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# MT News International

Newsletter of the International Association for Machine Translation

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## Spotlight on the News

### EAMT hosts MT Summit VIII in historic European cultural capital

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

#### *An Invitation . . .*

*The European Association for Machine Translation, working in cooperation with the Commission of the European Communities and the Xunta de Galicia, takes pleasure in inviting all to participate in MT Summit VIII, the eighth in the series of official conferences of the International Association for Machine Translation. The biennial Summit convenes developers, researchers, users, and others interested in machine translation from all parts of the world and provides them with a unique opportunity to learn about recent advances and share their experiences.*

*The conference will be held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, on September 18-22, 2001. A destination for pilgrims since the early Middle Ages, this medieval city has been preserved intact and continues to be a major tourist center that attracts thousands of visitors each year.*

*You will not want to miss this important event. We look forward to seeing you in Santiago de Compostela and urge you to register early at [www.eamt.org/summitVIII](http://www.eamt.org/summitVIII).*

*—John Hutchins, EAMT President, and the EAMT Committee*

See details starting on page 9 ▶



## MT News International

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## AMTA-2000: ¡Muy bien!

by Elliott Macklovitch

Let me begin with the venue. The Misión del Sol was splendid—even more beautiful than the pictures on the Website had led us to expect. The accommodations were lovely; but the grounds and the gardens, the pool and (reportedly) the spa facilities... well, they were just magnificent. Some mornings it took no

small effort to turn our backs on all this and walk off to the Angeles and Estrellas rooms where the presentations were being given. Of course, some people complained about the difficulty of obtaining an Internet connection. The workaholics... No, but seriously, this is a consideration we should take into account when choosing a venue for future conferences.

As most of our readers know, this was the first time AMTA has held a conference outside the United States and Canada—something that we felt we had to do if the Association is to speak for MT in all of the Americas. I'll let Laurie Gerber tell you about the pre-conference workshops and tutorials. As for the main program, as usual, there was something for everyone. Among the invited talks, Kevin Knight presented a painless and entertaining introduction to statistical MT, complete with his famous squiggly drawings; Antonio Sanfillippo gave a cogent overview of the European Union's Human Language Technology program—no mean feat; and John Hutchins spoke on the IAMT's certification initiative.

There was a free-wheeling panel on the dot-coms; another on MT post-editing; and Jennifer Decamp had us rolling in the aisles with her video excerpts on how MT has been portrayed in science fiction movies



Aerial view of Misión del Sol with mountains in the distance

Photos courtesy of Michael McCord

over the years. Not to mention the many presentations on systems that translate to and from pretty well every language you could imagine (even ASL!); plus sessions on evaluation, example-based methods, alignment techniques, lexicography – you name it. All of this was rounded out by a small but extremely interesting set of exhibits featuring demos from IBM, SYSTRAN, PAHO, LogoVista, and MultiCorpora R&D.

And then there was the banquet! Now, I've been to a banquet or two in my day, but site of this one, at the hacienda of Hernán Cortés, the Spanish *conquistador*, was just breathtaking!

For those obdurate ones whose breath wasn't taken away, there was all the suspense surrounding the conference proceedings. Would they arrive or would they not arrive before we left? Finally, on Friday evening around six o'clock John White pulled up to the gates of the Misión del Sol at the head of a mule train with boxes of proceedings on the burros' backs... Well, we just had to throw our Stetsons in the air!

I, for one, had a great time. Oh! Am I not supposed to say that? What I'm supposed to say is that I really learned a great deal. But why must the two be mutually exclusive? Well, at the AMTA-2000 Conference in Cuernavaca, they weren't; which is why the conference was so enjoyable.

Continued ▶

## The user's perspective

by Laurie Gerber

Arriving at Misión del Sol, the site of AMTA-2000, was like being delivered into an oasis. The multi-stage journey had seemed like it would never end—the flight to Mexico City, the bus to Cuernavaca, the bumpy taxi ride through the narrow dusty streets from downtown Cuernavaca—and then we were deposited at the entry: a giant wooden door in a high adobe wall. Hotel staff were there to greet us as we set foot on the pavement. The massive gates opened to reveal the lush grounds, and we were whisked up the long cobblestone and gravel paths to the registration area in a quiet electric golf cart. Every view was refreshing and beautiful—ponds and fountains, the exquisitely maintained botanical collection (it was way beyond “landscaping”), the citrus orchard, the large circular swimming pool, the calm solid adobe and stone buildings. It was as though I could feel my blood pressure drop.... Yes, I am planning to tell you about MT users, but I could not fail to mention a setting such as this.

A pre-conference MT users' workshop held on Tuesday, October 10, brought together about 25 people from the MT community. The motivation for holding such a workshop was concern that the AMTA conference programs needed to offer more content that directly addressed the concerns and interests of users. I organized this event with the help of Mary Flanagan in the hope that users would come to the workshop, stay for the conference, voice their opinions, and enrich the overall conference environment.

The day-long workshop included talks by two invited speakers. (Kathleen Egan from the U.S. Government, and Paul Sheng, CEO and co-founder of TheOne Technologies), a panel discussion on “What we need from MT,” two submitted papers, and breakout sessions. A few of the participants had long-term experience working with MT, others a few years or less. Still others came to learn more about whether to use machine translation. Of those with real experience

using machine translation, some were using MT in relatively traditional ways, while some were using it on-line in very innovative ways. What follows is a sampling of ideas, implementations, and anecdotes both from the workshop and from those parts of the regular conference program that addressed the interests and concerns of people who use MT to accomplish real tasks. A more detailed account is scheduled to appear in the *International Journal of Translation* in 2001.



Entrance to Misión del Sol

### Applications: From Old Guard to New Guard

Members of the MT community are generally familiar with the classification of MT use in terms of *assimilation* (in which speed is more important than quality) and *dissemination* (in which quality is key to the provider's effectiveness), and also possibly *communication*. The workshop participants described ongoing use of MT in these areas and also some new variations.

Government agencies have represented a core group among MT users. Government uses of MT include *assimilation* (rapid scanning/gisting/filtering of large quantities of text for intelligence purposes) and *dissemination* (translation and postediting for distribution, for example within the European Union and NATO, and the Pan American Health Organization). The need for MT in these areas continues to be strong because the volume is much

higher than can be handled by the available/affordable pool of translators. Kathleen Egan explained that within the government, use of MT is sometimes viewed as a tradeoff in which the purchase and development of MT is pitted against the hiring and training linguists. However, this is a false characterization because there will never be enough linguists to translate the desired volume. Skilled translators must be used where they are most needed—namely, for documents that have been identified as important for full translation. MT continues to have a key role in accelerating throughput for human translators and in giving monolingual analysts access to foreign language publications.

Gustavo Silva of the Pan American Health Organization reported on one of the long-term successes in machine translation—namely, the use of ENGSPAN and SPANAM by this branch of the World Health Organization to translate texts in medicine, public health, agriculture, and many other subject fields. Dr. Silva is a senior reviewer and posteditor at PAHO. He pointed out that suboptimal translations are usually attributable to such factors as the ongoing change of language, ambiguous texts, and the misuse of terms and grammar by authors. These problems can be avoided when there is authoring control or pre-editing.

The PAHO presentation stood in contrast to the others, which frequently referred to such stumbling blocks as organizational tension over the suitability of MT, management's lack of commitment to full and effective implementation, and translator resistance to working with MT output, among others. At PAHO, the use of the systems and the systems themselves have grown up together, optimized into a sort of ideal “happy family.”

The new guard, on the other hand, is pushing the limits of MT and redefining its categories of use. Bob Sheng, CEO and co-founder of TheOne Technologies, described his company's service for localizing Web content into Asian languages. The service is based on the application service provider model, in which the customer provides only the content. A typical client would be a company with an on-line product catalog, or a news Website with continually breaking

Continued on page 15 ▶

# L&H restructuring advances apace

## No change in the status of MT holdings

[Based on press releases]

With new CEO Philippe Bodson at the helm, Lernout and Hauspie Speech Products is making stepwise progress toward reorganization under the bankruptcy protection it was recently granted—Chapter 11 in the United States, as of November 29, 2000, and Concordaat, the Belgian equivalent, since January 5 of this year.

### Recent Events

The following developments represent positive steps for the company:

- The U.S. Bankruptcy Court has approved a low-interest loan of US\$ 60 million under the rules of debtor-in-possession (DIP) financing. Of this amount, \$10 million will be used to fully repay a previous loan from GE Capital (*February 20, 2001*).
- The U.S. Court has also approved the sale of L&H's C-REC and SDX speech recognition applications to U.S.-based Visteon Corporation for US\$ 13.1 million in cash and other considerations, thus bringing to a close the troubles it has had with that company (*March 29, 2001*).
- The company has signed an expanded agreement with MediaGold for the production and marketing of L&H products in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (*March 22, 2001*).
- Taking advantage of expertise gained last year when it acquired Computer Based Medicine, Inc., L&H's Dictaphone division recently formed an R&D team to accelerate the development of speech- and text-processing technology for the health care market (*February 5, 2001*).
- An Extraordinary General Meeting of Stockholders has been convened for April 27, 2000, in Ieper, Belgium.

The audio versions of recent press conferences may be accessed at the L&H Website, [www.lhs.com](http://www.lhs.com).

### Background

Over the last two years Lernout & Hauspie has had to address mounting legal problems in connection with the reporting of its assets and earnings. Its travails

began with a spate of shareholder law suits in early 1999. They worsened considerably when the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission stepped in to audit, and they came to a head with the discovery of a financial crisis at L&H/Korea last November. The Korean news was soon followed by bankruptcy filings in the United States and Belgium.

In the meantime, L&H shareholders watched their investments take a roller-coaster ride. The price of a share soared from US\$ 20.00 in late 1999 to over \$70.00 a few months later. A two-for-one stock split in April fueled further optimism, even in the shadow of an impending class-action lawsuit by some of the shareholders. Then in mid-2000 the stock price went into a free fall, plunging to less than \$1.00 after the bankruptcy announcement in November, and it has hovered in the low single digits ever since.

