

Free Translation?

Doesn't everyone want something for free? I was driving along not too long ago, when I heard a sponsorship announcement on National Public Radio for "www.freetranslation.com." I thought, "This is all we need, people getting the idea translation is supposed to be free." I blew it off, but as this issue was getting ready to go to press, I thought maybe I should give it a try. We've already seen enough examples of machine translation to keep us laughing for a long time, but I keep hearing, "They're getting better. They don't give you a polished translation, but you can get the gist," or "You just need a human translator to smooth it out." I thought I'd see how well it did on that score. You be the judge.

First I decided to try a French legal text. Something relatively short and simple like... the definition of a lease:

Original:

Contrat autorisant l'utilisation d'un bien immobilier ou mobilier ou tout autre bien immobilisé pendant une période donnée en contrepartie de paiements, habituellement sous forme de loyers. Le propriétaire du bien loué s'appelle le donneur à bail alors que l'utilisateur est le preneur à bail.

Free Translation:

Contract authorizing the usage of an immobilier good or movable or all very immobilized other during a given period in contrepartie of payments, habitually in the form of a rents. The owner of the very rented one is called the donneur to lease while the user is the preneur to lease.

Well, we know it's about a lease. I decided that maybe this wasn't a fair test and gave it something more general in Spanish: a little advertising blurb about a filtering pitcher:

Original

Bebe agua pura en tu propia casa, y cuida tu salud. Es la manera más fácil y rápida de purificar el agua. La jarra es de larga vida.

Free Translation

It drinks pure water in your own house, and takes care of your health. It is the quick and easiest way of purificar the water. The jug is of long life.

I suppose you might want to know who (or rather what) is in your house drinking water, but, other than that, you might get a rough idea.

Not to leave out my German-speaking colleagues, I decided to find a small German text on the Web and send it through Free Translation. My first problem was that in order to search the Web for a German text, I had to think of a German word. I don't know many and most of them are too long to make up. I tried "blumen," and the pictures that came up confirmed that it meant what I thought it meant, but it was all gardening catalogs and didn't have much text I could use for my test. I finally decided to just wander aimlessly and happened onto fraucomputerschule, which even I guessed was a computer school for women, but the rest was pretty much a mystery to me:

Original: Aber auch wir streben danach, unser Ausbildungsprogramm weiter zu verbessern. Mit der Möglichkeit jeden Kurs mit einer Prüfung abzuschließen, sehen wir für unsere Kursteilnehmerinnen einfach einen großen Wettbewerbsvorteil am Arbeitsmarkt.

Free Translation:

But also we strive after that to improve our education program further. To terminate each course with a test with the possibility, we see a large competition advantage for our course users simply at the labor market.

Does this give me more of idea what it's about (knowing next to no German) than I had before? Sure it does. Only someone who actually knows German could tell me how close it is to the right one. Even "Free Translation" offers, interestingly, Personal Plus Translation, where they say a "qualified bilingual translator will correct and edit the Automatic Plus Translation for readability and ease of understanding," and Premium Plus Translation, where they say "we will match your document with a professional translator who is not only bilingual, but also has the industry-specific expertise..." at a price that acknowledges that they know that quality translation (continued on page 6)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!! DETAILS ON PAGES 6-7

TIN Annual Summer Picnic Ballwin Missouri July 8, 2000	American Translators Association 41st Annual Conference Orlando, Florida September 20-23, 2000	MICATA Meeting and Installation Kansas City, MO October 7, 2000
Heartland Latino Leadership Conf, Omaha, Nebraska November 3, 2000	MICATA/Nordic Division "Wisconference" Madison, Wisconsin April 19-22, 2001	

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Editor Joan Wallace

1999-2000 Officers

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Treasurer John Matthews
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The statements made in the MICATA Monitor do not necessarily represent the opinion or judgment of MICATA, its editor or its officers or directors, and are strictly those of the authors.

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR SEPT.-OCT. ISSUE: AUG. 21

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From the President 

As we near election time for MICATA officers and as the list of candidates is being finalized, I would like to thank those members who have agreed to have their names placed on the ballot this year: Anja Lodge, Anne Chamberlain, Frieda Ruppenner Lind, Ben Tompkins, Meeri Yule, Joan Wallace, Norma Pringle, Kate White and Edith Matteson. Thanks also to Doris Ganser, election committee chair, for her work so far. Ballots will be mailed to all MICATA members in August. Please take the time to fill out your ballot and return it to the election committee so that your vote will be counted. This is one way that you can show your support for MICATA.

