

informATIOn

March 2005

Number 1

Terminology is a vital part of the language professions and although our terminologist colleagues often toil out of the limelight, they contribute to the work of translators, conference interpreters and court interpreters much more than we sometimes realize. Find out just how much in this issue, in which ATIO is pleased to pay tribute to the smallest, but not the least of its professions.

Terminology: At the Heart of the Language Industry

By Gabriel Huard, C. Tran.

Director, Terminology Standardization Directorate

Translation Bureau of Canada

Translation David Lowe, C. Tran.

Terminology is one of the driving forces in language today: in our global village, with its ubiquitous communication, standardized terminology constitutes the best defence against what has been called the “Babelization” of communication. Just ask yourself what localization projects around the world would look like if experienced terminologists were not involved.

Terminology: an instrument of federal policy

Terminology is also central to the language dynamics of the federal government. It is a key component of the official languages programs set up by federal departments and agencies. With its mandate to standardize and disseminate terminology within the federal public service, the Translation Bureau, through its Terminology Standardization Directorate (TSD), has done everything it can to meet the federal government’s standardization and terminology needs. As an instrument of federal standardization, the TSD has made its flagship product, TERMIUM®, one of the world’s largest linguistic databases and the standardization tool of choice in the federal government. With its many products, including TERMIUM® on CD-ROM,

TERMIUM Plus®, and the bilingual and multilingual lexicons, glossaries, and vocabularies it publishes, the TSD helps to enhance the quality of communications in both official languages and contributes to the success of the federal government’s key programs.

The TSD is also responsible for creating the Federal Terminology Council, which is a network for exchanging terminology specific to the various federal departments and agencies, thereby bringing together all of their terminology standardization activities. The TSD is also a member of networks, boards, and committees whose work supports its leadership role among the managers of terminology units in the public service.

Terminology at the national level...

Federal and national entities being indistinguishable in Canada, the TSD plays a pivotal role on the national scene with regard to standardization across the country. The founding of the National Terminology Council, to which the TSD invited representatives from provincial and territorial language services, is a good example of how the TSD plays a central role at the federal and national levels. This can also be seen in its commitment toward the federal government objective of recognizing our

Continued on page 3

Jean-Luc Malherbe Honoured at French Embassy

By Kenneth Larose, President

On 20 January, Jean-Luc Malherbe, an ATIO member since 1975, had the French honour of *Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite* conferred upon him. It is a fitting tribute to someone who has worked so long and hard not only on behalf of our demanding and important profession, but also on a volunteer basis, contributing to better understanding between our two countries in many ways, including his efforts on the board of the *Lycée Claudel*.



Jean-Luc Malherbe

Continued from page 1

country's cultural and linguistic diversity, notably through horizontal collaboration with Nunavut to promote Inuktitut.

...and beyond

With the blurring of international boundaries and the rapidly changing standardization and terminology needs stemming from globalization, Canada does not have a choice but to transcend the federal and national framework and to play a key role in international standardization in various language arenas, notably by co-ordinating projects for pan-Latin and pan-African lexicons, for which the Translation Bureau, via the TSD, provided the base lists in Canada's official languages, English and French. For example, the *Pan-Latin Electronic Commerce Glossary*, which is available on the Bureau's site, and the *Pan-African Sports Glossary*, which will be released at the Fifth Games of La Francophonie, to be held in Niger in December 2005. In addition, given the growing demand for multilingual products and services stemming from new market trends—NAFTA, FTAA, MERCOSUR—the TSD is playing a key role in several initiatives to preserve the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Americas.

Is the profession at risk?

Despite the strength of the demand, terminology-specific courses—and there aren't many—cover essentially the basics. Furthermore, the closing of translation programs at certain Canadian universities hasn't helped. If the situation is not fixed, the pool of qualified terminologists will decrease, and the standardization efforts undertaken to ensure the efficiency of communications will be very much compromised.

The Translation Bureau of Canada is especially concerned about this upcoming shortage. Given its key role among managers of terminology units at the federal, national, and international levels, the Translation Bureau paved the way for collaborative efforts that will guarantee the profession a bright future.

Solutions

In light of the lack of visibility the terminology function has within other linguistic processes, such as translation and localization, the Translation Bureau held a two-day symposium in 2003 entitled *Does Terminology Have a Future?*, during which the key players—the federal and provincial governments, universities, professional associations, and the private sector—discussed the state of terminology, defined the needs, outlined the profile of tomorrow's terminologist, and established the foundation for a concrete strategy and action plan.

From the outset, the Translation Bureau was there, committing to train its own terminologists via its new in-house professional development and training program, to expand its partnerships, to offer its consulting services, to give students practical work-terms, and to provide learning tools.