### Management Turnover

Efforts to deal with the escalating problems have been reflected in a rapid turnover of top management and many resignations from the board of directors. But that phase may well be over.

Philippe Bodson, who became CEO on January 16, 2001, is a widely respected captain of industry in Belgium and a senator in the Belgian legislature. Bodson replaced John Duerden, who took over from Gaston Bastiens on August 24, 2000. Duerden had been CEO of Dictaphone, which had recently been acquired by L&H for its sophisticated health care management technology.

Duerden stepped down from the Board of Directors at the time of Bodson's appointment, as did co-founder Jo Lernout, who remained as Chief Technology Officer. "I've taken this decision, he said, "with the sole objective of serving the interests of the company and maximizing its chances to recover." Others had left earlier, including founding partner Pol Hauspie, Board Chairman Roel Pieper, Managing Director Nico Willaert, and Joo Chung Seo, L&H/Korea, who was suspended.

### MT Holdings

As MT-watchers are aware, L&H's acquisitions since 1997 have included several major MT systems—Globlink, Neocor, AllLogic, Apptek, GMS (METAL)—not to mention a number of translation and localization service providers. All these holdings come under Mendez Translations, a large and venerable translation service provider that L&H acquired in 1996 for US\$6.9 million. The 30-year-old Spanish company is headed by Florita Mendez, daughter of its founder.

The Mendez division now markets translation on two fronts: through localization projects for large software and Web companies, and directly to Internet users through its iTranslator portal. The latter provides on-line MT as well as traditional HT services.

Since acquiring Mendez Translations, L&H has added 13 more translation and/or localization companies to its roster and integrated them into the Mendez division. The unit now has a network of translation businesses around the world with 750 employees in 17 countries. The Mendez team also includes an R&D department of more than 50 linguists.

When L&H took on Mendez in 1997, the latter's annual revenue was US\$15 million. By 1999 that figure had risen to \$91 million and represented about one-third of L&H's total income worldwide. In 2000 its revenue topped \$100 million. A large share of the work volume, both before and after it joined L&H, has involved localization projects for Microsoft.

Mendez was the only European unit excluded from the bankruptcy filings, and the audits have raised no questions about this division. As of March 2001, no plans had been announced to reorganize language services. Florita Mendez remains as President of Mendez, S.A., and is also an executive officer of L&H.

### Concluding Thoughts

Although L&H's appetite for acquisitions has sometimes been viewed by MT-watchers as cause for concern, on the positive side, its confidence and willingness to invest in language technology have been invigorating for the community and have helped to stimulate commercial competitiveness in the MT field. The subsequent faltering of this giant has been disheartening. □

## Logos Corporation merges with global words

The German language services provider global words GmbH, located in Eisenach/Thuringia, has finalized the takeover of American-based Logos Corporation. According to global words' managing director Joerg Ott, this merger will create one of the leading foreign language service provider groups worldwide.

Logos has been developing automatic translation software based on linguistic logics since 1969 and is deemed a worldwide leader in the field.

*Further information: global words GmbH, Hospitalstrasse 6, 99817 Eisenach, Germany; tel: +49 03691-204-0; fax: +49 03691-204-204; Website: www.globalwords.de; e-mail: info@globalwords.de. □*

## Language Partners open London office

*[Based on a press release]*

Language Partners International has opened a new sales office near London in cooperation with WORDtrans, a business-to-business provider of localization software and services. The office will focus on sales, customer service, and support. It will be headed by David Arrowsmith, who has extensive experience in global publications and localization.

Brian Briggs, Managing Director for LPI, pointed out that "This third office for LPI furthers our ability to provide our customers with centralized, enterprise-wide software solutions, in addition to providing local time-zone customer service and support."

Since 1995, Language Partners International has specialized in computer-assisted translation solution for professional translators, product localization specialists, software publishers, and international business users.

*Further information: UK office tel: +44 (0)1342 826064; also: Tori L. Brixius, Marketing Assistant (re: UK office), +1 (847) 492-1600; e-mail: tbrixius@languagepartners.com; Joanna Krupa, e-mail: jkrupa@languagepartners.com; Website: www.languagepartners.com.*

## Smart Link offers on-line services

*[Based on a press release]*

Smart Link Corporation, a company that specializes in multilingual communication solutions, recently launched a suite of on-line language services—dictionaries, translation, and a file-sharing system—as part of its Paralink.com project.

The intent of the project is to address the growing need for small and medium-sized businesses and individuals to be able to manage their Web space with greater ease and convenience. The company also delivers various language-related services in the Internet environment. The system integrates

modules such as fonts, OCR, translation, and code page conversion with portable mobile communication equipment.

Founded in 1993, Smart Link offers a line of high-quality products designed to enable users to communicate in foreign languages. Its offerings range from an extensive library of multilingual fonts, keyboard managers, proofing tools, computerized dictionaries, and OCR software to full language translation systems.

*Further information: e-mail: info@smartlinkcorp.com; contact: Julia Khar-kats, julia@smartlinkcorp.com. □*

## Products

### IBM about to unveil WebSphere Translation Server

*[Based on a press release]*

Last January IBM announced the imminent unveiling of its WebSphere Translation Server, which will provide high-speed translation of Web pages, e-mail messages, and on-line chat from English into Spanish, German, French, and Italian, and from those languages back into English. WebSphere will also translate English into traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.

The IBM WebSphere Translation Server will allow Internet service providers, corporations, and other entities running their own servers to translate communications in real time, with a speed that clocks at 500 words per second. The software has the tools that enable subject-specific vocabulary, such as words used in finance or science, to be added.

"The demand is very simple," said Ozzie Osborne, General Manager of IBM Voice Systems. "It's for people who want to translate quickly and easily, who can't get [traditional] translation," he said, referring to the

growing number of non-English-speaking users on the Web.

Osborne added that the WebSphere Translation Server has already been tested by businesses such as Deutsche Bank, and he pointed out the advantage of enabling workforces in global companies to communicate. He also predicted that the product would open up new markets for e-commerce sites.

Steve McClure, Vice President of Speech and Natural Language Software at IDC, welcomed the announcement of the WebSphere Translation Server. "At present, the machine translation industry consists mainly of small, segmented players with no clear leader," he said. "IBM's entry signifies a major turning-point and will help to validate and accelerate the adoption of machine translation." He went on to say that the market for MT software is projected to reach \$378 million by 2003.

WebSphere Translation Server is expected to make its official appearance in April and be priced in the neighborhood of \$10,000 per processor. □

## WorldLingo translation offered by Microsoft

[Information submitted to MTNI]

WorldLingo's combination of machine and human translation services are available on Microsoft's Office Update Website, the popular companion Website for Microsoft Office: <http://office.microsoft.com/services/category.asp?cid=3@b> (click on eServices).

WorldLingo's MT software is being used to provide quick and easy translations of e-mail, Websites, and documents into Asian and European languages. At the same time, each machine translation is accompanied by a quote for professional human translation, and a form is provided for use in uploading a document for this service. Alternatively, customers can also upload a document and get an instant quote without having to use machine translation.

Other key features of the service include subject dictionaries and special character input.

Microsoft General Manager Jeff Olund noted that WorldLingo's translation services will enable Office customers to translate their documents and Websites into over 40 languages. Indeed, he pointed out, over 90% of the languages of Internet users will be available through WorldLingo's translation service.

According to WorldLingo CEO Phil Scanlan "The machine translations offer the gist of the text, allowing the user to quickly ascertain the importance of the information." Then: "The instant quote allows people to promptly submit a professional translation request to WorldLingo."

Further information: Alastair Lindsay, WorldLingo, The Language of Business, tel: +61 (7) 3876 0911; e-mail: [alastair@worldlingo.com](mailto:alastair@worldlingo.com); Website: [www.worldlingo.com](http://www.worldlingo.com). □

## MIT2 develops tools for Haitian Creole

[Based on press releases]

Mason Integrated Technologies, Ltd. (MIT2), a software development and service provider that specializes in NLP solutions for Creole languages, is using MT to develop localization tools for Haitian Creole. In this undertaking it has teamed up with Smart Communications Inc., of New York and ABLE International, Inc., of Boston.

Smart Communications, which offers computer-aided language translation, among other products, has agreed to license the paired English/Haitian Creole versions of its SMART Translator automated MT software. MIT2, for its part, will customize the software and offer MT to Creole-speaking and Creole-interested markets as part of its Creole Tool Suite™. This tool suite includes a range of products and services for authoring/translation document workflow processes.

The partnership with ABLE, a company specialized in localization, translation, and intercultural communication activities, is intended to expand Creole lan-

guage localization business activities while applying MIT2 tools to localization efforts as a means of increasing and improving productivity in the Haitian workplace.

Further information: Mason Integrated Technologies Ltd (MIT2), P.O. Box 181015, Boston, Massachusetts 02118; tel: +1 (617) 247-8885; fax: +1 (617) 262-8923; e-mail: [mit2usa@aol.com](mailto:mit2usa@aol.com); Website: <http://hometown.aol.com/mit2usa/Index2.html>.

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## In Memoriam

### Eric Adolphson (1958-2000)

I am sorry to relay to you the sad news that our colleague and friend Eric Adolphson passed away at the age of 42 on Thursday, December 14, 2000 in Peoria, Illinois (USA) from a sudden heart attack.

Eric has been a significant contributor to the field of natural language processing through his participation as associate linguist and documentation specialist in controlled language and machine translation on the Caterpillar Technical English (CTE) project since 1994.

Eric was well known for his in-depth knowledge of the automotive and heavy machinery domains in addition to having a very solid grounding in linguistics. Eric had this unique hybrid of skills from having had been an automobile mechanic during his college and graduate school years as a student of linguistics. He held a master's degree in linguistics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and had completed all but his dissertation for the Ph.D. in linguistics at that institution.

In addition to his expertise in controlled language and machine translation, particular linguistic interests (notably for his graduate studies) was in the local language of Fiji in the Pacific Ocean.

