



## NORTHWEST TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS SOCIETY

### A TRANSLATOR'S FABLE

CAITILIN WALSH  
NOTIS PRESIDENT

**F**resh off the boat from the old country, I landed in the great harbor town of Portland. Eager to ply my trade as wordsmith, I took the first job offered to me in a translation agency that was featured prominently in the yellow pages. Situated in the front offices of an old funeral home (the florist was still doing business next door), I learned the trade from the inside out. In my naiveté, I assumed that all agency owners had a tiny, cigar smoke-filled office upstairs and changed their names with alarming frequency. I never dreamt that translators were refusing work for non-payment. That is, until it happened to me. Disillusioned, I attended hard-knock classes in Bureau of Labor and Industries and IRS form filling, only to have my erstwhile employer cry bankruptcy just in time to save his skin.

This story could have had a much happier ending if I had attended Courtney Searls-Ridge's fantastic contract workshop, where I would have learned the horrors of what I was signing. But there are some silver linings to this threatening cloud: the cigar-smoking boss has been run out of

the City of Roses, and I learned just how valuable a good agency relationship can be. And now, we can all benefit from a terrific double-header in the city of my awakening. Indeed, NOTIS, at the behest of a Portland-based member, is scheduling

a program consisting of the renowned Searls-Ridge contract workshop, followed by a coffee hour where you can hob-nob with the finest translation companies representatives in

the area. All this, just minutes from downtown Portland, with its highbrow art museum and the must-see Powell's City of Books. For those seeking respite from dull-as-boy-Jack syndrome, rest assured that there is much recreation, as Portland's annual Rose Festival is in full swing. I'll tell you off the bat that we'll watch the rose parade in the morning before the meeting, and Sunday we're going to go down to the river and see the Rose Festival Fleet. There is seemingly no end to the frivolity, and those suitably connected can check the Rose Festival Website for more details ([www.rosefestival.org](http://www.rosefestival.org)).

For those with an aversion to horseless carriages, Portland is a dream come true. From the Seattle area, high-speed Euro-

pean trains whisk you to downtown Portland, which has one of the finest transit systems in the country, including Portland's MAX, the highly successful and adored light-rail system, which has the extra attractiveness of being free in downtown's Fareless Square. Which won't matter of course, because, having learned my lesson, I endeavor to attend all good networking opportunities that come my way. Shouldn't you, too?

NOTIS

**NOTIS General Meeting**  
June 12, 1999  
Portland  
Portland State University

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**Northwest Translators  
and Interpreters Society  
(NOTIS)**

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**NOTIS** is a Washington State non-profit organization.

**NOTIS NOTES**

**WELCOME TO  
NEW MEMBERS**

**Mary Childs**-Rus, **Laura Cooper**-Sp., **Amy Coulter**-Ger, **Sally Gee**-Fr, **Rajaa Gharbi**-Arabic,Fr, **Mark N. Gimson**-Port,Sp, **Melvin M. Hoover**-Sp, **Brenda Kruse**-Sp, **Mabel Lorenzi-Albe**-Sp, **Zenina Lujan**-not available, **Jon Magnus**-Fr, **Steven C. Maxon**-Sp, **Helena Paneyko**-Sp, **Angela Ugarte**-Sp, **Aurelia Velazquez**-n/a, **Toshiko Wagner**-Jap, **Sibylle Walker**-Ger,Fr, **David Carl Williams**-Vietnamese, **James Zweigle**-Sp,Port.

**WELCOME TO NEW  
CORPORATE MEMBER**

French A la Carte Consulting Services

**INTERNET  
ADVERTISING  
OPPORTUNITIES**

NOTIS members now have an opportunity to advertise on our home page marketplace at a preferential rate. We will accept advertising for services, post job announcements, and help you sell the odd dictionary or modem. (No Beanie Babies, please!). For more information, please contact the Webmistress at [info@notisnet.org](mailto:info@notisnet.org).

**SLAVIC SIG**

Many thanks to **Karina Watkins**, who has stepped down after several years of service as chair of the SlavicSIG, and a welcome to **Larissa Kulinich** who has taken up the position.