Participants unanimously agreed that terminology indeed had a future, one that they had to build together. The recommendations stemming from the two days of discussions touched on three key areas: training, the value of terminology, and the profession's image and status. The recommendations also had timeframes for implementation.

Since the two-day symposium, several initiatives have seen the light of day. For example, on September 30, 2004, the Translation Bureau launched the *Pavel Terminology Tutorial*, a free terminology self-study tool with a reputation that was already made. Spanish and Portuguese versions will be added. The Translation Bureau also financed a study on the economic value of terminology—a first in Canada. The symposium and the study were the subject of articles in *Language Update*, the Translation Bureau's professional magazine. In addition, a project for a graduate degree in terminology was proposed to the Canadian Association of Schools of Translation to give more weight and credibility to the profession.

The private sector, universities, and the professional associations are not on the sidelines either when it comes to promoting the profession. You have only to look to the *Grands rendez-vous des terminologues*, whose second edition, organized and hosted by Nycole Bélanger, C. Term., C. Tran., was held in Montreal in October 2004, for an example of their activities.

What's next?

The Translation Bureau will continue to follow up on the recommendations, thereby scrupulously ensuring that the two-day symposium, where the seeds were sown, gives rise to other concrete results. For example, on December 15, 2004, the Translation Bureau signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Ottawa's School of Translation and Interpretation to establish a partnership program in terminology, which will help supply the next generation of terminologists. Under this new agreement, the TSD will offer at least one paid work-term annually for a terminologist working in Spanish or in official languages (preferably at the graduate level).

As the largest employer of terminologists in Canada, the Translation Bureau intends to carry out its responsibility of promoting the profession of terminologist. As a result, the TSD will ensure that it is able to fulfill its mandate of terminology standardization within the public service.

Inside

The Corporate Terminologist—Advantages and Responsibilities	Page 3	Terminology in LogiTerm: Flexibility Above All	Page 10
TERMIUM®, the Fifth Generation	Page 6	AIIIA—At the Commercial Crossroads of the Canadian Language Industry	Page 11
ONTERM, www.onterm.gov.on.ca , the Central Authoritative Source for Ontario Government Terminology	Page 9	A Textbook That's Fun to Read	Page 11
To Keep Up with Your French, Just Remember This Address: www.oqlf.gouv.qc.ca	Page 9	The AGM—More than Just Workshops	Page 11
How Can We Train More Terminologists?	Page 10	Calendar of Events	Page 12
		Congratulations to Newly Certified Members!	Page 12

The Corporate Terminologist— Advantages and Responsibilities

By Gregg Joe, Corporate Terminologist, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) – C. Term.

Years of service at the Translation Bureau of Canada carrying out a host of terminological services for a variety of federal government departments and agencies in both official languages provided me with a professional background adequate to win the CMHC competition for the position of corporate terminologist. It also provided me with an ideal environment in which to apply the principles of terminology in a corporate setting. However my experience was not sufficient for dealing with software and hardware issues arising from products specifically designed for Crown corporations. Fixes needed to be made.

In general, CMHC's terminology methods are the same as those of the Translation Bureau of Canada. The cherished principles of single-concept records, establishing term matches, finding sources and carrying out term searches and standardization, and so on, are all faithfully adhered to. However, the extent to which these principles are applied are understandably different.

Unlike the terminological requirements of a large translation organization, where various types of terminological data are assigned to specific computer fields, the requirements of a Crown corporation are more client-specific and thus more modest. With the help of qualified translators and computer programmers, the corporate terminologist has the task of re-engineering and re-designing the manner in which terminological information is streamed so that it can be accessed more quickly and securely in a common corporate system (Lotus Notes).

What we have determined through in-house polls is that our principal users wanted equivalents, references to internal sources, proof of authorship and the occasional supporting text for conceptual clarification. They wanted to create, modify and query for terms within the same application. They didn't want to get bogged down preparing the perfectly codified terminological record requiring an assorted number of person-days for proper validation. By getting rid of criteria deemed superfluous today by most translators pressed for time (sources aren't validated, subject-field classification system is simple, fewer usage labels, fewer computer fields, fewer minimal requirements and record-completion rules), the record appears cleaner, the turnaround time for validation is quicker and technical issues disappeared.

Unlike federal translators who are on assignment in various government departments, but who are not actually remunerated directly by these departments, the team of language specialists at CMHC are hired by and remunerated by CMHC.

There are four "pillars" to CMHC's mission as Canada's housing agency

Housing finance—CMHC ensures availability, accessibility and choice of housing funding to Canadians.

Research and information transfer—CMHC improves housing and supports the housing market by being the key Canadian source of reliable and objective housing information.

Assisted housing—CMHC participates in assisted housing initiatives as directed by the federal government with ongoing responsibility for federal social housing funding. In particular, CMHC supports aboriginal communities in their efforts to become self-sufficient in developing and maintaining their housing.