Anyone who knew Eric would certainly say that he can be remembered for his sense of humor. He always knew how to liven up work and linguistic-related topics with something witty and funny.

Eric is survived by his wife, mother, two brothers, and a sister.

Contributions in memoriam may be made to the American Heart Association.

-- Jeff Allen

# Conferences

## NAACL-2001: Language Technologies 2001

Pittsburgh, June 2-7, 2001

Language Technologies 2001: Second Meeting of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL) will be held at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, hosted by Carnegie Mellon's Language Technologies Institute. Submissions were invited from all researchers in the fields of computational linguistics and language technologies without regard to geography.

The co-located Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP-2001) will take place on June 3-4.

Following a day of tutorials on June 2 and two days of workshops on June 3-4, the main conference is scheduled for June 5-7. The conference officers are: Lori Levin (Carnegie Mellon), General Conference Chair; Kevin Knight (USC/Information Sciences Institute), Program Chair; Alon Lavie (Carnegie Mellon) Local Arrangements; Dekang Lin (Univ. Alberta) Tutorials; Lillian Lee (Cornell Univ.); Lynn Carlson (Dept. of Defense), Exhibits.

Conference Website: [www.cs.cmu.edu/~ref/naacl2001.html](http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~ref/naacl2001.html).

Four pre-conference workshops have been organized, as follows.

### Automatic Summarization

June 3

Organizers: Jade Goldstein (Carnegie Mellon) & Chin-Yew Lin (USC/Information Sciences Institute)

Website: [www.isi.edu/~cyl/was-naacl2001/](http://www.isi.edu/~cyl/was-naacl2001/)

### Adaptation in Dialogue Systems

June 4

Organizers: Eric Horvitz & Tim Paek (Microsoft) & Cindi Thompson (University of Utah)

Website: [www.isi.edu/~cindi/AdaptDial.html](http://www.isi.edu/~cindi/AdaptDial.html)

### WordNet and Other Lexical Resources: Applications, Extensions, and Customizations

June 3-4

Co-Chairs: Wim Peters, Mark Stevenson & Yorick Wilks; Don Moldovan & Sanda Harabagiu

Two workshops have merged.

Website: [www.seaas.smu.edu/~moldovan/mwww/top.html](http://www.seaas.smu.edu/~moldovan/mwww/top.html)

### MT Evaluation: Hands-On

June 3-4

Organizers: Florence Reeder (MITRE) & Eduard Hovy (ISI/Univ. of Southern California)

Website: [www.isi.edu/natural-language/mteval](http://www.isi.edu/natural-language/mteval) □

## ACL-2001: Joint EACL / ACL Meeting

Toulouse, France, July 6-11, 2001

A joint meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) and its European Chapter (EACL) will take place in Toulouse, France, organized by a team from IRIT, the University of Social Sciences, and the University of Le Mirail.

Following two days of workshops on July 6-7 (except for SENSEVAL-2 on July 5-6) and a day of tutorials on July 8, the main conference will be held on July 9-11. The conference officers are: Bonnie Webber (Univ. Edinburgh), General Chair; Norbert Reithinger (DFKI) and Giorgio Satta (University of Padova), Program Co-Chairs; Rebecca Bruce (University of North Carolina), Workshops; Paola Merlo (University of Geneva) and Gertjan van Noord (Alfa Informatica, Groningen), Tutorials; and Roberto Zamparelli (University of Bergamo), Publications.

Main Website: [www.irit.fr/ACTIVITES/EQ\\_ILPL/aclWeb/main\\_acl2001.html](http://www.irit.fr/ACTIVITES/EQ_ILPL/aclWeb/main_acl2001.html) □

Website for workshops: [www.cs.unca.edu/~bruce/acl01/](http://www.cs.unca.edu/~bruce/acl01/)

There are 11 pre-conference workshops, as follows:

### SENSEVAL-2: Evaluating Word Sense Disambiguation Systems

July 5-6 [note starting date!]

Organizers: Scott Cotton & Martha Palmer (Univ. Pennsylvania), Phil Edmonds (Sharp) & Adam Kilgarriff (ITRI/Univ. Brighton)

Website: [www.sle.sharp.co.uk/senseval2](http://www.sle.sharp.co.uk/senseval2)

### CoNLL-2001: Computational Natural Language Learning

July 6-7

Program Co-Chairs: Walter Daelemans (Univ. Antwerp) & Rémi Zajac (New Mexico State Univ.)

Website: [www.cs.unca.edu/~bruce/acl01/CoNLL.html](http://www.cs.unca.edu/~bruce/acl01/CoNLL.html).

### 8th European Workshop on Natural Language Generation

July 6-7

Co-Chairs: Helmut Horacek (Univ. Saarland), Nicolas Nicolov (IBM) & Leo Wanner (Univ. Stuttgart)

Website: [www.cs.unca.edu/~bruce/acl01/NLG.html](http://www.cs.unca.edu/~bruce/acl01/NLG.html)

### Evaluation Methodologies for Language and Dialogue Systems

July 6-7

Organizers: David Novick & Karen Ward (Univ. Texas/EI Paso) Joseph Mariani & Patrick Paroubek (Limsi/CNRS), Candy Kamun (AT&T), Nils Dahlbäck (Linköping Univ.) & Frankie James (NASA)

Website: [www.cs.unca.edu/~bruce/acl01/evaluation.html](http://www.cs.unca.edu/~bruce/acl01/evaluation.html)

### Human Language Technology & Knowledge Management

July 6-7

Program Co-Chairs: Mark Maybury (MITRE) & Niels Ole Bernsen (Univ. of Southern Denmark)

Website: [www.elsnet.org/acl2001-hlt+km.html](http://www.elsnet.org/acl2001-hlt+km.html)

Continued on next page ▶

### Arabic Language Processing: Status and Prospects

July 6

Co-Chairs: Mustafa Yaseen (Amman Univ.) & Joseph Dichy (Univ. Lumière-Lyon)

Website: [www.elsnet.org/acl2001-arabic.html](http://www.elsnet.org/acl2001-arabic.html)

### Open Domain Question-Answering

July 6

Organizers: Yael Ravin & John Prager (IBM) & Sanda Harabagiu (Southern Methodist Univ.)

Website: [www.cs.unca.edu/~bruce/acl01/QA.html](http://www.cs.unca.edu/~bruce/acl01/QA.html)

### Temporal and Spatial Information Processing

July 7

Organizers: Lisa Harper (MITRE), Inderjeet Mani (MITRE & Georgetown Univ.) & Beth Sundheim (SPAWAR)

Website: <http://epsilon3.georgetown.edu/~discours/spacetime.html>

### Data-driven Machine Translation

July 7

Organizers: Jesse Pinkham (Microsoft), Kevin Knight (ISI/Univ. Southern California) & Franz Josef Och (RWTH Aachen)

Website: [www.cs.unca.edu/~bruce/acl01/MT.html](http://www.cs.unca.edu/~bruce/acl01/MT.html)

### Sharing Tools & Resources for Research & Education

July 7

Co-Chairs: Thierry Declerck (DFKI) & Mike Rosner (Univ. Malta)

Website: [www.elsnet.org/acl2001-tools.html](http://www.elsnet.org/acl2001-tools.html)

### Collocation: Computational Extraction, Analysis & Exploitation

July 7

Organizers: Béatrice Daille (Univ. Nantes) & Geoffrey Williams (Univ. Bretagne-Sud)

Website: [www.cs.unca.edu/~bruce/acl01/collocation.html](http://www.cs.unca.edu/~bruce/acl01/collocation.html) □

## Machine Translation & Large-Scale Applications

Tours, France, July 5, 2001

### Call for Papers

To be held in conjunction with TALN-2001 (July 2-5), this workshop has a Program Committee headed by Christian Boitet of CLIPS-IMAG, équipe GETA, in Grenoble, France.

The workshop will look at the challenges posed for machine translation and multilingual NLP by the remarkable recent growth in translation volume (e.g., a million requests a day on the Internet), as well as number of genres and types of translations being requested (FAQ, Websites, newspapers, e-mail, etc.), and the attendant need for more specialized translation.

To support the growing need for data in specialized areas, it is essential to build very large multilingual resources covering a broad range of subject areas. The workshop will look at the issues involved in the construction, validation, and utilization of large-scale resources applied to machine translation.

A 5-page abstract or a final paper up to 10 pages in length may be submitted on any of the following topics:

- Use of standardization formalisms on large volumes of data
- Evaluation and implementation of tools for building such resources
- Integration & conversion of existing resources
- Validation and "expert" improvement processes
- Massive parallel acquisition of terminology from within a user network
- Management of multilingual resources vs. bilingual resources
- Multilingual extraction and machine translation.

Website: [www.systransoft.com/TALN2001-en.html](http://www.systransoft.com/TALN2001-en.html) □

Important Dates	
Submission deadline	April 30
Notification to authors	May 7
Deadline for camera-ready copy	May 20

## II International Conference on Specialized Translation

Barcelona

February 28 - March 2, 2002

### Call for Papers

This conference, convened by the translation studies programs at the University of Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, will focus on the translation of scientific and technical texts. Its contributions are aimed at improving knowledge about this field of translation. It will look at two broad aspects:

- Practical, theoretical, and historical aspects of scientific and technical translation, and
- The resources used in scientific and technical translation (terminology, computer, applications, documentation).

The program will include invited formal presentations, 20-minute talks selected from among the proposals submitted to the Program Committee, and posters selected by the Program Committee.

Proposals for the 20-minute talks in either of the two broad areas should be in the form of summaries up to 1,000 words in length. The languages of the conference are Catalan, Spanish, English, French, or German.

Further information: Conference Secretariat: II International Conference on Specialized Translation, Dept. Traducció I Filologia, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, La Rambla 30-32, E-08002 Barcelona; tel: +34 (93) 542 24 09 / (93) 542 22 75; fax: +34 (93) 542 16 17; e-mail: [2congres@grup.upf.es](mailto:2congres@grup.upf.es); Website: [www.upf.es/df/activitats/2icst/2ctradsp.htm](http://www.upf.es/df/activitats/2icst/2ctradsp.htm).

