INFOTERM NEWS

(compiled from Infoterm Newsletters 12 and 13)

Second meeting of ISO/TC 37 "Terminology (principles and co-ordination)" Working Group 1 "Principles of terminology",, Moscow, November 20–24, 1978

At the second meeting of WGI draft proposals concerning revisions of ISO/R 860 "International unification of concepts and terms" and of ISO/R "Vocabulary of terminology" were discussed. The transformation of WG 1 into a Sub-Committee was also deliberated.

Revision of R 704. "Principles of terminology" – WG I Secretariat submitted the first draft proposal. This was approved as a basis for a second draft which will include written and oral comments received so far by WG 1 Secretariat.

Revision of R 860. "International unification of concepts and terms". – TC 37 Secretariat will prepare a revised draft on the basis of detailed comments to be sent to TC 37 Secretariat by member bodies. It was proposed to examine the applicability of such an International Standard to Non-European languages.

Revision of R 1087. "Vocabulary of terminology. – The revised document should include the terms used in documents issued by TC 37 plus terms expressing generic concepts necessary for the formulation of definitions. Since all three WGs of TC 37 are concerned an ad hoc Working Group was set up.

Transformation of WG 1 into a Sub-Committee. – WG 1 having a permanent working programme the members of WG I proposed to TC 37 to transform WG 1 into a Sub-Committee. TC 37 Secretariat was requested to address an inquiry to this effect to TC 37 members.

Workshop on EURODICAUTOM, Luxembourg, November 9–10, 1978

At this workshop on the terminological data bank "EURODICAUTOM" of the Commission of the European Communities the following problems were discussed:

– Structure of EURODICAUTOM (data elements, format, user-oriented output possibilities, internal technical structure, etc.)

– Future development and expansion of EURODICAUTOM on the basis of languages and subject fields (via internal measures inclusive of user-feedback, via external collaborators and co-operation with other terminological data banks and institutions) within the framework of Euronet; usefulness of the system for the elaboration of specialized dictionaries and thesauri.

Internationales Kolloquium "Rechnerunterstützte fachsprachliche Lexikologie", Technische Universität Dresden, August 29–31, 1978

This conference attended primarily by representatives of Eastern European countries dealt with problems related to computational linguistics and the rôle of the computer for terminology, lexicology, lexicography and related fields.

A selection of papers presented is given below:

Baumann, E.: *Einige Aspekte der Sprachentwicklung und Sprachpflege im Bereich der Fachsprachen – Stand und Aufgaben der Terminologiearbeit* [Specialized languages – some aspects of development and cultivation of language. Status and tasks of terminology work].

Drozd, L.: *Linguistik, Lexikologie und Lexikographie* [Linguistics, lexicology and lexicography].

Jungclaussen, G. – *Zur Morphemanalyse des russischen Fachwortschatzes der Elektrotechnik/Elektronik* [The analysis of morphemes of the Russian electrotechnical and electronic vocabulary.]

Valeva, R. N.: *Automatic analysis of morphemes of verbal nouns in the Russian vocabulary of mechanical engineering.* (in Russian).

Filipec, J.: *Probleme der Äquivalenz und der Hierarchie im (Fach-)Wörterbuch* [Probleme of equivalence and hierarchy in (specialized) dictionaries].

Griese, H.: *Rechnerunterstützte Erarbeitung des Internationalen Thesaurus Land- und Forstwirtschaft* [Computer-assisted elaboration of the International thesaurus of agriculture].

2nd Conference on European co-operation in social science, information and documentation (ECSSID), held in Blazejevko, Poland, October 16–21, 1978.

The goals of the ECSSID programme are reflected in the conclusions reached by the participants representing the majority of European countries.

The ECSSID programme is envisaged as a voluntary co-operation of social science information and documentation services in various countries with a view towards establishing a European regional social science information & documentation system. Particular attention is given to problems of compatibility being dealt with by Working Group 3. Linguistic tools required for information processing and retrieval (classification languages, retrieval languages, thesauri, etc.) will be studied in great detail.

TermNet activities

The establishment of an international network of terminology information and documentation (TermNet) described in detail in Infoterm Newsletters 8 and 4, respectively, is in a concrete stage of realization with partiuclar emphasis on modalities of data exchange.