International—CMHC supports and promotes the export of Canadian housing products and expertise by identifying market opportunities and providing practical information/advice to the housing industry.

That is, the staff at the Linguistic Services Group contribute directly to the functions mentioned above. This contribution directly impacts the overall performance of the Corporation. On the plus side, we get better and quicker feedback from our corporate colleagues, who treat us like family and not like contract employees from an outside agency with different cost and cultural structures. We don't have to worry about spreading our resources too thinly either, because we conduct term searches in a limited range of subject fields—housing design, construction, finance, economics, mortgage insurance and housing exports—another plus.

Needless to say, they don't teach you at university or at the Translation Bureau how to adapt basic terminological principles within a specific corporate setting geared towards profit while maintaining core values specific to CMHC, such as valuing and respecting other individuals, providing exceptional service for clients and taking risks to improve individual and organizational performance. Nor do they teach you how to prioritize or multi-task efficiently without the benefit of an army of specialized staff at your every beck and call.

Rather, the role of a corporate terminologist is that of an autonomous linguistic adviser ready to serve many internal clients at the same time in both official languages, able to absorb fluctuating workloads, especially in peak periods when texts are typically farmed out to freelance translators whose knowledge of housing terminology is not always consistent.

The workload for the terminologist is typically heavy because freelance translators, for security reasons, are not permitted to have access to many of the corporate Lotus Notes databases.

Since CMHC must protect the financial profiles of Canadians applying for mortgage loan insurance, the responsibility for conducting network searches in a private database falls on the shoulders of the corporate terminologist, who must serve as a secure intermediary between the corporate author of the text and the outside freelancer to ensure that terminology is current and consistent.

As a devout francophile, the terminologist is in a better position to develop and nurture a client base over the long term when research is limited to corporate and affiliated freelance translators. From personal experience, many of us already know that, by offering a wide range of linguistic services without the requisite training, expertise or manpower, to say nothing of the time involved to manage these services, we end up frustrating our clients. It's simply not manageable to be all things to all people, not to mention the added stress for the terminologist tasked to produce records for an unidentifiable client, then having to manage those same records covering a wide range of subject fields when he doesn't have a strong network of in-house specialists to back him up.

When corporate translators are pressed for time and are unable to complete their own term searches while working at home, the services of a corporate terminologist can come in quite handy. It would be unthinkable to ask a corporate translator to adjust his schedule to the strict 9-to-5 schedule of an external terminologist who has no expertise in housing.

Among the other ways a corporate terminologist can provide exceptional service is by handling sundry enquiries of a linguistic nature (electronic or otherwise) in both official languages in a style suitable to his corporate clients (i.e., localization). These tasks include standardizing job and administrative titles that change all the time, translating corporate business cards and organization charts and recommending usage in a monthly corporate bulletin—specific skills generally not taught at university or the Translation Bureau.

What the Bureau does teach you, and what a CMHC terminologist must carry out by default, is how to train new staff, codify personal term searches as well as those of other translators, manage a compliant linguistic database and

participate in user groups charged with the analysis of the latest translation software and hardware entering the market.

Our in-house terminology database is the terminological database of choice at CMHC. Using it alleviates the need to pour over Web pages of information in a mega-linguistic database replete with records of every imaginable governmental and non-governmental field of endeavour, when in the final analysis only the CMHC record would be suitable. Since the federal government has given CMHC the supreme authority in matters of housing and housing finance, we are in an enviable position of being able to establish terminological usage in our fields, even though other government agencies, in their own right, may use different words and spellings for similar concepts. It goes without saying that the CMHC terminologist must manage the in-house database and ensure that data is kept up to date.

Different Corporate Culture, Different Terminology

English term	CMHC equivalent (Non-CMHC equivalent)
business analyst	<i>analyste des activités</i> (and never <i>analyste commercial</i>)
business development	<i>développement des affaires</i> (and not always <i>expansion des affaires</i>)
building permit	<i>permis de construire</i> (and not <i>permis de bâtir</i>)
condo	<i>logement or immeuble en copropriété</i> (and not <i>condo</i>)
database (in a LotusNotes platform)	<i>base de documents</i> (and not <i>base de données</i>)
guidelines	<i>directives</i> (and not <i>lignes directrices</i>)
mortgage specialist	<i>conseiller en prêt hypothécaire</i> (and not <i>conseiller hypothécaire</i>)
mold (architectural detail)	<i>moulure</i>
mould (fungi commonly associated with airborne diseases in households)	<i>moisissure</i>
multiples (and not multi-family)	<i>ensemble de logements collectifs (en copropriété ou locatifs, not logements multifamiliaux)</i>
policies	<i>lignes de conduite</i> (and not <i>politiques</i>)
procedures	<i>méthodes</i> (and not <i>procédés, procédures, etc.</i>)
request for proposal	<i>demande de propositions</i> (and not <i>appel de propositions</i>)
singles	<i>maison individuelle</i> (and not <i>maison unifamiliale</i>)
units (25 units were built)	<i>logements</i> (and not <i>unités</i>)