Technical Support Secretariat, for registration, travel, and accommodations: Ultramar Express, Diputació 238-244, E-08007 Barcelona; tel: +34 (93) 482 71 40; fax: (93) 482 71 58; e-mail: [ccomno@uex.es](mailto:ccomno@uex.es) □

Important Dates	
Deadline for abstracts	September 30
Notification of acceptance	November 15
Deadline for final summary	December 31



## Translating & the Computer 23

London, November 29-30, 2001

### Call for Papers

Organized by the Association for Information Management (Aslib) and supported by the Institute of Translation and Interpreting, the British Computer Society, and our own EAMT, this conference is one of the few international events that focuses on the user aspects of translation software. As such, it reaches out to a very wide audience, including translators, business managers, researchers, and language experts.

Again the conference will look at the latest developments in translation (and translation-related) software. It will address the needs of attendees from industry, public administration, translation agencies, freelance translators, and those involved in development.

Website: [www.aslib.com](http://www.aslib.com).

In the same spirit, this year's Program Chairs—Daniel Grasmick (SAP), Ruslan Mitkov (University of Wolverhampton), Chris Pyne (Lionbridge Deutschland), and Olaf-Michael Stefanov (United Nations Secretariat)—are calling for abstracts of proposed papers and presentations that focus on the user aspects of translation or translation-related software, rather than on theoretical issues. Presentations accompanied by demonstrations are especially welcome.

The range of topics includes, but is not limited to:

- Use of MT systems
- Machine-aided translation
- Controlled languages & their use in MT
- Speech translation
- Terminology
- Localization
- Multilingual document management/workflow
- The Internet & translation aids/services

- Case studies of technology-based solutions
- The value of "free" versus "charging" services/sites on the Internet.

### Submission Guidelines

Authors are asked to submit an abstract of at least 500 words of the paper they wish to present, together with an outline of the structure of the paper and a short *biography*. Abstracts should be sent by post or e-mail before June 15 to *Nicole Adamides*, Conference Organizer, Aslib, The Association for Information Management, Staaple 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](mailto:nicole.adamides@tinyworld.co.uk). □

#### Important Dates

Deadline for abstracts	June 15
Notification of acceptance	August 1
Deadline for final version	October 10

## 8th International Conference on Translation

Langkawi, Malaysia, September 2001

### 1st Announcement—Call for Papers

The University of Utara Malaysia, the Institute of Language and Literature (DBP), the Malaysian Translators Association, and the Malaysia National Institution of Translation are convening the 8th International Conference on Translation for September 2001 in Langkawi, Malaysia. They have chosen the theme "Translation in Management and Informational Technology: Towards Developing a k-Economy."

Website: <http://web.uum.edu.my/ict/>

Proposals are sought for papers in the following areas, among others:

- The applications of technology in translation
- Management and quality control in translating
- The roles of translators in the transfer of technology
- The importance of translation in the development of a k-economy □

### Editor's Find . . .

As I was poring over the *San Diego Union-Tribune* at breakfast a few weeks ago, my eyes fell on the following partial report of MT research undertaken by columnist James Hebert. With apologies for the missing first three parts, I share it now with MTNI readers.

— Muriel Vasconcellos

#### NOT KANSAS—RIO

Welcome to Movie Quote Mutator, Volume 4: The Portuguese Connection. In this edition of Mutator, we take famous quotes from movies, translate them into Portuguese using an on-line translation tool, and then morph them back into English.

We wait that you he likes resulted them. (In other words: We hope you like the results.)

MOVIE: "The Wizard of Oz"

QUOTE: "I'll get you, my pretty, and your little dog, too!"

MUTATED: "I will start, my pretty dog, and its small one too much!"

MOVIE: "Network"

QUOTE: "I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!"

MUTATED: "I am so wild how much the hell, and I am not going to make examination anymore of this!"

MOVIE: "To Have and Have Not"

QUOTE: "You know how to whistle, don't you, Steve? You just put your lips together and blow."

MUTATED: "You know to whistle, not you, Steve? You match only its edges and establish."

MOVIE: "Jerry Maguire"

QUOTE: "Show me the money!"

MUTATED: "It shows the money to me!" □

# Association News

## EAMT General Assembly

Austrotel, Ljubljana

May 11, 2000

The Assembly was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by EAMT President, *John Hutchins*, who chaired the meeting.

The following members were present: Anthony Clarke, Viggo Hansen, John Hutchins, Jaro Lajovic, Dimitri Theologitis, Anne Tucker, Rita Nübel, Adriane Rinsche, and Palmira Marrefa.

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

The Chairman reviewed the agenda, which the Assembly then approved unanimously.

### 2. Executive Committee Reports

**President's report.** The President (*John Hutchins*) reported on last year's activities. Unfortunately, he could not attend MT Summit VII in Singapore. However, the EAMT Council was well represented, and he thanked those able to act on his behalf. The EAMT President also currently holds the office of IAMT President. It is his hope to establish IAMT guidelines for evaluating and benchmarking MT products and to widen in general the visibility of IAMT amongst the public.

In his report the President mentioned that the EAMT Workshop in Prague had been held in April 1999. Since EAMT is responsible for arranging MT Summit VIII in 2001, no EAMT workshop is planned for 2001.

**Secretary's report.** The Secretary (*Viggo Hansen*) updated the Assembly on the status of membership. By the end of 1999, EAMT had 75 individual members, 7 non-profit-making institutions, and 8 commercial companies. The comparable figures for the end of 1998 were 82, 11, and 13, respectively.

**Treasurer's report.** The Treasurer (*Anthony Clarke*) presented the 1999 EAMT accounts. (Exhibit 'A'). The organization is in a healthy financial condition, with assets totalling approxi-

mately 52,000 Swiss francs. The Association is financially well prepared to handle the arrangements for MT Summit VIII next year in Santiago de Compostela. The Treasurer's report was approved by the General Assembly.

3. Newsletter report. The MTNI co-editor, Colin Brace was unable to attend the General Assembly. However, the President informed the Assembly that a new issue of *MTNI* has just been published. The scheduled time of issue was October 1999 and the President expressed his dissatisfaction with this situation, and would in his capacity as IAMT President follow the *MTNI* situation closely.

### 4. 2001 Membership Fees

The Treasurer proposed, and the General Assembly agreed, that the membership fees for 2001 should be remained unchanged, as follows:

Individual member, student	25 Swfr
Individual member	50 Swfr
Non-profit-making institution	175 Swfr
Company	350 Swfr

### 5. Election of Officers

Officers are elected for a three-year term. All members of the Executive Committee were elected in 1998, and have served their two years of the three-year term. The members of the Executive Committee are:

John Hutchins, President  
Viggo Hansen, Secretary  
Anthony Clarke, Treasurer  
Colin Brace (MTNI co-editor)  
Bente Maegaard  
Dimitrios Theologitis  
Jörg Schütz (*ex officio*)

### 6. Future activities

The President mentioned the following future activities:

- November 2000: an MT conference organized by the British Computer Society in Exeter, England.
- September 18-22, 2001: MT Summit VIII, in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

In the absence of Carlos Paz, Conference Director, Dimitri Theologitis reported on the planning so far. The venue will be the old Hostel, a very historic place which is said to be the oldest hotel in the world. It is located right in the center of Santiago de Compostela.

**Compendium of Translation Software.** The President made a reference to the compendium of commercial MT systems and computer-aided translation support tools, which is now available in its first edition.

### 7. Other Business

There being no other business, the President adjourned the 2000 General Assembly.

Submitted by *Viggo Hansen*  
EAMT Secretary

### EXHIBIT 'A'

#### EAMT Statement 1999

(Statement as of December 31, 1999)

(amounts in Swiss francs)

#### Income

<i>Membership fees</i>	
MTNI members included	7,353.60
<i>Workshops</i>	
Late payment, Geneva 1998	400.00
Copenhagen 1997	2,585.15
Prague 1999	<u>1,634.15</u>
Total workshop payments	4,619.30
Extra MTNI orders (net)	140.00
Interest (net)	155.35
Cash inflow, Prague workshop	<u>409.00</u>
Total income	12,677.25

#### Expenses

IAMT dues, 1999 (Paym. 2000)	735.00
IAMT dues, 1998 (Paym. 2000)	979.00
MTNI #20-#23 (Paym. 2000)	1,775.00
Website domain fee, 1999	201.85
Postage, 1998	151.00
Prague 1999:	
Reimbursement of cash outlay	409.00
Reimbursement of air travel	459.00
Bank charges	<u>197.60</u>
Total expenses	4,907.45
Net profit	<u>7,769.80</u>
Total	12,677.25
Cash on hand	52,491.85

Submitted by  
*A. Clarke*  
EAMT Treasurer

General Assembly, Ljubljana 2000 □

# MT Summit VIII

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

<http://www.eamt.org/summitVIII>

## About the Conference

In keeping with tradition, MT Summit VIII will bring together the global MT community – representatives of institutions and corporate entities as well as individuals – to review the state of machine translation and computer-aided translation support tools in the world, both commercially and in research.

Because of their large attendance and high profile, the MT Summits cast an international spotlight on this important and expanding technology, encourage public involvement, and create the overall basis for future continuing development of the industry worldwide.

They provide both a showcase for the latest commercial and research developments in machine translation and also a forum in which users, developers, and researchers can examine rapidly changing needs in both the public and private sectors.

In organizing MT Summit VIII on behalf of the International Association for Machine Translation, EAMT has been fortunate to have the cooperation of the Commission of the European Communities and the Galician regional

government (Xunta de Galicia). Entities that have stepped forward to sponsor the event include Corporate Language Services (CLS); Telefónica, the Spanish telecommunications provider; and Zacco, Europe's largest patent and trademark firm. Sponsorship is still open to interested businesses and institutions (see [www.eamt.org/summitVIII/sponsor.html](http://www.eamt.org/summitVIII/sponsor.html) for details).

