Reports and Communications

!!! INFOTERM in Danger !!!

Editorial Note: We would like to turn your attention to the following paragraphs which should speak for themselves. In addition we are supplying two further communications which show (1) the important activities of Infoterm and (2) Infoterms 25 years of history and its cooperation with related institutions.

For 25 years the Austrian government has supported to a large extent the promotion and co-ordination of international co-operation in the field of terminology as a speccial contribution to UNESCO's General Information Programme (PGI) by financing the International Information Centre for Terminology (Infoterm). The political and budgetary situation in Austria at present endangers Infoterm's information and documentation activities, which in the worst case may be abolished.

The *Infoterm Advisory Committee* (IAC) originally established by UNESCO is planning to convene a forum of terminology policy and decision makers in order to discuss this new situation, evaluate past achievements as well as growing needds in the field of terminology, and re-orient the role and functions of Infoterm. Scholars, experts and decision makers who are aware of the importance of

"the improvement of specialized information and communication, especially with regard to knowledge transfer, through the promotion of terminological activities and co-operation in this field"*

are kindly requested to write to UNESCO in support of a positive reorganization of the neutral, non-commercial information and consultancy activities of Infoterm. This action will greatly enhance the task of the Infoterm Advisory Committee in the future.

Letters in support of Infoterm should take cognizence of the following:

Resolution 11.34 adopted at the General Conference of UNESCO in 1991 which invites Member States:

"- to intensify co-operation on terminological matters;
- at the national level;
- among themselves at regional and international levels;
- with international organizations active in terminology work, in particular with Infoterm, operating in collaboration with UNESCO's General Information Programme;
- to promote and support, morally and, if possible, financially - all the various kinds of terminological activities undertaken by universities, publie authorities, business enterprises and other institutions."

Draft Resolution 27C/DR.356 endorsed by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1993, which is prefaced by the following clauses:

"Acknowledging the contribution of Infoterm ... to specialized communication, information and knowledge transfer and terminology science and its applications,
Noting the highly positive results of the 'Study on the reassessment of the original mandate of Infoterm' commissioned by UNESCO in 1992 and endorsed by the Infoterm Advisory committee at the beginning of 1993,

Convinced that Infoterm, as in the past, can substantially assist developing countries to develop terminology planning strategies with a view to support the development of:
- subject field related education and vocational training,
- research in science and technology,
- specialized communication,...."

Letters should be addressed to: M. Henrikus Iouchkiavitchious, Assistant Director General, Sector of Communication, Information and Informatics (CII), UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, F-75352 Paris. Tel.: +33-1-45 68 10 00, Fax: +33-1-45 67 11 16 90.

* quotation from the 'Study of the re-assessment of the original mandate of Infoterm'

Infoterm. International Information Centre for Terminology

Infoterm is the ISONET Focal Point for terminology standardization;
the International clearinghouse and referral centre for all questions related to terminology;
the International Coordination Centre for Terminology of the World Health Organization (WHO);
Founded in 1971 on the basis of a contract between UNESCO and the Austrian Standards Institute (ON).
Associated with the IDPI in New York at the service of specialized communication.
During the past 20 years *Infoterm* has become the focal point and hub of specialized communication world-wide.

Infoterm **provides documentation and information on a world-wide scale for:** terminological publications, terminological activities, terminological institutions and organizations.

Infoterm **provides consultancy services related to** implementing and using terminological data banks, laying out specialized vocabularies, developing multilingual information systems, planning and implementing terminology projects, as well as conceiving and implementing strategies with reference to terminology planning and standardization, teaching terminology and conducting training programs.

Infoterm supports, organizes and co-ordinates terminological activities and thesaurus projects
prepares feasibility studies and evaluation studies
publishes journals, monographs, and documents.

Infoterm's co-operation partners and users include:
terminology commissions, governmental bodies, international intergovernmental organizations (such as the specialized organizations within the UN system), and specialized national and international organizations, universities and other academic institutions.

