humidity and temperatures varying between 23 degrees Celsius (74° F) in the evening to 32 degrees Celsius (90° F) during the day. Showers are sporadic and heavy but also brief and refreshing. Light summer clothing may be worn throughout the day.

About the Venue

Kent Ridge Digital Labs (KRDL) is a national applied research and development organization established in January 1998 through the merger of former national IT institutes—the Information Technology Institute (ITI) and the Institute of Systems Science (ISS). With a diverse team of more than 400 research scientists, KRDL's aim is to be the premier research and development organization in Asia-Pacific for information and networking technologies.

Conference Organization

Organizing Committee

Honorary Chair
Makoto Nagao
Kyoto University, Japan

Chair
Hozumi Tanaka
Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan

Vice Chairs
Hwee Boon Low
Kent Ridge Digital Labs, Singapore

Jun-ichi Tsujii
University of Tokyo, Japan, and University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, UK

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Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Korea

Robert Dale
Macquarie University, Australia

Zhendong Dong
Chinese Information Processing Society, China

Dominique Estival
University of Melbourne, Australia

Changning Huang
Tsinghua University, China

Hitoshi Iida
ATR Interpreting Telecommunications Research Laboratories and SONY Computer Science Laboratories Inc., Japan

Etsuo Ito
Toshiba Corporation, Japan

Hiroyuki Kaji
Hitachi, Ltd., Japan

Shin-ichiro Kamei
NEC Corporation, Japan

Asanee Kawtrakul
Kasetsart University, Thailand

Kunio Matsui
Fujitsu Laboratories Ltd., Japan

Se Young Park
Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute, Korea

Wanchai Rivepiboon
Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Trihono Sastrohartono
Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology, Indonesia

Youlwon Seong
Language and Computer, Ltd., Korea

Satoshi Shirai
ATR Interpreting Telecommunications Research Laboratories, Japan

Keh-Yih Su
Behavior Design Corporation, Taiwan

Chew Lim Tan
National University of Singapore, Singapore

Benjamin K. Tsou
City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Dekai Wu
University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong

Yusoff Zaharin
Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia

International Advisers

Laurie Gerber
SYSTRAN Software, Inc., USA

Eduard Hovy, University of Southern California Information Sciences Institute, USA

John Hutchins, University of East Anglia, UK

Antonio Sanfilippo, European Commission, Luxembourg

Further Information

Please visit our Websites for up-to-date information on MT SUMMIT VII:

http://www.krdl.org.sg/mts99
or
http://www.jeida.or.jp/aamt/mts99

- "The L&H Approach to Development of Tools for the New Languages"—*Gregor Thurmair, Lernout & Hauspie*

- "The ProMT Translation Technology for Russian and Other Languages"—*Svetlana Sokolova, PROMT, St. Petersburg*

- "Sakhr CAT Integrated Translation Solutions" (demo)—*Hani Tawfick, Sakhr Software Company, Cairo*

Panel on Translation Tools
EAMT General Assembly

- "Translation to and from Russian: The ETAP-3 System"—*Igor Boguslavsky, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow* (TBC)

- "On Intermediate Structures and Tectogrammatics with regard to Simplifying Transfer"—*Petr Sgall, Prague*

- "On Translation between Closely Related Languages, with Examples from Czech and Slovak"—*Jan Hajic and Vladislav Kubon, Charles University, Prague*

- "On Automatic Dictionary Extraction from Czech-English Parallel Corpora—*Martin Cmejrek, Jan Curin, Charles University, Prague*

- "Tools for the CEC Languages: An Overview"—*Poul Andersen, EC DG XIII, Luxembourg*

- "Human Language Technologies: Possibilities in the EU 5th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development"—*Bente Maegaard, Center for Sprogteknologi, Copenhagen*

- "Summary and Conclusions"—*Dimitri Theologitis, EC Translation Services (SdT), Luxembourg*

Close

Social Activities

In addition to the welcoming reception on Wednesday evening, participants are invited to attend a concert with refreshments in the centre of town on Friday, April 23.

Registration

Full information about registration, including a registration form, may be found on the conference Website, *http://ufal.mff.cuni.cz/eamt.html.*

Accommodations

A room bloc was reserved for participants at the Krystal Hotel (price for a single room, DM 27; double, DM 35, breakfast included). Although the deadline for taking advantage of these rooms has passed, some may still be available. See the Website for details.