You can support your organization in other ways as well. If you have ideas for meeting places, topics to be addressed at upcoming meetings or other ideas for MICATA events, feel free to communicate with any of the MICATA board members and share your suggestions. We would like to get more members involved in MICATA functions, so let us know what kind of activities you would like to participate in. With this input, the board can plan programs that will be interesting and beneficial.

Our next MICATA meeting will be the installation of officers on Saturday, October 7. This will be a luncheon meeting, and we will present a review of the ATA Conference being held in Orlando in September, so put this date on your calendar and plan to join us. The location and other details are included on page 7.

If you are looking for some summer fun, check out the St. Louis TIN annual summer picnic to be held in Ballwin, Missouri, on Saturday, July 8. For more information see the announcement on page 7 of this issue, or contact Edith Matteson at EMMatteson@earthlink.net.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming meetings. In the meantime, have a safe and restful summer.

Kathy Foster

kfoster@sh3.com

WELCOME!!!!!!!!!!

To MICATA’s newest members:

Suzanne Collins: Spanish<> English

Daniel Schiele: Spanish<> English

Lynne Schall: Spanish<>English (renewal)

See page 8 for directory updates



Congratulations!

Frieda Ruppenner-Lind

for passing the ATA Accreditation Exam
 German to English

Ben Tompkins

Active membership through peer review

Finding Work in Cyberspace – Does it Work?

By Frieda Ruppenner-Lind

A lot of things - or almost everything - can be found on the Web today. This development has been a great advantage for translators who used to work in relative isolation. We are now able to find elusive terms that we would never find in dictionaries, do research for topics so we really get a grasp of what we are translating, participate in forums and lists, find country and language specific sites, and now – it seems – we can also find work on the Web.

Several interesting sites have been developed over the last few years that serve as venues for language professionals. Translators (or translation vendors as they are called on some sites) can look at job postings, translation agencies (also called translation buyers) or direct clients can post jobs. All these sites invite you to register either as an agency or a translator, no fees involved, at least for their basic membership and for translators. You can provide professional and personal information to varying degrees and even include a picture. Here are just a couple of examples:

One of the older or established sites is [Aquarius \(http://www.aquarius.net\)](http://www.aquarius.net). It offers a mix of translation job offers, industry-relevant information, classifieds, and also a payment practices list among others. Then there is Uniscape (<http://www.uniscape.com>) that was created last year as a

“translation portal” where translators and translation buyers communicate through this website. As a translator you are also required to download Uniscape’s free translation tool.

Another relatively new site is Proz.com (<http://www.proz.com>) that started out rather modestly last fall and has grown quite large and has added many interesting features since.

And last but not least, there is the ATA (www.atanet.org) with its Online Translation Services Directory featuring 3664 translators and interpreters.

It looks as if we will never have to worry about getting work. Translation jobs are offered in many language combinations and a variety of fields. Out of curiosity, and maybe hope I decided to try out some of these sites or databases. I responded to job postings and also received inquiries from agencies that found my name in these databases. It did not take very long to get the impression that in many cases the agencies were looking for real cheap translations or were desperate to find someone to translate this difficult project with an impossible deadline (6500 words by tomorrow, please). Several inquiries came from European agencies, such as Belgium or Italy, where translators

are usually not paid very well. After quoting a per word rate considered normal in the U.S., you may receive an e-mail saying “This is way out of our range!”

And what would you do if you really accepted the job, did your very best, delivered it via e-mail with your invoice and then had to wait for the check?

I could come up with a few tips about checking out potential clients before accepting work – but let’s discuss that some other time. What would really be interesting to find out is what experience others have made with these sites. Did it work for you? Do you accept work from cyberspace or do you rely on agencies you know?

WHAT EXPERIENCES HAVE YOU HAD?