Analysis of the questionnaries disseminated by Infoterm in March 1978 (see Newsletter 9) has been completed, and – as a consequence – three specific projects have been undertaken:

– *BT 1 (International Bibliography of terminological articles and books)* Bibliographical data concerning terminological literature of this kind have been collected and processed in collaboration with AILA, University of Laval, and the Office de la langue française (Canada) and other organizations. Some 900 references have been stored up to now. Newly published documents are being registered continuously. Publication is foreseen.

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– *BT 3/4 (International Bibliography of specialized vocabularies) International Bibliography of multilingual vocabularies in the field of building and construction.* This project is being undertaken jointly by Infoterm and the ECE. Representatives of both organizations met in Sofia (Bulgaria) last October to establish a concrete implementation plan inclusive of time table, etc. A work sheet (in E, F and R) for the registration of pertinent documents has been elaborated and distributed to organizations having expressed their desire to participate.

International Bibliography of vocabularies in the field of law, economics and administration.
The International Institute for legal and administrative terminology, LEAT, Dr. Alexander LANE (director), Forstenriederallee 4a, D-8000 München 71 / FRG is about to reactivate its terminological efforts in the fields mentioned above. We, therefore, should like to invite readers to contact either Infoterm or Dr. Lane in case they wish to collaborate in this project.

News from ISO/TC 37

The ISO Draft Proposal 6156 "Magnetic Tape Exchange Format for Terminological/Lexicographical Records (MATER)" was distributed for vote and comment in October 1978.

First International Conference on terminological data banks

The first conference of this kind was held in Vienna on April 2–3, 1979. More than 50 experts from 17 countries (including Venezuela, the Arab world, etc.) and 5 inter/multinational organizations (such as the UN, the CEC, etc.) attended the meeting. It was the purpose of this conference to discuss ways and means of effective co-operation between terminological data banks, such as essential prerequisite for the exchange of terminological data, namely compatible exchange formats, quality criteria, etc. In addition, guidelines concerning the establishment of terminological data banks were also considered to be of importance to those about to develop terminological data banks, particularly in developping countries.

Agenda

Monday, April 2nd, 1979:
Morning session: Chairman: Mr. E. Weis, Opening of the meeting. Presentation and discussion of Mr. G. Rondeau's paper: "Typologie des banques de terminologie"
Afternoon session: Chairman: Mr. J. A. Bachrach. Presentation and discussion of Mr. E. Sundström's paper: "Transfer modalities of terminological data" (Mr. Algotsson presented the paper on Mr. E. Sundström's behalf)
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Tuesday, April 3rd, 1979:
Morning session: Chairman Mr. A. Landry. Presentation and discussion of Mr. K. H. Brinkmann's paper: "Quality criteria for the exchange of terminological data"
Afternoon session: Chairman Mr. H. Felber. Presentation and discussion of Mr. A. Bothe's paper: "The systematic classification of terminology / La classification des stocks terminologiques". Presentation and discussion of the report of Ms. Krommer-Benz on the "Vocabulary of terminological data banks" and of Mr R. Goffin's report on the same topic. Final recommendations.

Discussions

During the first day of the conference Mr. Rondeau's paper set the note for the ensuing discussion. A number of important points were raised such as:
- existing terminological data banks had originally been established to meet specific user needs accounting for different content and structure of banks, i.e. translation, terminology work, documentation, etc.,
- what are the minimum data requirements for all these types of terminological data banks?
- new terminological data banks particularly in developing countries with non-European languages will need additional information related to training and teaching, e.g. information on sources, pronunciation, etc.;
- modes of using data received from other banks, i.e. using them side by side with existing ones or to incorporate newly received data into the bank proper;
- user needs will contribute to the data and quality control of holdings;
- agreement will have to be reached on three basic questions:
  the form of the entry
  the coding of sources
  the subject classification used.
  Harmonization or even standardization would be desirable;
- developing countries stressed the need to be actively involved in future developments of terminological data banks and to have access to existing terminological data.