Further information: Eva Hajicova, Director, UFAL MFF UK, Malostranske namesti 25, CZ-118 00, Prague, phone: 420-2-2191-4252; fax: +420-2-2191-4309; e-mail: hajicova@ufal.mff.cuni.cz. Website: http://ufal.mff.cuni.cz/eamt.html. □

Association News

AMTA

SIG on MT Post-Editing Established at AMTA-98

Jeff Allen
Technical Director
European Language Resources Association

In response to the increasing demand for MT post-editors over the last few years, the AMTA formed a new special interest group at the association's General Assembly, held on during the course of AMTA-98 in Langhorne, Pennsylvania.

The new SIG intends to address several issues with respect to post-editing within various production environments. One objective of the group is to provide documented information about post-editing methodologies, since very little published material is available on the subject. A second objective is to assist in the creation of post-editing training materials that can be made available to different organizations that are interested in post-editing. Thirdly, the group will help to define the different types and levels of post-editing (i.e., rapid post-editing, minimum post-editing, medium-level post-editing of high-quality disseminated documentation; post-editing of legal texts, etc.), as this remains a fuzzy area. Also, the SIG hopes to eventually establish test materials that can be used to certify post-editors in the minimum skills necessary for post-editing tasks.

The founding members of the Post-Editing SIG reflect have all had extensive involvement in post-editing and the training of post-editors. They are: Martin Roberts, President of Linguistic Systems, Inc., who has been in the business of recruiting and training translator/post-editors for several years; Walter Hartmann, Technical Director of Heitman of America, Inc., who has also had extensive experience working with translator/post-editors; Muriel Vasconcellos, retired from the Pan American Health Organization, where for 12 years she headed an MT post-editing service; and Jeff Allen, now with ELRA (see story on page 14) and formerly a trainer at Caterpillar, Inc., where he was responsible for overseeing translation post-editing and controlled language technical writing.

The Post-Editing SIG would like to recruit more members with interest and experience in this area.

Contact: Muriel Vasconcellos, Muriel Vasconcellos@compuserve.com. □

MT Marketplace

The MT Market in the Asia-Pacific Region

Yuko Shimamoto-Caleo
Fidelity Management, Tokyo, Japan

The Asian Software Market

For the first time, PC application software sales in the Asia-Pacific region broke the US$1 billion mark in the first three quarters of 1996. Japan accounted for more that 70% of total sales in the region. At the same time, MT products developed in Japan are coming out with new language combinations, such as translation between Japanese and Korean, and Chinese-to-Japanese. The following report focuses on the situation in Japan.

The Internet

In recent years the number of Internet users in Japan has grown dramatically, from 1.8 million at the end of 1995 to 5.3 million a year later, with forecasts of 10.8 million by the end of 1997 and some 32 million by the year 2000. Japan ranks sixth in the world in the number of host sites available for Internet users, yet the country has only 5% as many sites as there are in the United States and about 60% of the number in Germany or Britain.

It is reported that 279 companies were providing Internet services in Japan at the end of 1995, and 1,538 companies were doing so by the end of 1996. In Japan there has also been a rapid increase in the number of personal computers used at home, from 11% of all households in 1990 to 22% of all households in 1996.

MT Market Projections

The Japan Electric Industry Development Association predicts that the market for global sales of MT is expected to reach ¥1,000 million (US$ 10 billion) by the year 2020. There is a great need for MT in Japan, since much of the needed information in print or on-line is available only in English. In the other direction, less than 25% of Japanese business and technical information is available in English.

Distribution of MT

As is well known, many Japanese companies, such as Toshiba, originally built their equipment with software installed. Other companies also sell bundled products, where MT is integrated with other software.

Retail sales of MT products are much quieter in Japan. The prices are still too high—probably three to four times the price of the average product in the United States. From my experience in the financial world, I have not found any corporations that are using MT as yet. However, other companies with technical manuals may make use of customized solutions for their own needs. Many people use on-line access to translation services.

MT Product Development

Why are there over 100 English-to-Japanese products? Before Windows 95 was introduced, there was no computer standard with which to work. We had many different product lines and different platforms. The Macintosh platform had the largest share, with 7% of the personal computer market at that time.

MT developers are mostly private companies, so information is difficult to verify. All have English-to-Japanese products, while a very few sell Japanese-to-English products.

MT Product Sales

The top MT sellers in Japan include *Transer* by NOVA, Fujitsu's *Atlas, JE Bank*, and *EJ Bank* by AILogic Kamejima and LogoVista's *E-J*.

Sales volumes are deceptively high. At least three companies claim over 1 million units sold, and most companies claim sales of at least 100,000 units. A large percentage of MT software is distributed via originally installed computer equipment, which means that although it may be pre-installed or bundled, it is not necessarily being used.