For further information, please contact:
INFOTERM, International Information Centre for Terminology. Director: Christian Galinski. Heinestraße 38, P.O.Box 130, A-1021 Vienna, Tel. (+43 1) 213 00-311 or 312, Telefax: (+43 1) 216 32 72
e-mail: oegdi@ping.at

168

Knowl. Org. 22(1995)No.3/4
Reports and Communications

International Cooperation in the Field of Terminology
Historical overview

1936 - 38   Establishment of ISA/TC 37 "Terminology"

1952   Establishment of ISO/TC 37 "Terminology (principles and co-ordination)" (continuation of the work of ISA/TC 37)

1971   Establishment of Infoterm by contract UNESCO - ON (Austrian Standards Institute)

1986   Establishment of the "Gesellschaft für Terminologie und Wissenstransfer" (GTW) [Association for Terminology and Knowledge Transfer]

1988   Establishment of the "International Network for Terminology" (TermNet)

1989   Establishment of the "International Institute for Terminology Research" (IITF)

Infoterm planning and implementation phase

International cooperation in the field of terminology started already some 200 years ago even though restricted to specific subject fields. At the beginning of the 20th century activities in the field of terminology standardization called for transdisciplinary standardization of terminological principles and methods. To this end the Technical Committee ISA/TC 37 "Terminology" (as one of the committees of the "International Federation of the National Standardizing Associations") was founded in 1936 the impetus being a publication of the Austrian Engineer Eugen Wüster. In continuation of the work of ISA/TC 37 which had been interrupted by World War II the Technical Committee ISO/TC 37 "Terminology (principles and co-ordination)" of the International Organization of Standardization was founded in 1952. The Secretariat of said committee has since been held by the Austrian Standards Institute.

Thanks to the inexhaustible efforts of E. Wüster the "International Information Centre for Terminology" (Infoterm) was founded in 1971 on the basis of a contract between the Austrian Standards Institute and UNESCO. Mr. Felber, a close collaborator of Wüster's, became its first director and was entrusted with the secretariat of ISO/TC 37. Until his death in 1977 E. Wüster was most actively involved in theoretical and practical matters of terminology and personally supported and funded terminological activities on a world-wide scale.

It soon became clear, however, that Infoterm's "mandate" as envisaged in the original and subsequent contracts with UNESCO was too general in view of rapidly growing terminological activities all over the world. In order to cope with this new situation new approaches and methods had to be applied. The idea of "Networking" gained importance in those days - particularly within the framework of the UNISIST 2Programme of UNESCO with a view to close collaboration between several or a large number of organizations in the field of information and documentation. Terminology (both in the sense of "terminologies" and terminological methods) was considered to play a keyrole with respect to many aspects of information and communication in general.

Towards the end of the 70s Mr. Felber was charged by UNESCO to develop a plan for an International Network for Terminology (TermNet) and the three TermNet Programmes:

- TNP 1:   Terminology science and terminology teaching and training
- TNP 2:   Terminology work by subject specialists (incl. terminology standardization)
- TNP 3:   Terminology documentation (incl. documentation in the field of terminology and terminography)

TermNet implementation phase

Since the beginning of 1980, TermNet, the International Network for Terminology, was implemented step by step as an informal network of collaborating institutions and experts. At that time TermNet consisted of some 200 cooperation partners. TermNetNews, the official journal of TermNet, which was also founded thanks to the assistance of the Canadian government, was published irregularly at the beginning, but soon became a regular quarterly. Around 1985, a number of TermNet partners (as they were then called) expressed their willingness to increase their level of cooperation. However, due to limited resources Infoterm was unable to continue serving as TermNet's headquarters.

After the Second Infoterm Symposium entitled "Networking in terminology", which was held in 1985, TermNet partners convened in order to draft statutes for a future international association based in Vienna. The First International Congress on "Terminology and Knowledge Engineering" (TKE) was held in 1987 in Trier organized by the Association for Terminology and Knowledge Transfer (GTW), which had been specifically created for this purpose in 1986. TKE'87 proved to represent a milestone for the foundation of TermNet. At the end of 1988, TermNet was established as a legal body of its own, with headquarters next to Infoterm. At the beginning of 1989, the International Institute for Terminology Research (IITF) was founded as an international association geared towards organizing cooperation and joint activities of experts interested in terminology science and terminology teaching as well as training.