Less is more

Before the introduction of automatization in terminology, managing *corpora* of terminological data was a daunting affair requiring the keen eye of an army of terminologists and terminographers. By keeping the record-completion process simple, by participating personally in the development of a less-complex database with more automatization, but less codification, there will be less data to validate. As a result, there is more time for the terminologist to complete the work day with a host of professionally enriching activities such as standardization, research, linguistic counselling and most important of all, taking the pulse of clients to make sure that their needs are continually being met in a timely fashion. Oops, a new request just came in. Gotta go!

TERMIUM[®], the Fifth Generation

By Gabriel Huard, C. Tran.

Director, Terminology Standardization Directorate
Translation Bureau of Canada

A commitment to excellence in communications in English and French has always been at the core of the Translation Bureau's language management activities. Mandated to standardize and disseminate terminology in the federal public service since 1974, the Bureau has enhanced the quality and vitality of Canada's official languages by giving ready access to a common terminology through TERMIUM[®].

At that time, the Government of Canada demonstrated the importance it placed on the standardization of terminology as a way of fostering quality communications. This government action launched the terminology profession as it is now exercised in the Bureau. This led us to redefine our relations with other stakeholders within our own organization and within the Canadian public service with respect to delivering terminology and linguistic services while balancing speedy access and quality of information.

TERMIUM[®]

To guarantee the terminological quality of its translations and to help translators make the right choices, the Translation Bureau developed a wide range of products and services. These now include over 100 glossaries and vocabularies; *Language Update* (formerly *Terminology Update*), our quarterly publication for language professionals; the SVP service, our terminology help desk; and last but not least, TERMIUM[®].

In 1976, translators in the Bureau's fifty-odd service points across Canada provided the data for TERMIUM[®]. Today, TERMIUM[®] contains more than 3 500 000 terms in Canada's two official languages and some 146 000 Spanish entries. TERMIUM[®] is four tools in one:

- a bilingual dictionary for finding the English or French equivalent of a term or an official title;
- a unilingual dictionary for consulting definitions of terms not found in conventional dictionaries;
- writing tools in both English and French, including usage and style guides; and
- a collection of the latest terminology in English and French in many subject fields.

The current version of TERMIUM[®]—known in-house as TERMIUM[®]IV—has sprouted two products, TERMIUM[®] on CD-ROM and TERMIUM Plus[®]. It should be noted that these products only permit querying of static content extracted from TERMIUM[®]. Still, access to static data is highly valued, especially against the background of the information explosion where the search for quality data is often a challenge.

However, TERMIUM[®] has limits—for example, the lack of graphics capabilities—which make it more difficult to respond fully and quickly to the specialized needs of users. Furthermore, substantial improvements are still required in the links between TERMIUM[®] and LATTER, the software used by the Bureau's terminologists to create terminology records and simultaneously manage and make global changes to various data sets.

Termicom

As TERMIUM[®] grew, it was joined by a number of other applications that took on—and still have—great importance for the Bureau's many translators and clients. One of these applications is Termicom. It was created by the Bureau in 1995 to fulfil the need for a user-friendly tool that would provide “instant” terminology. Primarily a network of local databases resident in each of the Bureau's service points, Termicom's main advantage is that it allows translators quick access to a terminology management tool adapted to their working environment. With each Termicom database the focus is on the client and on client-specific terminology in specialized fields. But traditional methods of managing and disseminating terminology were very cumbersome and it often took many months to process data. This caused serious slowdowns in the dissemination of terminology within the Bureau, and this was especially apparent as the Internet era dawned. An innovative solution was needed.

The emergence of new technologies has made it possible to combine the Termicom local databases into a megabase to which all of the Translation Bureau's service units have access. The Termicom megabase accelerates the dissemination of up-to-date terminology, a feature of considerable importance in this age of lightning-fast communications. Yet, this database also generates many duplicate records and hinders the work of terminology standardization. This remains its greatest drawback.

TERMIUM[®]V

As we have just seen, the Translation Bureau has in TERMIUM[®] and its range of products and services an impressive resource, serving the goal of maintaining communications of the highest quality. Nevertheless, the Bureau must innovate to stay on the cutting edge, to meet the needs of users and clients and to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it. It is obvious that new technology, the mass of data available to translators, the multiplication of tools for terminology and language management, and the emergence of a better informed clientele require us to constantly review our technology and methodology.

Moreover, the *Government On-Line* initiative, which aims to give Canadians on-line access to all government programs and services in both official languages, underlines the urgency of having high-performance tools to help the federal government speak with a single voice to Canadians and provide them with fast, efficient and high-quality service.