Trends

Many corporations as well as individual users have translating Websites and on-line information. Currently, customers are mainly attracted by MT with Internet tools. Something else that is becoming more popular in Japan is Web translation software, which allows users to browse the Web and touch a button to get an immediate translation of a Web page written in English. With the increasing number of users in Japan and the explosion in English-language information on-line, sites that offer this capa-

bility are becoming much more popular.

On-line services include Fujitsu's Atlas and NiftyServe, which provide e-mail translation from English, Korean, Chinese, French, or German. The cost is ¥2 per character (kana or kanji), while human translation costs ¥4 and up per character. InTransNet is another e-mail service that provides English-to-Japanese and Japanese-to-English text translation for registered users. The setup fee is US$ 11.00. One page of raw output of about 2,000 characters costs US$ 1.50, while a postedited copy of about 2,000 characters costs US$ 36.50.

Japanese machine translation programs for the Internet had combined sales in 1996 of more that 1 million copies. Catena -Collier came out with an English-to-Japanese product in November 1994. Kamejima Sangyo produced Transpad and a Web browser in July 1995. Nova brought out NetSurfer with English-to-Japanese translation in 1995. Sanyo Information Business came out with the Internationalist in May 1996. Media Vision produced Dr. Surf in 1996. Oki Software produced *Pensée* for the Internet.

Kamejima has produced AILogic with E-to-J Bank and J-to-E Bank. It runs on a Japanese version of Windows 95/ NT. NeocorTech LLC has two products: Tsunami (English-to-Japanese) and Typhoon (Japanese-to-English). They have built-in fonts and support, and they run on any language version of Windows 95/NT except Japanese.

Recommendations

In Japan we need greater availability and compatibility of non-Japanese language pairs. Although Japanese people learn to speak English from about the age of 11, very few of them are fluent in other languages.

We need longer trial periods for evaluation of the effectiveness of a product. We also need better integration with the translation work flow process. We also need much lower prices on products. ❏

People

Jeff Allen Moves to ELRA

Jeff Allen moved to Paris at the end of 1998 to become the new Technical Director of the European Language Resources Association, better known to readers as ELRA, which works in conjunction with the European Language Resources Distribution Agency (ELDA)

Jeff is responsible for written corpora and terminology databases and projects at ELRA/ELDA, including the application of validation criteria to language resources by using existing and upcoming validation manuals. He also co-edits the ELRA quarterly newsletter, which contains articles about language resources in the language engineering sector. In addition, he is the contact person for the different calls for tenders and proposals that are offered by ELRA for the production, packaging, and distribution of language resources.

ELRA, established in February 1995 with the support of the European Commission, promotes the development and exploitation of language resources in Europe. A nonprofit organization, it aims to serve as a focal point for the collection, marketing, distribution, and licensing of resources, as well as for more general information on the subject. These resources include all data necessary for language engineering, such as monolingual and multilingual lexica, text corpora, speech databases, and terminology. In the case of machine translation, for example, its role is to provide bi- and multilingual lexica in various formats for incorporation into projects and systems.

In addition to helping users and developers, government agencies, and other interested parties to exploit language resources for a wide variety of uses, ELRA serves as the European repository for EU-funded language resources, and it interacts with similar bodies in other parts of the world.

ELRA also promotes the production, packaging, and customization of language resources by offering calls for proposals for production projects that might be eligible for funding from ELRA. The association looks to package and customize small sets of key resources that would not be supported within the framework of the language engineering program but which nevertheless are crucial and ready to be embedded in language engineering systems.

Jeff did his master's and doctoral studies in linguistics at Lyon University. In 1995 he joined Caterpillar, Inc., to train technical writers in the principles of controlled language writing, and to train human translators in the principles of post-editing and the use of various translation systems and tools. In 1997 he took a position as research linguist at Carnegie Mellon University, where he was responsible for text and speech database development and implementation for the DIPLOMAT speech translation project in the Serbo-Croatian, Haitian Creole, Korean, Spanish, and French languages.

Jeff also taught French at Portland State University, the Ecole Superieure de Commerce de Lyon, and Indiana University, and in addition he has taught ethnology, communication, and English, as well as sociolinguistics.

For more information, see www.icp. grenet.fr/ELRA/home.html, or contact Jeff Allen, tel: +33 (1) 43 13 33 33; fax: +33 (1) 43 13 33 30; e-mail: jeff@elda.fr. Please also contact Jeff if you would like to contribute an article to the ELRA quarterly newsletter. ❏

Publications

Publications Received

Journals

Computational Linguistics vol. 24, no. 4 (December 1998); *Language International* vol. 10, no. 4 (August 1998); vol. 10, no. 5 (September 1998); vol. 10, no. 6 (December 1998); *Language Today* no. 12 (September 1998); no. 13 (October 1998); no. 14 (November 1998); no. 15 (December 1998); *Machine Translation* vol. 13, no. 1 (1998); *Multilingual Computing & Technology* vol. 9, no. 5 (1998); vol. 9, no. 6 (1998).

