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ATA’s Latest Compensation Survey
The Perfect Keyboard
Delivering Multilingual Justice
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$800 US Referral Commission
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Thank you for your past support and for renewing for 2008.
Last month we looked at who we are (or not) as an association. Let us now take a closer look at who we are as individual members.

As of December 2007, there were nearly 10,500 of us, predominantly freelancers: individual members account for 92% (this number also includes in-house translators, project managers, and other individuals who do not work as full-time freelancers). The remaining 8% is divided between corporate members (7%) and institutional members (1%). In terms of individual membership, women account for about 70%, which means that there are more than twice as many women as men in our association.

We are a highly educated crowd. Of the roughly 6,500 members who indicated their level of education in their profiles, 99% have training beyond high school, 72% have graduate degrees, and 32% have a degree in translation and/or interpreting. About 19% of individual members are certified in one or more language combinations. We speak 92 different languages as our mother tongue, from Afrikaans to Yoruba. The top five native languages are English (35%), Spanish (32%), French (6%), German (6%), and Russian (4%).

Our profession is international by definition, because we as translators and interpreters facilitate cross-border communication. Accordingly, we are spread over 90 countries, with 16% of the membership residing outside of the U.S. Aside from the U.S., the top five countries are Canada, with 3% of the overall membership, followed by Italy, Mexico, Germany, and Argentina, with 1% each.

The international orientation of our association is not without controversy. The decision to support the international character of ATA was made eight years ago in the wake of a temporary ban on certification sittings abroad. The ban was imposed in July 1999 in response to concerns expressed by some members about unfair competition from other countries. Based on the feedback from ATA members and on intense deliberation, the Board decided to allow certification sittings abroad and to support the international character of ATA.

Indeed, there is nothing in ATA’s bylaws about protecting U.S. members from competition abroad. On the contrary, one of the objectives of ATA is to “promote professional and social relations among its members.” As long as ATA membership is not restricted to U.S. residents (there is nothing about that in the bylaws either), we cannot promote professional and social relations among the members while trying to protect U.S. members from competition abroad.

In 1776, Adam Smith explained in Wealth of Nations that free international trade is essential to each nation’s well-being, and stressed that protectionism does not increase the total output of the country, but merely diverts its energies from more productive to less productive industries. What this means for us is that inexpensive translation from developing countries can be viewed as a threat to U.S.-based translators only insofar as translation is perceived as a commodity that can be produced regardless of location and supplied without qualitative differentiation across a given market. But, as we know, human translation is not a commodity.

So how do we effectively compete in a globalized world? We make sure translation is not traded or perceived as a commodity. To do that, we need to specialize in order to differentiate our translation or interpreting work qualitatively. This is not a new concept. Our immediate past president, Marian S. Greenfield, who is herself an example of a successful translator specializing in finance, has emphasized the need for specialization on numerous occasions. There are areas in which only translators based in the U.S. can excel, just as there are areas in which only translators living in other countries can outperform the competition. By becoming an expert in a carefully selected field, you can help to dispel the myth of translation being a commodity and enjoy the satisfaction of truly professional work with the compensation that goes with it.
In Memoriam

Amos Leslie Willson, Jr.
1923-2007
ATA President:
1991-1993

Parts of the following tribute were adapted from an obituary that appeared in the Austin American Statesman on December 30, 2007 (statesman.com).

Amos Leslie Willson Jr., past president of ATA, died on December 28, 2007 in Austin, Texas.

Leslie was born on June 14, 1923 in Texhoma, Oklahoma. With his parents, Amos Leslie Willson and Richie Hobgood Willson, and sister, Patricia Mae Willson, Leslie moved from town to town within the Texas panhandle during the Great Depression before settling in Amarillo, where he graduated from Amarillo High School. He was a voracious reader and, contemplating a writing career, entered the University of Texas at Austin to pursue a journalism degree. World War II interrupted his education, and Leslie joined the army, where he discovered a talent for the German language, in which he quickly became fluent.

Toward the end of his three-year military service, Leslie was assigned, along with other German-speaking soldiers, to a top secret operation at Fort Hunt, Virginia, known only as P.O. Box 1142, an operation only recently declassified. He and the other men of P.O. Box 1142 lived with and interrogated high-level prisoners of war who had knowledge of Germany’s submarine and rocket technology.

After the war, Leslie returned to the University of Texas at Austin, but changed his major to Germanic languages. While attending graduate school there, he met Margaret Jeanne Redrow, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a fellow graduate student in German. Jeanne and Leslie were married in 1950 in Cincinnati. They moved to New Haven, Connecticut, where Leslie attended graduate school. After receiving his Ph.D., Leslie taught briefly at Wesleyan College in Connecticut and Northwestern University in Illinois before returning to Austin to accept a teaching position at the University of Texas. Leslie then taught at Duke University and Pennsylvania State University before settling again in Austin in 1966 as a full professor at the University of Texas. He served as chairman of the university’s German department for eight years.

Leslie became a highly respected educator and translator of contemporary German literature, befriending many top German writers along the way, including Günter Grass. From 1968 to 1994, he was the editor of Dimension, a bilingual literary magazine dedicated to the presentation of contemporary German-language authors. Leslie was the co-founder of the American Literary Translators Association, and served as the association’s president from 1978 to 1979. Leslie was recognized for his scholarly work with awards from the Goethe-Institut in Munich and the German government. He retired as professor emeritus in 1992.

Leslie was a member of ATA from 1974 to 2003. During this time, he served as a member of ATA’s Board of Directors from 1985 to 1988. He was the association’s president-elect from 1989 to November 1991, after which he served as ATA president from 1991 to 1993. Leslie continued to stay active in the association, serving as a member of the editorial board of The ATA Chronicle from 1993 to 2003. He was also a member of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association.

Leslie is survived by his three children, Brian, Juliet, and Kevin, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. His wife Jeanne died on May 11, 2006. Leslie’s memorial service was held on January 5, 2008 at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home in Austin. The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Central Texas SPCA, P.O. Box 98, Cedar Park, TX 78630.
Here is some good news to get you through the North American winter: ATA’s 49th Annual Conference will be held on November 5-8, 2008 in the Sunshine State! This year’s conference hotel (adjacent to the site of the 2000 conference) is the Hilton in the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, which promises to be an outstanding venue for all the educational and social activities that make every ATA Annual Conference a uniquely rewarding experience.

Located about half an hour by shuttle van from the Orlando International Airport, to which dozens of airlines offer flights from all over the world, the hotel has recently been renovated. It provides comfortable guest rooms as well as outstanding conference facilities indoors and out; many social and networking events will be held under the palm trees around one of the two swimming pools. A wide selection of restaurants, shopping, and entertainment opportunities is available at Downtown Disney, which is right across the street. You can also take advantage of the many other dining options in the Orlando area: seafood freshly caught along Florida’s 1,300 miles of coastline; all-you-can-eat buffets; steaks for every budget; Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Indian, Caribbean, and Latin American restaurants; and your choice of British or Irish pubs, one of which claims to serve the “best fish and chips in the USA.”

You might also plan to stay a little longer and explore more of what Florida has to offer. Golf enthusiasts can select from over 175 courses within an hour’s drive (local custom allows a free drop if your ball ends up anywhere near an alligator). You can see more wildlife on an airboat ride through the wetlands, go hang gliding or skydiving, drive a NASCAR race car, get wet in half a dozen water parks, or attend a Western-themed dinner extravaganza featuring costumed riders on horses, bison, ostriches, and even pigs. Nor is culture neglected: Orlando has four art museums, a symphony orchestra, a repertory theater, a Shakespeare theater, and the Orlando Ballet and Orlando Opera. Nowhere else will you find such a concentration of theme parks, from Cypress Gardens and SeaWorld to Universal Studios, MGM Studios, and, of course, Disney’s own world-famous Magic Kingdom and Epcot. The Kennedy Space Center, Daytona Beach, the Everglades, and the Tampa-St. Petersburg area are within easy driving distance. When you finally get to relax at a local spa, do not miss the citrus-zest facial and a massage with your choice of spherical Florida specialties—ruby grapefruit or heated golf balls. Find out more at www.orlandoinfo.com.

The two most important reasons for attending ATA’s Annual Conference are to learn and to teach.

Call for Papers

American Translators Association 49th Annual Conference
Orlando, Florida • November 5-8, 2008
Hilton in the Walt Disney World Resort

The two most important reasons for attending ATA’s Annual Conference are to learn and to teach. ATA’s members have a long history of sharing their knowledge and experience, and your contribution to the educational program of the upcoming conference is what will make it successful. Please help continue this vital tradition by proposing a session for presentation in Orlando. All the details are available from ATA’s website at www.atanet.org/conferencesandseminars/proposal.php.
ATA e-mail announcements continue to be a challenge. From an administrative point of view, ATA is very sensitive to avoiding bombarding members with too much e-mail. On the other hand, we need to disseminate valuable information, such as division newsletters, or news on upcoming professional development and networking opportunities.

Continuing along the lines of controlling the number of messages sent, ATA does not send division news to non-division members. We also do not e-mail information about other associations’ events, excluding, of course, ATA chapters and affiliates. (For information on other events, be sure to check out the comprehensive calendar on ATA’s website at www.atanet.org/calendar.)

Furthermore, we abide by the applicable federal regulations, such as identifying the source of the e-mail as coming from ATA and including the ability for recipients to opt out. Finally, ATA does not rent or sell members’ e-mail addresses.

All this leads to finding the proper balance between getting information to the members without flooding their inboxes. In conjunction with the introduction of the monthly e-newsletter (read on for more information), we will limit how often ATA e-mail is sent. The e-newsletter is scheduled to be sent the last Wednesday of the month. With that set, we will now send a weekly broadcast e-mail in a digest format each Wednesday. The digest format—meaning you will see several headlines which are links to more information—will allow us to disseminate more news and information in a more concise manner. For example, now all ATA members will have access to information on all division events. I emphasize access because if you have no interest in XYZ division, you can skip opening the link.

Of course, this does not mean we will not have other e-mail traffic; it is just that we want to limit the number of messages sent. If you have any question or comments about this change, please contact Mary David, ATA’s member services and project development manager, who coordinates, compiles, and sends the e-mail messages. Mary can be reached at mary@atanet.org or +1-703-683-6100, ext. 3009.

New Member Benefits
Credit Union: ATA members now have access to the Organization of American States Staff Federal Credit Union. ATA members can join the OAS Staff FCU by setting up a “regular share account” of at least $5. This gives them access to surcharge-free ATM transactions as well as competitive rates on certificates of deposit, loans, mortgages, and wire transfers. For more information, please check out www.atanet.org/sponsored_services_creditunion. In addition to the competitive rates, ATA members will benefit from the OAS staff’s international commerce knowledge and experience, which is often a challenge for many local bank branches.

E-newsletter: The first edition of ATA’s e-newsletter, ATA Newsbriefs, is out. The e-newsletter’s summaries provide a broad look at translation and interpreting in the general media. Please let me know what you think. If you missed the first edition, please go to the members only section on ATA’s website.

Job Bank: ATA’s Job Bank is online. There is no charge to post a job or for members to access them. You may want to check out www.atanet.org/jobbank daily as jobs are listed.

Dues Renewal
Please take a moment to renew your dues for 2008. You may renew online or download a renewal form at www.atanet.org/renew.php. If you have already renewed your membership, thank you! Members with questions about the renewal process should contact Maggie Rowe at maggie@atanet.org or +1-703-683-6100, ext 3001.

Thank you for being an ATA member.
Are you connected?

Many of ATA’s announcements and special offers are now sent to members by e-mail. E-mail you will receive from ATA includes:

- Information about seminars, conferences, and regional group meetings
- Association and division news updates
- Membership renewal reminders
- Notices of certification exams, division newsletters

Don’t miss out! Keep your ATA contact information current. You can make updates online at www.atanet.org/MembersOnly, or you can send your information to mis@atanet.org with your ATA membership number in the subject line.