After Mr. Algotsson's presentation of Mr. Sundström's paper the following points emerged in the discussion:
- there is a danger of unreliable terminology being produced by the new so called "pocket dictionaries";
- it should be a principle that one category of a term record should contain only one type of information;
- the MATER format (Magnetic Tape Exchange Format for Terminological/Lexicographical Records) is not yet agreed upon and does not, therefore represent a recommended format; it is only intended as an exchange format but may offer guidelines on possible categories for new banks; the discussion on this ISO draft is far from complete and proposals exist on a reduced number of categories; the existing MATER proposals are flexible in as much as they permit repeating categories;
- it is relatively easy to achieve agreement on the categories required to record standardized terminology;
- it may be desirable to limit terminological data collection to standardized terminology, thesauri, special vocabularies and multilingual vocabularies.

Infoterm was of the opinion that it might be desirable to approach international and national organizations with a request to collaborate in the collection of terminological data; this might eventually lead to these organizations becoming users of banks.

Tuesday's morning session focused on quality criteria

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of terminological data for exchange purposes. The following points arose in the discussion:

- with regard to data exchange the following distinctions have to be made: the exchange of complete vs. partial records, the exchange of documentation vs. the exchange of term records, descriptive vs. prescriptive data, the internal vs. the external format of data, i.e. the exchange format;
- with regard to term records:
  the date of the incorporation of a term into a bank is important to identify new accessions; only terms originating from standards are of uniform quality, the source of a term is a useful guide as to its quality; the function of a bank determines its quality requirements, i.e. banks intended to assist translation have to accept provisional terms and translation equivalent coinages which will not be acceptable to a bank of standardized terminology;
- with regard to translation equivalents:
  translation equivalents are not necessarily full conceptual equivalents, ISO 1951 "Lexicographical Symbols" provides symbols to indicate degrees of term correspondences; equivalence can he tested by comparing definitions; pictorial representation can assist in identifying the degree of equivalence, etc.
- with regard to categorizations categories are necessary for multiple use of data, to speed up search;
- there is a distinction to be made between retrieval criteria and output information; the compatibility of retrieval criteria should be aimed at for the greater benefit of users;

The chairman, Mr. Landry, summed up the discussion by stating that the first priority was to obtain full information about the data stored in the various banks.

The second session of the morning was divided into two working groups: the managers of existing banks (see report on special session below) and the members of the conference who are planning a data bank.
The second group was chaired by Mr. Sager.
The discussion was concerned with:

- the need of clear definitions of the end user requirements;
- the possibilities provided by new technology in the form of word processing systems and micro processors for data storage;
- the important contribution which can be made by users themselves;
- the role of banks in the teaching of special languages;
- the contribution banks can make towards the harmonization of language in large institutions.

The general conclusion was that much could be learnd from existing banks and that therefore guidelines based on existing experience would be of great assistance.

Tuesday's afternoon session concentrated on problems of classification based on Mr. Bothe's paper.

It was felt that the convertibility of classification schemes was essential, and that combinations of subject codes allow greater precision of retrieval. Harmonization of classification schemes was also considered desirable.

Mr. Felber, chairing the final session, asked for recommendations from the conference (see below) which would be considered by the Infoterm Advisory Board (report below). He thanked the participants for their valuable contributions and expressed the hope that Unesco would continue to sponsor the work of Infoterm. It was the general agreement that it would be appropriate for conference members to request their respective governments to direct Unesco's attention to the importance of terminology.

Recommendations

The participants of the First International Conference on Terminological Data Banks recommend that Infoterm be requested:
(I) to organize such conferences on a regular basis, preferably with emphasis on particular themes;
(2) to set up a task force (working group) with the twofold objective of:

a) gathering information about the organization, structure and content of data stored by existing terminology banks, and regularly distributing this information to all interested parties with a view to facilitating the exchange of data; such inventories would have to contain a minimum set of items of information such as subject field, language(s), availability of data to third parties and the conditions under which these data are offered;
b) supplying terminology banks in the process of implementation or development with information and guidance as and when requested;

(3) to undertake or to arrange for a comparative study to be undertaken of the categories (data elements) employed in different term records for ordering and identifying terminological data;
(4) to undertake or coordinate the development of guidelines for the establishment of terminological data banks;
(5) to undertake or to direct a survey of the solutions which have been found by existing terminological data banks to overcome user reluctance towards working with computer systems and especially with screens. (This request is based on the awareness that the relationship between man and machine is one of the many problems which have arisen form the use of terminological data banks.);
(6) to coordinate efforts with a view to making proposals towards the harmonization of the methods of coding source material;
(7) to collect and distribute information about the subject classification systems used by existing terminological data banks, as a first step towards achieving compatibility among the subject classifications in use.