## Program

As the first conference of the century in this premier series, MT Summit VIII will provide a forum for discussing the outlook for machine translation and related areas in the coming century. It will feature an expanded program of research papers, reports on users' experiences, discussions of policy issues, invited talks, panel sessions, system presentations, demonstrations, exhibits, and workshops that will embrace such topics as:

- MT on the Internet
- Practical MT systems
- Translation aids
- Translation environments
- Methodologies for MT

## Steering Committee

John Hutchins, Univ. East Anglia, UK  
General Chair  
[W.J.Hutchins@compuserve.com](mailto:W.J.Hutchins@compuserve.com)

Bente Maegaard, CST, Denmark  
Program  
[bente@cst.ku.dk](mailto:bente@cst.ku.dk)

Carlos Paz, CEC, Luxembourg  
Local Arrangements  
[Carlos.Paz-carneiro@cec.eu.int](mailto:Carlos.Paz-carneiro@cec.eu.int)

Jörg Schütz, IAI, Saarbrücken, Germany  
Exhibition  
[joerg@iai-sb.de](mailto:joerg@iai-sb.de)

Anthony Clarke, CLS, Basel, Switzerland  
Budget  
[Anthony.Clarke@cls.ch](mailto:Anthony.Clarke@cls.ch)

Viggo Hansen  
Publicity & Promotion  
[vha@hofman-bang.dk](mailto:vha@hofman-bang.dk)

- Human factors in MT
- Speech and dialogue translation
- Natural language analysis
- MT evaluation
- Cross-language information retrieval
- MT used with related technologies

*Continued on next page ▶*

## General Schedule

Tuesday, September 18	Workshops Welcoming reception and	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Registration Opening of Exhibition	9 a.m. – 9 p.m. 6 – 9 p.m.
Wednesday, September 19	Opening Session Conference	10 – 11:30 a.m. 12 – 7 p.m.	Registration Exhibition	9 a.m. – 9 p.m. 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Thursday September 20	Conference EAMT General Assembly	10 a.m. – 7 p.m. 7 p.m. –	Exhibition	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Friday, September 21	Conference IAMT General Assembly Folk music entertainment	10 a.m. – 7 p.m. 7 p.m. – 8:30 – 10 p.m.	Exhibition	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Saturday, September 22	Workshops Closing Session Banquet	10 a.m. – 7 p.m. 7 – 8:30 p.m. 9:30 p.m. –	Excursion: A Coruña	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday, September 23	Excursion:	Southern Galicia	and Portugal	9:30 a.m. – 11 p.m.

### Program Committee

Bente Maegaard, Center for Sprog-  
teknologi, Denmark (Co-Chair)  
Jo Lernout, L&H, Ieper, Belgium  
(Co-Chair)  
Harold Somers, UMIST, UK  
(Workshops)  
Harri Arnola, Kielikone, Finland  
Annelise Bech, Lingtech, Denmark  
Nuria Bel, Univ. Barcelona, Spain  
David Carter, SpeechMachines, UK  
Herman Caeyers, Lant, Belgium  
Key-Sun Choi, KAIST, Korea  
Daniel Grasmick, SAP, Germany  
Anna Sägval Hein, Univ. Uppsala,  
Sweden  
EduardHovy, ISI, USA  
Hitoshi Iida, Sony, Japan  
Ian Johnson, Lexiquest, France  
Maghi King, ETI, Univ. Geneva,  
Switzerland  
Steven Krauwer, Univ. Utrecht,  
The Netherlands  
Elliot Macklovitch, Univ. Montreal,  
Canada  
Keh-Yih Su, Behavior Design Corp.,  
Taiwan  
Gregor Thurmair, SAIL Labs,  
Germany  
Jun-ichi Tsujii, Univ. Tokyo, Japan  
Anne Tucker, European Parliament,  
Luxembourg  
Nino Varile, CEC, Luxembourg  
Wolfgang Wahlster, DFKI, Germany  
John White, Litton PRC, USA

... **Summit**, from previous page

Workshops will be held on September 18 and 22 (see page 14), and there will be an open meeting on terminology exchange and synchronization on September 22.

In addition, there will be two IAMT events during the course of the conference: presentation of the IAMT Award of Honor, and the biennial meeting of the IAMT General Assembly.

Social activities will include a welcoming reception, the traditional banquet, a folk music performance, excursions, and programs for spouses and partners of the participants.

### Exhibition

The exhibits will be located in the Chapel of the Hostal and will be active September 19 through 21. Space is available for up to 25 companies. There is also a demonstration room with seating space for up to 40 persons which can be used for special demonstrations of products and systems in development.

All leading language technology manufacturers and suppliers are invited to exhibit and demonstrate their products and services. The fee for one exhibit booth is €1,200 (€1,000 for early applicants). Further details are available at [www.eamt.org/summitVIII](http://www.eamt.org/summitVIII). Prospective exhibitors should contact Jörg Schütz ([joerg@iai.uni-sb.de](mailto:joerg@iai.uni-sb.de)).

### The Site

Santiago de Compostela is the capital of Galicia, an autonomous community of Spain that encompasses four of the country's northwestern provinces. The regional governing body, or Xunta de Galicia, and parliament are located in Santiago. The official language is Galician, which shares common roots and many similarities with Portuguese.

The history of Santiago dates back to ancient times. Christian pilgrims have traveled there since the early Middle Ages to venerate the remains of St.

James the Great, one of the original twelve Apostles, who is said to be buried there. Still intact in its medieval splendor, the city center is one of the best preserved historic sites in Europe. Thousands of visitors come each year, not only as pilgrims but also as tourists attracted by its picturesque streets, centuries-old churches, palaces, monasteries, and excellent restaurants. In 1985 UNESCO declared it an "International Heritage Site," and more recently it was recognized as one of nine European "Cultural Capitals."

The sessions of MT Summit VIII will be held in the city's celebrated Hostal dos Reis Católicos, which was built in 1499 as a royal hospital for pilgrims. A magnificent structure in the Plateresque (Spanish Renaissance) style, it is now a five-star hotel – the oldest and one of the most impressive in the world. For a once-in-a-lifetime experience, Summit participants have the option of reserving a hotel room at the Hostal as well. It is centrally located in the medieval town center (see map on page 14).

The city lies at an altitude of 300 meters and it has a mild climate.

### Getting There

Santiago de Compostela has its own airport, Lavacolla, with daily direct flights from Barcelona, Madrid, Brus-

Continued on next page ▶

### Registration

Participants are encouraged to register via the conference Website, [www.eamt.org/SummitVIII](http://www.eamt.org/SummitVIII). Registration forms are also available from Carlos Paz (MT Summit Registration), 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; e-mail: [Carlos.Paz-Carneiro@cec.eu.int](mailto:Carlos.Paz-Carneiro@cec.eu.int).

The following fees apply:

- For the main conference (September 19-22):

	Members*	Non-Members
Through May 15	€ 250	€ 285
May 15 through July 15	€ 275	€ 325
After 15 July	€ 325	€ 375

- For the pre- and post-conference workshops (September 18 & 22):

Full-day program	€50 each workshop
Half-day program	€25 each workshop

In addition, there are separate fees for the banquet (€54) and excursions.

Except for the welcoming reception, the fees above do not include meals.

One Euro (€1.00) is equivalent to approximately US\$ 0.90.

\*Members of AAMT, AMTA, and EAMT.



*Panoramic view of Santiago de Compostela*

*Photo from [www.cyberspain.com](http://www.cyberspain.com)*

sels, and London. It is served by Iberia, Spanair, and Air Europa. Iberia, the official carrier for MT Summit VIII, is offering participants a 25% discount on round-trip flights, subject to certain restrictions and dates of travel. Detailed information is available at [www.eamt.org/summitVIII/goto.html](http://www.eamt.org/summitVIII/goto.html). When registered for the conference, participants will receive a password that will enable them to take advantage of this offer.

Lavacolla Airport is 10 km from the center of town. The taxi fare from the airport to any point in the city is Pts 2,200. Bus service is also available from airport (fare: Pts 200).

There is also train and bus service to Santiago from Madrid. The trip takes approximately 9 hours. For those arriving by car, the Hostal provides parking at Pts 2,200 a day, and facilities are available at other locations as well.

### **Accommodations**

In addition to the five-star Hostal dos Reis Católicos, room blocks have been reserved at several other hotels. All are in the center of the city within walking distance of the Hostal except the four-star Puerta del Camino, a new facility about 4 km away, for which bus transportation will be provided. The in-town hotels are listed below with their respective distances from the Hostal. Full details are given on the Website.

- Virxe da Cerca\*\*\* (restored, 1 km)
- San Carlos\*\*\* (modern, 1.7 km)
- Herradera\*\*\* (restored, 1 km)
- Universal\*\* (500 m)
- Hotel Real\*\* (700 m)
- 25 de Julio\* (400 m)

Requests for room reservations should be made at the time of registration. Because of the high demand for hotel rooms in Santiago, participants are urged to book early. They are also being requested to pay half the total room charge upon booking. The reservation form may be found on the conference Website.

There are numerous good-value restaurants in the proximity of the hotels and the conference venue.

### **Social Events**

**Welcoming Reception.** On the evening of Tuesday, September 18, all participants are invited to a reception offered by the Mayor of Santiago de Compostela, to be held at the Pazo de Raxoi (City Council building), next to the Hostal. After the reception, the exhibition will open at the Hostal.

**Banquet.** The banquet will be held on Saturday, September 22, at 9:30 p.m. in the Comedor Real of the Hostal. The price is €54 per person. Space is limited; it is a good idea to sign up early.

### **Excursions**

**Saturday, September 22:**

#### **Half-day excursion to A Coruña**

The bus will leave the Hostal at 9:30 a.m. and travel north to the port of A Coruña. The first stop will be the Torre de Hércules, built in the 1st century, which is the oldest lighthouse in the world and the only Roman lighthouse still in working order.

Afterwards, there will be free time to explore the center of the town. The sights to be seen include the famous

white verandas on the Marina way, the archaeological museum in San Antón Castle, the shopping district, the town hall and central square, the harbor, and San Carlos garden with the mausoleum of the British general Sir John Moore. The bus will return to Santiago at about 3:00 p.m.