ATA does not sell or rent the e-mail addresses of its members.
The recently released fourth edition of ATA’s Translation and Interpreting Compensation Survey should prove to be an invaluable benchmarking tool for nearly everyone in or affiliated with the translation and interpreting profession. The study is designed to allow an individual or company to compare easily their compensation levels to their peers. In addition, the study serves as a practical tool for a broader audience. Companies involved in translation and interpreting will commonly refer to this report when evaluating independent contractors or in-house staff, and determining their competitiveness with respect to compensation. It is also a useful tool for companies that are looking to establish compensation or hourly rate ranges. Students who are considering careers in the translation and interpreting profession can use this tool to steer their specific career decisions and to gain insight about the potential compensation they may earn.

The survey was compiled, tabulated, and prepared for ATA by Industry Insights, Inc., a professional research and consulting firm that provides management and marketing services to dealer organizations, individual

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>68.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Born in U.S.</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>61.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Degree</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Degree</td>
<td>43.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Employment in Translation and Interpreting</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-5 years</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10 years</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-15 years</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-20 years</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21+ years</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
membership organizations, and professional trade associations and their members. The company specializes in compensation and benefits studies, industry operating surveys, member needs studies, educational programs, and customized research activities.

An e-mail was distributed to approximately 8,700 ATA members and nonmembers in August 2007 containing a link to an online questionnaire. In total, 979 completed and useable survey forms were submitted directly to Industry Insights, Inc. This represents a response rate of 11%. Forms received after the final deadline and questionnaires with incomplete information were not included.

Upon receipt, all data were checked both manually and by a specially designed computer editing procedure. Strict confidence of survey responses was maintained throughout the course of the project. Final results were tabulated, and the report was completed in October 2007.

The seven employment classifications analyzed in this report include: full-time independent contractors; part-time independent contractors; full-time in-house private sector personnel; part-time in-house private sector personnel; company owners; educators; and government employees. For detailed analysis, responses were broken down by geographic region, education, years of employment, primary language combination, ATA membership status, and ATA certification status. This comprehensive data allows users to compare their own income, hourly

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**Figure 2: 2006 Average Gross Income* by Employment Classification (U.S.-Based Respondents)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Classification</th>
<th>Average Gross Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time In-house Private Sector</td>
<td>$59,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time In-house Private Sector</td>
<td>$24,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time Independent Contractor</td>
<td>$60,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time Independent Contractor</td>
<td>$22,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation and Interpreting Company Owner</td>
<td>$67,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educator</td>
<td>$50,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Employee</td>
<td>$59,924</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Income from translation and interpreting only.

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**Figure 3: Full-time Independent Contractor 2006 Average Gross Income* by U.S.- versus Non-U.S.-Based Respondents (U.S. Dollars)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Average Gross Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S.-Based</td>
<td>$60,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-U.S.-Based</td>
<td>$56,672</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Income from translation and interpreting only.
rates, and rates per word to individuals in similar situations. Some of the key findings of the report follow.

Respondent Demographics: Survey respondents had varying backgrounds and experience. As shown in Figure 1 on page 12, more than two-thirds were female, more than half were born outside the U.S., 77% had a bachelor’s or master’s degree, and nearly two-thirds had 11 years or more of employment in translation and interpreting.

Income Varied by Employment Classification: As shown in Figure 2 on page 13, translation and interpreting company owners reported the highest gross income at $67,559, slightly ahead of full-time independent contractors ($60,423), government employees ($59,924), and the full-time in-house private sector ($59,472). The lowest income was reported by part-time independent contractors, at $22,935.

U.S.-Based Respondents Earned More Than Non-U.S.-Based: For example, full-time independent contractors based in the U.S. earned an average gross 2006 income from translation and interpreting of $60,423, compared to only $56,672 for those outside the U.S. (see Figure 3, page 13).

ATA Certification Matters: Respondents who were ATA-certified earned a higher gross income in 2006 than those who were not ATA-certified. Using the full-time in-house private sector as an example, Figure 4 shows the impact ATA certification had on gross income. Those with ATA certification earned 35% more than their noncertified counterparts ($72,261 versus $53,632).

Rates Per Word and Hourly Rates: At an average of $0.19 per word, the language combinations commanding the highest rate per word were English into Arabic and English into Danish. At an average of $0.12 per word, the language combinations commanding the lowest rate were English into Italian and English into Portuguese.

The highest average hourly rates by language combination were English into Chinese ($74.92) and Chinese into English ($65.79).

Trends: More than half of the respondents reported that their 2006 gross income from translation and interpreting increased compared to 2005. One-quarter reported no change in income, while 17% reported a decline.

Education and Experience: Three out of four respondents had achieved either a master’s degree (44%) or a bachelor’s degree (32%). One-fifth reported having a degree in translation, while 12% reported having a degree in interpreting. One-third reported having a non-degree certificate in translation, while 27% reported having a non-degree certificate in interpreting. Other credentials reported include court certification (5%), passing the State Department exam (9%), and passing the UN exam (1%).

Figure 4: Full-time In-house Private Sector 2006 Average Gross Income* by Certification Status (U.S.-Based Respondents)
Areas of Specialization: The most common areas of specialization reported were business/finance (57%), law (55%), medicine (47%), and industry and technology (38%). Uncommon areas of specialization included entertainment (18%), natural sciences (16%), and pure sciences (8%).

Translation Speed: The average respondent reported a translation speed in target words per hour at 540. Average translation speeds ranged from 324 to 660 depending on the employment classification.

Technology Tools Used: The most common technology tools used were word processing applications (98%), translation memory tools (47%), terminology management software (27%), and desktop publishing software (25%).

Ordering Information
ATA’s 48-page Translation and Interpreting Compensation Survey presents the survey results in much greater detail than possible in this summary article. The complete report includes charts and tables that provide a detailed profile of each of the seven employment classifications mentioned in this article. It is important to remember that the statistics published by ATA should be regarded as guidelines rather than absolute standards. ATA intends the survey to reveal general tendencies in the industry, not exact amounts.

The full report is available to ATA members ($45) and nonmembers ($65). Order your copy today at www.atanet.org/publications/form_publication_ataware.pdf.

Call for Papers
American Translators Association 49th Annual Conference
Orlando, Florida • November 5-8, 2008
Hilton in the Walt Disney World Resort

Proposals are invited on topics in all areas of translation and interpreting, including the following: Financial Translation and Interpreting; Independent Contractors; Interpreting; Language Services Providers; Language-Specific Sessions; Language Technology; Legal Translation and Interpreting; Literary; Media; Medical Translation and Interpreting; Science and Technology; Terminology; and Training and Pedagogy. Suggestions for additional topics are welcome.

Proposals for sessions must be submitted on the Conference Presentation Proposal Form to: Conference Organizer, ATA Headquarters, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314 USA; Fax: +1-703-683-6122. All proposals for sessions must be in English.

Submission deadline: March 14, 2008

There’s no time like the present! Download a Conference Presentation Proposal Form at www.atanet.org/conferencesandseminars/proposal.php.
Translators work with at least two languages, and this often entails using two different sets of characters and sometimes even two different keyboard layouts. This article describes how you can modify your keyboard layout or create your own, with the possible side benefit of reduced pain in your wrists (due to keyboard-related repetitive strain injuries).

Before I explain how to create the perfect keyboard layout for you and your languages, let me define the term keyboard layout. Every computer has a physical keyboard, and the keyboard layout is a file hidden on your PC that defines what happens when you type on your physical keyboard. The physical keyboard normally matches the default keyboard layout when the computer, operating system, and keyboard are purchased as a package. However, this does not need to be the case. You can use any keyboard layout with your physical keyboard if your physical keyboard has the correct number of keys. If it has fewer keys, some characters will be missing.

To switch between two different keyboard layouts for the same physical keyboard, use the keyboard icon on the Windows status bar in MS Windows (see Figure 1), or use a shortcut key combination defined in the Control Panel settings. If you do not yet know how to configure and switch between keyboard layouts in MS Windows, please refer to Jost Zetzsche’s article on this topic in the April 2006 issue of The ATA Chronicle.

You may want to switch back and forth between two keyboard layouts for different languages. You can also create your own keyboard layout and switch between it and the standard layout so your computer is accessible to others who might need to use it. This article assumes that you are familiar with how to configure and switch between keyboard layouts in MS Windows, and takes you one or two steps beyond. Again, please refer to Jost’s article if you need a refresher course on this subject.

Modifying an Existing Keyboard Layout

For some pairs of languages, translators can get by with just one keyboard layout, which is the case for Portuguese/English. The ABNT2 Brazilian keyboard layout has everything one might need to type in both English and Portuguese!

A more difficult situation is the German/English pair. Even translators translating into English must search the Internet and interact with their clients and colleagues in German. The U.S.-International keyboard mentioned by Jost in the article cited above is an option. Another option is to switch back and forth between the German and English keyboard layouts. The German keyboard is shown in Figure 2. As you can see, it has what

![Figure 1: Keyboard icon on status bar for switching between keyboard layouts](image1.png)

![Figure 2: German Keyboard](image2.png)
is called a QWERTZ layout rather than the QWERTY layout that is used in the U.S. These names come from the characters on the line above the home (center) row for the left hand.

Remembering where the extra keys are on the German keyboard may not be that difficult, but if you were raised typing on the U.S. layout you may find the switch of the Z and Y keys confusing. This is especially true if you must use the QWERTY layout sometimes and the QWERTZ layout at other times. One possible solution to this problem is to modify the German layout, putting the Z and Y keys back into their U.S. keyboard locations while keeping the accented vowels and other special keys in their original positions. The French layout also differs from the U.S. layout in the positions of several letters. It could also be modified as described above for the German layout.

These changes can be made using Keyboard Layout Manager (KLM), a shareware program developed in Serbia by Milan Vidaković and Igor Milijašević. The two principal windows are shown in Figure 3 with the standard Brazilian Portuguese layout in the editing window. The program is very easy to use and extensive help is available online. Another option—which I have not tried—is the MS Keyboard Layout Creator.
Information on both programs is provided in the references at the end of this article.

Dead Keys

Dead keys are accent keys that put an accent on the character typed immediately afterward. In the days of manual typewriters, dead keys typed the accent on the paper, but did not cause the carriage to move to the left, thus allowing the character to be accented to be typed in the same location on the paper. In KLM, dead keys are shown in red and are edited in a separate window. Dead keys on your PC can be used to type almost any character. Figure 4 shows what I have done with my double quote key. If I type " followed by a space, I get ". If I type " followed by o, I get ö (a Hungarian letter). If I type " followed by a, I get å (a Norwegian letter). Since the computer does not work like a typewriter, I do not need to use a dead key for a single type of accent as on a typewriter. Indeed, in KLM, I can assign any character to the dead key, and this character will appear when the dead key is followed by a space.

The Dvorak Keyboard Layout

As described above, if all your languages use the same basic alphabet you can create a combined layout that allows you to type everything with one keyboard layout. However, you will probably be using some variation on the very inefficient QWERTY layout, which is unnecessarily tiring. The QWERTY layout was created to slow typists down! Back in the olden days (when I learned to type!), typewriters were made of long “fingers” with the letters on the tip. If the typist typed too fast, the fingers got tangled and the typist had to stop to untangle them. Unfortunately, the QWERTY layout is still the standard, not only for English, but for many different languages. Portuguese does not even have a K in its alphabet, but K is on the home row (the row beginning ASDF on the QWERTY keyboard) of the Portuguese and Brazilian keyboards. (For more information on the evolu-
tion and problems related to the QWERTY keyboard, see the articles “The Curse of QWERTY,” published in Discover Magazine, or “Make Mine Dvorak,” published in Slate. See the references at the end of this article.