**MISSED MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWAL?**

Make NOTIS grow and enjoy its support. Reminders for renewal went out at the end of 1998. If you didn't receive one, misplaced it or, perhaps, forgot about it, this is a timely and happy reminder. Membership rates remain the same for 1999: \$35/yr. for Individual and Institutional members, and \$50/yr. for Corporate members. Please be sure to let us know of any changes in your address, phone number, e-mail, etc. when you renew.

**NOTIS General Meeting - June 12, 1999 - Portland - Port**

## MISCELLANEOUS

Need help getting paid? Want to check a translation/interpretation company's payment record? Visit the Hall of Shame, a Web page that lists individuals and companies that have not paid translators and interpreters for their work. You can also file a complaint and they will help intervene. The URL is: [www.geocities.com/Eureka/Plaza/6507/blacklist.html](http://www.geocities.com/Eureka/Plaza/6507/blacklist.html).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 12th Annual Congress of the Canadian Association for Translation Studies.

The Canadian Association for Translation Studies will present Translating for Tomorrow's Society: The Stakes of Training-Evaluation, Needs and Innovation on **June 3-5**, at Sheerbrooke, Quebec, Canada. Information available at (506) 854-3259 or [merkled@umoncton.ca](mailto:merkled@umoncton.ca)

### NOTIS General Meeting

**June 12, 1999** in Portland, Portland State University. Contract workshop 1-3:00 pm, followed by networking session with Portland-area bureaus, agencies and freelancers from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. Fee for workshop \$10 with advance registration, \$20 at the door (copy handouts not guaranteed to on-site to walk-ins but will be provided afterwards if necessary). Send check by **June 4** to NOTIS P.O. box to register in advance. No fee for networking session. Everyone is welcome.

### NOTIS General Meeting

**July 6, 1999** in Seattle, University of Washington 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. ATA Chapters Chair Kirk Anderson will meet with NOTIS members to discuss the benefits of chapter status and seek our input on ways to strengthen relations between regional groups and the ATA. Come to learn more about the ATA and how we can work together. All NOTIS members and friends are welcome.

### FIT World Congress/ Congres Mondial FIT

The International Fédération of Translators (Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs) Congress will examine Traduction/Transition/Translation on **August 6-10** in Mons, Belgium. For information: [fit99@write.com](mailto:fit99@write.com) or [www.fit.ml.org](http://www.fit.ml.org)

### NOTIS General Meeting

A Job Fair will be held in **September**. Watch our Web site for more details!

### ATA Annual Conference

The 40th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association will be held **November 3-7** at the Regal Riverfront Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. Contact ATA: (703) 683-6100; fax: (703) 683-6122, or e-mail: [info@ATANet.org](mailto:info@ATANet.org)[@compuserve.com](mailto:info@compuserve.com)

### NOTIS Meeting ATA Recap

The NOTIS recap of the 40th ATA Annual Conference will be on **Monday, November 15, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** at the Seattle Public Library, Downtown Main Branch, 1000 Fourth Avenue, Seattle.

Recap of the 40th Annual American Translators Association Conference. Relive the successes and discoveries of your colleagues at the national gathering. Come to hear the summaries, inspect the materials and ask questions.

### NOTIS Annual Meeting & Holiday Party

**Tuesday, December 7, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

Shoreline Community Center

Come to meet the people who help NOTIS help you, revisit colleagues and make new contacts at the Annual Meeting. The business of the society will be examined, after which we shall enjoy refreshments. Your contribution will be of value if you attend.

## SEARCHING THE INTERNET:

### "STUMPED? THE ANSWER MAY BE ON THE NET...SOMEWHERE!"

SANDRA LAYMAN

**H**ow can we translators use the vast but unwieldy resources the Internet offers us? What criteria can we use with maximum efficiency in order to find the most relevant, valid, current, and authoritative sites, glossaries, and terms, ones that are appropriate to the register, languages, fields, countries, and other specifications that our work may require?