If you would like to share your experiences looking for work on the Web or contribute to this topic, please send your comments to the Editor of the MICATA Monitor, Joan Wallace at joanwallace@uswest.net, or for those who prefer snail mail, you may send them to the editor at 2722 Crown Point Ave., Omaha, NE 68111-1329

COOL SITES

<http://mail.tuh.nl/translate/> - A translator's guide to the internet from the School of Translation and Interpreting - University of Maastricht, The Netherlands

<http://home.ncia.com/~slarsson/search.html> - website of Susan Larsson, Swedish translator, giving tips on how to search the internet

www.plexoft.com/SBF/thumbtabs.html - Most excellent (and only) glossary of the Stammtisch Beau Fleuve (science)

www.angelfire.com/ny/surgut - Transhub - wonderful website with lots of information for translators and great links to other good sites. The above sites are of potential interest to translators of any language. Thanks to Anja Lodge for sharing.

HELP!!

Is anyone out there a wiz at formatting with Word 2000? Your editor needs help. Contact Joan at joanwallace@uswest.net if you think you can help and are willing to be consulted on formatting problems as they come up.

MAINTAINING THE EQUIPMENT

For those of you that have not yet discovered *tranfree*, it's a free newsletter for translators, full of useful information (www.translatorstips.com). It recently ran two articles, which I am reprinting with permission on a subject that is probably the last thing we think about as translators. We worry about finding clients, keeping clients, keeping up with the latest technology, but what do we do if our most basic equipment gives out? As *tranfree* editor Alex Eames so aptly puts it, "How much money will I make if I can't sit up straight for 6 weeks?" That is, in fact, what happened to him. I also suffer from back pain, which is aggravated by poor posture sitting in front of my computer, and my eyes sometimes burn and tear from staring at the computer screen and tiny, blurred faxes for too long at a stretch. Like most of us, I often work under conditions that would get me reported if I forced anyone else to work that way. Still, I wonder, what happens if my back, my wrists, or my eyes give out? Unlike a computer, they can't be traded in for new ones.

Working habits: How to Prevent Back Strain

By *Mary Maloof*

(reprinted with permission from *tranfree*, issue 9 - December 18, 1999)

The most important tactic for avoiding back strain and muscle cramps is to buy the best ergonomically designed chair you can afford. This is going to be **THE** most important piece of furniture in your office, more important even than your desk, your dictionaries, or your computer, and you should invest your money accordingly. Why? Well, as translators, we sit in our chairs for a very, very long time every day, we don't take weekends or days off if there's a lot of work that needs to be done. Let's face it, do we **really** remember to get up every few minutes to stretch and take a break? And if you sit in one of those cheap and nasty chairs hour after hour and day

after day and year after year, it truly will take a toll on your back. It will not give you the lumbar support you vitally need and must have to be comfortable and relaxed. This inevitably manifests in a whole host of productivity- and happiness-killing annoyances: horrible back and neck muscle spasms, headaches, irritability, inability to relax, loss of concentration, lack of sleep, etc.

Another very powerful yet simple tactic is this: Drink plenty of water, and keep yourself hydrated throughout the day as you work. As I mentioned before, it's hard for us to remember to get up off our butts, get away from the desk, and get a drink of water, stretch, etc. This results in light dehydration, which in turn is responsible for much of the muscle spasms, headaches, and general sluggishness and "blah" feeling we all suffer from time to time. The beneficial effects of water are augmented even more when you take vitamins and/or herbal supplements with them, because these are great aids to concentration and mental

sharpness. I have a small water cooler that I keep right next to my desk and it works fine. Another tactic is finding an excellent chiropractor and sticking with them. Good back care and maintenance is a boon to translators! A spine that is out of alignment decreases or interrupts the flow of energy from the brain and spinal cord to other parts of the body. This causes back stress and myriad other physiological problems depending on which nerve or nerves are being pinched by a misaligned vertebra.

So there you have it. Prevention is better than cure, so make sure you:

- have a good supportive chair
- get up and move about frequently (this is the one I messed up on)
- drink plenty of water
- get professional help as and when necessary

Eyepower!

Anonymously contributed by a *tranfree* subscriber who translates and interprets from French and German to English (reprinted with permission).

Now that you have given your back the attention it deserves, be sure not to neglect that other physical asset without which no

having an effect on the state of our eyes. Specialists are noting that eye fatigue is becoming much more common. Ideally, everybody

translator can work, namely your eyes and eyesight.