During this period the distinction between Infoterm and ISO/TC 37 had become clear in spite of the close relationship. Furthermore, the close relationship between the fields of terminology science (and its practical application in terminology work and terminography), information science (and its practical application in documentation), LSP research and theory of science was recognized. Infoterm developed its comprehensive interdisciplinary and integrative approach to problems of knowledge ordering, information and knowledge processing as well as knowledge transfer - an approach which is meanwhile being considered a standard.

New challenges - new horizons

In 1989, the newly founded TermNet became operational with 12 founding members. Today, membership has grown to more than 50. TermNet has meanwhile become a publishing house and service center as well.

The IITF had the opportunity to start with a project aimed at developing the first "pocket knowledge database" (to be implemented on a "palmtop" computer as it was called at that time). IITF and GTW joined forces with Infoterm' and TermNet to jointly organize courses and training, conferences and seminars, consultancy services and publications. GTW organized the Second TKE'90 again in Trier.

Towards the end of the 1980s the **Infoterm Advisory**

Knowl. Org. 22(1995)No.3/4
Reports and Communications

169

Committee (originally established by UNESCO) recommended the reorganization of Infoterm as a legal body of its own and drafted the respective statutes. At the beginning of 1993, a group of experts prepared the "Evaluation study of the original mandate of Infoterm" for UNESCO. The study emphasized the fact that Infoterm had fulfilled its mandate extremely well over the past years. However, for the next development phase this mandate should be reformulated, to state the following:

"The improvement of specialist information and communication, especially with regard to knowledge transfer, through the promotion of terminological activities and cooperation in this field."

The Infoterm Advisory Committee based its conclusions on the following premisses:

Terminology is

Knowledge representation on the level of concepts or, to put it simply, the assignment of concepts to terms or the unambiguous determination of content and designation, respectively. This applies to all languages, not just to one. Thus terminology represents the totality of conceptual information on a specific subject field and its respective representation via terms, alphanumeric codes, graphic or other non-linguistic symbols, definitions and other representations.

Preparation of terminology

(particularly the harmonization and unification of terminology) has been carried out for centuries by subject specialists in all fields in order to facilitate efficient subject communication and knowledge organization.

Terminology management

aims for systematic and usually computer-assisted recording, processing and utilization of increasingly multilingual terminological data in all fields of science and technology.

Terminology science

is an interdisciplinary field of research which integrates both theories and methods of relevance to the theory of science, information science and linguistics.

Terminology thus plays a crucial role when specialized information and knowledge are being prepared (e.g., in research and development), used (e.g., in specialized texts), recorded and processed (e.g., in data banks), passed on (e.g., via training and teaching), implemented (e.g., in the transfer of knowledge and technology) and translated and interpreted.

Division of labour at international level

At the beginning of the 90s appropriately coordinated actions were started under the auspices of the Infoterm Advisory Committee aiming at a rational and pragmatic division of labour among the five organizations listed below. A coordinating mechanism was established on an international scale to avoid duplication of efforts and to trigger synergetic effects. Since then the division of labour in international terminology looks as follows:

Infoterm, as the International Clearinghouse and Referral Centre, performs tasks and functions of public interest on behalf of UNESCO and others. Thus it serves as a non-commercial and neutral centre for information, consultancy and training for all aspects of general importance to terminol-

ogy at large. Infoterm's clientele comprises governmental and other public institutions as well as international and regional specialized organizations and intergovernmental organizations.

TermNet is an international non-profit association with corporate membership. It fosters and organizes cooperation among its member organisations, publishes terminological publications, performs applied R&D projects to promote the development of the terminology market and the knowledge industries.