On March 27, 1999, Susan Larsson repeated the popular workshop that she and Manon Bergeron offered at the American Translators Association's conference last November. In less than two hours, a room filled with translators and interpreters learned from, and occasionally contributed to, Ms. Larsson's treasury of tips and tools for searching the Internet. Participants also benefited from handouts giving search-engine URLs, outlining supplementary points, and giving concrete examples of specific search engines, commands and procedures.

To better ensure that a given web page or search has yielded valid information, ask yourself certain questions, such as: Does the purpose of the page match the purpose of the text you are translating? Is the nature of the site research-oriented, commercial, technical, etc.?

(Try to match your search results to the kind of job you are doing.)

Who is the author of the site and what is that author's agenda?

The URL (address of the web page) itself will give you some clues when you look at the extension: e.g.

.com (commercial - will give you information from a company's point of view)

.edu (educational; this extension may be ".ac" if the institution is in the U.K.)

.gov (governmental)

.org (organizational; non-profit)

~[a proper name]

(a personal page belonging to an individual; the quality varies, so use your judgment.)

.se, .fr, .uk, .es, et al. (specific country extensions).

Judge the quality of the language used on the page: grammar, spelling, use of specialized terminology. Was the page written by a native speaker of the respective language?

Evaluate the page content for its relevance and quality: Does the page belong to your client company? Are the links "live" and well-maintained? When was the page last updated? Is it current? Look for citation of references, bibliographies, credentials.

### Choosing Engines

Several search engines were discussed in specific detail. Many of the options and tools can be used on various search engines.

To search, for example Alta Vista (AV), one of the best of the search engines, you must ask the right question, using one or more of the following:

- Boolean logic: "AND", "OR", "AND NOT", (.) NEAR. (These must appear in CAPS between your keywords.)
- Symbols: i.e.: \_ - + ["..."] (The hyphen is equivalent to the Boolean "AND NOT" filter. The quotation marks "lock in" the enclosed words as an entire phrase, so that the elements or words will not be searched for separately.)
- Truncation; i.e. by cutting a word short; e.g.: policy>polic>poli (etc.). (Most search engines will allow for this technique.)
- Another option is the "wild card" (indicated by an \* [asterisk] in the middle of a word). This will yield spelling variants; e.g. as between U.K. and U.S. English. The asterisk can replace up to five letters and is good way to replace diacriticals, which tend to turn into gibberish over the Internet.

As for case sensitivity, when searching for a proper name, it is better to use the initial capital letters (assuming that is the standard spelling of the name); otherwise, it is fine to use all lower case when entering your keywords.

The "percent" sign (%) replaces one letter only, in Northern Light and a few other search

engines. This option is good for replacing one accented letter in a given word.

### Alta Vista

The Boolean command "NEAR" means that you are searching for uses of your keywords within the same sentence, and within ten words of each other. You can search by language; AV offers the most extensive list of languages.

By selecting "Set Preferences," you can customize the AV page; you can separate pages for different languages, or for text-only, etc. Then you can bookmark (save the URL of) your customized page in order to return directly to the options you have pre-selected.

You can also search for a picture; e.g. if you are looking for a picture of Shakespeare: image: Shakespeare.

### Northern Light

This is one of Ms. Larsson's favorite search engines. It helps break down your search results into folders. There are also other categories ("folders") at the left of the screen which correspond largely to the extensions mentioned above: commercial, personal, governmental, educational sites; also conferences, etc.

On the right of the screen are listed the specific pages found in your search. A power search allows you to specify date, field (title, URL), certain languages, countries, subject, news, etc., or, you can search by industry.

### HotBot ["HB"]

HotBot is a good alternative to AV, depending on your language. In HB, you can use Boolean commands or symbols, and you can search by date. Additionally, there is a drop-down menu of choices for search terms or options. Unlike other search engines, HotBot will usually list the home page as the first page in your search results.

