



Séminar on multilingualism and terminology

The Ministry of Culture and Communication held a seminar on terminology and multilingualism on Thursday the 18th of April, 2013. This seminar organised in the framework of the Linked Heritage project, brought together French and European professionals in the field of culture and research and aimed at promoting and fostering cooperation between different actors and projects around the theme of multilingualism.

Indeed the workpackage 3 of the project (WP3), coordinated by the MCC (Department for Research Higher Education and Technology) and the Royal Museum of Art and History, deal with terminology and multilingualism and rely on the work achieved in the framework of previous European projects (MINERVA, MICHAEL et ATHENA).

WP3 has produced a set of recommendations for the design and management of terminology (thesaurus and other specialised controlled vocabularies) in the perspective of the Semantic Web. These recommendations are gathered in a booklet available in English and French entitled « Your terminology as a part of the semantic webrecommendations for design and management »¹.

One of the other outcomes of this WP and the whole project is the TMP (Terminology Management Platform) which the technical development are being finished.

The TMP is a technical platform for the management of terminologies, ie. thesaurus, classifications, simple list of terms, glossaries, etc... The TMP, developed as free open source service, will allow any cultural institution to register its terminology on the TMP et then have some functionalities to edit, SKOSify (eg. convert into SKOS, Simplified Knowledge Organisation System, a diffusion and interchange format compliant with the Semantic Web technologies), enrich or align its terminology with another one in another from the same domain or language.

The seminar was organised around 4 different sessions which brought together French and international projects as well. The first session gave the opportunity to draw the context of the European projects and remind the challenge of multilingualism at European level.

The second session focused on the tools developed for creating, managing or distribute terminologies. TMP was presented during this session twice somehow as it will be reused and extended in Arabic language within the SIERA project coordinated by the Birzeit University in Palestine.

The third session was dedicated to projects creating specialised terminology resources. This session particularly highlighted the needs and expected functionalities for a terminology management tool by terminology producers (institutions and consortia).

The aim of the seminar has been thus achieved since contacts between participants and projects have been established and future cooperations are looming. The seminar which was first an opportunity to present TMP to users and potential developers has also been a very good opportunity to increase the awareness of the participants on the main concepts of the Semantic Web.

¹ Your terminology as a part of the semantic webrecommendations for design and management : <http://www.linkedheritage.org/getFile.php?id=244>