Modern living, including the amount of close work done by those working with computers, is taking its toll on our eyesight, something that is becoming increasingly recognised by the medical profession. It is high time that we translators took sufficient care of this essential tool of our trade, as it should learn to exercise their eye muscles and to allow them to rest, just like doing some physical exercises as a change from sitting for

is not one we can either replace or upgrade at will or indeed insure either. The use of computers is only one of a number of changes in our lifestyle, such as television viewing and night driving which previous generations did not have to cope with. Add to this climate changes, the thinning ozone layer and increased UV rays which are all

hours in the computer operator's chair. Apparently focusing on close, two-dimensional work is known to cause a degree of

short-sightedness in children who initially had no sight problems.

The specific problems associated with computer work start from a technical basis. The eyes are operating in electro-magnetic fields which cause them to work harder and infra-red from the screen adds to the strain. It is estimated that between 25% and 30% of people have eye conditions resulting from screen work. Make sure you have your eyes tested regularly, especially if you already wear or contact lenses. Do so without delay if you suddenly experience problems, particularly if you already use these preventive measures.

There are 2 simple and relatively cheap ways of helping your eyes at the computer screen. I know from experience, I have tried both and found them very helpful.

1. Get the best quality protective screen that you can afford for your monitor - the type which excludes every possible ray and radiation. Applying this will immediately reduce the glare from your screen without otherwise impinging on your ability to read what is on it.
2. Take a good look at your lighting. Desk type lighting from the rear or overhead is not sufficient for other than a very small monitor. Additional powerful but diffused light which adds considerably to the overall light in your office will reduce the strain on your vision. For example a central ceiling light.

This additional lighting means that everything you are working on is well lit, whether papers on one

side, perhaps a poor-quality fax, and dictionaries with a variety of small and tiny prints on the other. Some dictionaries have such small print that extra light may even be needed if you are working on them uninterrupted for a long time or even a good quality magnifying glass.

Translators' concentrated visual work on print and screen while providing a range of material, some changes in direction and slight differences in range of vision, slows down the rate of blinking, the process which washes the eyeball with tears and keeps it lubricated. It appears that today about 15% of people suffer from dry eyes. Central heating, air-conditioning and smoking dehydrate the tissues further. Psychologically it is very important to keep the eyes moist, as dry eyes can make you feel tired. Again, there are 2 simple remedies for eyestrain:

1. drink plenty
2. blink often

Ideally you should close your eyes for at least one minute every hour both to rest them and retain their humidity and rest them for about 10 minutes altogether every hour. Eye exercise is equally important. Dry eyes can cause allergies and dryness makes the eyes more susceptible to infection. There are artificial tears available, but they bear no relation to the real thing.

If you feel strain, splash eyes with warm water. Before starting the day's work it is a good idea to splash closed eyes 20 times with warm water, then 20 times with cold. Repeat the process in the evening starting with cold water. Any recommended type of eye pads, such as the humble cucumber, will benefit you after a hard day, as will lying in a darkened room with eyes gently closed.

Dehydration is another factor in eyestrain, so be sure to drink plenty of water, at least 2 litres daily. Think about diet as well. Avoid junk foods and choose nutrient rich fruit and vegetables if you need a snack while working. Recent research has shown that the eyes too need various nutrients for different activities, such as vitamin A from carrots for night vision. Vitamin B6 is for tear production, with vitamins C and E to prevent cloudiness, not forgetting magnesium to reduce visual fatigue. Looking at colour and the other visual activities are dealt with by different parts of the eye, so each requires nutrients. If you have a balanced diet, additional vitamins will make no difference.

A few final tips to help the eyes:

- Vary what you look at when doing close-up work, focus every so often on other objects in the distance.
- Have a three-dimensional object near your computer and take a good look at it regularly.
- Close your eyes and rest them in the palms of your hands once every hour.
- Get out of the habit of staring at print or monitor, keep blinking.
- Last but not least, and perhaps the most difficult thing in our line of work, try and relax. Stress and fatigue immediately affect the eyesight, especially causing eyes to go dry. So maybe rethink your workload or work outlook, reduce your stress and fatigue and all this will have benefits for your eyesight.