The price of €10 per person includes admission to the lighthouse.

**Sunday, September 23:**

#### **Full-day trip to southern Galicia and northern Portugal**

The bus will leave the Hostal at 9:00 a.m. and travel to Valença do Minho (Portugal), a fortified town with narrow streets and amazing views of Tui (on the Galician side) and the Miño River. The next stop is Caminha, another small Portuguese town.

From Caminha, a ferry takes the group back to Galicia, where the itinerary will include the fishing port of A Guarda and the mount of Santa Tegra (a Celtic fort with impressive views of the mouth of the Miño River and Portugal), Baiona (an old town with a castle), Vigo (crossing the bay by ferry to Cangas, with wonderful views of the Cies Islands), and Pontevedra, where the group will have a light dinner and afterwards take a walk through the old town. The bus will arrive back in Santiago at about 11:00 p.m.

The price of €45 per person includes meals, refreshments, and admissions.

*Continued on next page ▶*

### **Further Information**

For more information about MT Summit VIII, please write to:  
[summitVIII@eamt.org](mailto:summitVIII@eamt.org)

## Example-based MT

Organizers: Andrew Way (Dublin City University)  
Michael Carl (IAI, Saarbrücken)  
Website: [www.compapp.dcu.ie/~away/EBMT.html](http://www.compapp.dcu.ie/~away/EBMT.html)

EBMT seeks to exploit and integrate a number of knowledge resources, such as linguistics, statistics, and symbolic and numerical techniques, for integration into one framework. Rule-driven morphological, syntactic, and/or semantic information may be combined with knowledge extracted from bilingual texts and then re-used in the translation process. What can be learned from a bilingual corpus, and what needs to be provided manually? How far can the EBMT methodology be pushed with respect to translation quality and/or purpose?

## MT 2010: Towards a Road Map for MT

Organizer: Steven Krauwer (ELSNET and Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht)  
Website: [www.elsnet.org/mt2010.html](http://www.elsnet.org/mt2010.html)

The aim of the workshop is to establish a road map for MT for the next decade, comprising an analysis of the present situation, a vision of where we want to be 10 years from now, and a number of intermediate milestones that would help in setting intermediate goals and measuring progress. The road map would provide a broad context in which to position MT efforts and allow us to identify common priorities for joint activities in, for example, research, resources, and training.

## Machine Interpretation and Machine Translation: Different Evaluation Methods?

Organizer: Susanne Jekat (Universität Hamburg)  
Website: [www.rz.uni-hamburg.de/SFB538/a3/mt.html](http://www.rz.uni-hamburg.de/SFB538/a3/mt.html)

Machine Interpretation (i.e. speech-to-speech translation) differs from text-based MT in many aspects. Regarding evaluation, characteristic features of a system have an influence on concepts and methods. One example is the VERBOMOBIL project; its designed prompted the development of new methods of end-to-end evaluation.

On the other hand, there seems to be general agreement that certain features are essential to the quality of NLP systems, such as robustness and real time behavior. Is it possible to establish standards in the field even when different processing modes are involved?

# Workshops

As part of MT Summit VIII, workshops of interest and impact for MT researchers, developers, vendors, and users will take place immediately preceding and following the main conference. Brief descriptions are given on this page. Each workshop has its own Website with full details. The schedule is as follows:

## Tuesday, September 18

- Example-based Machine Translation
- MT 2010: Towards a Road Map for MT\*
- Machine Interpretation and MT Evaluation\*

## Saturday, September 22

- Interlinguas and Interlingual Approaches to MT
- Teaching Machine Translation
- Evaluation (ISLE)

\*Half-day only

## Interlinguas and Interlingual Approaches to MT

Organizers: David Farwell and Steve Helmreich (New Mexico State University)  
Website: <http://crl.nmsu.edu/Events/FWOI/>

The goal of this workshop—the in the series on interlinguas and interlingual approaches to MT—is to stimulate interest in research and design issues related to interlingual content. Specifically, we wish to bring together specialists in MT research and design to work out a practical system of semantic relations for use in representing events and states of affairs, including participant relations (e.g., agent, patient, recipient, benefactee, instrument, etc.), spatial relations (e.g., anterior, posterior, superior, inferior, interior, etc.) and temporal relations (e.g., prior-to, following, concurrent, etc.).

## Teaching Machine Translation

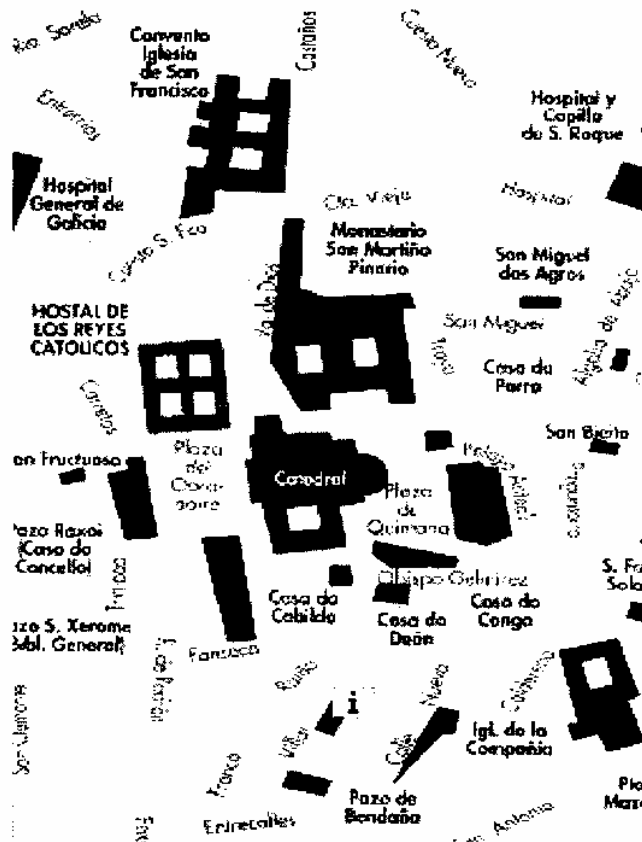
Organizers: Mikel Forcada (Universitat d'Alacant)  
Derek Lewis (University of Exeter)  
Website: [www.dlsi.ua.es/tmt/](http://www.dlsi.ua.es/tmt/)

The workshop will provide an opportunity for machine translation instructors to exchange their experiences by presenting papers or demonstrations describing the tools and techniques they use in the classroom or in the laboratory.

## ISLE Workshop on Evaluation

Organizers: Eduard Hovy (University of Southern California), Bente Maegaard (CST), Maghi King and Sandra Manzi (University of Geneva), Florence Reeder (MITRE)  
Website: [www.issco.unige.ch/projects/isle/MT-Summit-wsp.html](http://www.issco.unige.ch/projects/isle/MT-Summit-wsp.html)

Many measures and methods of evaluating MT systems have been developed over the years. The ISLE project, funded by the European Union and the U.S. National Science Foundation, continues with work started in the EAGLES project on systematizing these measures and procedures. This workshop will be the fourth in a series that report on and flesh out portions of the systematization.



Map showing the center of Santiago de Compostela with the conference site, Hostal dos Reis [de los Reyes] Católicos, facing the cathedral on the main plaza.

Map from [www.cyberspain.com](http://www.cyberspain.com)

### Important Dates

Deadline for submissions	April 15
Notification of acceptance	May 31
Deadline for final version	July 15

content, translates it, and provides it to consumers in the requested language.

This model offers an attractive cost-entry level for news organizations because there is no need to secure equipment or even alter the workflow. TheOne does all the necessary lexicon updating and expansion as well as any postediting that may be required. In fact, it is the posteditors working for TheOne who do the lexicon-building and provide feedback to the MT developers.

The service provided by TheOne must address the demands of both assimilation and dissemination, and in so doing, it squeezes MT performance from both sides. For a news site to provide relevant content in foreign languages, its stories must be available in all languages in near real-time. This means little to no post-editing and constant dictionary updating in order to keep up with breaking events, names in the news, etc. Like most assimilation tasks, this is one in which speed is essential, but the news is subsequently disseminated, taking on properties of translation for dissemination as well.

Another innovative use of MT was that presented by Marina Urquidi, who coordinates multilingual chat between international nonprofit groups working on issues of economic development and standard of living in various regions of the world, including Latin America, Africa, and Asia. The field workers in each of these regions describe their experiences and seek advice from those in other regions. Her job is to run all the messages through the appropriate MT system, and disseminate them to the other regions. Ms. Urquidi, a translator by profession, typically does some minor touchup on about 30% of the translations submitted. Interestingly, she felt that the unpolished translations have the distinct advantage of exposing the ways in which the writers think about the problems they describe. The effort that readers must bring to understanding the message also leads them to a better understanding of the cultural perspective from which the messages were written.

**"The service . . . must address the demands of both assimilation and dissemination, and in so doing, it squeezes MT performance from both sides."**

Henry Story from AltaVista, who had described the beginnings of the AltaVista Babelfish translation service (using SYSTRAN) at the 1998 AMTA conference, reported that use of the translation service is still heavy, averaging 1.3 million translations a day. Users are requesting new languages, chat, and e-mail, and they are also asking for better quality. Some of the challenges and areas for improvement: automatic topic identification, automatic language identification, and in-

creased profitability in the operation of this free service. Translation of Websites represents 15% to 20% of Babelfish usage; the rest is plain text entered in the text window. He noted that many of the strings submitted are only one or two words long, which would suggest that some

people are using Babelfish as a dictionary rather than for full-sentence translation.