An alternative standard layout is the English Dvorak layout shown in Figure 5 on page 18. It is one of the standard MS Windows layout options, so you just need to select it in the appropriate control panel. All PCs running any Windows OS, the Macintosh OS, and most flavors of Linux have a built-in English Dvorak layout. You could also start with the Dvorak layout for one of your languages as a base and modify it slightly to include the accents or special keys you need for your other languages. Dvorak-style layouts are available for some other languages (though not built into the operating system) at the Dvorak Zine site listed in the references. The principles behind the Dvorak layout and Dvorak-style layouts are:

• The most-used letters should be on the home row.
• A typist can type faster when alternating letters are on different hands. Thus, the Dvorak layout puts the vowels on the left side of the home row and the most common consonants on the right side of the home row, increasing the frequency of alternating hands with each letter.
• Common key combinations like WH, QU, and TH should also be on opposite hands (w on one hand and H on the other).
• The row above the home row is the second easiest and the row below it is the hardest, so put rare letters on the lowest row.
• The strongest fingers are the index and middle fingers, with the ring and pinky fingers being the weakest.

Many people are reluctant to change keyboard layouts because they believe it will take too long to learn the new layout. I learned my new keyboard layout (described in the next section) in a day. I was able to type at my normal speed within two weeks, and I have been typing much faster and with no wrist pain for seven years. Needless to say, the transition is easier if done during a vacation. To learn the new layout, print out a copy and tape it above your keyboard or on the bottom edge of your monitor. Create sentences using words you can type using only the letters on the home row. (Remember how hard this

![Figure 6: My Customized Layout](image)

If your languages all use the same basic alphabet you can create a combined keyboard that allows you to type everything on one keyboard layout.
was with the QWERTY keyboard in typing class? There is not much you can do with just one vowel and eight consonants.) Practice these words, then add more words using first the letters typed by the index finger, and then the letters typed by the middle finger, etc. You will be up to speed in no time. The rarely used keys, like \, will be the hardest to remember during the first month. I think it is easier to learn a completely different layout that to learn a layout with just a few differences.

Creating a New Keyboard Layout from Scratch for Your Specific Needs

I type 50% in English, 45% in Portuguese, and 5% in other languages, most of which need accented vowels. Once I started experiencing pain in my wrists after becoming a translator (I used to be a physicist and systems engineer), I searched in vain for a Portuguese Dvorak layout or some other Dvorak layout with the accents I needed so I could type in both English and Portuguese without switching layouts. After discovering the KLM program, I decided to create my own Dvorak layout optimized for both Portuguese and English (in other words, a compromise between what would be optimized for one or the other). The result is shown in Figure 6 on page 19.

Many people are reluctant to change keyboard layouts because they believe it will take too long to learn the new layout.

The home row is marked in red. After using this layout for seven years, there are a few things I wish I had done differently, especially the position of the letter V. Since my husband’s name is Vítor, I use the letter V more frequently. I get around this by addressing e-mails to him as “Querido”: all but the Q are on the home row!

Deciding what to put where was not too difficult. To create a similar layout for your languages, do the following:

1. Find text written in the languages in question, either something you wrote or off the Internet. Remove any proper names, since if the text is on Zimbabwe and this word is repeated many times you will have an inaccurate count of how many times Z and W appear in the language.

2. After removing proper names, cut the text down so you have the same amount of words in each language if you write 50% of the time in each: a few thousand at least. Put the text into MS Word.

3. Going letter by letter through the alphabet and punctuation, replace each character with the @ symbol using Replace All. MS Word will tell you how many replacements it has made. Note this down in a chart and you will have the average letter frequency for the two languages.

4. Write down common letter pairs in the two languages, such as WH and TH in English, QU and ST in Portuguese.

5. Put the vowels on the left side, with the most common vowels under the index finger (U and I on my keyboard). Put the most common consonants on the right home row. Put the dead keys on the right to alternate with the vowels. I would probably not put the dead keys under the pinky finger if I were to redo my keyboard, but I probably made this decision based on the fact that I do not need them to type in English. I might put them closer to the index finger in the top row, and put some consonants on the pinky finger.

6. Work out the positions of other consonants based on letter pairs. The easiest keys to reach with the index fingers on my keyboard are marked in blue and green in Figure 6 on page 19. I should probably have put W on the upper row for WH, switching with Ç. H is very common in English, but relatively rare in Portuguese, which does not have WH, TH, nor PH. Having H on the left worked out well for combinations with WH and TH. PH was not such a good choice, since it uses the same finger for both letters. Do not forget to consider your name, the names of your family members, and the names of the countries you must type most often (like the Z in Brazil, which I forgot when designing my layout).

7. Remove things you do not use often and put them on the Alt Gr or Alt level (meaning you would need to hold down the Alt Gr or Alt key before pressing the character key).
What you need depends on what you type.

This is great for £, {, }, and §. What you need depends on what you type. I love the underscore '_' for naming files and computer programming, so I put it on my home row at the far left, without the shift.

As you can see, since I tried to treat Portuguese and English equally, my keyboard favors English in the placement of some keys and Portuguese in the placement of others, like Q. You will want to analyze closely how much you type in each language before creating a “middle-of-the-road” solution, and adjust the percentage of text in each language before calculating frequency statistics.

The location of punctuation on my keyboard is similar to that of the Dvorak keyboard, and is great for typing numbers on the number pad (I prefer the “.” on the number pad, while the Portuguese standard keyboard puts a “,” there). When I need to type in a long list of numbers including commas and periods, I use the numerical keypad on the right for numbers and the decimal point, and my left hand hovers over the comma on the left. On those few occasions when I type numbers on the top line, at least my hand does not need to jump three rows (!) every time I want a comma or period, like with the QWERTY keyboard.

Creating a New Keyboard Layout for Two Languages with Different Alphabets or Writing Systems

What do you do if you need to type in a language with a different alphabet? You have several options:

1. Use two different keyboard layouts and switch between them (using the status bar or a shortcut key combination). These could be standard layouts or customized layouts, as described above.

2. Create a dual keyboard layout that uses the Shift key to switch from one to the other. This would need to be created based on the keyboard for one of the languages, either customized or standard.

3. Use a phonetic keyboard layout that mimics your normal keyboard layout, but which results in characters in the other language.

Two-alphabet Keyboard Layout Using Shift-lock

When I began studying modern Greek, I became frustrated at how hard it was to type vocabulary lists. I had to switch to the Greek keyboard and back every other word! I had already created a Dvorak-style Greek keyboard layout (of course!), so I then created a third dual keyboard that contained only lowercase letters. The Shift key does not necessarily need to provide the upper case letter corresponding to the lowercase letter on the same key. I used my customized layout as the base layout and then recreated my Greek layout for the shift layer (the different layers are shown on the right in Figure 6 on page 19). This is great for typing terminology, and is not too bad for typing in MS Word with the autocorrect turned on.

MS Word can automatically capitalize the first letter of a sentence or of proper names.

Phonetic Keyboard Layouts

I have not needed to type in any other foreign alphabets/scripts, but a colleague suggested using a phonetic keyboard layout for Russian. The basic idea is that there is a one-to-one correspondence between the letters for the two languages (with extra keys for extra letters, when necessary), and you type using a layout that mimics your English layout, but which outputs characters in the other language on your screen. See the references at the end of this article for an explanation of one possible phonetic Russian keyboard provided by Paul Gorodyansky.

Pros and Cons

If you are used to switching back and forth between two keyboard layouts, you should be able to type using both your new personalized keyboard and the standard QWERTY. My husband does this. The advantage of creating a new keyboard layout (rather than using macros in MS Word) is that it is valid for all programs running on your operating system, not just specific programs, and can be installed on multiple computers quickly. I have been using my keyboard layout, with small updates, since 2000. During this time, I have twice visited friends for extended periods of time. I spent 10 minutes setting up my layout on their computers so I could use it while I was visiting. I did not set it as the default layout, so they did not even know it was there, and then I erased it before leaving.

I recently had to translate a hospital bill including all the internal codes for the different items used, such as cotton balls. I was amazed at how many...
of the codes had letters like K, J, Y, and F. It was almost painful typing these codes, which are off the home row on my keyboard. I realized that they were probably chosen because they are easy to type on a QWERTY keyboard. Typing them on my Dvorak-style keyboard reminded me what it was like to type regular words on a QWERTY keyboard.

If you have little control over your computer at work or must use public computers often, a personalized keyboard is probably not the right choice unless you feel comfortable switching back and forth. If you are used to switching keyboards, this should not be a problem. Another option is to try the English Dvorak keyboard if you type principally in English, since it is available on all PCs. I no longer touch type on the QWERTY keyboard, and must hunt and peck when my personalized keyboard is not available. Despite this, I have never regretted switching, especially since the pain in my wrists has not returned.

References and More Information

Keyboard Layout Manager (KLM)
www.klm32.com
Lite edition (free): Does not allow editing of dead keys or ligatures.

Pro edition ($22): Allows dead key and ligature editing, in addition to editing of certain other keys on the keyboard, including “.” on the numeric keypad. Two other versions are also available, so see the website for details. The program is compatible with Windows Vista.

Microsoft Keyboard Layout Creator
www.microsoft.com/globaldev/tools/msklc.mspx
This program appears to do the same thing as KLM, but it is free and appears to be much more difficult to use. I have not tried it.

Wikipedia Keyboard Layout Information
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keyboard_layout
This and other sites provide some history on keyboard layouts for different languages.

English and International Dvorak Keyboard Layouts
http://dvzine.org/info/international.html
Note that left-hand-only and right-hand-only layouts are also available for typists with physical limitations.

The Curse of QWERTY
http://discovermagazine.com/1997/apr/thecurseofqwerty1099
Article in Discover Magazine by Jared Diamond, author of Guns, Germs and Steel.

Make Mine Dvorak
www.slate.com/?id=2061547
Article in Slate by Nicholas Thompson.

Paul Gorodyansky’s Phonetic Keyboard for Russian
http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/PaulGor/kbd_e.htm#p1251

ATA Spanish Language Division
5th Mid-Year Conference
March 28–30, 2008
Doubletree Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Conference sessions will cover various aspects of judiciary interpreting and translation, including: skills-building; ethics; tape transcription; research skills; reference works; special legal projects; court interpreting in other countries; specialized terminology; lexicography; legislation; advocacy; technology; and interpreting in other settings (e.g., medical visits, international tribunals).

For more information, please go to http://najit.org.
Delivering Multilingual Justice: A Look into the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

By Isabelle Der-Kévorkian

Established by Resolution 827 of the United Nations (UN) Security Council in May 1993, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) is the first international body established for the prosecution of war crimes since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials took place in the aftermath of World War II. The ICTY has the authority to prosecute four types of offenses: grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions; violations of the laws or customs of war; genocide; and crimes against humanity. Its mission is to:

- Contribute to the restoration of peace by prosecuting persons allegedly responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law.
- Render justice to the victims of war crimes.
- Deter further crimes.

This article will highlight a few of the challenges routinely encountered by translators at the ICTY.

Conference and Language Services Organization and Processes

Translators at the ICTY are divided into different language units that are grouped under the larger Conference and Language Services Section. The Conference and Language Services Section is part of the Registry, which is the organizational branch responsible for the administration and judicial support services of the ICTY, including the translation of documents and the interpretation of court proceedings. The Registry’s judicial responsibilities cover the organization of the hearings, the legal filings and archives, the operation of the legal aid program for indigent defendants, the provision of assistance and protection to witnesses, and the management of the detention unit.

For such a large organization, the ICTY’s workflow can seem surprisingly simple and old-fashioned. First, the Registry sends translation requests to the relevant language unit, where they are received by the administrative staff. Documents are then assigned to a translator according to availability and expertise. Once the document is translated (using either a translation memory tool or, most often, simply MS Word), it is printed and edited by a reviser, who is tasked with correcting mistakes and making any necessary stylistic or preferential changes. All changes made by the reviser are handwritten and then returned to the translator, who enters them in the electronic document. The final product is returned to the Registry and uploaded to the ICTY’s judicial database, where it resides along with all jurisprudence for use and reference by staff members and judges.

A Hybrid Legal System

As an international tribunal, the ICTY is a hybrid institution that draws from common law (an adversarial system) and civil law (an inquisitorial system). Common law—which is used in the U.S., the U.K., and Canada—is the predominant legal
system at the ICTY. In common law, the judges act as impartial referees between the parties involved in a trial. Judges can make or refine the law when the existing jurisprudence does not make a clear enough statement concerning the case at hand. In civil law—which is practiced throughout Europe and Latin America—the judges must follow existing rules and regulations.