My point in reprinting these articles is not that these people are experts, and should in no way be taken as a substitute for medical advice. My point, rather is that we should all think a little more about maintaining the working tools with which we really cannot do without and cannot be replaced. If you have tips that you've found particularly helpful, please feel free to share them by submitting them at joanwallace@uswest.net and I will print them in the next issue.

How to Subscribe to Tranfree.

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You will be subscribed in seconds and should get your confirmation in minutes. Or subscribe by sending an email to

tranfree@oaknetpub.com containing the word SUBSCRIBE in the body text of the email.

Soothing Teabag Remedy for Tired Eyes

Many Thanks to Manuela Cerruti, ATA member in Los Angeles, California

Boil a tiny amount of water and pour it over two black tea bags (like Lipton's). When the water is inky dark, pour a tiny amount of milk into the bowl and stick everything into the freezer. When it's very cold*, lie down with a tea bag on each eye for 10 minutes or more. The milk is soothing to the skin, and the tannins in the tea constrict the blood vessels. *Editor's note: cold, not frozen! And don't try it if you're allergic to the ingredients.

Free Translation (continued from page 1)

doesn't come free. I can't say how much, but you can look at the website. However it doesn't say how much of that amount goes to the translator. My intention wasn't to leave other language groups out. French, Spanish, and German are the only languages it currently "translates" into English, although it also lists English into Italian and Portuguese.

I can see that it might be useful to a client with no foreign language skills, to try to guess the general subject matter. What escapes me is how anyone could think it would be easier for a translator, who presumably can read the source text fluently, to read and "smooth out" -- and understand -- the garbled end result of www.freetranslation.com or any other machine translation than to read the original.

While providers of machine translation programs have had to back off of some of their claims and now admit that the translations are "rough," it doesn't stop the perception in the popular mind that translation is something machines will be able to do in the near future if they can't do it already. Has anyone else had the experience, upon telling someone what one does for a living, of being told, "Oh, my computer can do that!?" A colleague called me recently and said, "I'm reading an article that claims we're all going to be replaced by computers." I found the article at www.wired.com/wired/archives/8.05/translation_pr.html (should anyone else be interested in reading it). It doesn't exactly say that. It does acknowledge the initially unrealistic expectations and the setbacks suffered by machine translation, yet it ends on an unequivocally optimistic note regarding "how little needs to get through before we can spin worlds out of it." But what worlds? - Joan Wallace

COURT INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION HELD IN JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

Thirty people attended a two-day skill-building orientation on June 3-4 in Jefferson City. Those who complete the orientation and successfully pass the Spanish language certification test (minimum overall average of 70 percent) will be added to the registry of the Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA), which is distributed to courts to be used as the first resource when needing Spanish language interpreters. The certification is also recognized by the 17 states making up the National Court Interpreter Certification Consortium. **Anyone interested in being notified about future orientation and exam sessions should contact Phyllis Launius, Access to the Courts Program Coordinator at (573) 751-4377 or e-mail her at Phyllis_Launius@osca.state.mo.us as soon as possible to get on the list.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

ATA CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR

It may not seem possible, but the 41st ATA Conference in Orlando is just around the corner. The date has been move up this year from the traditional end of October/beginning of November to September 20-23, so if you're planning to go, mark your calendars now. If you have never been to a national ATA Conference, it is an experience not to miss. Where else can you find yourself with so many others that share your profession and your passion for language? In addition to the many informative sessions, and the opportunity to endlessly browse through dictionaries, it is a great place to make contacts and, yes, to have a great time doing it! If you are an ATA member, you should be receiving the information in the mail before long. If not, or for more information, contact the ATA at conference@atanet.org or call (703) 683-6122. If you are interested in taking the accreditation exam, you should contact the ATA as soon as possible to make sure you meet the requirements.

NEXT MICATA MEETING OCTOBER 7 IN KANSAS CITY

MICATA will hold its next meeting at..... October 7 at Pierpont's in Union Station. The menu will be a grilled chicken sandwich, baked pasta, choice of soup or salad and choice of beverage (tea, coffee, soft drinks). The cost per person is \$15.00, and to make reservations send payment to MICATA by September 25. Free parking (maximum 3 hours) is available at Union Station in The Yards to the west of the building, or valet parking is available for \$4.00. The program will be the installation of new officers and a wrap-up session on the ATA Conference.