Special attention is invited to *Machine Translation* vol. 13, no. 1 (1998), in which the following papers from AMTA-96 are reprinted: "A Controlled Skip Parser" (Kenji Yamada); "Translation Differences and Pragmatics-Based MT" (Stephen Helmreich and David Farwell); "Line 'Em Up: Advances in Alignment Technology and Their Impact on Translation Support Tools" (Elliott Macklovitch and Marie-Louise Hannan); "Bilingual Sentence Alignment: Balancing Robustness and Accuracy" (Michel Simard and Pierre Plamondon); "The Challenges of Cross-Modal Translation: English-to-Sign-Language Translation in the Zardoz System" (Tony Veale, Alan Conway, and Bróna Collins).

Conference Proceedings

1998 EAMT Workshop: Translation Technology: Integration in the Workflow Environment. Proceedings, Geneva, 2-3 April 1998, [*Available from the EAMT Office—see address on page 20.*]

Translating and the Computer 20: Proceedings of the Twentieth International Conference on Translating and the Computer, London, 12-13 November 1998. London: Aslib, 1998. ISBN 0 85142 417 1. —*JH*

Editor's note: See page 4 in this issue for full information about the proceedings of AMTA-98 . ☐

Calendar

1999

April 21: "Saving Time and Money in Translation," Logos Translation Symposium/Seminar Series. Hyatt Regency Tech Center, Denver, Colorado. *Information: +1 (800) 564-6768; fax: (973) 366-7697; e-mail: info@logos-usa.com Contact: Scott Bennett, phone: (973-366-7225; e-mail: scottb@logos-usa.com.*

April 23–25: 1999 EAMT Workshop, Prague. Information: *http://ufal.mff.cuni.cz/eamt.html. Contact:: Eva Hajicova, phone: +420-2-2191-4252; fax: +420-2-2191-4309; e-mail: hajicova@ufal.mff.cuni.cz.*

[*See further details on page 8 of this issue*]

May 12-14: "Translation and Technology: An Investment in Your Company's Future," Logos Translation Symposium/Spring '99 Conference. Monterey Marriott Hotel, Monterey, California. *Information: +1 (800) 564-6768; fax: (973) 366-7697; e-mail: info@logos-usa.com Contact: Scott Bennett, phone: (973-366-7225; e-mail: scottb@logos-usa.com.*

June 22–27: ACL-99 Conference: 37th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, University of Maryland. *Program information: acl99@mri.mq.edu.au.*

August 9–20: ESSLLI-99: European Summer Schools in Logic, Language and Information, Utrecht, Nether-lands. *Information: www.coli.uni-sb.de/esslli/.*

August 22–27: HCI-99. 8th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, Munich, Germany. *Information: HCI99@iao.fhg.de.*

August 23–25: TMI-99, 8th International Conference on Theoretical and Methodological Issues in Machine Translation, Chester, UK. Program chair: Francis Bond. *Information: bond@cslab.kecl.ntt.co.jp.*

September 13–17: MT Summit VII, Kent Ridge Digital Labs, National University of Singapore, Singapore. General Chair: Hozumi Tanaka; Local Organizing Committee Chair: Hwee Boon Low; Secretary: Victorine Chen-Toh; Program Committee Chair: Jun-ichi Tsujii; Vice Chair: Loong Cheong Tong. *Information: www.krdl.org.sg. Contact: Vicky, phone: +65 874-2003; fax: +65 776-8109.*

[*See further details on pages 9-12 of this issue*]

2000

September 16–18: International Conference of the Natural Language Translation Group, British Computer Society, University of Exeter, UK.

2001

September: MT Summit VIII, Santiago de Compostela, Spain. ☐

Users' Forum

Letter to the Editor

In relation to my article in MTNI #20, I noticed that the price I mentioned has changed. My article about DéjàVu was written last summer, and Atril have since ended their promotional offer. DéjàVu now costs $990, but of course the program has also undergone exten-sive updating, and many new features have been added.

—*Peter* Kjeldsen

Editor's note: This space in MTNI #22 will feature the article "What Do Users Need from MT Systems," by Edith Westfall. Starting with MTNI #23, Peter Kjeldsen will be in charge of the Users' Forum. ☐