

WORKSHOP 4

Cross lingual applications

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Introduction

Cross lingual applications generally refers to efforts in linking data from different linguistic sources in order to provide a more efficient access to set of data, records or items, either in bibliographic utilities or in web applications. These applications are based on multilingual files (thesaurus) or linking / mapping initiatives.

For the purpose of this workshop, I propose that we concentrate on "cross lingual applications" in the field of subject access. The needs for multilingual subject access has expended as the result of web, as library online catalogs are now accessed though the Web and are not limited to local users with a knowledge of the national language of the catalog. At the same time, the development and impact of the Web on access to libraries' catalogs have opened up various possibilities and solutions to multilingualism.

Today, there are various multilingual subject access initiatives and practices that use different methods and tools to achieve the goal of providing access though two or more languages. ELAG 2003 will present some models that range from multilingual access provided though subject authority files (ILO) to web based linking approach to two or more thesauri or Subject Heading Languages (SHLs) (MACS). There are many more approaches that have attempted to establish links between controlled and uncontrolled vocabularies, between subject vocabularies and classification systems, between different monolingual subject vocabularies. Lois Mai Chan and Marcia Lei Zeng (<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/papers/008-122e.pdf>) have recently reviewed many of these current initiatives and projects.

Objective

This workshop aims at exploring the current state of research and applications in the field of multilingual subject access. In doing so, it will raise the following questions:

- What is the best approach for achieving multilingual subject access in online catalogs? Through subject authority records or though Web applications?
- Is the "Guidelines for the establishment and development of multilingual thesauri" (ISO 6964, Geneva: ISO, 1985) still useful and pertinent for the current mapping / linking approach between monolingual thesauri or Subject Heading Languages (SHLs)?
- Which guidelines could be used to evaluate the multilingual subject access applications?

Workshop Discussion Papers

References

In order to prepare for this workshop, the following sources could be used for an investigation of the issues of multilingual subject access:

CARMEN WP12: Cross concordances of classifications and thesauri.
<http://www.bibliothek.uni-regensburg.de/projects/carmen12/index.html.en>
HEREIN
<http://www.european-heritage.net/sdx/herein/thesaurus/introduction.xsp>

HILT: High-Level Thesaurus Project proposal.
<http://hilt.cdlr.strath.ac.uk/AboutHILT/proposal.html>

MACS (Multilingual ACcess to Subjects)
<http://infolab.kub.nl/prj/mac3>

Renardus
<http://www.renardus.org/>

UMLS (Unified Medical Language System)
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/umlsmeta.html>