MICATA AND NORDIC DIVISION TO HOLD JOINT CONFERENCE

MICATA is pleased to announce that it will hold in conjunction with the Nordic Division a regional translators and interpreters conference on April 19-22, 2001 in Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin. The conference will begin on April 19th in Milwaukee with a demonstration of a simultaneous interpreting facility and a terminology workshop at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The terminology session will be a mini-version of the terminology workshop that was offered by Kent State University in Ohio this summer.

On April 20 the conference will move to Madison, where sessions are being planned on the following: 1) The UW-hospital interpreter training program; 2) A hands-on resource search session at the Wisconsin State Historical Society (where they have a large collection of foreign language works); 3) Voice-overs (at a facility near the conference site); and 4) language specific workshops. In addition, a session on translating patents by Nick Hartmann and a technical/scientific tour are planned.

On Sunday, April 22, ATA accreditation exams will be offered.

In addition to MICATA and the Nordic Division, the Departments of Scandinavian Studies, German and Comparative literature at UW-Madison and the translation program at UW-Milwaukee are all sponsors of the conference.

We are inviting anyone who is interested in presenting a session at the conference to submit a proposal to: Edith Matteson, 1703 Warmington Ct., Ballwin, MO 63021, or e-mail them to her at EMMatteson@earthlink.com

ST. LOUIS GROUP TO HAVE PICNIC

St. Louis Area Professional Translators and Interpreters 4th Annual Picnic will take place on SATURDAY, July 8, 2000 from 5 pm to ???

WE PROVIDE: Online search time; show us your favorite translation web sites

Brats (bratwurst) & burgers
+ hotdogs for the kids

YOU MAY BRING: a salad, side dish, dessert, munchies, or drinks.

WHERE: 1703 Warmington Ct, Ballwin Missouri

South of Manchester, north of Big Bend, east of 141, and west of 270

RSVP: Please let me know how many are coming. I will be happy to fax a map to you. Just drop me a line or give me a call! AND please pass this message on to anyone else who may be interested.

Thanks, Edith Matteson. EMMatteson@earthlink.net Phone/fax: (636) 207-7256.

HEARTLAND LATINO LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN OMAHA

“Strengthening the voice of solidarity among Heartland Latinos to expand social, economic, and leadership capacity”

Latinos in the Midwest are different from those in states such as Texas and California where there are large communities where Latinos sometimes make up the majority of their communities and are well represented in the ranks of community leadership. In Nebraska and Iowa, mainstream institutions are still unfamiliar with how to establish effective working relationships with minority populations, Latinos and others and these diverse populations are consistently overlooked. The Heartland Latino Leadership Conference is of interest to Latinos and to non-Latinos interested in the development of the Latino Community. It will be held on Friday, November 3, 2000 from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm at Best Western Regency, Shaker Place at 110th and Pacific in Omaha, Nebraska. To register or for more information, interested persons should contact Leticia Barajas Pallares at leticia@caworld.net Tel.: (402) 558-3373 (h) (402) 558-1447. The website for the conference is <http://hlhc.homestead.com/hllchomepage.html>.

Unless otherwise specified, information on non-MICATA or ATA events or services are provided for the benefit of our members who might be interested and does not imply either endorsement or sponsorship by MICATA or by the ATA.

If you have an article to contribute, or if you have a text you feel may be suitable for a future *fora linguarum* (300-400 words) please e-mail or fax to Joan Wallace:

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS!!!!

E-mail: joanwallace@uswest.net

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**DEADLINE FOR ALL
SUBMISSIONS AND
ADVERTISING FOR
THE SEPT/OCT ISSUE
IS AUGUST 21, 2000**

MONITOR ADVERTISING RATES

Classified Ads (based on a 3 inch column format)

MICATA MEMBER NONMEMBER

\$10.00 per column inch \$15.00 per column inch

DISPLAY ADS (Camera-Ready Copy)

MICATA MEMBER NONMEMBER

Business Cards	\$25.00	\$35.00
Quarter Page	\$50.00	\$75.00
Half Page	\$100.00	\$150.00
Full Page	\$200.00	\$300.00

Have you read a good book lately dealing with translation? Write a book review! Have you discovered a great resource on the Web or elsewhere that's too good not to share? Tell us about it! Do you have an issue close to your heart (related to translation)? Write a letter to the editor (joanwallace@uswest.net)

Letter's to the Editor:

Don't see anything here? That's because you haven't written me!