It is clear to us that, in this environment of cyber-government, the resource for assisting the Canadian government in this enterprise is none other than TERMIUM[®], the fifth generation. The Translation Bureau has drawn on its expertise to develop a winning product for the future. Thus, TERMIUM^{®V} will be:

- a unique gateway for the consultation and management of the terminology collections of the Bureau and other agencies within and outside the federal apparatus—a single tool, but collections that remain independent: the “virtual compartments” concept;
- a centralized Web-based application, accessible from each user’s workstation, enabling real-time management of terminology data—anywhere in the world—with the functions now found in TERMIUM^{®IV}, Termicom and LATTE;
- an integrated system capable not only of merging the applications currently in use in the Translation Bureau, but also of interacting with new technolinguistic applications such as contextual analysis systems and translation memory software;
- a system based on the Unicode character set to facilitate the capture of languages using non-Roman alphabets. (In western Canada, Chinese now comes second to English.); and
- an improved, high-tech standardization tool making it possible to standardize the in-house terminology used by the Bureau’s various clients and stakeholders, and to promote exchanges between them.

In short, TERMIUM^{®V} will offer the advantage of being a unique, fast, reliable and user-friendly tool for querying and adding data to all the terminology collections in the Bureau. In addition, it will build bridges to help clients manage their in-house terminology, and thus facilitate the work of standardization within the Canadian government. Not only will the Bureau’s language professionals have improved access to clients’ terminology, but the clients will also be given access to certain segments of the TERMIUM[®] database for terminology management purposes through a system of virtual compartments.

TERMIUM^{®V} and the “Compartments” Concept

So, what is the “virtual compartments” concept? This innovation involves the virtual subdivision of a database, resulting in compartments of various sizes that are managed by stakeholders both inside and outside the Bureau. In other words, a compartment is a mini-database within a larger data bank.

Bureau employees will have permanent access to the compartments in TERMIUM[®]. Each language professional’s access rights with respect to each compartment—read-only mode, management and data exchange modes, or compartment sharing—have yet to be outlined. Furthermore, outside stakeholders—essentially the Translation Bureau’s clients in the Canadian federal public service—will have access only to the standardized collection and to their own compartments, which they will manage themselves. The Bureau will mine these compartments for data as required, while stakeholders will continue to benefit from TERMIUM[®] on-line and its related products, namely TERMIUM[®] on CD-ROM and TERMIUM Plus[®].

Compartments will facilitate access to the terminologies of the various departments and agencies and will encourage increased standardization, as the data in these compartments will serve to update the central bank.

Virtual compartments have already attracted growing interest within the federal administration, if only because of their potential advantages. One of these advantages is the availability of a free infrastructure—namely the Translation Bureau’s server—in exchange for access by the Bureau to clients’ records. At the same time, clients can hold and economically manage their own personalized terminology collection.

TERMIUM^{®V}: Issues and Challenges

The development of the fifth generation of TERMIUM[®] will bring about many changes, most of which will be positive and stimulating.

In terms of technology, new functions that fully integrate existing tools will provide the system and the users with more flexibility and increase both productivity and efficiency. At the same time, terminologists will need additional professional development and training to better utilize the system. Moreover, terminology management consulting services will be in demand because of the high quality of the outputs expected.

With respect to content management and availability, we must examine ways of reconciling the research needs of terminologists, who manage and standardize collections, with the more immediate needs of translators and clients, who simply require an answer for their day-to-day queries.

As for skills and work methods, it is clear that a review of existing approaches will be necessary in response to the changes now under way. Setting up an integrated centralized database will require terminologists to interact much more closely with all stakeholders. In addition, if we want to take full advantage of TERMIUM^{®V}, new partnerships must be forged, especially with outside stakeholders.

The advent of TERMIUM®V and its compartments will undoubtedly restart the debate over quality. Because the methodology in this field, as in so many others, is constantly evolving, Translation Bureau managers must ask themselves, as they face this new challenge: Will compromise be required in this new environment? If so, how much? So far, there are no answers to these questions, but it is certain that the most fundamental aspect of TERMIUM®—its quality—must be preserved.

Summing Up

The *Government On-Line* initiative encourages federal departments and agencies to speak to Canadians with a single voice and offers the Translation Bureau an unprecedented opportunity to fully carry out its mandate of standardization and dissemination of terminology. Ever mindful of its mandate, the Bureau is constantly rethinking its approach, especially viewed in relation to the rapid proliferation of databases in our own public service as well as in the private sector. In the years to come, TERMIUM®V will act as a springboard for standardization and give better access to a wealth of new and common terminologies to an ever-expanding audience and thus revitalize our language management infrastructure.