Other search tools include **Inference FIND** ["IF"] Use IF when you don't know what you are looking for. IF does not allow

## CONTRACTS AND NETWORKING IN PORTLAND

**N**OTIS members and friends are all invited to attend a special event in Portland, Oregon on Saturday, June 12 at Portland State University. The program will feature a two-hour workshop from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on "Contract Negotiating for Translators and Interpreters," presented by Courtney Searls-Ridge, Director of German Language Services, member of the Board of Directors of the ATA and Academic Director of the Translation and Interpretation Institute. This is an abridged version of a popular ATA conference workshop. This workshop will address the practical aspects of negotiating contracts and agreements with translation agencies/bureaus/companies as well as with book publishers and other end-clients. Topics covered will include: independent contractor issues,

terms of payment, confidentiality, credits, etc. Contracts used in discussions will include the good, the bad, and the ridiculous, all of which are actual contracts currently used

Translation/Interpretation agencies.

This program will be held with the overall goal of making NOTIS activities more accessible to the many language professionals in Portland, Vancouver and outlying areas. In this way we hope to help promote growth of the local Translation and Interpretation industry.

The fee for the workshop is \$10 with advance registration (send a check to NOTIS P.O. Box by

June 4) and \$20 on-site (copy handouts not guaranteed to on-site walk-ins but will be provided afterwards if necessary). There is no fee for the networking session. NOTIS members, friends and the general public are all welcome.

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by agencies, bureaus, book publishers, and other end-clients.

Following the workshop there will be a networking session from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. allowing attendees to meet with representatives from Portland and Vancouver area

## THREE LESSONS APPLIED TO ONE TEST OR SURVIVING ATA ACCREDITATION

*DOC C. PROMBAUM*

**F**or those seeking to enhance their marketability as professional translators, there really is no substitute for accreditation by the American Translators Association. The examination is held annually in almost every major city in the world, (complete information about the exam and the schedules can be found at [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)) and Saturday, April 24th was Seattle's turn. Forty-one anxious translators crowded into two classrooms at the University of Washington to submit themselves to a stressful, three-hour handwritten test.

For me, it was the second time around, since I had taken, but not passed, the Italian into English exam last year. Hopefully, I learned something from the experience and did better at this sitting. I do feel more confident about my performance this April but, - it's true what you've heard; this is an easy

exam to fail. I will not know the results until about the Fourth of July.

After failing the initial test, I did three things to help myself do better on the second round. First, I enrolled in a course on Basic Translation Skills at the Translation & Interpretation Institute. The T&II is a NOTIS-related two-year program which leads to a certificate. The T&II is hosted by Bellevue Community College and information on the translation and interpretation courses can be found at [www.bcc.ctc.edu/users/translation/t+ii/inst1.html](http://www.bcc.ctc.edu/users/translation/t+ii/inst1.html).

Second, I attended a pre-examination seminar last January 30th, sponsored by NOTIS and conducted by Jean Leblon, who proctors the accreditation session every year, and Courtney Searls-Ridge, who is one of those high-energy people who seems to be everywhere at once: active in NOTIS, an in-

structor in the Translation and Interpretation Institute and on the board of directors of the ATA. Being prepped on how to take the test by Jean and Courtney is about as close to, excuse the expression, the horse's mouth as one could possibly get. In addition to their combined experience and expertise, the real meat of the seminar is the opportunity to take an actual previous year's exam. Then to break up into small language-specific groups to discuss the sample exam with others is enlightening. And, a truly a wonderful idea, is to examine your strategy with someone who is already accredited in your language. Getting feedback on your own work is the best way to discover where you need to improve.

The third lesson I acted on was the truth of the fact that there's no such thing as "too many dictionaries!" Last year I was armed with

*continued on page 8*

## "MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS, LOUIS..."

ANN G. MACFARLANE  
ATA CONFERENCE ORGANIZER

Fans of Judy Garland will recognize this old song, which 95 years after it was written still has a ring to gladden the heart. "Meet me in St. Louis, Louis" was the signature tune for the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, a grand exposition that put the city on the map and symbolized the hopes for progress of the new century. The 40th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association, to be held from November 3 to 7, 1999 in St. Louis, has not been planned on so grand a scale. It promises many pleasures nevertheless. NOTIS members are all warmly invited to join their colleagues for educational sessions, networking, social get-togethers with those working in your language or specialty, and a surprisingly varied menu of outside tourist attractions.

