

## References

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## Reports and Communications

### Towards the Construction of a Thesaurus on the Italian Business History: An Announcement

Within the cultural program carried out by the Milan Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the Foundation ASSI, work on the construction of a thesaurus on the Italian business history has begun. The team of 5 collaborators comprise R.BERTELLI and E.ROMANO from the Milan Chamber of Commerce, B.BEZZA and P.A.TONINELLI from the Fondazione ASSI in Milan and M.ARRIGONI, a Consultant in Library and Information Science.

When building a thesaurus on the Italian business history, the peculiarities of the economic growth in Italy, and consequently, of the organization of the entrepreneurial, managerial and manufacturing activities are to be taken into account. Unlike Great Britain, the USA and Germany, where productive units have evolved following a sufficiently linear process (family-run units, joint-stock companies, vertical and/or horizontal integration, large-sized companies), in the past decades in Italy, traditionally "archaic" entrepreneurial organizations (e.g. small-sized firms, family-run firms) have shown new vitality and coexist with more advanced forms of enterprises, such as public companies, or original forms, such as foreign-Italian holdings and state-owned companies. In the context of these peculiarities, all the organized forms of production, distribution and services which have characterized the Italian economy since the industrial revolution must be taken into account.

The thesaurus structure will be in conformity with the ISO 2788 Standard. The TINTERM software, developed by IME Ltd (London) has been selected for the automatic processing of terms and their relationships.

The selection of terms is being done by the Committee following literary warrant. Due to the complexity of business history and its still unformal settlement, being an "in fieri" discipline and at the center of a "crossroad" where economic history, economics, industrial and finance economy, business administration, sociology converge, the opportunity to adopt a faceted structure is under evaluation to better define the complex interdependence of "preferred" terms.

An "in vivo" test at the end of the work is foreseen to be carried out in a special section of the Milan Chamber of Commerce library dedicated to the Italian business history.

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## U.K. CRG 282

The 282nd Meeting of the British Classification Research Group was held at University College in London on July 4, 1991 with nine participants. It was devoted to particular questions concerning the second edition of the Bliss Classification. Mr. Jack MILLS drew attention to a 3-page document "BC2: Problems of General Structure" which he had circulated at the CRG 280 meeting in Dec. 1990. The discussions centered around the problem of the location and determination of the concepts of applied biology, philosophy and religion, as well as politics and law. The next meeting had been scheduled for Oct. 24 and was to continue with these topics, including, however, also Common Subdivisions and Phase Relationships.

## International Symposium on Terminology Teaching and Training, Granada, 24-25 June 1991

This Symposium was jointly organized by the University of Granada, the national Spanish Terminology Centre TermEsp and the International Institute for Terminology Research (IITF). More than 100 participants, mostly from universities, attended to discuss methods and didactics of terminology teaching and training and to exchange practical experiences. A small group of experts, among those a representative of Infoterm, prepared a curriculum for terminology training within translation and interpretation studies at Spanish universities. (From Infoterm Newsletter 61)

## MicroMATER and the General Terminological Record Format

Since the adoption of ISO 6156, the MATER standard, it has been widely recognized that the standard does not meet the needs of many modern database systems, particularly those operating in or communicating with microcomputer environments. Two significant systems have evolved to meet those needs, MicroMATER (MM) (1) and the Nordic Terminological Record Format (NTRF) (2). MM is a prototype interchange format for exchange of terminological data developed by the Translation Research Group of the University of Brigham Young at Provo, Utah, in cooperation with the American Translators Association and the Kent State University Institute for Applied Linguistics, and in consultation with Infoterm. MM complies to many SGML (Standard General Markup Language) conventions and is easily convertible to SGML. It has been used successfully for the past five years for the interchange of terminological data between terminological databases (TDBs) and between TDBs and other types of data streams (e.g., word-processing systems). NTRF is an SGML-conformant markup language for the interchange of terminology files among the Scandinavian countries (Finland, Norway, and Sweden). It has been used with success in the Nordic countries to merge terminological data for the purpose of creating a global Nordic dictionary.

## Rationale for an SGML Solution

Consensus is growing in the terminology community on the criteria that must be met by a universal exchange format.

- *SGML conformance.* The acceptance of SGML (ISO 8879) as a standard for the interchange of data is burgeoning, particularly in North America. The MATER standard itself set a precedent for conformance with existing ISO interchange formats in that it was based in part on ISO 2709. The validity of the SGML standard has not only been recognized by the developments of MM and NTRF, but by the authors of the EUROTRA-7 report as well (3).

- *Flexibility.* The exchange format must be polymethodological in that it will easily accept data from a wide range of data structures.

- *Power.* The exchange format must be powerful enough to download data to a wide range of data structures.

- *Transliteration.* The exchange format should utilize character conversion tables that will facilitate fully reliable, bi-directional transliteration of all common character sets including not only Roman character languages, but non-Roman ones and ideographic languages as well.

Although some analysts have attacked the MATER standard (EUROTRA-7), it is not the position of AI7 that a proposed SGML format be a replacement for ISO 6156, but rather that it be adopted as a second part to ISO 6156 designed to meet needs unaddressed by the MATER standard.

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(From Infoterm Newsletter 61, abridged. The text is continued by a further chapter: "Rationale for a solution involving the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI)".)

## Terminology in Advanced Microcomputer Applications

A first announcement for a 2nd TermNet Symposium on this title to be held in Avignon, France, May 1992 has been circulated. Terminology Software supporting a number of activities is asked for. Further info: TermNet, P.O.Box 130, A-1021 Wien, Austria.