The dual nature of the ICTY gives rise to a number of translation challenges. It is easy enough to get around by calling judges “Your Honor,” but how do you deal with legal concepts from other countries that do not exist in your target language? For instance, how do you translate “aiding and abetting” into French or, worse, “aider” and “abettor?” In this instance, the concept expressed by the French term complicité seems to come closest to being an adequate equivalent, yet it lacks the precision of the English phrase. The same difficulty arises with the concepts of “multiple hearsay evidence,” “double jeopardy,” and mens rea, which can refer, depending on the context, to the moral element of a crime, the culpable intention of its author, or to a superior’s knowledge of crimes committed by one of his subordinates.

Another trap the translator must avoid are false friends—words in two languages or dialects (or letters in two alphabets) that look and/or sound similar, but differ in meaning—which abound in the Tribunal’s legal terminology. For example, in English, a deposition refers to the oral declarations made by a witness prior to the commencement of a trial, whereas the French term déposition applies solely to a statement given at a trial (testimony).

Two Official Languages

The ICTY has around 1,100 staff members from 81 countries. Its two official languages are French and English, but the vast majority of decisions are rendered in English, which is also the language used most often by the organization’s trial attorneys and lawyers. Because of this, translators seeking to be employed by the ICTY will have a difficult time getting hired if they are not intimately acquainted with the subtleties of the English language. While most documents are initially prepared in English, they are often the product of nonnative English speakers who may not have mastered the finer points of common law terminology and procedures, which makes the translation of legal texts extremely challenging.

Multiple Language Combinations

Since the ICTY’s Statute, which sets out the rights guaranteed to the defendant to ensure a fair trial, stipulates that the accused is entitled to communicate in a language he or she understands, the Tribunal has another working language: Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian (BCS). BCS is the politically correct solution coined by the ICTY to designate the language formerly known as Serbo-Croatian, different variants of which were spoken throughout Yugoslavia.

Translators at the ICTY translate from and into French, English, and BCS, but not always directly. For instance, documents drafted in BCS are first translated into English and then, if necessary, into French, which often results in the loss of information and nuance that this extra layer of translation entails. However, BCS itself cannot be considered as one language, despite the Tribunal’s best efforts. Some defendants with strong nationalistic views insist that they only understand “their” flavor of the language, and demand that everything be translated into that particular dialect. Such a request creates an enormous burden on translators by giving rise to motions, replies, and responses filed while the legal parties fight over whether this falls within the rights guaranteed by ICTY’s Statute. When the trial chamber is presided over by a French-speaking judge, it also means that all the document submissions are going to require translation into French.

Obviously there are some limits when it comes to delivering multilingual justice. It can be a difficult balancing exercise to reconcile, on the one hand, the rights of defendants to communicate in a language they can understand in order to receive a fair and speedy trial, and, on the other, the financial and logistical demands of the Tribunal.

Dealing with References

All submissions for translation, particularly judgments, make extensive reference to legal publications and to decisions rendered by foreign courts, international legal bodies such as the European Court of Human Rights, and, of course, to previous decisions of...
the ICTY itself. Translating such references is no easy task when the duty to be true to the quoted original conflicts with the fact that terminology often differs between legal institutions. It can be quite a challenge just dealing with references to the ICTY’s principal internal documents, such as its Statute and the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, which govern the conduct of trials.

For the most part, the ICTY’s internal documents were drafted at the time the organization was established. As such, the terminology in these documents has evolved, in part because the law is ever changing, but mostly because, through a trial and error process, new and improved translations for common law concepts have been discovered. For example, in international criminal law, the notion of deportation strictly refers to the legal transfer of a population beyond national borders. Mostly in order to avoid the negative connotations of the word, the term was translated in the ICTY Statute as “expulsion.” However, again strictly under international criminal law, expulsion is but a means of deportation.

Complex Legal Conclusions

Translators at the ICTY must also deal with documents filled with complex legal reasoning, which requires extensive research even before translation can start. This is a difficulty that is compounded by the fact that translators are not trained jurists.

Sharing Documents

Although translation memory tools are available at the ICTY, they are rarely used for a variety of reasons that fall outside the scope of this article. Thus, translators have to resort to old-style solutions, such as creating manual glossaries, to guarantee consistent terminology.

Priorities

My background is in localization, an industry heavily governed by time and budget constraints. Regardless of whether I worked as a translator, project manager, or manager of translation services, I always had to balance my priorities as a translator with the client’s quality expectations, and to deal with the ever-existing pressure of doing more, at a faster pace, and for a cheaper price. It has been my experience that international organizations such as the ICTY have entirely different needs. Although those who have never worked in the private industry may disagree, there is really only one priority in such organizations: quality. There is a close-to-zero tolerance for mistakes at the ICTY, since someone’s future may depend on a misunderstood or poorly translated nuance. This is a most welcome relief, as it allows the translators to give their best and concern themselves only with their craft.

The one piece of advice I have for those of you out there who have always dreamed of working for an international organization is to keep applying. There is nothing like the feeling that you are doing something that truly matters.

Notes


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Check it Out

ICTY Homepage
www.un.org/icty

ICTY Links to Glossaries and Press Briefings
www.un.org/icty/glance-e/index.htm

Geneva Conventions
www.genevaconventions.org

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A comprehensive guide for both new and experienced patent translators; includes the use of translation memory software, overview of the international patent system, management of patent litigation projects, and industry-specific resources. Spiral-bound and 160 pages, the Handbook features helpful glossaries, including patent translation terms, German–English patent terminology, and biotechnology terms for patent translators.

ATA Members: $45
Nonmembers: $60
A school outreach presentation to students of advanced French at Riverside High School in inner-city Milwaukee, Wisconsin, proved rewarding and inspiring for ATA member Patrice Van Hyle. The owner of Milwaukee-based PVH TRANSLATE LLC, a French and Italian language service provider, Patrice translates and interprets in a variety of subject areas and has written for a number of periodicals in the U.S. and abroad. Although she has taught French and Italian extensively, she was particularly impressed by the Riverside students.

Challenging and Thoughtful

“I spoke to 15 seniors who were just days away from graduation. In spite of their excitement, they were very focused on my presentation and asked incredibly challenging and thoughtful questions.” Because they were poised for college, she said, “the whole discussion of using your foreign language in a real job was very pertinent and useful.”

After explaining the difference between translation and interpreting, Patrice discussed the skills and personality traits best suited for each. She also described a translator’s typical day, illustrating the importance of terminology and research with quotes from an article in The ATA Chronicle on technical translation by veteran translator and fellow Milwaukee local Nicholas Hartmann. “The students commented that they did not realize how complex and multifaceted the translation and interpreting field was, and said how much they appreciated learning the ins and outs from a professional,” she noted.

Though Riverside faces many of the challenges common to urban schools, Patrice found the students well prepared and enthusiastic. “My entire presentation was conducted in French,” she noted, “and the students had no problem understanding me and communicating back to me at their level. They were not inhibited to speak even if they made mistakes. I was impressed by their academic accomplishments. They have overcome a lot of hardships, and I am glad The ATA Chronicle is highlighting their efforts.”

I was impressed by the students’ accomplishments, and I am glad The ATA Chronicle is highlighting their efforts.

2008 School Outreach Photo Contest Now Open

ATA is now accepting entries for the 2008 School Outreach Contest. The prize is free registration to ATA’s
49th Annual Conference at the Hilton in the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, November 5-8, 2008.

The deadline for submissions is July 21, 2008, and the winner will be contacted no later than August 18, 2008. Here is how to enter:


2. Pick the age level you like the best and click on it.

3. Download a presentation and deliver it at your local school or university.

4. Get someone to take a picture of you in the classroom. For tips on getting a winning photo, visit www.atanet.org/ata_school/photo_contest_guidelines.php.

5. E-mail your entry to ATA’s Public Relations Committee at pr@atanet.org using the subject line “School Outreach Contest,” or mail it to 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314 USA. Please include your name and contact information, the date, the school’s name and location, and a brief description of the class.

You may submit multiple entries, and any member of ATA or any ATA-affiliated organization is eligible to enter. For more information, contact Lillian Clementi at Lillian@LinguaLegal.com.

### Upcoming Events

**March 7–8, 2008**
Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies
Nordic Translation Conference
London, England
www.awaywithwords.se/nordic.htm

**March 28–30, 2008**
ATA Spanish Language Division
5th Mid-Year SPD Conference
Philadelphia, PA
SPD@ata-divisions.org

**March 28–30, 2008**
Mid-America Chapter of the ATA
Annual Educational Symposium for Language Professionals
Bethany, OK
www.ata-micata.org

**May 13–17, 2008**
Association of Language Companies
2008 Annual Conference
San Francisco, California
www.alcus.org

**May 16–18, 2008**
National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators
29th Annual Conference
May 16-18, 2008
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
http://najit.org

**August 4–7, 2008**
International Federation of Translators
18th FIT World Congress
Shanghai, China
www.fit-ift.org

**November 5–8, 2008**
American Translators Association
49th Annual Conference
Hilton in the Walt Disney World Resort
Orlando, Florida
www.atanet.org

Visit ATA’s Calendar Online
www.atanet.org/calendar/ for a more comprehensive look at upcoming events.
Business Smarts

Why Do We Need Translation Standards?

Despite years of discussion about quality in language translation, it was only recently that an actual industry standard for translation was finalized. ASTM F 2575-06, entitled “Standard Guide for Quality Assurance in Translation,” was published in June of 2006. Although many translation companies have welcomed this effort to standardize quality, individual freelancers continue to be concerned that newly introduced standards may constitute a threat.

Dear Business Smarts,

I read about the new translation standards in The ATA Chronicle and elsewhere, but am confused about the meaning of these documents for my business as a freelancer. I heard that one of the objectives was to push small freelance contractors out of the market and to make it harder for them to get work from direct clients. But at a conference session I attended, I heard that nothing would change for freelancers and that I was “probably already doing” what the standard discussed. Why, then, did we need a standard? Many thanks for any additional information you can provide.

Standard Question

Dear Standard Question,

Thanks largely to the arrival of the Internet, the global translation market has grown tremendously in the past decade, and large numbers of new providers are pushing into the field. Clients who never before had to deal with foreign languages, including government agencies and small to mid-sized companies, are suddenly being forced to buy language services. This means that translation terminology must be explained to inexperienced buyers, and the steps involved in producing flawless copy—including selecting a translation service provider, defining project specifications, actual production (terminology management, translation, editing, formatting, proofreading, and quality control), and post-project review—must be formally described. This is the purpose of ASTM F 2575-06 (entitled “Standard Guide for Quality Assurance in Translation”).

Translation companies may see the standard as a way to “quantify quality” and thereby set themselves apart from their competitors; the increasing trend toward documentation and continuous improvement processes (CIP) is part of this growing emphasis on quality. Since ASTM F 2575-06 is principally relevant to projects larger than any you are likely to handle as a freelancer, it should not interfere with your relationship with direct clients as long as the quality requirements listed in the standard are met. “At a minimum, project management, translation, and editing tasks performed by highly qualified individuals at all stages should be considered the default to obtain a translation that meets high quality standards.”

In a reflection of industry realities, the document also concedes that “[i]n some cases, the project manager and the translator are the same person.”

In fact, an individual independent translator can perform all the functions of a “translation provider” as defined by the standard. The standard can therefore be viewed less as a limitation and more as a new opportunity for you as an independent translator both to educate and to evaluate your clients. The detailed definitions of translation processes can be useful tools for explaining your work to customers and justifying its cost. The document also benefits you as an individual translator by providing a framework within which you can measure the working methods of your agency clients against an accepted objective yardstick. For example: Do they take the time to provide you with specifications, terminology, and client expectations? Are you given an opportunity to review editing changes, and is your work reviewed at all? Does the client make an effort to listen to your comments? Last, but not least, is the quality of the final product really everyone’s highest priority?