The Mid-America Chapter of the American Translators Association (MICATA), through the efforts of Board Member Kate White, has sent a letter to international organizations in the Kansas City Metropolitan area inviting them to join with MICATA in requesting a foreign language channel on Time Warner Cable. Many of our members were saddened when Knowledge TV, on December 20, 1999, ceased broadcasting the daily news from Germany, France and Spain.

Upon research we have discovered two channels that offer news broadcasts in over 26 different languages -The International Channel and Scola. Programming is in German, French, Spanish, Hindi, Russian, Greek, Japanese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Polish and other languages. A letter was sent from MICATA to Ms. Nicole Novak, TimeWarner Cable, 6550 Winchester Ave., Kansas City, MO 64133. If any of our members wish to send their own letters, please feel free to do so.

MICATA ELECTIONS

MICATA will soon be electing new officers and board members for 2000-2001. Ballots will go out the end of August, and returned ballots must be postmarked no later than September 11, 2000. Please take the time to vote!

**Membership Directory
Additions and Changes**

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Target Language(s): Eng., Sp.

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Source Language(s): Sp, Eng.
Target Language(s): Eng., Sp.

Correction:

Joan Wallace's fax number is (402) 451-5435. Please correct it in your Directory.

MICATA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

We need your input! Please complete the following survey and mail the results to MICATA at P.O. Box 144, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201, or you can fax it to (402) 451-5435. MICATA is a group covering a large geographical region. We would like to know who our members are and what they are looking for. You do not need to include your name. Answers will be compiled and the overall results will be published in the next Monitor.

How long have you been a member of MICATA? _____

Are you a member of any other professional associations for translators/interpreters? If so, which one(s)?

Do you translate? Interpret? Both?

Full-time in-house _____ In-house translation/interpreting along with other duties _____

Full-time freelance _____ Part-time freelance _____

What languages do you translate or interpret?

Have you attended workshops/symposiums organized by MICATA?

If not, why? (cost, distance, time, lack of interest, etc.) _____

Have you attended MICATA's general meetings/fora linguarum?

If not, why? (cost, distance, time, lack of interest, etc.) _____

Of the following activities and services offered by MICATA, which do you find most useful and why?

- Workshop/symposium
- MICATA Monitor
- Fora linguarum
- Membership directory
- Website

Which do you find the least useful? _____

What else would you like to see offered? _____

Do you have suggestions for meeting topics? _____

REMEMBER - IT'S YOUR ORGANIZATION

An organization is only the sum of its members, nothing more and nothing less. We need and welcome everyone's contributions!

Check out MICATA'S Website at www.planetkc.com/bentompkins/micata or you can reach it through ATA's website at www.atanet.org (Chapters)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION		LANGUAGES I translate (list in order of competence and circle those for which you are ATA Accredited):
I hereby apply for membership in MICATA. My check, payable to MICATA, is enclosed.		From: _____ To: _____
NAME (Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr.) _____	Last First Middle	1. _____
HOME ADDRESS _____	Number and Street, Apt., City, State, Zip	2. _____
BUSINESS ADDRESS _____		3. _____
HOME PHONE (____) _____	BUSINESS PHONE (____) _____	NATIVE LANGUAGE: _____
FAX (____) _____	E-MAIL _____	DOMINANT LANGUAGE: _____
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY _____	Individual \$10 _____	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT:
X \$5 initiation fee _____	Household \$15 (2 or more at same address) _____	Hardware: _____
TRANSLATION ACTIVITIES _____	Corporation or Institution \$25 _____	_____
	Part-time freelancer _____	Software: _____
	Full-time freelancer _____	_____
	In-house _____	_____
	Other (describe) _____	_____
_____ Please send me an ATA application _____ I am already an ATA member		_____
ATA status (if member) Active _____ Associate _____ Other (_____) _____		_____
Send completed application and check to: MICATA, P.O. Box 144, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66201-0144		_____

MICATA Monitor
P.O. Box 144
Shawnee Mission, KS 66201



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