ISO/TC 37, Terminology, is charged with the standardization of the principles and methods of terminology work and cooperation in terminology. In recent years the focus of its standardizing efforts gradually shifted from basic theory and methodology to applied methods, especially computer-assisted ones.

GTW, the Society for Terminology and Knowledge Engineering is an international society which organizes the TKE-Congresses in intervals of three years and has a number of working groups in which international experts prepare recommendations or guidelines for applications of general interest to the terminology community. The latter activities increasingly focus on important aspects of pre-normative research and development activities, i.e. R&D in advance of standardization.

IITF, the International Institute for Terminology Research concentrates on the organization of cooperation between university departments and terminology researchers as well as terminology teachers throughout the world. It focusses on basic research in terminology science and terminology teaching as well as training.

From INL, the INFOTERM NEWSLETTER

The Infoterm Newsletter had been reprinted in earlier years in this journal entirely. In the past years we selected news items which we deemed to be of interest to our readers and referred to their source. We should like to do this now again for the next two items taken from the last INFOTERM Newsletter (77/78) available:

Conference and Workshops "Building Linguistic Pluralism: what Initiatives for Europe?"

From 19 to 20 June 1995 about 120 participants involved in fields such as language didactics, language engineering and terminology from all member countries of the EU and some neighbouring countries gathered in Besancon, France, in order to discuss and prepare an appeal to decision makers and an action plan concerning "multilingualism" in Europe. During the last twenty years a great many declarations and resolutions have been recorded in support of the declared aim of encouraging linguistic pluralism in Europe, and many commitments have been made. The scope of the debate has varied considerably, according to the field, the country and the institutions involved, but despite all that has been achieved, no concrete solutions or large-scale perspectives have been defined which might enable Europe to develop its cultural and linguistic diversity.

The aim was to break out of the endless round of initiatives

170

Knowl. Org. 22(1995)No.3/4
Reports and Communications

that have never progressed beyond the stage of good intentions and to come forward with ways and means of promoting plurilingualism. In three topical workshops the state-of-the-art as well as the desired future language situation in a multilingual and multicultural Europe were discussed within the professional groups represented at the Conference. Thereafter, the workshops were reshuffled into four "transversal" working groups according to major mother-tongues (English, French, German) of the participants to discuss concrete recommendations with regard to a medium-term multilingual policy for the European Union. After the presentation of the reports of the workshops and working groups by the respective rapporteurs on the second day recommendations and an action plan were discussed in a plenary session. The organizing team will finalize the recommendations/ action plan and present it to the appropriate European institutions for due consideration. Three main fields were considered essential reference points for an overall linguistic policy: language teaching, terminology,and linguistic engineering. A presentation of Infoterm outlined the need for a dual overall structure in the field of terminology in Europe of which one area would be devoted mainly to terminology creation and the necessary support (via research, coordination, systems development, methodology, services etc.) basic of a non-profit and non-commercial nature. The second area would be directed towards the dissemination of terminologies (and the respective systems and services) which could (or even should) be based on a higher level of commercial activities.

IUFRO to Establish Sylvaterm
The International Union of Forestry Research Organization (IUFRO) has been involved in tenninological activities since its very foundation in 1892. In the early 70s an ambitious project on multilingual forestry terminology was launched in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) which resulted in three publications: *Multilingual Forestry Terminology* (in English, French and Italian). Recognizing the importance of terminology work for international networking, IUFRO set up a Working Party at the 19th IUFRO World Congress, Montreal, 1990, to investigate the establishment of a clearinghouse for forestry terminology, entitled *Sylvadoc, with* the following aims: Harmonization and unification of forestry terminology, Information services concerning existing tenninologies in the field, Preparation of special glossaries, Establishment of the forestry termbank *Sylvaterm.* For further information contact: IUFRO, Steckendorff-Gudent Weg 8, A-1131 Vienna, Austria.