#### **Users' Desiderata**

**Dictionaries.** Contrary to the conventional wisdom that users want bigger dictionaries, some users are more interested in having specialized dictionaries and better lexicon-building and customization tools. Walter Hartmann, who uses MT in his business, claimed that beyond the most basic 2,000 words or so for a language, the lexicon delivered with an MT system is almost worse than useless. Translation clients tend to use a standard or proprietary set of technical terms, for which they need corresponding technical translations. The fact that many words used in technical expressions also appear in general dictionaries means that when a technical term is not available in a customer or technical dictionary, the MT systems will revert to the general dictionary, which will often provide a translation that is inappropriate for the context. What can happen then is that posteditors will see reasonable-looking output and skip over it. In the absence of good

specialized dictionaries, Hartmann would prefer to build the entire lexicon for a given customer himself.

Others also mentioned the need for easy lexicon-building tools that identify new terms and allow users to build dictionaries directly from source text, including both single words and multiword phrases. These tools need to be usable by non-linguists as well as by specialists.

#### **Documentation and training materials.**

In the main conference program as well as the workshop, Harold Somers presented the results of his study on the adequacy of MT documentation. His findings underscored a point that workshop participants had also brought up—namely, that MT documentation uses too much jargon. Even terms such as "domain" (meaning topic area) are not clear to novice users. Documentation tends to dwell on the mundane while glossing over the more complex (and potentially valuable and dangerous) functions of the system.

With so many emerging types and levels of users, there is a need for many different types of documentation. So far, documentation seems to target only one type of user, which may not represent the majority of a system's users at all. (A full paper on this topic is available in the Proceedings of the main conference.)

**Technical support.** People jokingly suggested that MT systems should be sold together with a linguist who knows how to use them. On the serious side, this reaction did suggest the need for a new sort of professional training—something like the programs that award certificates for competence in working with Microsoft systems. Such a program would impart general familiarity with the issues involved in implementing language technology, including encoding and markup (such as that used for translation memory or publicly available lexicons), as well as character rendering, and workflow/process integration.

**Flexibility of integration.** Ben Sargent of TransClick felt that MT systems should be more modular, to allow users greater flexibility in selecting and linking system components.

**Automatic preprocessing.** Some users expressed the desire for a system that would score/assess translation quality

*Continued on next page* ▶

(after the fact) or pre-analyze the translatability of a text (which was coincidentally the subject of a half-day tutorial by Claudia Gdaniec and Arendse Bernth of IBM the following day).

### Good Practices for Effective Use of MT

- Know the quality requirements of the job and don't over-edit the output (Gustavo Silva, PAHO).
- Update the dictionary before translating (everybody).
- To improve the handling of proper names and prevent some of the damage to translations that occurs when proper names are treated as regular words, utilize named entity recognition to flag such names as strings not to be translated (Harry Somers, UMIST).
- Make a commitment. MT tends to fail when its implementation is a part-time effort or when it becomes the subject of interdepartmental conflict.

### Challenges

**Negative stereotypes and fear of technology.** When presenting services (that may include MT) to clients, how much to tell? Customers may be attracted to the idea of using technology for speed, but if clients have seen raw MT output, they may be scared away. A strategy suggested by Walter Hartman: present MT as a tool, not a solution.

**Rule-writing tools.** Products that offer the user the capability of writing linguistic rules may be a double-edged sword. Some warned that a user can do more damage than good by altering the system. Walter Hartmann suggested developing macros for repetitive postediting tasks, rather than trying to customize linguistic rules. On the other hand, Marina Urquidi said that she was quite happy with customizations she has made to her system by writing her own linguistic rules.

### Justifying MT Usage

I once heard a claim that there were no real savings to be had from introducing MT, and that any savings realized were from the rationalization of project man-

agement and workflow that accompanied the introduction of new technology, not from the technology itself—a claim that is hard to refute since most companies are reluctant to share details of their internal costs with the general public. However, the report from PAHO suggests that there are real savings to be had. PAHO does 86% of

**"MT doesn't eliminate translators; it increases translation."**

**— Michael Tancelosky**

their 4 million words/year with MT support (MT + human post-editing), at a savings of 27% over human translation alone. Postediting is paid less per word (8.75 cents) than HT (12 cents), but posteditors earn as much or more because of increased volume.

A contrary example was presented by Walter Hartmann on the "Dot-Com" panel during the main conference. Hartmann, who currently has a successful translation business that enlists MT as one means of speeding throughput, described a project for a previous employer which did not succeed in the end. The goal was to translate travelogues written in "hip" vernacular. The project required 12,000 new lexical items for food and other travel-specific concepts. It was ultimately scuttled because of the high cost.

### Beyond Cost-Benefit

Some applications, such as real-time translation/localization of Websites or the dialog among NGOs reported by Marina Urquidi, simply would not be possible or affordable with conventional means. This brings to mind the observation of Michael Tancelosky that MT doesn't eliminate translators; it increases translation.

The benefits of MT may not be evident in terms of cost savings in a translation department; they might be measured by other standards, such as the acceleration of business. Kathleen Egan reported that the U.S. Government has a perennial shortage of linguists/analysts and translators. MT can help speed up the process, increase volume,

and give monolinguals access to information without always having to bring a translator into the loop.

### Industry Standards

It seems appropriate to conclude with a promotional message for the current efforts, led by IAMT president John Hutchins, to establish a certification process for translation technology products. At the workshop, he spoke about his concern that the public is generally rather ignorant of language technology, what is available, how it is being used, and what the nomenclature means. Developers who do not participate in the MT community fail to use standardized terms, and potential buyers have no way of assessing the claims they make.

In the closing address of the conference, Hutchins presented the certification plan that has been being developed over the past two years by an IAMT committee. The goal of the certification process has been discussed at the last three AMTA conferences, and significant progress has been made toward defining terminology and how MT system functionality can be certified. But the realization of this goal will still require significant commitment and effort on the part of the IAMT committee, the regional and international executive committees, and the members of the regional associations.

When the certification standards are completed, they will suggest an ideal picture of MT system design and functionality, which in turn may influence research and development goals. It seems especially important that real users participate in the formulation of these standards and definitions, and that their concerns and experience be heard, so that such standards will be anchored in the reality of the end use of MT systems. □

### Final Note: Overall Impression of the Conference

AMTA-2000 was unique among AMTA events for the idyllic environment, spa treatments, healthy food, and startlingly powerful margaritas in the hotel restaurant. At the same time, it was also typical of what I have found at every AMTA event—a mixing of diverse, interested, and interesting people and perspectives in open-minded exploration of our common interest.

— LG



# Resources

## Laurie's Links

with Laurie Gerber

### On-line Translation

The translation Websites that I listed in the previous issue of *MTNI* have continued to grow, now with nearly 30 free translation sites! One that has just come to my attention (thanks to Martha Awdziejewicz) is called "The Translation Guide." It has links to many of the sites I had mentioned, a handy "MT-Grid" that allows you to access many free MT services from a single page, and a "Language Identifier" page with links to various language and encoding identifiers.

Website: <http://mason.gmu.edu/~agross2>

Another handy resource is "HLT Central." This site, developed by ELSENET and EUROMAP, is designed to educate and inform on language technology in Europe. The information is extensive and very clearly laid out. Topics include:

- Descriptions and links to current human language technology projects, including some that are under way abroad, to the extent that they are part of "Fifth Framework" international collaborative projects;

A "download" section offering a number of technical reports as well as some accessible introductory texts on current

areas of research and goals of language technology.

- A listing of conferences on language technology;
- Links to other sites and organizations with further information.

Website: <http://www.hltcentral.org>

### International Conferences

Speaking of conference listings, the University of Queensland in Australia has an extensive listing of international conferences on linguistics and related topics. Although the conferences listed focus more on language and cognitive science, AMTA and ACL events also show up.

Website: <http://www.cltr.uq.edu.au/conf.html>

### Researchers

When you need to find a published work and you know the author and/or title, try the U.S. Government's e-Print archives. You can download an abstract or postscript of any papers they have on file for free.

Website: <http://xxx.lanl.gov/find/cs> □

*Early Years in Machine Translation* may be ordered from the publisher in Europe or, for customers in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, from its office in Philadelphia:

#### John Benjamins Publishing Company

Amsteldijk 44

P.O. Box 75577

1070 AN Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Tel. +31 (20) 673 8156; fax +31 (20) 673 9773

E-mail: [customer.services@benjamins.nl](mailto:customer.services@benjamins.nl)

#### John Benjamins North America

P.O. Box 27519

Philadelphia, PA 19118-0519 USA

Tel +1 (215) 836-1200; fax (215) 836-1204

Toll-free number: (800) 562-5666

E-mail: [service@benjamins.com](mailto:service@benjamins.com) □

methods and techniques, and laid the foundations not just of current MT systems and computerized tools for translators but also of natural language processing in general.

This volume contains contributions by or about the major MT pioneers from the United States, Russia, Eastern and Western Europe, and Japan, with recollections of personal experiences, colleagues and rivals, the political and institutional background, the successes and disappointments, and above all the challenges and excitement of a new field of great practical importance. Each article includes a personal bibliography, and the editor provides an overview, chronology, and list of sources for the period.

The contributors are John Hutchins (on Warren Weaver, Gilbert King, and Yehoshua Bar-Hillel), Lew Micklesen (on Erwin Reifler), Victor Yngve, Anthony Oettinger, Muriel Vasconcellos (on Léon Dostert), Christine Montgomery (on Paul Garvin), Michael Zarechnak, Anthony F. R. Brown, Peter Toma, Winfred Lehmann, Martin Kay (on David Hays), Sydney Lamb, Olga Kulagina, Igor Mel'chuk, Tat'jana Moloshnaja, Raimund Piotrovskij, Jurij N. Marchuk, Andrew D. Booth and Kathleen H. V. Booth, Karen Sparck Jones (on Richard Richens), Yorick Wilks (on Margaret Masterman), Ernst von Glasersfeld (on Silvio Ceccato), Maurice Gross, Christian Boitet (on Bernard Vauquois), Zdenek Kirschner, Elena Paskaleva (on Alexander Ljudskanov), and Hiroshi Wada.