Notes


2. Ibid.

Comments?

ATA members can discuss business issues online at the following Yahoo! group: http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/ata_business_practices. You will need to register with Yahoo! (at no charge) if you have not already done so, and provide your full name and ATA member number in order to join the group.

The information in this column was compiled by members of ATA’s Business Practices Education Committee for the benefit of ATA members. This column is not intended to constitute legal, financial, or other business advice. Each individual or company should make its own independent business decisions and consult its own legal, financial, or other advisors as appropriate. The views expressed here are not necessarily those of ATA or its Board of Directors. Send your questions about the business of translation and interpretation to The ATA Chronicle—BPEC Q&A; 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 390, Alexandria, VA 22314 USA; Fax: +1-703-683-6122; E-mail: businesspractices@atanet.org. Questions must be accompanied by a complete name and address, but will be published anonymously or pseudonymously upon request.
Former long-time ATA Board member Tony Roder was kind enough to send me a few manuscripts of talks on translation memory (TM) technology that he gave in the late 1990s at ATA conferences. Here is one quote that I found remarkable:

In acknowledging that this is an irreversible phenomenon, we come to the realization that TM work is so different from conventional translation, that it is creating a distinct form of language transposition which opens the gates to an uncharted territory, in which the demand for TM specialists can only grow, and in which the choice of becoming a TM specialist becomes a viable alternative. In my crystal ball, I see a migration, a diaspora of translators moving into that specialty, weighed down by computers with gigabytes of memory, and by all the software they can carry; but with no dictionaries to speak of.

Hats off to Tony: few predictions for the future have been more on the mark! As I write, we have not yet launched into 2008, so it seems fair for me to gaze into my own crystal ball in an attempt to identify trends in TEnTs (translation environment tools) that we will see in the coming months and years, and that naturally will have an impact on translators. (We will have to wait and see whether these predictions will be as good as Tony’s.)

Admittedly, I did not conjure these ideas out of thin air. For the 100th edition of my newsletter (www.internationalwriters.com/toolkit), I sent a note to most tool vendors asking them for their opinion on the future of translation tools. I then published those opinions in the newsletter, and they served as a good springboard for my own opinions. Not included in my predictions are your answers to the recent tool survey, which have not yet been compiled as I write.

Subsegment search and automatic utilization will become much more important, and if you think about it, it is a no-brainer. Of course, there are more matches on the subsegment level than on the sentence level, and if these can be intelligently filtered and automatically reused as some tools have already started to do, there is a potentially steep productivity gain on the horizon—one, by the way, that cannot yet be quantified and discounted in clients’ pricing schemes. I predict that terminology work and subsegment processing will slowly merge. (I can just imagine how this will make true terminologists cringe).

Merging of TM and machine translation is also a no-brainer. It already happens on the enterprise level, but I think that we will see this more and more on the agency and freelancer level in the next three to five years. Yes, I know, it is sort of a bitter pill to swallow, but let’s face it: the stuff that is worthwhile to process with machine translation is not worth wasting our time on. (This is because users have low expectations of the quality of the output and because, so far, the only successful implementations have been in strongly controlled environments.)

Automated workflow processes will become more prevalent, especially for larger projects, and this hopefully will also include the TM-based authoring of the source text (which I still believe is one of the most underutilized opportunities of our industry).

Open-source projects will become more relevant. Existing projects to watch include the conceptual design of a Translation Memory Open Source System (TMOSS), OmegaT and Sun’s Open Language Tools, and now even open source versions of established TEnTs (such as OpenWordfast). Also, look to XLIFF (XML Localization Interchange File Format) to become a much more common translation standard format, and help with some of the file format issues we are dealing with right now, and, in turn, substantially assist the open-source communities.

And, yes, for those of you who are still wondering about when and how already pointing the way. When I first heard about server-based computing it sounded way too futuristic, and I resented the idea because it seemed to promise me less control. However, I have come to the conclusion that freedom (from software updates, computer problems, and backup worries) is not a bad thing either.

Sharing of language resources will no doubt become more relevant. It remains to be seen whether it will come through SaaS-like tools, project-specific client-server constellations, an industry consortium like TAUS, a commercial model like TM Marketplace, or some open-source model. Chances are that it will be a mixture of all of the above and something else that we have not even seen yet.

Continued on p. 32
Winging it in Milan

A little knowledge can be a dangerous thing.

Consider what happens when a translation comes under the microscope for tweaking or an ultimate green light. If the “reviser” is not genuinely fluent in the target language, his or her input can do more harm than good.

For example, a European businessman recently gave a thumbs-down to “Putting clients first” as a heading in the English version of a brochure testifying to his company’s focus on service. “Golf terms should not be used in formal business documents;” he opined to colleagues, who fortunately set him straight.

More commonly, nonnative buyers or revisers let errors slip through for lack of language awareness. An advertisement promoting Milan’s Malpensa airport to readers of the Financial Times on November 30 and again on December 7 hit this wall. The aim was to convince foreign businesspeople of the airport’s efficiency, punctuality, and general appeal. A clever visual shows banknotes folded into paper planes clustered on the tarmac around a modern terminal.

Alas, the accompanying 100-word text fails to fly due to odd phrasing and grammar, starting with, “A growth without comparison” in boldface. Growth, in English, takes no article; “a growth” is more often than not a meddlesome, without comparison word in English. In fact, “growth” was one of the rare correct bits.

To get that far, our man had waded, oblivious, through “Malpensa, the only airport wanted by the EU for the Trans European Network”; through “9.3% increase of passengers”; through “The shopping mall with the greatest Fashion Designers of the Made in Italy sector”; and more. Not a single one of these glitches had caught his eye in the English text—just as the U.S. and British businesses regularly cited in this column fail to notice errors in their German, Italian, French, and Japanese texts.

Back in Milan, an airport representative confirmed to the Onionskin that the English text had been supplied by an external specialist in communications, Luca Ciserani. At their request, we prepared an earnest and detailed critique, which they kindly passed on. But it fell on deaf ears, Mr. Ciserani insisted to Malpensa that the English text had been crafted by a bona fide translator—yessir, a native speaker of American English—working in Italy for some six years. Was this Onionskin person not engaging in a crass commercial bid to steal a client?

Mr. Ciserani did not respond to our requests for an interview, but we stand by our analysis: the text speaks for itself as proof that somebody was bluffing somebody along the supply chain.

While Malpensa has declined to pursue the issue, the advert highlights the challenge facing well-meaning clients who simply cannot judge the quality of work delivered. “Trust me, I’m a professional” is only as good as the quality of the work on the page, and when time is short and the buyer inexperienced (or simply too trusting), accidents happen. For Malpensa, this was an expensive one: the Financial Times rate sheet indicates the airport spent €160,000 on its advertising space, only to run a poorly translated text that flies in the face of the sophisticated international image it wished to convey.

Once again from the top: the higher the stakes, the more important it is to use a professional, and to solicit regular feedback from independent, literate, native-speaking sources. To ensure future texts get off the ground in Milan, we are sending both Malpensa and their external specialist a copy of the Italian version of Translation, getting it right.

Well, there they are—my bold crystal ball predictions for the heady translation future. I will leave it up to Tony to check back 10 years from now to test their validity.

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The Onionskin is a client education column launched by the M Bulletin (a publication of the U.K.’s Institute of Translation and Interpreting) in 1996. Comments and leads for future columns are very welcome; please include full contact details.

The ATA Chronicle    February 2008
ATA Certification Exam Information

Upcoming Exams

California
San Diego
March 15, 2008
Registration Deadline: February 29, 2008

San Francisco
March 22, 2008
Registration Deadline: March 7, 2008

San Francisco
April 26, 2008
Registration Deadline: April 11, 2008

April 26, 2008
Registration Deadline: August 22, 2008

Florida
Miami
May 31, 2008
Registration deadline: May 16, 2008

New Jersey
New Brunswick
April 19, 2008
Registration Deadline: April 4, 2008

North Carolina
Raleigh
April 19, 2008
Registration Deadline: April 4, 2008

Pennsylvania
Philadelphia
March 30, 2008
Registration Deadline: March 14, 2008

Texas
Austin
April 12, 2008
Registration Deadline: March 28, 2008

Wisconsin
Milwaukee
May 3, 2008
Registration Deadline: April 18, 2008

All candidates applying for ATA certification must provide proof that they meet the certification program eligibility requirements. Please direct all inquiries regarding general certification information to ATA Headquarters at +1-703-683-6100. Registration for all certification exams should be made through ATA Headquarters. All sittings have a maximum capacity and admission is based on the order in which registrations are received. Forms are available from ATA’s website or from Headquarters.

New Certified Members

Congratulations! The following people have successfully passed ATA’s certification exam:

**English into Spanish**

Eva De Vallescar
Marietta, GA

Maria G. Otoya de Diehn
Scottsdale, AZ

Maria A. Militzer
Ann Arbor, MI

Florence Russ
Buenos Aires, Argentina

**French into English**

Olivia J. Thorsteinson
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

**German into English**

Niels B. Nielsen
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**Spanish into English**

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Bloomington, MN

Richard D. Huber
Lancaster, PA

Brendan P. Riley
Petaluma, CA

Patrick A. Saari
Quito, Ecuador

Rose Vekony
Berkeley, CA

Gahan M. Willis
Spreckels, CA

**Active Membership Review**

Congratulations! The Active Membership Review Committee is pleased to grant active status to:

Armando Ezquerra Hasbun
Philadelphia, PA

Dahir Qassim
Kent, WA

Ingeborg Weinmann White
Berkeley, CA
**A Supplementary Russian-English Dictionary, Second Edition**

**Author:**
Stephen Marder

**Publisher:**
Slavica (Bloomington, Indiana)

**Publication date:**
2007

**Number of pages/entries:**
736 pages/81,000 entries

**ISBN:**
978-0-89357-327-0

**Price:**
$44.95 (Hardcover)

**Available from:**
Slavica Publishers
www.slavica.com

**Reviewed by:**
Lynn Visson

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**A Supplementary Russian-English Dictionary, Second Edition (ASRED 2)** begins where the author’s previous volume, *A Supplementary Russian-English Dictionary* (Slavica Publishers, 1992), left off. Unique in its approach, ASRED 2 does not attempt to be a comprehensive dictionary of the Russian language. As Stephen Marder clearly states in his introduction, this is a supplementary dictionary that is not designed to substitute for or compete with Alexander Smirnitsky’s or Marcus Wheeler’s well known works. The purpose of ASRED 2 is to fill in the gaps and to provide definitions for the huge number of terms that have emerged in Russian over the past 15 years following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the concomitant collapse of the stylistic boundaries of Russian and of a frozen Marxist lexicon.

The language of the Internet, camp slang, criminal jargon, international banking and finance terminology, ecological terms, adolescent slang, and terms relating to health, drugs, and AIDS have had an enormous impact on Russian, and in particular on the spoken language. Words that previously were rarely or never seen in print, and that were confined to the vocabularies of prisoners or teenagers, are now common currency in the press and in the language of political officials (e.g., Vladimir Putin’s now classic “мочь их в сортире”).

**Structure**

The dictionary is superbly produced, a solid hardback printed on excellent quality paper with entry headwords in boldface font that jump off the page at the reader. In contrast to the first edition of ASRED, the numbered entries are listed vertically rather than horizontally for long entries, with headwords having more than 10 subentries, which facilitates the reader’s task of finding the entry sought. The information customary for Russian-to-English dictionaries—for example, gender if the noun is irregular, aspect, specialized terminology (medical, legal, sports), and stylistic level (slang, colloquial)—is indicated.