Cataloging & Classification Quarterly (CCQ) to Establish a Home Page on the World Wide Web
New York - This summer the quarterly journal CCQ published by the Haworth Press, Inc., entered the world of electronic network publishing in tandem with print publication.
Under the guidance of *Roger Brisson*, Social Sciences Cataloger and Selector for German Language and Literature at The Pennsylvania State University, CCQ generated what is called a 'home page' on the World Wide Web, providing

network users with tables of contents, abstracts, editorials, professional news, and 'Call for Papers' for current and upcoming issues of the journal's print counterpart. Haworth will utilize surveys to measure user satisfaction and review the editorial feasibility of exploring additional applications of electronic networks.
The CCQ home page will also become a hypertext destination for numerous other Web documents that include the hot link to it in their own texts. A special text mark-up language known as HTML (Hyper-Text-Mark-up Language) is used which allows one to easily create a hot link between documents.
Here is what the journal's Editor-in-Chief, *Ruth Carter*, and Editor for Network Access & Applications, *Roger Brisson* said: For anyone wishing to make the CCQ home page a destination, for example, one need only select a word or phrase to act as a hot link, and then add the URL for the CCQ home page using a special HTHL script. Instead of simply providing a reference to an article, a Web author citing an article published in CCQ could hot link the title of the article directly to a full citation appearing in the CCQ home page. This would give the reader much more information, including how to procure the entire article from the Haworth document Delivery service (HDDS).
The URL for the CCQ home page is: HTTP:// STIRNER.LIBRARY.PITT-EDU./-HAWORTH/CCQ-HTML/.
Professionals interested in reviewing the print version of *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* may obtain a complimentary sample copy by writing to either The Haworth Press, Inc., Sample copy Department, 10 Alice Street, Binghampton, NY 13904, USA, or The Haworth Press, Inc. Sample Copy Department, 27 Horsnell Road, London N5 1XL England.

TEI - The ACH/ACL/ALLC Text Encoding Initiative
TEI is an international project, sponsored jointly by the Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH), the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), and the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing (ALLC). Guidelines have been prepared for the interchange of machine-readable texts among researchers with recommendations for encoding new and existing texts using the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML). Version 3 of the Guidelines for Electronic Text Encoding and Interchange (TEI P3) is available in paper and electronic form. To obtain information on how to obtain these, send a note to Listserv@uicvm.uic.edu containing only the line - GET P3Order Doc - or contact C.M.Sperberg-McQueen, Univ.of Illinois (M/C 135), Computer Center, 1940 W. Taylor St., Chicago, IL 60612-7352 (e-mail: tei@uic.edu) or Lou Burnard, Oxford Univ., Computing Services, 13 Banbury Road, Oxford OX1 6NN, U.K. (e-mail: lou@vax.ox.ac.uk)

Lexicographical Symbols and Typographical Conventions for Use in Terminography
This is the title of the ISO Recommendation 1951 which had been edited in 1973 and has now been revised and circulated (in English and French) in November 1995 as Draft Interna-

Knowl. Org. 22(1995)No.3/4
Reports and Communications

171

tional Standard. It shows the result of the ISO/TC37 SC2 (Subcommittee 2) work. Its aim is to harmonize the usage of symbols and typographical conventions in terminography (recording, processing, and presenting terminological data in printed or machine-readable form) on the basis of theoretical and scientific traditions while taking into accout the development of computer hardware and software so that the user of specialized dictionaries and vocabularies is not confronted with identical or similar symbols or layout features representing different types of information. Ist scope comprises specialized dictionaries and lexicons, systematic and alphabetical vocabularies, terminological databases and works pertaining to lexicography and documentation. This Draft is being circulated form comment and approval. It is still subject to change and may not be referred to as an international standard until published as such.

Conceptual Knowledge Processing

An invitation to the International Conference on Conceptual Knowledge Processing at the Technical University of Darmstadt, February 28 - March 1, 1996 has been distributed together with a Call for Papers. The conference continues on an international level the meetings on *"Begriffliche Wissensverarbeitung"* which started in 1986. They have been stimulated by the foundation of the *Ernst Schröder Zentrum für Begriffliche Wissensverarbeitung* in which scholars from mathematics, computer, information and social sciences combine to advocate and work for a human-centered development and use of tools and media in information and knowledge processing. The conference is organized by the *Forschungsgruppe Begriffsanalyse at the Technical University* (TH) Darmstadt in cooperatioon with the *Ernst Schröder Zentrum* and the *International Society for Knowledge Organization* (ISKO). Courses on Formal Concept Analysis will be offered immediatcly before the conference (Febr.26-27, 1996) at the TH Darmstadt.

