



**FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES TRADUCTEURS  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS**

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**Liaison Report – ISO Technical Committee 37 and INFOTERM  
to the International Federation of Translators (FIT)  
Office Meeting – Montréal (Canada) – October 2007**

- ***ISO TC 37***

During the summer, ISO Technical Committee 37 (TC 37 – *Terminology and other language and content resources*) and its four Subcommittees (SC), which are divided into about 20 Working Groups (WG), held their annual meeting week in Provo, Utah (USA) from August 11-18, 2007. Below are some highlights of the week that I think deserve to be brought to your attention:

- ***ISO TC 37/SC 1***

In 2007, ISO published a Technical Report on the work done by Subcommittee 1 (*Principles and Methods*) on socioterminology:

- ISO TR 22134 *Practical guidelines for socioterminology*

- ***ISO TC 37/SC 2***

ISO also published two standards established by Subcommittee 2 (*Terminographical and lexicographical working methods*). The standards are as follows:

- ISO 639-3:2007 *Codes for the representation of names of languages – Part 3: Alpha-3 code for comprehensive coverage of languages*

(NOTE: The 639 standards series – *Codes for the representation of names of languages* – is by far the most widely used ISO TC 37 standard)

- ISO 1951:2007 *Presentation/representation of entries in dictionaries – Requirements, recommendations and information*

Working Group 6 (*Translation and Interpretation Processes*) of TC 37/SC 2 submitted a New Work Item Proposal (NWIP) for ballot to its members. The title of the project is *Technical specification on parameters to be considered when starting a translation project*.

The objective of this proposal is to promote quality assurance throughout the phases of a translation project. A flexible approach will allow the standard to be applied to a variety of translation contexts, including globalization, internationalization, localization and translation by governments and other organizations. The proposed parameters can be applied to a number of projects, including disseminating information and translating documents such as newspaper articles. This standard will serve as a reference document for planning translation projects but will not apply to interpretation services. The project leader is from the USA.

With regard to interpretation services, Belgium—a member body of Working Group 6—has proposed a second project on interpretation services (legal, health, etc.). The structure and scope of this work item proposal are being defined, and a first document should be circulated at the end of 2007 or in early 2008.

Working Group 6 is carrying out two additional projects:

- a comparative study of existing translation standards
- the establishment of a database to compile the terminology in the following documents:
  - *European Standard – Translation Services – Service requirements -- CEN 15038*
  - *Standard Guide for Quality Assurance in Translation – (USA) ASTM F-2575-06*
  - *National Standard of the People's Republic of China – Specification for Translation Service—Part 1 : Translation – GBB/T 19363.1-2003*

I would also like to mention that the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) has set up a committee to establish a standard on translation services. The first version of a working document was sent to the committee's members for comment. A revised version is expected to be made available in spring 2008.

- ***ISO TC 37/SC 3***

Subcommittee 3 of ISO TC 37 (*Systems to manage terminology, knowledge and content*) is focusing on two major projects.

The first project aims to establish a standard in the form of a database to harmonize the terminology in use within TC 37.

The decision to collate the terminology in use within TC 37 and make it available to all other ISO TCs and their members via a centralized database will promote the use of a correct terminology not only within ISO but also within all organizations involved in technolinguistics activities at the international level.

The second project within Subcommittee 3 involves reclaiming LISA (Localization Industry Standards Association) standard *TBX – TermBase eXchange* and making it a new ISO International Standard. Database managers and terminological and linguistics database users are anxiously awaiting this standard for exchanging data.

- ***ISO TC 37/SC 4***

Subcommittee 4 (*Language resource management*), established in 2001, is a relatively new subcommittee. Various projects within its framework (standardizing principles, methods and applications related to language resources) are under way.

For more information on ISO TC 37, go to [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org), then click *Products, ISO Standards, By TC*.

- ***INFOTERM***

**Conference: Pragmatic Applications for TC 37 Standards**

In conjunction with ISO TC 37's annual meeting week, a one-day conference—Pragmatic Applications for TC 37 Standards—took place. The event was co-sponsored by the US/ANSI TAG, TermNet, and INFOTERM, and its objective was to identify the various audiences for the TC 37 standards and determine how terminological and technolinguistics standards are being used.

For more information, go to  
<http://www.ttt.org/TC37/PragmaticApplicationsConference.html>.

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