InformATIO

Published by:

The Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario

1202-1 Nicholas Street

Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7

Tel: (613) 241-2846 / 1-800-234-5030

Fax: (613) 241-4098

E-mail: info@atio.on.ca Web site: www.atio.on.ca

Circulation: 1400

Printer: Plantagenet Printing

Graphic Designer: More In Typo Ltd.

Editorial Committee: Catherine Bertholet, Fabrice Cadieux, Alana Hardy, Michel Trahan

Editorial policy:

The Editorial Committee of *InformATIO* reserves the right not to publish, or to edit with the author's consent, any article submitted or commissioned for publication. Any opinions expressed (except in articles signed in an official capacity) are those of the authors and are not endorsed by the Association.

Special thanks to:

Richard Bastien, Jean Beaudin, Claude Bédard, Hélène Bélanger, Johanne Boucher, Carmen Bourbonnais, Michèle Bradbury, Al Daigen, Creighton Douglas, Hélène Gélinas-Surprenant, Gilles Gamas, Alana Hardy, Gabriel Huard, Gregg Joe, Ken Larose, David Lowe, Geneviève Mareschal, Denis Perreault.

ONTERM, www.onterm.gov.on.ca, the Central Authoritative Source for Ontario Government Terminology

By Denis Perreault

Corporate Terminology Adviser

Government Translation Service

ONTERM, a knowledge-based Web site created in 1997 by the Terminology Unit of the Government Translation Service (GTS), has become the Ontario government's one-stop shop for official terminology in English and French. The quantity and reliability of the information found on *ONTERM*, as well as the frequency with which it is updated, makes the site an important tool consulted not only by language professionals, but also by the general public, the private sector and the entire Ontario public service. The site can be accessed free-of-charge.

ONTERM includes a number of bilingual resources. The main database contains over 20,000 official Ontario government names. It includes position titles, names of ministries and their organizational units, agencies and commissions, programs, IT systems, conferences, awards and exhibits, and even common catch phrases.

The *Resources* page provides various language tools in HTML and PDF formats such as the *Bilingual Lexicon of Legislative Terms*, the *Ontario Environment and Energy Lexicon* and a bilingual list of statutes. It also includes two French-language style guides: *La féminisation au gouvernement de l'Ontario* and the *Guide de rédaction du gouvernement de l'Ontario*. To find frequently requested information pertaining to the Ontario government, *ONTERM* users can consult the bilingual reference lists. Some of the most frequently consulted are the list of Executive Council members and their titles, former and current ministries, Web site terminology, government acronyms and job ad terminology.

The *GeoNames Ontario* database, which can be accessed from the *Resources* page, contains over 57,000 geographic names. The database lists all of the approved geographic names of the province, i.e., those names approved for official use by the Minister of Natural Resources, the Ontario Geographic Names Board, municipalities and the

federal government. The geographic names may refer to natural (lakes, mountains, rivers, islands, etc.) or administrative features (towns, cities, counties, townships, provincial parks, conservation authorities, etc.). The database also provides French equivalents for approved geographic names as well as French-language usage guidelines to be followed in specific situations, i.e., in prose, on maps or road signs.

If you do not find the official government name you are looking for, you can send a request to the Terminology Unit of GTS for an official equivalent. The most efficient way to submit your request and support data or context is to use the Terminology Request Form on the Web site. Alternatively, you can call the Terminology Hotline at (416) 327-2723, or send your request and accompanying information by fax at (416) 327-5541.

To Keep Up with Your French, Just Remember This Address:

www.oqlf.gouv.qc.ca

By H el ene B elanger
Communication Adviser
Translation Al Daigen, C. Tran.

Over the years, the *Office qu eb ecois de la langue fran aise* (OLF) has developed a wide range of linguistic and terminological products and services to answer questions for anyone who really cares about using good French. The OLF offers most of these numerous help and reference tools free of charge on its Web site. If you ever work into French, chances are you may have used some of these tools yourself while researching a translation.

The *Grand dictionnaire terminologique*



The *Grand dictionnaire terminologique* (GDT) is a free, electronic, bilingual, English-French, French-English dictionary. Whether you use it for professional purposes or simply as a lover and reader of French, you'll find it offers a goldmine of information that's sure to answer all your questions. It contains 3 million terms from a wide variety of subject areas, including the most advanced sectors of society today. The dictionary presents its content in the form of terminology records, which may contain several different kinds of information—not just the French term and its English equivalent, but also its definition, the field it relates to, its definition, its synonyms, its feminine form, and its abbreviations, as well as comments, illustrations, and so on.

The OLF Web site also provides free access to two valuable listings of terminology and terminology-related reference

works. The *Inventaire des travaux de terminologie dans Internet* lists some 1,500 such works by experts throughout the world and lets you access them directly over the Internet. The other listing is the *Inventaire des travaux de terminologie publi s*, which provides bibliographic information on some 3,500 printed reference works, with links to electronic library catalogues to let you find out where you can consult them.