Our conference will be held at the Regal Riverfront Hotel, just minutes from the waterfront and the famous St. Louis Arch. The hotel has ample meeting space and, equally important, a very attractive room rate (\$118 single or double). St. Louis is, of course, easily accessible from both coasts, and TWA's hub city, if that is your carrier of choice. There is even public transportation in from the airport, if you travel light.

Proposals for conference presentations received to date promise a variety of valuable sessions, covering the waterfront for beginners and offering, we hope, new insights for the more experienced. The various "divisions" of the ATA are planning language-

specific sessions, and also anticipating many opportunities to socialize. We will have the "networking session" on Thursday and the Job Exchange throughout the conference, both occasions to get to know your colleagues and establish the personal links that mean so much. And of course, a full hall of exhibitors will try to tempt you with dictionaries, software and other tools of the trade.

While as Conference Organizer I have a personal bias, I think that the elements are falling into shape for a professionally valuable, interesting and lively conference. I do hope that many NOTIS members will make the trek to Missouri and, even if your name isn't Louis, "Meet us in St. Louis!"

## "ACTIVE STATUS"

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

MURIEL Jér OME-O'KEEFFE  
ATA PRESIDENT

NOTIS members who belong to the American Translators Association have received notice in the mail of a change in the procedure for becoming an "active" member of the Association. If you are an "associate" member of the ATA, and are professionally engaged in translation, interpretation, or a closely related profession, I invite you to consider becoming an "active" member.

You will need to submit evidence of three years' work in the profession; or, if you have a degree or a certificate in translation or interpretation, you may submit a copy along with a letter of recommendation. Upon receipt of your materials and the fee of \$50, headquarters will review your application and, if all is in order, upgrade you to active status.

Active status does not mean that you are "accredited". In order to be accredited, applicants must pass an examination administered by the ATA in their language pair. However, active members are entitled to vote and hold

Active members are entitled to  
vote and hold office.

office within the ATA, as well as to serve on standing committees (doesn't that sound enticing?!).

But seriously, we live in challenging times for our profession. The ATA is responding to the

demands of these times with new initiatives and new directions for our efforts. The recent institution of the "on-line" Translation Services Directory is just one of the steps we have taken, for instance, to position the Association to serve our members in the evolving world of cyberbusiness. Other initiatives are in the works.

We need your voice and your involvement if we are to choose the best possible course of action for our professional association. I invite all "associate" members of ATA who are interested in helping us move into the 21st century effectively to become "active" members at their earliest convenience.

## TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION INSTITUTE

The T&I Institute offers a certificate program for linguistically skilled people of diverse educational backgrounds who wish to pursue a career in translating and interpreting.

Courses are offered at:  
Bellevue Community College, Bellevue, WA.

### SUMMER 1999

#### Introduction to Translation and Interpreting (INTRP 101)

Mondays and Wednesdays 6-9 p.m.  
June 21-July 26  
(no class 7/5)

#### Basic Translation Skills (TRANS 103)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-9 p.m.  
June 22-July 22

#### Technology for Translators and Interpreters (TRANS 103)

Mondays and Thursdays, 6-9 p.m.  
June 21-July 26  
(no class 7/5)

#### Advanced Translation Skills I (TRANS 109)

Languages dependant upon enrollment

### FALL 1999

#### Introduction to Translation and Interpreting (INTRP 101)

Saturdays 9-12 a.m.  
September 25-December 4  
(no class 11/27)

#### Basic Interpreting Skills (INTRP 102)

Tuesdays 6-9 p.m.  
September 21-November 23

#### Vocabulary Acquisition & Terminology Research (INTRP 105)

Thursdays 6-9 p.m.  
September 23-December 2  
(no class 11/25)

#### Ethics & Business Practices (INTRP 106)

Wednesdays 6-9 p.m.  
September 22-November 24

#### Advanced Translation Skills I & II (TRANS 109-110)

#### Advanced Interpreting Skills I & II (INTRP 109-110)

Languages dependant upon enrollment

To request a brochure call 425-649-3171. To register for Institute courses, you must first register as a BCC student by calling 425-641-2222. International students please call International Student Services first at 425-649-3118. For information about specific course content call the Academic Affairs Office at 206-938-3252. All classes and workshops are subject to change or cancellation by The T&I Institute or BCC.