*MTNI* will be reviewing this volume in a future issue. □

# Publications

## Hutchins volume captures early memories of MT

### *Early Years in Machine Translation: Memoirs and Biographies of Pioneers*

Edited by W. John Hutchins (Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2000). *Studies in the History of the Language Sciences*, 97. 400 p. ISBN: 90 272 4586 X — NLG 190.00 ISBN: 1 58811 013 3 — US\$ 95.00

As *MTNI* readers are undoubtedly aware, machine translation was one of the first non-numerical applications of the computer in the 1950s and 1960s. With limited equipment and programming tools, researchers from a wide range of disciplines (electronics, linguistics, mathematics, engineering, etc.) tackled the unknown problems of language analysis and processing, investigated original and innovative

Continued ▶

## Compendium Updated

The latest version of the **Compendium of Translation Software** has recently been loaded on the EAMT Website ([www.eamt.org](http://www.eamt.org)). Subscribers can continue to use the same ID and passwords.

That there have been relatively few additions since the first hard copy [and on-line] versions appeared in April 2000. The changes affecting Lernout & Hauspie and Logos Corporation have been noted, but no changes to their entries will be made until their situations have been fully clarified.

The next update is scheduled for April 2001. Any information about new products or changes to any entries in the Compendium will be most welcome. Please contact me at: [WJHutchins@compuserve.com](mailto:WJHutchins@compuserve.com)

— W.J. Hutchins

## What's new on-line

### Speech Technology Expert

The first issue of **Speech Technology Expert**, an e-mail-based bimonthly newsletter from the Speech Technology Network, is scheduled to appear on May 1, 2001.

The Expert is distributed free of charge to keep professionals updated and informed of the latest developments in speech technology. It offers quality, up-to-date articles on relevant subjects, upcoming events, news items, recommended books, a listing of newly added professionals, including their contact details and fields of expertise, and more.

Those interested in subscribing may sign up at [www.qwimail.com/maillinglist/layout/telecom/default.asp?a=Login](http://www.qwimail.com/maillinglist/layout/telecom/default.asp?a=Login).

Information: Minna Kanerva, *Speech Technology Network*, [www.speechtechnology.net](http://www.speechtechnology.net), VercomNet B.V., P.O. Box 917, 6200 AX Maastricht, The Netherlands; e-mail: [info@speechtechnology.net](mailto:info@speechtechnology.net). ▶

... *What's new on-line, continued*

### TransRef

TransRef is an on-line reference center for translation professionals with a focus on new technologies, in particular, computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools. It has been created as a public service for the translation community and is sponsored by Atril Software.

The following sections are offered on TransRef:

**New Technologies.** Articles on optical character recognition, controlled languages, dictation software, standards—for example, TMX, OSCAR, MARTIF, SALT, etc.

**Business.** Practical issues on translation as a business: payments, rates, contracts; also, directories of translators and agencies.

**Tools.** Software tools for translators, including CAT tools, localization tools, and a range of utilities for word-counting, quoting, etc.

**Networking.** Mailing lists and addresses of associations for translators, interpreters, and localizers to enable the translation community to stay in touch.

**Up-to-date.** On-line (and off-line) publications, newsletters, plus several calendars of events and congresses for the translation professional.

**Research.** Studies focusing on cooperation between people and machines in the task of translation.

**Help Desk.** A place to raise new issues, discuss new technologies, share problems and experiences, etc.

**Training.** Sources of training, both for students and for professionals who want to stay updated.

**Newcomers.** A section devoted to translators who want to get started with software tools.

**Localization.** Tools, mailing lists, associations, training, and first-hand experiences—all with focus on the translator's perspective.

**Directory.** Addresses of translators and agencies (former Atril Directory).

**The Latest.** News for users on the latest additions and plans for the site.

Website: [www.transref.org](http://www.transref.org). □

## Jobs

WordStream is seeking a computational linguist to fill the position of Director of Language Development. This is an opportunity to join an exciting young company with a creative approach to language translation. WordStream is not trying to be another machine translation company; it has redefined the problem and is solving it with a unique technology based on an interlingua. Competitive salary and benefits. Metropolitan Boston location.

### Job Description

Computational linguist to lead development and design of commercial interlingual MT system and to manage a team of linguists. The job will involve determining the conceptual framework for the development of a lexical database and grammar system. Candidate will need to work closely with software development team to ensure coordination of linguistic and technical requirements.

### Job Requirements

Master's degree (Ph.D. preferred) in Computational Linguistics or related area. Fluency in English and at least one other language, preferably one of the following: German, French, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, or Chinese. Excellent communication skills as well as the ability to motivate a team and at the same time be a team player. Experience in grammar and lexicon development. Familiarity with linguistic resources (corpora, grammars, parsers, etc.).

### Highly Desirable Qualifications

Experience with commercial MT systems, along with project management and implementation of MT applications. Experience in managing linguists and technology specialists. Programming skills (knowledge of perl, java, or C++).

Those interested should contact WordStream Inc., 48 Grove St. Suite 201, Somerville MA 02144; tel: (617) 666-7700 x 231; fax (617) 666-2850; e-mail: [careers@wordstream.com](mailto:careers@wordstream.com); Website: [www.wordstream.com](http://www.wordstream.com) □

# Calendar

## 2001

**April 19-24:** MT Evaluation: An Invitation to Get Your hands Dirty! Geneva. In conjunction with MT Evaluation Working Group of the ISLE Project. *Contacts: Maghi King (ISSCO), Margaret.King @issco.unige.ch., or Flo Reeder (Mitre), freeder@mitre.org.*

**April 23-25:** 3rd Latin American Congress of Translators and Interpreters: From Babel to the Internet, Buenos Aires. *See: www.traductores.org.ar.*

**June 2-7:** NAACL-2001: Language Technologies 2001, Pittsburgh. 2nd Meeting of North American Chapter of Assn. for Computational Linguistics. General Chair: Lori Levin (Carnegie Mellon); Program Chair: Kevin Knight (ISI). *See: www.cs.cmu.edu/~ref/naacl2001.html.*

**June 3-4:** Workshops preceding NAACL-2001. Chair: Lillian Lee (Cornell), *wksp@cs.cornell.edu; see: www.cs.cmu.edu/~ref/naacl/workshops.html.*

Automatic Summarization (June 3)

MT Evaluation: Hands-On (June 3)

WordNet and Other Lexical Resources: Applications, Extensions, and Customizations (June 3-4)

Adaptation in Dialogue Systems (June 4)

**July 5:** Machine Translation and Large-Scale Applications, Tours, France. In conjunction with TALN-2001 (July 2-5). Program Chair: Christian Boitet, CLIPS-IMAG, equipe GETA, Grenoble. *http://clips.imag.fr/geta. See: www.systransoft.com/TALN2001-en.html.*

**July 6-11:** ACL-2001, Toulouse, France. Joint meeting of Assn. for Computational Linguistics and European chapter (EACL). July 6-7: Workshops; July 8: Tutorials; July 9-11: Main conference. General Chair: Bonnie Webber (Univ. Edinburgh); Program Co-Chairs: Norbert Reithinger (DFKI); Giorgio Satta (Univ. Padova). *See: www.irit.fr/ACTIVITES/EQ\_ILPL/aclWeb/main\_acl2001.html.*

**July 6-7:** Workshops preceding ACL-2001. Chair: Rebecca Bruce (Univ. North Carolina). *see: www.cs.umca.edu/~bruce/acl01/.*

SENSEVAL-2: Evaluating Word Sense Disambiguation Systems (**July 5-6**)

CoNLL-2001: Computational Natural Language Learning (July 6-7)

[8th European Workshop on] Natural Language Generation (July 6-7)

Evaluation Methodologies for Language and Dialogue Systems (July 6-7)

Arabic Language Processing: Status and Prospects (July 6)

Open-Domain Question Answering (July 6)

Temporal and Spatial Information Processing (July 6)

Data-driven MT (July 7)

Sharing Tools and Resources for Research and Education (July 7)

Collocation, Computational Extraction, Analysis, and Exploitation (July 7)

**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); Jo Lernout (I&H). *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.*

Machine Interpretation and MT: Evaluation. Organizer: Susanne Jekat (Univ. Hamburg). *See: www.rz.uni-hamburg.de/SFB538/a3/mt.html.*

**September 18:** Workshops following MT Summit VIII:

Interlinguas and Interlingual Approaches to MT. Organizers: David Farwell and Steve Helmreich (New Mexico State Univ.). *See: http://crl.nmsu.edu/Events/FWO/FifthWorkshop.*

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 (ISI), Bente Maegaard (CST, Denmark), Maghi King and Sandra Manzini (Univ. Geneva), and Florence Reeder (Mitre). *See: www.issco.unige.ch/projects/isle/MT-Summit-wsp.html.*

**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

**February 28 - March 2:** II International Conference on Specialized Translation, Barcelona, Spain. *See: www.upf.es/dtf/activitats/2ics/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.* □

\* See further details in this issue.

## Update on L&H

The article on Lernout and Hauspie Speech Products in this issue of *MT News International* reflects the state of affairs prior to the extraordinary meeting of L&H shareholders on April 27, 2001. According to the next day's press, at least two rather stark announcements were made at that meeting. The following item appeared in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* on April 28:

### **Shareholders get bad news**

As if the future was not bleak enough, shareholders of high-tech firm Lernout & Hauspie Speech Products NV received a double-dose of bad news at their meeting yesterday in Ieper, Belgium: The two founders [Jo Lernout and Pol Hauspie] were in jail, and an additional \$100 million of declared income turned out to be fictitious. New chief executive Philippe Bodson, who took the helm this year after L&H's woes were revealed, said the group earned a total of \$162 million during the previous 2½ years, not the \$535 million originally reported. L&H's troubles were uncovered last summer, when the *Wall Street Journal* questioned some business activities in Asia.

*MTNI* has been unable to confirm this information. The L&H Website, [www.lhs.com](http://www.lhs.com), offers a Webcast of the meeting, but at the time we attempted to access it, it was not yet available. If you are interested, we suggest that you keep trying until the Webcast comes up.

We do feel that the information in our article, as far as it goes, is still correct, with the possible exception of the annual earnings claimed by the Mendez Division for 1999 and 2000.

— Ed .