Special session for terminological data bank managers (April 3, 11.00)

During the conference a special session for TDB managers was held to discuss problems connected with the management of TDB, such as:
(I) problems concerning data transfer:
indication of sources, copyright, restricted vs. unrestricted data transfer quality criteria, nature of the interrelations between TDB, e.a.,
(2) problems concerning the cost of data management: structure, standardization, formats and classification, data acquisition, data marketing, e.a.,
(3) problems concerning the qualification of personnel: training, exchange of experts.

The discussion clearly revealed the need for better communication and for a code of good practice between terminological data banks.

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Infoterm Advisory Board Meeting, Vienna, April 4, 1979

In 1977 the Infoterm Advisory Board approved an Infoterm project of a network with the objectives outlined in the Infoterm Study. As a first step the Board proposed an enquiry among likely TermNet partners. This enquiry formed the basis of the discussions and recommendations of this meeting.

For the occasion of this meeting the Advisory Board had been enlarged to include representatives from major contributors to TermNet.

Items of discussion

TermNet Programme, the draft programme for TermNet, as outlined by Mr. Felber in the paper "A plan for data management within TermNet" comprises three programmes:

Programme 1: Development of the foundation of terminology work (General theory of terminology)

Programme 2: Development of closer co-operation in terminology work (Organization of the elaboration of terminologies)

Programme 3: Development of a network for terminology documentation and information

At present Infoterm activities of Programme 3 focusses on the following projects:

BT I "International Bibliography of terminological articles and books (theory, terminology work, standardization, etc.)", carried out in co-operation with institutions in Canada, GIRSTERM, OLF and DGTD, was well advanced.

BT 2 "International Bibliography of standardized vocabularies" had just come off the press.

BT 3/4 "International Bibliography of multilingual/monolingual specialized vocabularies"

Results of inquiry

Considering the favorable response received the Advisory Board recommended the full implementation of TermNet proposals.

Organization of TermNet

With regard to the organization of TermNet it was agreed that its structure should be allowed to evolve. The main purpose of Infoterm in TermNet was that of a clearing house for information and of stimulating co-operation linking all relevant bodies who were interested in TermNet regardless whether they were individual centres or groupings of centres.

It was generally felt that the success of TermNet depended entirely on the willingness of its members to supply information, to participate in joint ventures and to support Infoterm materially in its work. The inquiry had shown that several centres were prepared to assist Infoterm directly.

Implementation of TermNet

Programme I had previously been envisaged, as it is considered important to provide a solid basis for training in terminology. Infoterm reported that the lecture series of the late Professor Wüster had been published, and that French and English versions were being prepared in Canada by the DGTD (Ottawa) and would be available shortly.

The recommendations of the 1st Conference on Terminological Data Banks were of direct relevance; the Board accepted the recommendations as extremely important for the success of TermNet and advised Infoterm to accept them with particular priority for recommendations 3 and 7.

On the question of the conditions attached to making terminological data available to TermNet members it was felt that this had to be left to individual members.

The "Draft Guidelines for recording bibliographical data" had been prepared by Infoterm to facilitate agreement on a bibliographical format which is indispensable for future work to be carried out by various centres.

The newsletter was considered to be the first and most important element of TermNet. Infoterm should edit this newsletter but the writing, printing and distribution could be done by any members willing to assist, especially at the beginning.

The position of terminological data banks within TermNet

It was agreed that terminological data banks shall be considered like any other member of TermNet, and that a separate subnet was undesirable.

Future meetings

September 24–26, 1979 Universität Bielefeld, Sprachenzentrum, FRG, "2. Europäisches Fachsprachensymposium".

September 25–27, 1979 Québec (Canada). 2nd meeting of ISO/TC 37/WG 3 "Layout of vocabularies". Revision of documents. ISO/R 919 "Guide for the preparation of classified vocabularies". ISO/R 1149 "Layout of multilingual classified vocabularies". ISO/R 1951 " Lexicographical symbols". ISO/R 639 "Symbols for languages, countries and authorities" Elaboration of a new standard "Layout of monolingual classified vocabularies".

November 27–30, 1979 Moscow, ISO TC 37/WG 1 (VNIIKI), Acadamy of Sciences of the USSR in co-operation with Infoterm and AILA.

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