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### ***"Searching the Internet"***

Boolean or other filters, but, it searches the Internet using six different search engines. The results are grouped by categories. An important conclusion is that each search engine is different. Don't use just one!

### **MORE TIPS**

Here are some more tips that Ms. Larsson shared with the participants:

To find a **glossary** in a specific field, try the command: +[field]+glossary [or the equivalent word for "glossary" in your desired language]. (Note: Without the plus signs, the above command would mean "EITHER [field] OR glossary.")

For a term in a particular language, try: +[term]+[language].

These procedures do not always yield perfect results, so keep asking questions of your search engines until you find what you need. It is important to know how the particular search engine works, whether by text, keywords, country, language, URL, or other search criteria. You can sometimes "hack back" a URL's extensions in order to find the home page, which may offer a search or index feature.

Consider switching to a 33.3kbps modem, which will noticeably speed up your search.

You do not need to confine yourself to a single browser. For example, the Opera browser is good.

### **Bookmark Management**

Bookmarks (URLs saved in a designated place for future reference) are known by different names in different browsers; e.g. in Opera, the bookmarks are called the "Hotlist."

Start a new \*folder\* of bookmarks for each translation project. In Netscape, you can edit and add folders, and you can edit bookmarks.

Bookmark both your queries and your finds. If you have clients requiring translation into British English, you can check British English usage using the following command: host:uk. To check; e.g. Mexican Spanish usage, and perhaps to see how common a term is, try: host:mx.

### **Meta-Search Engines**

These allow you to search lots of search engines from one location. They include: MetaFind, Dogpile, Beaucoup, Mother.com.

The mabercom web site also has links to various translator's tools, such as Examine (a search tool for old translations), glossary management tools, and Alki Software proofreading tools for MS Word.

Each member of the audience left with a full plate of utilitarian devices and a challenge to employ them profitably.

## CASCADIA HONYAKU GATHERING: A STRESS-FREE ZONE

TSUYOSHI "T" TAKANO

Cascadia Honyaku Gathering (an offline get-together for members of the Honyaku ["Translation"] Internet mailing list) held on January 30th in Seattle, WA was unique in that it provided interpreters and translators of Japanese the opportunity to network in a Pacific Northwest-style.

The Pacific Northwest is well known for its informal and casual approach to life and business. For example, some Seattle workers ride mountain bikes to get to the

interpreters, five adult guests and five children) wore casual clothes like jeans and shirts; not one tie or fancy dress was visible. The food, which was delicious and prepared by the attendees, brought a potluck atmosphere to the meeting. The presence of family increased the homey feeling. Additionally, an interactive game designed by Mr. Ray Roman, the organizer, helped people interact and feel comfortable together.

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office and shower just before work. In addition, many companies allow workers to wear jeans or slacks, casual shirts, and no ties.

This casual spirit was kept alive at the Cascadia Honyaku Gathering where colleagues could get to know each other at a personal level. This was in sharp contrast, however, to typical Japanese professional gatherings and meetings where attendees are quite aware of the need to conduct themselves in a very formal and business-like manner.

That kind of formality - either in tone or dress - was not seen at the Gathering. Instead, members were quite casual. For example, everyone (23 translators/

Despite all these informalities, conversation among the translators/interpreters still involved translation and interpretation. They found talking about their profession to be a matter of course. This naturalness illustrates the point that what they do for work is what they really love to do.

The Cascadia Honyaku Gathering was the perfect place for translators and interpreters to go to and socialize, to relax away from project pressures, and to enjoy a stress-free atmosphere. The four hours seemed to pass in a flash. This type of gathering should become a tradition as a way to strengthen networking, to refresh the spirit, and to make friends.

*continued from page 5*

### *"Three Lessons.."*

three; a mono-English, a mono-Italian and an Italian/English. But I sorely regretted not having medical, technical, legal or financial volumes.