**Content**

Though ASRED 2 claims to be—and certainly is—a dictionary, this work frequently reads like an encyclopaedia. Marder has included in the definitions a wealth of interesting, arcane, fascinating, and often highly amusing details. It is unlikely that any other lexicographer would have come up with more than 50 synonyms or related words for мяки (slang for “money/dough”) or provided an entire paragraph explaining the meaning of кашага and why, in modern Russian, the word has lost the original meaning of “lice” and taken on the meaning of “to give an acid test,” “to check out thoroughly.” Nor would most dictionaries explain that косу, as a rules of the road violation, is entered on the driver’s ownership papers or registration rather than on the driver’s license. Or that vjyujkr-crbq rekfy is an Asiatic wild ass (*Equus hemionus hemionus*). A reference to джамақъ includes the information that the term, as applied to schizophrenia (sluggish, slowly developing), was coined by Professor Snezhnevsky, the former head of Moscow’s Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry, and was often used in reference to dissidents.

The entry for дкъ (договор о коллективной безопасности) includes an explanatory note on the parties to the treaty and its purpose. An interesting reference to мозговые яблоки

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**Dictionary Review**

**Compiled by**
Peter A. Gergay
PGergay@aol.com

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The ATA Chronicle ■ February 2008
discusses the folkloric roots of the expression and its association with “anti-aging” or “wonder” remedies. Also, you probably did not know that “женьшень” почтовые марки were scented postage stamps, and that Russia had released a set of fruit-scented stamps in 2003, or that лакомус is still the word for a “personal taster” whose job it is “to ascertain the quality of food and drink and to test for the presence of poison.” In a word, ASRED 2 is everything you ever might have wanted to know about Russian, but never knew whom to ask.

The dictionary covers so much ground in so many fields and levels of language that it is hard to fault it for various omissions. For some reason, the long list under чёрный did not include the very common чёрный нюх (smear campaign), which is found on multitran.ru; the definition of фрукт did not refer to the very common colloquial use of the word to mean an unpleasant individual or an oddball; and there was no entry for the very common поштиты (lies, falsehoods), which is included in Vladimir Shlyakhov and Eve Adler’s Dictionary of Russian Slang and Colloquial Expressions. As Marder states in his introduction, however, ASRED 2 is not intended to be a dictionary of slang. Those slang expressions that are included (e.g., блин, ехать, лажа) come with useful synonyms for the reader and translator.

Marder also includes a disclaimer for “Britishisms and New Zealandisms,” the result of decades spent in these countries. Nevertheless, the definition of “crumblie” (senile person) for старый мразь is unlikely to resonate with the American reader. Also, while the culinary history provided in the entry for салат оливье is admirable, I would respectfully question the author’s assertion that the modern-day version necessarily includes “cooked sausage cut into cubes.” A good many of the salads (and recipes for the salad) this reviewer has encountered, recreated, or consumed in Russia or abroad were beef or chicken-based.

Overall Evaluation
Okay, enough nit-picking. ASRED 2 is an invaluable asset for all students and teachers of Russian, and for any translator or interpreter with a serious interest in the language. This is a book that the Slavist will enjoy reading and leafing through for the pure linguistic fun of it, and Slavists are deeply indebted to Steve Marder for the incredible amount of work he has put into producing this superb volume. It is a masterpiece of лингвострановедение as well as lexicography, a sweeping canvas of the Russian language of our time, carefully designed and brilliantly executed in masterful and colorful verbal brush strokes. ASRED 2 should be a настольная книга for anyone seriously interested in Russian for years to come.

Lynn Visson is an editor at Hippocrene Books in New York. She was a staff interpreter at the United Nations for 24 years. Contact: lvisson@aol.com.
It took this many years before the Translation Inquirer finally attended his first fully interpreted conference; that is, one in which virtually every word spoken was interpreted. Looking with a bit of doubt at his microcassette tape recorder, the Translation Inquirer asked one of the bigwigs at the conference if it was okay to record the speakers in either language, and he replied, “Sure, go ahead. If we ever become that mercenary about our speakers, I encourage you to quit our organization.” That was refreshing. So I recorded, hour after hour, my tiny machine performing like a champ. And when I got home, I listened to my tapes and found that often the man speaking English was indistinct, but that his baritone speaking range matched that of the interpreter exactly. So the tape was not as easy to follow as the live event, which was held in a cavernous interior space. It was then that the light went on for me. In principle, in an ideal world, a woman should interpret when the main speaker is a man, and a man should interpret for a woman speaker. Right?

New Queries

(E-F 2-08/1) Without a context sentence, but with the knowledge that it relates to software for a telephone, a member of ProZ asks about the meaning of *quatrefoil shot* and how French might handle that.

(E-G 2-08/2) A ProZer stumbled over *reproductive health* in a brochure that a chemical company issued pertaining to the health of its employees. Naturally, the company wants consultation to be available at the plant for anyone who is concerned about the possible effects that the chemicals might have on the reproductive system.

(E-Gr 2-08/3) What on earth is *work circulation*? A ProZer, trying to translate into Greek, found material about how to create a learning pathway that mentioned this, among other things: *Some may want to use it* [Learning Pathway] *to evaluate their current competencies to assess areas that might need to be developed* (e.g., through *work circulation*), whilst others may use it when making a detailed plan to achieve a new qualification. The passage is all about new job opportunities and competencies.

(E-H 2-08/4) The context sentence for the problem term, *valve bases*, is a model of technical simplicity: *The centre connections from the valve bases are drain pipes. Who can deal with the Hungarian for this?*

(E-R 2-08/5) A music-related query appears at last. A translator working on a manual for a home audio system stumbled over *note velocity*. This seems like an odd musical term, but maybe not so in the world of electronic keyboards. Here is what the translator found: *To lower the minimum MIDI note velocity: Select a key to start the process. Adjust the MIDI key velocity sent to the solenoid on each key to create optimal playback performance.* Note that the reference is to situations where the keyboard plays something recorded within the device.

(E-Sw 2-08/6) Here a ProZer is wondering about *electrocution*. This is not the kind used to administer the death penalty, but rather what happened to a boy struck by lightning who suffered burns over 70% of his body. Does Swedish have a separate word for this?

(F-D [E] 2-08/7) This has to do with a 4x4 motor vehicle, and the troubling French sentence was: *En manœuvre de parking (en 1ère et marche arrière) et à l’approche des butées de braquage le véhicule est légèrement freiné dans sa progression. Provide, if you can, good Dutch or English for the three words in bold.

(G-Sp [E] 2-08/8) I never feel quite comfortable unless a column contains something juicy in technical German. The trouble word here is *Zulaufförderung*: *Das Füllen des Pumpengehäuses bei Aggregaten unterhalb des Anschlagpunktes, die durch Zulaufförderung versorgt werden, erfolgt durch Entfernen des Einfüllstopfens 9 und nachfolgendem Öffnen des saugseitigen Schiebers. There is more to this sentence, but the part that appears here should be enough for you to provide good Spanish or English.

(I-E 2-08/9) In this review, the lowly motorcycle takes center stage: *Moto Guzzi 1950 Falcone Sport* [start of new
line:] Non si tratta di una novità assoluta, ma è stato migliorato con tanti piccoli accorgimenti. Per risolvere definitivamente alcune critiche circa la lentezza e la scarsa dolcezza della leva delle marce, il Falcone viene equipaggiato con il cambio ’tipo Condor’, cioè a Quattro rapporti con ingrannaggi sempre in presa e gli alberini sullo stesso piano. All would have been well for this ProZ-affiliated translator if not for the words in bold print. What are they all about?

(Pt-Sp [E] 2-08/10) The Portuguese term coletiva de impresa seemed opaque when printed in material about the launching of a new product. The document states that the term in question will happen at a certain place at a certain time. What is it? English will be accepted for this.

(R-E 2-08/11) A member was thoroughly confused when he found підкріплювати being used as an adjective referring to payment for work done per square unit area in a marine environment. First, the country has been a metric country for a long time. Second, acre presumably refers to dry land. What is happening here?

Replies to Old Queries

(E-Pt 11-07/1) (Pod surfing, thumb-sucking, snarfing, etc.): Gabe Bokor says that all these terms refer to the use of portable devices for downloading confidential or copyrighted material. The first two are used when the portable device is an iPod, and the third one is used when it is a Bluetooth. The best thing, he says, is to leave the terms untranslated and explain them in Portuguese with something like this: métodos para baixar arquivos confidenciais ou protegidos por copyright para dispositivos portáteis—iPods para os primeiros dois ou Bluetooth para o terceiro.

(E-Sp 11-07/3) (discharge cross strainer access plate): Gonzalo Ordóñez says that in the context of water engineering, the word discharge could mean to give outlet or to pour forth a fluid, with the corresponding noun forms. Descarga is usually the word of choice for that in Spanish. It seems to Gonzalo that cross is linked here to strainer, probably meaning a strainer formed by two wires crossed at right angles. So, in Spanish, the five consecutive nouns could be la placa de acceso al colador de cruz para descarga.

(F-E 11-07/5) (prise en charge ambulatoire): Both Janice Wood and Sharon Neeman call this out-patient treatment. Fleshing out the original quote, Sharon uses in an out-patient treatment framework for dans le cadre d’une prise en charge ambulatoire.

(G-E 11-07/6) (platine épaisseur): This is likely to be a misspelling of épaisseur. If this is the case, then the term in question means spacer plate, says Sharon Neeman. Janice Wood thinks this is an omission of a measurement in the French text.

(I-E 11-07/7) (gefangene Räume): Sandra Thomson, an ardent admirer of this column, consulted her brother, an architect, who, in turn, checked with a colleague who is responsible for oversight of building code enforcement. The latter called these dead-end rooms, and that indeed seems to fit.

(K-E 11-07/9) (Heukhyongkangseong): This, says Bruce Hyman, is indeed a transliteration. In former times, educated Koreans would have used four Chinese characters to express this, but more modern Koreans are doing away with them. The term in the request means Heilongjiang Sheng, or Heilongjiang Province, which is in northeast China. This literally means Black Dragon River.

Have you ever delved into patents? The older ones seem to be a bit more of a gentleman’s game than what now routinely appears, with little flourishes that add charm. My grandfather-in-law, whose regrettably short life ended before he could see any of his grandchildren, received a U.S. patent in December 1927, after waiting more than three years, for a “gravity dumping-truck body.” Right at the outset is the term Letters Patent, reminding me that what now is a noun once was an adjective. Common knowledge of the art is used where we would routinely say state of the art. There is a rare personal note in the transition sentence between the specification and his nine claims: Having now described my invention, what I claim is…. The very last sentence is a fine one: In testimony whereof I hereto affix my signature [plus his name]. Why did these fine little details have to vanish from this kind of writing?

This column is solely intended as a means of facilitating a general discussion regarding terminology choices. For feedback regarding pressing terminology questions, please try one of these online forums: Lantra-L (www.geocities.com/athens/7110/lantra.htm), ProZ.com (www.proz.com), or Translators Café (http://translatorscafe.com).

Address your queries and responses to The Translation Inquirer, 112 Ardmore Avenue, Danville, Pennsylvania 17821, or fax them to (570) 275-1477. Email address: jdecker@uplink.net. Please make your submissions by the first of each month to be included in the next issue. Generous assistance from Per Dohler, proofreader, is gratefully acknowledged.
Many works have been translated, then adapted, and then had the adaptation retranslated into the original language. This was the fate of *The Beggar's Opera / The Threepenny Opera*, discussed in the October 2007 column. But the Anglo-German origins of this work are relatively straightforward compared to those of *Die Schöpfung* [The Creation] and *The Black Rider*, two musical works, two centuries apart, whose ancestries are tangled indeed.

The earlier work, *Die Schöpfung* [The Creation], composed between 1796 and 1798 by Joseph Haydn, is an oratorio based on the biblical books of Genesis and Psalms, and on John Milton’s Paradise Lost. The original libretto, written anonymously in English, had previously been offered to George Frederick Handel, who turned it down. However, this English libretto was not what Haydn set to music. Instead, Haydn set a German translation of the libretto by Baron van Swieten. Van Swieten then “adapted” the original English libretto so that it could be sung to Haydn’s music.

The oratorio was published in a bilingual edition in 1800. However, van Swieten’s English “adaptation” was not felicitous, and the German libretto was newly translated into English for the London premiere, also in 1800. The new English translation, the fact that Haydn’s original autograph score was lost in 1803, and some legal wrangling over who had the right to translate what, have led to a widely circulated but totally incorrect depiction of the oratorio’s creation: that the work was composed to an English libretto, that all copies of the original were lost, and that current English versions are retranslations of a surviving German translation of the original English lyrics that Haydn set.