The *Banque de d epannage linguistique*



The *Banque de d epannage linguistique* (BDL) is an on-line collection of over 1,000 articles that can answer your questions and solve your problems regarding French spelling, grammar, and syntax, and other usage issues. These articles also answer some of the vocabulary questions that the OLF's language experts are asked most frequently. The explanations are written in everyday language and accompanied by clear examples to make them easier to understand. The BDL is a great way to improve the quality of your communications in French and to master some of the intricacies of this language.

And that's not all!

To stay up to speed on what's happening with French in Quebec, take a few minutes to explore some of the other features on the OLF site. They include short, interesting short articles on language and terminology, as well as glossaries, games, surveys, success stories about promoting French in the workplace and elsewhere, information on the current language situation in Quebec, and many useful links to other language-related sites. You can also catch up on back issues of the OLF's electronic newsletter, *Francilette*, and subscribe to it for free.

So if you haven't already visited the OLF Web site, come see it soon. You'll be glad you did!

Terminology in LogiTerm: Flexibility Above All



By Claude Bédard, C. Tran., Gilles Gamas, C. Tran.

These days it is easy to obtain terminology in some electronic format from colleagues or clients, or even by downloading lexicons and glossaries from the Internet. But how can you take advantage of it all? Importing terminology records into a conventional database poses at least one big problem: doing so takes a lot of time and meticulous effort.

Immediately usable data

With LogiTerm, terminological data is not “imported”; it is indexed instead. So much the better if the data is first put into LogiTerm format, as it can then be used for various types of automated language processing. But even if it is not in LogiTerm format, the data can still be queried as is.

A new resource: the bitext

Bitexts can be viewed as being “unstructured contextual lexicons or glossaries” that are often packed full of terminological information. LogiTerm enables you to quickly align source- and target-language documents to produce bitexts and easily create terminology records from them.

Scanning for terms

LogiTerm offers several highly evolved types of automated scanning for terms. You can scan several documents at the same time, for example a set of files from the same client or files that deal with the same topic, and create lexicons from the results. This

function can also be used to ensure terminological uniformity when a large text is divided among several translators.

Creation of terminology records made easy

LogiTerm accommodates several approaches for making terminology records. Whether you make your records one at a time, or from bitexts or lists of scanned terms, several built-in features make your work easier. Its ability to create multiple records is also very handy for building up a database.

A powerful search tool

One of LogiTerm’s huge strengths is its search tool. It allows you to consult your full-text archives, bitexts and terminology records in parallel. You can also restrict a search to specific databases or sub-databases, automatically have the results of a fuzzy search added to those of a literal search, see terms in context, and so forth.

Lastly, the terminological data managed by LogiTerm can be viewed and edited with your word processing software. It is very easy to partition your data and therefore index and search reliable data separately from less reliable data. Removing chunks of data from a LogiTerm database is as simple as moving the files out of the folder designated to hold the data and updating the index. You can also just as easily index all sorts of terminological documents wherever they may be stored on your hard drive, and then restrict your search using the various means offered in LogiTerm.

Conclusion

LogiTerm’s approach, which combines text documents with indexing, is diametrically different from the “database” approach and opens up some amazingly profitable prospects for various terminology tasks.

How Can We Train More Terminologists?

By Geneviève Mareschal, C. Tran.
School of Translation and Interpretation
University of Ottawa
Translation Al Daigen, C. Tran.

The question of where Canada’s next generation of terminologists will come from has been raised with growing frequency of late. Though the terminology profession currently has a substantial number of practising members and has received official recognition with the title of Certified Terminologist, Canada still has no university program devoted exclusively to the training of terminologists.

In Canada, most terminologists still start their careers as translators, which makes a fair amount of sense. Terminology, chiefly bilingual or multilingual, is closely linked with the learning and practice of professional translation, because both disciplines require a thorough mastery of documentary and terminological research methods and the ability to apply the results of such research intelligently. Any professional translation program at the university level therefore includes courses in terminology as well as related courses in support of this discipline: courses in documentation, which focus on documentary research; courses in computer-assisted terminology and computer-assisted translation, which teach how to apply information

technologies to terminological research and to the management of terminological databases; and, of course, specialized and technical translation, in which terminology plays a very large role.

Some master’s degree programs offer more extensive training in terminology, with a choice of appropriate courses that let students specialize in terminology to varying extents. The many subjects that fall within this specialization include thematic and translation terminology, term creation, language development, terminography and lexicography, lexicology, semantics, morphology, and specialized languages. One good example of such a program is the M.A. in terminology and translation at Université Laval in Quebec City, in which students can major in terminology at the graduate level.