The examination consists of five sample texts: general, scientific or medical, semi-technical, business or legal, and literary, of which you are to select three to translate. You need only pass two of the three. I'm not able to afford to buy all of those dictionaries, nor would I use them sufficiently to justify the expense, so I was very fortunate to find a company that rents dictionaries to translators for specific projects or examinations. The company is i.b.d., Ltd. and more information on renting (or buying) dictionaries can be found on their web site: [www.ibdltd.com](http://www.ibdltd.com). The difference that the extra dictionaries made was well worth the trouble of, literally, carting them to the testing room.

Last year I ended up doing a shaky job on the general and literary passages and was forced to choose between three disastrous passages for the third, none of which I had a chance to do well on without the appropriate dictionary. This time my general and literary passages were good and, because I had a medical dictionary, I was able to choose a third passage and do a decent job on it. By the way, although it is technically possible to pass the test by translating only two passages, it would be an extremely risky thing to do. If you translate only two passages, they would both have to be perfect, with no recovery. If there is a third passage, you have an extra chance to pass two. In addition, if there are only two passages, they will be read by only two graders, who both must pass you, and you fail if one disagrees. If you do three passages, a third grader will read your passages to break the tie, giving you yet another chance to pass.

So my advice to those who think that they don't need to tackle one of the technical, legal, medical or business passages is: please reconsider and prepare yourself to do an adequate job on all three passages. By the way, the ATA instructions for the exam contain a humorous typo: they promise that a third-grader (sic) will read your exam. I would hate to think that my career depended on a nine-year-old!

So, now I'm chewing my nails waiting to hear the test results and planning how I can do better next year, if somehow I don't pass again.



## TRANSLATORS ON THE NET

COURTESY OF KATHI I. HENNESEY

I don't know if you get LangLine (I've given the subscribing information in the body of the message, at the end), but in case you don't, here's an interesting piece of information:

LangLine subscribers may well be interested in a new Web page, "The Translator's Guide to the Internet," produced by a team led by Geer Hoppenbrouwers) at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting at Hogeschool Maastricht. This 148 Kb document provides links to a large number of useful sites and is at a stroke one of the largest resources for translators on the Internet. I quote from the introduction:

"This Translator's Guide to the Internet - as the name implies - is meant to guide the professional translator (-to-be) through the vast resources of the Internet. [The Guide] was originally meant as an introduction to the Internet for students at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting at Hogeschool Maastricht. For this reason we will restrict our attention to sites relevant for the

languages taught at Maastricht: Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, German, French, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. In the first version of the guide we have tried to attain some level of completeness. Less attention has been paid to organizing the information. Evaluative comments have been made in an ad hoc manner. In later versions we hope to improve the way the information is organized and to evaluate the sites listed by ranking them in a sort of Michelin Guide."

The guide can be found at: <http://home.wxs.nl/~hopfam/TGI.html>  
LANGline provides the opportunity for an online discussion of matter of interest to people working with languages.

Requests to subscribe or unsubscribe should be sent to [ElectricEds@bigfoot.com](mailto:ElectricEds@bigfoot.com)

Use 'LANGline - Subscribe' or 'LANGline - Unsubscribe' as the subject line.

*Ed. Note. This article originally appeared in **Capital Translator** Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Translators Association, Vol. 21, No. 2, March 1999 and is reprinted by permission of the editor.*

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# CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	TIME & PLACE
Saturday June 12	NOTIS Contract Workshop & Networking	Fee for workshop, none for networking	1 - 3 p.m. and 3:30 to 5 p.m. Portland State University Portland
Tuesday July 6	NOTIS Meeting with ATA Chapters Chair	Informal discussion of regional group/chapter role	7 - 9 p.m. University of Washington
August 6-10	FIT Congress	International Federation of Translators Meeting	Mons Belgium
September	NOTIS General Meeting	Job Fair	To be announced
November 3-7	ATA Conference	40th Annual ATA Nationwide Meeting	St. Louis, MO
Monday November 15	NOTIS General Meeting	NOTIS recap of ATA Conference	6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Seattle Public Library

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