The recent work is *The Black Rider: The Casting of the Magic Bullets: A Musical Fable*. The book for this contemporary musical was written by William S. Burroughs, the author of *Naked Lunch*. The music and lyrics are by Tom Waits.

The source of *The Black Rider* is *Der Freischütz*, the German folk tale best known to English speakers as the basis for Carl Maria von Weber’s famous romantic opera of the same name. Weber’s opera premiered in 1821. Two years later, Thomas de Quincey, the Victorian British author best known for his 1821 book *Confessions of an Opium-Eater*, published *The Fatal Marksman*, an English translation of the original German short story. It was from the English of *The Fatal Marksman*, not the German of *Der Freischütz* (nor the resulting opera), that *The Black Rider* stems.

But that was not the end of the matter. *The Black Rider*, an American musical written in English, was translated (retranslated?) into German for its premiere production in Hamburg, Germany in 1990. The first performance in English did not take place until 1998 in Edmonton, Canada, and the first performance in the musical’s native land did not occur until 1999 in New York City.

Herman is a librettist and translator. Submit items for future columns via e-mail to hermanapter@cmsinter.net or via snail mail to Mark Herman, 1409 E Gaylord Street, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858-3626. Discussions of the translation of humor and examples thereof are preferred, but humorous anecdotes about translators, translations, and mis-translations are also welcome. Include copyright information and permission if relevant.
Revisions to Continuing Education System

For the past year, ATA’s Certification Maintenance Committee—composed of Veronica Albin, Arlene Kelley, Corinne McKay (chair), Susanne van Eyl, and Caitlin Walsh—has been revising the continuing education (CE) points system. The committee’s primary goals have been to increase the number of free and low-cost continuing education opportunities; to increase the number of options that can be completed from home; to place special emphasis on continuing education that is verifiable; and to make the CE point system reflect the work that ATA members do on a daily basis. The revised CE points grid that appears here is the culmination of the committee’s efforts.

Some major changes to this grid include: the addition of a category for independent study work; the acceptance of work done in the areas of translation, interpreting, and translation/interpreting business practices; the addition of a translation/interpreting work experience category; and a redistribution of the points allocated to the various categories. The Certification Maintenance Committee looks forward to your feedback on the revised CE points grid. Please send any comments to terry@atanet.org.

Purpose of Continuing Education and ATA Certification Maintenance

• Continuing education (CE) is an integral aspect of ATA’s mission to help all of its members provide high quality translation, to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the profession, and to educate clients and the public about the translation and interpreting professions.

• CE improves our membership’s combined knowledge and helps make ATA a stronger association.

• CE brings ATA’s Certification Program into line with the credentials of other professional organizations.

• CE enhances the prestige and recognition of ATA’s Certification Program and of ATA-certified translators.

ATA requires its certified members to accrue 20 CE points every three years. The three-year reporting period begins when a member first becomes certified, or immediately following the previous reporting period. CE points earned must be verifiable; continuing education that is not verifiable is not accepted for CE points. Two exceptions to the CE point requirements exist:

1. Certified members who are 60 years of age or older are exempt from this requirement.

2. ATA Headquarters has the authority to extend the deadline for accruing CE points, upon request, for up to one year based upon extenuating circumstances such as long-term illness, undue hardship, military duty, etc. Additional one-year exceptions may be granted if required. Any points earned during such an extension shall not count toward the next reporting period.

Ethics Course

All newly-certified members must complete during the first reporting period either the free online ATA Ethics Module, or the in-person Ethics Module offered at ATA’s Annual Conference. The module need not be repeated in subsequent reporting periods. Ethics courses offered by third parties do not qualify. ATA’s Ethics Module is equivalent to one CE point.

Activities Accepted for Continuing Education Points

Continuing Education points can be accrued in a variety of ways. Many activities reasonably deemed to be related to translation and interpreting (T&I) are considered qualifying, including CE points earned from other T&I associations worldwide. ATA will not authorize or approve specific continuing education courses offered by entities outside the T&I industry, but will instead provide guidelines that the certified member may consult in order to determine if a given activity meets ATA’s requirements. Continuing education course work or activities must contribute to the professional knowledge and development of the T&I practitioner, or must demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the profession and client education through service and volunteerism.

Acceptable continuing education may include, but is not limited to:

• Attending conferences, courses, seminars, and workshops on T&I (or related to T&I specialty fields or business practices) offered or authorized by state, private, national, and international organizations, and by corporations, agencies, or institutions of higher learning, whether online or onsite.

• Conducting independent study of educational T&I audio or video, films, slides, or Internet articles on T&I, T&I technology, and business practices (or material related to the translator’s specialty fields) published by recognized private, national, and international trade associations, corporations, or organizations.
**ATA Continuing Education Grid**  
*(Certified members must accrue at least 20 CE points in each three-year reporting period)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points/Max Per Year</th>
<th>Documentation</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Attending conferences, courses, workshops, and seminars on T&I (or T&I-related specialty field or business practices) offered or authorized by industry-recognized professionals, by state, private, national, and international organizations, and by corporations, agencies, or institutions of higher learning, whether online or onsite. | 1 hour = 1 point  
Maximum 10 points per event. No maximum per reporting period. | Copy of certificate of attendance, receipt, or letter of completion. | ATA Annual Conference, chapter-sponsored seminars, T&I technology workshops, American Medical Writers Association educational meetings, ATA conference and seminar CDs, DVD-ROMs, and conference proceedings can earn 1 point per hour viewed/read up to a maximum of 10 points for each individual activity. |
| Independent study of educational T&I (or T&I-related specialty field or business practices) audio or video, films, slides, or Internet articles on T&I, T&I technology, or the translator’s specialty fields published by recognized private, national, and international trade associations, corporations, or organizations. | Each activity = 1 point per hour of activity. Maximum 15 points per reporting period. | Copy of ATA Independent Study Verification form for each activity. | The ATA Chronicle, Proteus (NAJIT), Caduceus (ATA), Intercambios (ATA), the ATA Scholarly Monograph Series. |
| Authoring or editing published books or articles on T&I.                 | 6 points per published book.  
2 points per published article.  
Maximum 8 points per reporting period. | Date and title of the article or book and name of the publisher. | Books on T&I theory, articles for The ATA Chronicle. |
| Teaching or developing a T&I course, seminar, or workshop. Credit may be earned only for new presentations. Repeating the same presentation does not earn additional points. | 1 hour = 2 points.  
No maximum per reporting period. | Date, title, and length of presentation, and name of sponsoring organization. | Presentation at ATA Annual Conference, chapter-sponsored seminars, for-profit workshops. |
| Volunteerism (T&I-related work or school outreach presentations).       | T&I-related: 2 hours of service = 1 point.  
School outreach: 1 hour of service = 1 point.  
Maximum 6 points per reporting period. | Description of the activity, hours given, and name of sponsoring organization. | Assignments for which the member has expanded his/her T&I capabilities due to the challenging nature of the work. |
| T&I work experience during particularly challenging assignments, allowing the member to expand his/her T&I capabilities. | Every 2 hours of extra time spent on the assignment = 1 point. Maximum 6 points per reporting period. | Copy of T&I work experience form for each assignment. | |
| Membership in professional associations other than ATA.                 | 1 point per membership. Maximum 4 points per reporting period. | Proof of membership. | T&I (or related discipline or specialty field) associations, ATA chapters. |
• Writing or editing books or articles on T&I.
• Teaching or developing a T&I (or T&I-related) course, seminar, or workshop. (Credit may be earned only for new presentations.)
• Providing pro bono T&I services, grader training, service in ATA’s School Outreach/Mentorship programs, or client education in a formal volunteer capacity. These volunteer services will not be considered if provided to an organization, association, or client of which the volunteer translator/interpreter is also a paid employee.
• Maintaining membership in professional T&I associations other than ATA.

Repeating an identical continuing education opportunity does not earn additional CE points.

Recordkeeping and Verification

The certified member must accrue the required CE points in the three-year reporting period, and is responsible for keeping a record of all CE activities and completing ATA’s online CE reporting form (www.atanet.org/docs/CE_approval_request_form.pdf). ATA may randomly audit certified members within a period of one year after the conclusion of a reporting period. Certified members will be given 30 days notice to provide documentation of their CE points to ATA Headquarters. Records include conference attendance certificates, course completion letters, and ATA Independent Study Verification papers. Each self-directed activity must be substantiated by a report on the activity using the ATA Independent Study Verification form available on ATA’s website (See pages 42 and 43 for the Work Experience and Independent Study verification forms, or download them from www.atanet.org/certification/cep_verification_php.) Records are to be kept by the certified member for a period of one year after the conclusion of a given reporting period, and should not be sent to ATA unless requested by the Association in case of an audit.

Loss of Certification

A certified member’s certification will be rescinded if the appropriate CE requirements have not been reported by the deadline or extended deadline, as appropriate. ATA will remove any certifications from a member’s listings or profiles in ATA’s online directories. ATA members whose certification has been rescinded may not use the designation “ATA-certified,” “certified by the American Translators Association,” or the professional designation “CT” (certified translator) after the translator’s name until they complete the outstanding CE requirements. Loss of certification does not affect a person’s membership status.

Once a member has lost certification, ATA will inform him/her of the process required to reactivate his/her ATA certification. Members who have lost their certification will be encouraged to reactivate their certification as long as they are still members of ATA and active in the profession.

ATA Ethics Course

All certified members are required to earn one continuing education point by completing an ethics course.

For details, go to: www.atanet.org/certification/online_ethics_overview.php

Translation: Getting it Right

“By applying even half the tips in this guide, you will improve your chances of getting a translation that works.”

Translation: Getting it Right is an ATA client education booklet available in print and online. ATA members can order up to 100 copies at no cost. To download a PDF copy of this booklet, visit www.atanet.org.
Independent Study Verification

Date: ______________________________

Member Name: _______________________

ATA Membership Number: _______________________

Title of Publication, Article, Book, or Educational Tool: _______________________

Author (if applicable): _______________________

Length: _______________________

Please give short answers to the following questions:

1. How does the material relate to the translation or interpreting professions?

2. How would you summarize this material?

3. What is the author or creator’s main argument?

4. Were there any omissions or flaws in the development of the argument?

5. What did you gain from this material?
List what you consider the four subject areas with which you are most familiar when translating in your principal language combination:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 

Describe the subject area of the work experience instance or assignment for which you are claiming CE points.

What resources did you consult in order to complete the assignment in question (books, periodicals, website URLs, conversations with colleagues, online instructional materials)?

How much extra time did you spend on this assignment (as a percentage, compared with the time you would have needed for an assignment in a familiar subject area)?

Having completed this assignment, do you believe you are now better able to accept future work in this subject area?
**The Alexander Gode Medal**

The Alexander Gode Medal, ATA’s most prestigious award, is presented to an individual or institution for outstanding service to the translation and interpreting professions. This award may be given annually.

**Eligibility**

Individuals or institutions nominated do not have to be members of ATA; however, a history of constructive relations with ATA and the language professions in general is desirable. Nominees do not have to be U.S. citizens.

**Nominations**

Nominations are welcomed from the past recipients of the Gode Medal and the ATA membership at large. A sufficiently detailed description of the individual or institution’s record of service to the translation and/or interpreting professions should be included as part of the nomination. Petitions and letter campaigns are not encouraged.

**Deadline: May 1, 2008**

**Award**

Gode Medal, complimentary registration to ATA’s 49th Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida (November 5-8, 2008), transportation to and from the conference, and up to four nights’ lodging at the conference hotel.