The member universities of the Canadian Association of Schools of Translation recently received a proposal for a complete master’s degree program that would be devoted entirely to training terminologists and would combine all of the areas of skills and knowledge that are most relevant to this profession. But so far, this proposal has not found any takers. The number of job postings for terminologists is apparently too limited to interest universities in setting up such a specific training program.

AILIA—At the Commercial Crossroads of the Canadian Language Industry

By Johanne Boucher, C. Tran.
President, AILIA

In the Internet age and with the globalization of markets, the language industry is booming worldwide. The industry encompasses far more than just the translation sector; it also includes language training and language technologies.

The Canadian language industry must remain competitive and keep abreast of the fast-paced growth of the global language technologies and services market. This is the purpose of the Language Industry Association (AILIA), which was established at a time when it was becoming crucial to join forces and make Canada a leader in the field. As a specialist on language issues, AILIA encourages you to take an active part in the development of your industry. Drawing key players together is the best way to assure sustainable and viable growth for this rapidly expanding economic sector.

AILIA is a business-oriented non-profit association that provides its members with business and networking opportunities, detailed reports and exclusive information on trends in the industry as a whole and each of its sub-sectors. The AILIA membership is composed of corporations, organizations and associations, as well as self-employed workers.

To find out more about AILIA, its accomplishments, major projects and member benefits, visit: www.ailia.ca

A Textbook That's Fun to Read

By Creighton Douglas, C. Tran.

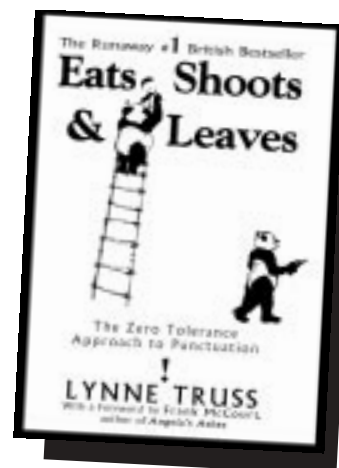
By now, most of us who read English-language media should have seen comments about a book titled *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, by Lynne Truss. After all, it was on the bestseller lists in Britain and America for months—including eight weeks at the top of the New York Times non-fiction bestseller list.

By itself, the title might not send you rushing to the bookstore, but anyone who writes or translates into English should at least have a serious look. Check it out at a library, then perhaps buy a copy for yourself, or get one to circulate amongst colleagues and friends. Try it, read and enjoy!

The book is a very useful crossover between interesting and amusing reading (hence the bestseller status), and a very thorough text on fine points of punctuation and grammar. It includes a great many very funny or horrible (or both) examples of punctuation gone wrong. Sentence meanings completely changed by where the commas are placed—or not!

The first part of the book is mostly about commas and their use and placement, while the remainder deals with other punctuation and grammar. Extremely well written, all with a lovely sense of humour. Much (but perhaps not all) of the material would also apply to French and other Latin languages.

Eats, Shoots and Leaves
ISBN 1-592-40087-6
\$26.00
North American edition published
by Gotham Books



The AGM—More than Just Workshops

By Alana Hardy, C. Tran.

In April 1999, as an ATIO Student (Translation) and soon-to-be graduate of Glendon College's translation program, I attended ATIO's annual general meeting in Ottawa. I had decided that traveling from Toronto would be worthwhile, as the AGM might give me an opportunity to speak with other language professionals and give me a glimpse into just what kind of a career I was embarking on! It proved to be a very valuable decision. Not only was I able to network with some established translators and take in some excellent workshops, but I was also made an unbelievable offer. I met a translator with many years of experience who was interested in mentoring a recent graduate. We exchanged contact information and, within a few months, the necessary arrangements had been made. I moved to Ottawa, and began working freelance under the guidance and encouragement of a senior translator.

I owe the launch of my career in translation to attending the AGM and to the kindness of someone who wanted to give back to the profession. My trip to Ottawa truly paid off!

SPECIALIZATION RECOGNITION

Law

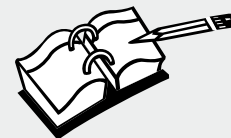
Sylvie Sabourin

Medicine

William Bergerson



Calendar of Events



✓ MARCH 2005

March 10-12, 2005: Translating Canada *en traduction*.

« The Margins Talk Back : *les marges répondent* »

Université de Moncton, New Brunswick

Information: Denise Merkle, merkle@umoncton.ca

✓ AUGUST 2005

August 4-7, 2005: XVII World Congress of FIT

Tampere, Finland

Denise Bourgeois

Interprète de conférence
membre de AIIC - ATIO

6280 Place Northcrest #620
Montréal, Québec H3S 2N1

(514) 731-2896
db_bourg@hotmail.com

*The Board of Directors
of the Association of Translators
and Interpreters of Ontario
regretfully announces the death of*

Carole Gold

*Certified Conference Interpreter,
ATIO Member Since 1989*