Applications should be sent to: Prof. Dr. Rudolf Wille, FB Mathematik, TH, Schloßgartenstr. 7, D-64289 Darmstadt. (Phone +49-6151-163415, Fax: +49-6151-164 011. E-mail: ConKnow@mathematik.th-darmstadt.de).

IFCS-96: Data Science, Classification and Related Methods

The 5th Conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies will take place from March 27-30, 1996 at Kobe, Japan. It is sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture as well as the Behaviormetric Society of Japan under the auspices of the Japanese Classification Society. Altogether 21 scientific Japanese societies are cooperating. Conference President is Prof. Chikio Hayashi, the Scientific Program Committee is chaired by Prof. Keiji Yajima, the Local Organizing Committee by Prof. Noboru Ohsumi. The International Program Committee has 22 members from 16 countries, the Local Program Committee consists of 33 Japanese members of 23 universities. The preliminary program shows the following 10 plenary sessions:

H.H. BOCK (Germany): Probability in Classification. - A.D. GORDON (U.K.): Cluster Validation. - Ch. HAYASHI (Japan): What is Data Science? Fundamental Concept and Heuristic Examples. - W.J. HEISER (Netherlands): Fitting Graphs and Trees with Multidimensional Scaling Methods. - L. HUBERT, Ph. ARABIE (USA): The Approximation of One- and Two-Mode Proximity Matrices by Sums of Order-Constrained Matrices. - K. JAJUGA (Poland): Classification and Data Analysis in Finance. - J.Ch. LEE (Korea): Statistics, Data Analysis and Classification in Korea: Past, Present, and Future. - F. COSTA NICOLAU (Portugal): Some Trends in the Classification of Variables. - J.-P. RASSON (Belgium): Convexity Methods in Classification. - P. SCOZZAFAVA (Italy): Ultrametric Distances.

In addition there are 23 Invited Sessions, one Panel Session and Contributed Sessions.

For registration and general inquiries write to the Secretariat of IFCS-96, c/o International Communications Specialists, Inc., Kasho Bldg., 2-14-9 Nihombashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103, Japan. Phone: +81-3-3272-7981, Fax: +81-3-3273-2445.

The Society of Indexers' Conference 1996

will be on Communication. It is announced for April 12-14, 1996 at The Hawthorns, University of Bristol, U.K. The full programme and maps will be sent out in late February 1996. Bookings should be made by 9 February to Auriol Griffith-Jones, King's Stag House, King's Stag, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 2AY, England.

Complex Problem Solving (C.P.S.)

This is the topic for which a Call for Papers and Participation has recently been received. The 13th WACRA-Europe Conference on Case Method Research and Case Method Application and the 2nd International Conference on Methods for Complex Societal Problems in cooperation with European Comenium, Cheb, the Czech Republic will take place at the Technical University of Munich, Germany, June 17-19, 1996.

The goal of the conference has been stated as follows: Cognitive psychological/anthropological research and the new scientific field of methods and tools to improve societal problem handling. Preferred attention is on climatic change and its socio-economic consequences; health and technical policy problems.

The conference is organized by WACRA-Europe (World Association for Case Method Research and Case Method Application) and SMCP - Society for Methods and Complex Societal Problems. Abstracts of 600 words should be sent by 31 Dec. 1995 (acceptance by 1 Febr.1996) to Dr. E. A. STUHLER, Technical University of Munich, Institute of Economic and Social Sciences, D-85350 Freising, Germany. Phone: +49-8161-713493, Fax: +49-8161-66767.

172

Knowl. Org. 22(1995)No.3/4
Reports and Communications