Please send nominations of the individual or institution you consider worthy of receiving the next Gode Medal to:

American Translators Association
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590
Alexandria VA 22314
Phone: (703) 683-6100
Fax: (703) 683-6122
E-mail: ata@atanet.org
Web: www.atanet.org/membership/honorsandawards.php

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**Alicia Gordon Award for Word Artistry in Translation**

ATA invites nominations for the 2008 Alicia Gordon Award for Word Artistry in Translation. This award has been established in memory of Alicia Gordon, known for creating imaginative solutions to knotty translation problems based on rigorous research. The award was established by Alicia’s sister, Dr. Jane Gordon, and award funds are administered by the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation (AFTI).

**Eligibility**

The award is open to ATA members in good standing. Passages may be submitted by the translators themselves or by others on their behalf. The translation that, in the opinion of the judges, demonstrates the highest level of artistry in translation will receive the award.

**Submission Guidelines**

1. Translations of up to 750 words between (to or from) English and Spanish or French in any subject matter field will be considered.

2. The translation and the source text must be submitted electronically by June 1, 2008 to aftiorg@aol.com.

3. Only one submission per applicant will be accepted. Submission of more than one translation will result in disqualification of the applicant.

4. The translation must have been done by an individual (no group efforts).

5. If the translation was done as a work for hire, the party that contracted for the translation must consent in writing to its submission for the award.

6. Former award recipients are excluded from subsequent cycles.

7. The decision of the judges is final.

8. Applicants will be notified of the judges’ decision with respect to their submission. Notification will be by electronic or other means as determined by the committee of judges.

9. By submitting a translation for consideration, the applicant expressly agrees to comply with these guidelines.

10. The award will be announced at ATA’s 49th Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida (November 5-8, 2008).

**Deadline: June 1, 2008**

(Candidates are encouraged to submit nominations early!)

**Award**

$250 and a certificate of recognition

**Please send nominations to:**

Alicia Gordon Award for Word Artistry in Translation
American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation, Inc.
Columbia Plaza, Suite 101
350 E Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Phone: (269) 383-6893
Fax: (269) 387-6333
E-mail: aftiorg@aol.com
Web: www.afti.org
The ATA Chronicle 
February 2008

ATA and the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation (AFTI) invite nominations for the annual S. Edmund Berger Prize.

The $1,000 prize is offered to recognize excellence in scientific and technical translation by an ATA member. The nomination must be submitted by the publisher of the translated work.

Nominations

The nomination must be submitted by the publisher of the work and must include the following:

• Cover letter with complete publication information for the work being nominated, including the date of publication.

• Brief vita of the translator, including place of residence and contact information.

• Two copies of the nominated work with one extra copy of the dust jacket.

• Two copies of 10 consecutive pages from the original work, keyed to the page numbers of the translation. Please do not staple. If providing a dual-language work, copies are still required.

Deadline: September 18, 2008

Please send nominations to:
American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation, Inc.
Columbia Plaza, Suite 101
350 E Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Phone: (269) 383-6893
Fax: (269) 387-6333
E-mail: aftiorg@aol.com
Web: www.afti.org

Lewis Galantière Award

The Lewis Galantière Award is bestowed biennially in even-numbered years for a distinguished book-length literary translation from any language, except German, into English. The Ungar German Translation Award is given in odd-numbered years.

This award honors distinguished ATA founding member Lewis Galantière (1894-1977). His translations from French drama, fiction, poetry, and scholarship enriched cultural life during the middle decades of the 20th century, and are still being read a quarter century after his death.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the award, the book-length literary translation must have been translated from any language, except German, into English and have been published in the U.S. in 2006 or 2007.

The published translation must list the translator’s name on the title page and preferably on the dust jacket. Preference will be given to published works that provide biographical information about the translator.

The translator does not have to be an ATA member; however, the translator should have a strong connection with the U.S. through citizenship or permanent residence. The nomination must be submitted by the publisher of the translated work.

Nominations

The nomination must be submitted by the publisher of the work and must include the following:

• Cover letter with complete publication information for the work being nominated, including the date of publication.

• Brief vita of the translator, including place of residence and contact information.

• Two copies of the nominated work with one extra copy of the dust jacket.

• Two copies of 10 consecutive pages from the original work, keyed to the page numbers of the translation. Please do not staple. If providing a dual-language work, copies are still required.

Deadline: May 1, 2008

Publishers are encouraged to submit nominations early.

Award

$1,000, a certificate of recognition, and up to $500 toward expenses for attending ATA’s 49th Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida (November 5-8, 2008).

Please send nominations to:
American Translators Association
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590
Alexandria VA 22314
Phone: (703) 683-6100
Fax: (703) 683-6122
E-mail: ata@atanet.org
Web: www.atanet.org/membership/honorsandawards.php

S. Edmund Berger Prize for Excellence in Scientific and Technical Translation

ATA and the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation (AFTI) invite nominations for the annual S. Edmund Berger Prize.

The $1,000 prize is offered to recognize excellence in scientific and technical translation by an ATA member.

Nominations

Individual translators or translation companies wishing to nominate a translator for this prestigious award may obtain a nomination form from the AFTI website (www.afti.org) or from AFTI at the address listed below.

Nominations will be judged by a three-member national jury. The recipient of the award will be announced during ATA’s 49th Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida (November 5-8, 2008).

Deadline: September 18, 2008

Please send nominations to:
American Translators Association
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590
Alexandria VA 22314
Phone: (703) 683-6100
Fax: (703) 683-6122
E-mail: ata@atanet.org
Web: www.atanet.org/membership/honorsandawards.php
Student Translation Award

In 2008, ATA will award a grant-in-aid to a student for a literary or sci-tech translation or translation-related project.

The project, which may be derived from any facet of translation studies, should result in a project with post-grant applicability, such as a publication, a conference presentation, or teaching materials. Computerized materials are ineligible, as are dissertations and theses. Translations must be from a foreign language INTO ENGLISH. Previously untranslated works are preferred.

Eligibility

The award, to be presented at ATA’s 49th Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida (November 5-8, 2008), is open to any graduate or undergraduate student, or group of students, attending an accredited college or university in the U.S. Preference will be given to students who have been or are currently enrolled in translator training programs. Students who have already published translations are ineligible. No individual student may submit more than one entry.

Application

Applicants must complete an entry form (www.atanet.org/membership/honorsandawards_student_form.php) and submit a project description not to exceed 500 words. If the project is a translation, the description must present the work in its context and include a substantive statement of the difficulties and innovations involved in the project and the post-competition form the work will take. The application must be accompanied by a statement of support from the faculty member who is supervising the project. This letter should demonstrate the supervisor’s intimate familiarity with the student’s work and include detailed assessments of the project’s significance and of the student’s growth and development in translation.

If the project involves an actual translation, a translation sample of not less than 400 and not more than 500 words, together with the corresponding source-language text, must accompany the application. The translation sample may consist of two or more separate passages from the same work. For poetry, the number of words must total at least 300.

Deadline: April 18, 2008

Award

$500, a certificate of recognition, and up to $500 toward expenses for attending ATA’s 49th Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida (November 5-8, 2008). One or more certificates may also be awarded to runners-up.

Please send the entry form and application materials to:

American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation, Inc.
Columbia Plaza, Suite 101
350 E Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Phone: (269) 383-6893
Fax: (269) 387-6333
Email: aftiorg@aol.com
Web: www.afti.org

NEW Marian S. Greenfield Financial Translation Presentation Award

The American Translators Association (ATA) and the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation (AFTI) invite nominations for the Marian S. Greenfield Financial Translation Presentation Award.

Eligibility

The prize, to be presented at ATA’s 49th Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, (November 5-8), recognizes an outstanding presenter of a financial translation session during the conference. Go to www.atanet.org/conferencesandseminars/proposal.php to review the ATA Annual Conference Presentation Proposal form online. Conference presentation proposals must be submitted by March 14, 2008.

Application

Individuals wishing to nominate a financial translation presenter for this prestigious award need to submit a nomination form to the address listed below. The nomination form can be found at www.atanet.org/membership/honorsandawards_greenfield_award_form.php. You may nominate yourself. Nominations will be judged by a three-member national jury.

Deadline: May 1, 2008

Award

$1,000; waiver of conference registration fee. The recipient of the award will be announced in the summer of 2008.

Please send nominations to:

American Translators Association
Attn: Jonathan Mendoza
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590
Alexandria, VA 22314 USA
Phone: +1-703-683-6100
Fax: +1-703-683-6122
Email: ata-hq@atanet.org
Harvie Jordan Scholarship

**Purpose**
This is a $2,500 non-renewable scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year for students enrolled or planning to enroll in a degree program in scientific and technical translation or in interpreter training.

**Eligibility**
1. Applicants must be graduate or undergraduate students enrolled or planning to enroll in a program leading to a degree in scientific and technical translation or in interpreting at an accredited U.S. college or university.
2. Applicants must be full-time students who have completed at least one year of college or university studies.
3. Generally, an applicant should present a minimum GPA of 3.00 overall and a 3.50 in translation- and interpreting-related courses.
4. Applicants should have at least one year of study remaining in their program; however, in certain circumstances, one residual semester may be accepted.
5. Applicants must be U.S. citizens.

**Selection Criteria**
1. Demonstrated achievement in translation and interpreting;
2. Academic record;
3. Three letters of recommendation by faculty or nonacademic supervisor;
4. A 300-500-word essay outlining the applicant’s interests and goals as they relate to the field of translation and interpreting.

**Application Process**
1. Applications may be obtained from:
   - American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation, Inc.
   - Columbia Plaza, Suite 101
   - 350 E Michigan Avenue
   - Kalamazoo, MI 49007
   - Phone: (269) 383-6893
   - Fax: (269) 387-6333
   - E-mail: aftiorg@aol.com
   - Web: www.afti.org
2. Completed applications must be received by AFTI by June 1, 2008.
3. A completed application consists of:
   a) Application cover sheet;
   b) Three letters of recommendation in a sealed envelope with recommender’s signature over the envelope flap;
   c) Essay;
   d) A copy of the applicant’s academic record with a copy of the major/minor or other program form, or a departmental statement of admission to the translation or interpreting program.

**Award**
A national award committee will announce the name of the scholarship award winner by the end of August 2008. The committee’s decision is final. Disbursement of the award will occur at the beginning of the Fall Semester, 2008.

**About JTG Inc.**
Founded in 1995 by ATA Past President Muriel Jérôme-O’Keeffe, JTG Inc. is a language consultancy that supports homeland security, intelligence, and global business with cross-cultural communications. JTG Inc. has underwritten the AFTI scholarship since 2001. Visit: www.jtg-inc.com.

JTG Scholarship in Scientific and Technical Translation or Interpretation

**Purpose**
This is a $2,500 non-renewable scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year for students enrolled or planning to enroll in a degree program in scientific and technical translation or in interpreter training.

**Selection Criteria**
1. Demonstrated achievement in translation and interpreting;
2. Academic record;
3. Three letters of recommendation by faculty or nonacademic supervisor;
4. A 300-500-word essay outlining the applicant’s interests and goals as they relate to the field of translation and interpreting.

**Application Process**
1. Applications may be obtained from:
   - American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation, Inc.
   - Columbia Plaza, Suite 101
   - 350 E Michigan Avenue
   - Kalamazoo, MI 49007
   - Phone: (269) 383-6893
   - Fax: (269) 387-6333
   - E-mail: aftiorg@aol.com
   - Web: www.afti.org
2. Completed applications must be received by AFTI by June 1, 2008.
3. A completed application consists of:
   a) Application cover sheet;
   b) Three letters of recommendation in a sealed envelope with recommender’s signature over the envelope flap;
   c) Essay;
   d) A copy of the applicant’s academic record with a copy of the major/minor or other program form, or a departmental statement of admission to the translation or interpreting program.

**Award**
A national award committee will announce the name of the scholarship award winner by the end of August 2008. The committee’s decision is final. Disbursement of the award will occur at the beginning of the Fall Semester, 2008.

**About JTG Inc.**
Founded in 1995 by ATA Past President Muriel Jérôme-O’Keeffe, JTG Inc. is a language consultancy that supports homeland security, intelligence, and global business with cross-cultural communications. JTG Inc. has underwritten the AFTI scholarship since 2001. Visit: www.jtg-inc.com.
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