



ITI-LRG Newsletter



Issue 26

www.iti-lrg.org.uk

May 2011

Editorial

Hello everyone and welcome to the spring / summer edition of the LRG Newsletter. The first part of 2011 has been particularly busy for LRG, with a wide range of interesting events. They are all reviewed in this issue so that you can keep up to date even if you weren't able to attend. Thank you to María Teresa Campos Partera, Luis, Charlotte Monnier and Isabel Brenner for their reviews.

We also have some interesting events planned for the

summer, including a computer up-date, the annual LRG pub crawl in Southwark and a guided walk in Clerkenwell with popular guide Roger Bone.

And don't miss an introduction from Kari Koonin, our new Publicity Officer, on page 6.

All that remains is for me to wish you happy reading and an enjoyable summer with plenty of sunshine.

Rosemary Harvey, Editor

Forthcoming LRG Events

Computer up-date
Thursday, 9 June 2011
6.30pm for 7pm

Function room at the
Devereux Pub, Devereux
Court, Essex Street, nr
Strand, London, WC2R 3JH.

Nearest tube: Temple or buses to The Strand



Are you confused about computers? Is it time to up-date your IT? Do you have a lot of unanswered questions?

- What should I buy?
- Is it tailored to my needs?
- Can I afford it?
- Where can I get it?
- Can I operate it?
- Is it portable/luggable?

Fear not because Keith Todd of Kat Computers will be there to answer all your questions and put your minds at rest.

*Charge: free to LRG members; £3 for non-members.
Please contact Peter Linton to book: peter@lintononline.co.uk.*

Annual LRG pub crawl
Thursday, 7 July 2011
6pm onwards

Southwark

Nearest tube: London Bridge



This year, the annual LRG pub crawl will take place in Southwark. Please feel free to arrive from around 6pm for drinks and socialising with other LRG members and friends in an informal setting. There will also be the opportunity to eat at the last pub.

The planned programme is as follows:

6pm: *The George*, Borough High Street. *The George* is a busy pub, but it has a large garden.

7pm: *The Market Porter*, 9 Stoney Street.

7.45pm: *The Wheatsheaf*, 24 Southwark Street. The plan is for people to eat here. *The Wheatsheaf* is based in a cellar and has no garden, but it is large with long tables for members to sit at to eat.

The three pubs are all just 2 minutes' walk from each other. Don't miss this perennially popular LRG event.

Cost: free. There is no need to book.

Guided pub walk
Thursday, 25 August 2011
6pm onwards
Clerkenwell
Nearest tube: Saint Paul's



This year's guided pub walk with experienced guide Roger Bone will take us to Clerkenwell. Roger will show us some of the "Holy and Not so Holy Pubs of Clerkenwell" and tell us about the exciting past of the area when it was London's most dangerous and radical place to live.

The pubs include the Jerusalem Tavern, the Sekforde Arms and the Crown Inn Tavern on Clerkenwell Green (pubs subject to change). We will end the evening

with a meal in TAS Restaurant near Farringdon tube station.

We will meet in St Paul's tube station and the walk starts at 6pm. Please be on time as it is difficult for late-comers to join us as we will be walking from one pub to the next.

Charge: free to LRG members.

Please note that space is limited. To book your place or if you have any questions, please email Julia (j_tenelsen@yahoo.com).

When booking, please let Julia know whether you would like to have a meal in TAS Restaurant.

Booking deadline: Friday 1 July.

For emergencies on the day, call Julia on 07773 531 928.

Review of LRG Events

Cloud computing with Wordfast – talk by Yves Champollion
Imperial College, London, 19 January 2011

Thanks to María and Luis, who both kindly provided reviews for this event. It's interesting to have two perspectives on it.

This January, Imperial College welcomed another visiting speaker in the field of translation: Yves Champollion. The creator of Wordfast started by introducing cloud computing and the effect that this technological development has on translators' work.

Cloud computing is a new way of transferring and sharing data online. The data, he explained, are stored in a virtual "cloud" of information, whose servers can be located anywhere in the world. They can be instantly accessed as long as we have access to the internet. Nowadays, companies are starting to shift their information transfer to the cloud, which improves communication between translator and client, especially as FTP servers do not always provide the same reliability or storage capacity. The cloud enables information transmission and sharing, and also supports online tools, such as Wordfast Anywhere, making it possible for translators to work from different locations simultaneously, as long as they have an internet connection.

One of the aspects that caught my attention was WFA's incorporation of their own translation memory and Google machine translation. This translation memory, known as the VLTM (Very Large Translation Memory) is a huge read-only TM in the public domain, aligned, checked, cleaned and stored by the Wordfast team. It is constructed from TMs donated by corporations, such as Microsoft glossaries, the European constitution etc.

However, questions were raised about the confidentiality of the translator's input. According to Champollion, WFA does not store any of your material, nor does it send your translations back to Google, should you decide to use their machine translation option.

Whether we like it or not, machine translation and CAT tools are acquiring relevance in the life of a versatile translator and we need to learn to work with technology. I found Yves Champollion's views very progressive and open-minded, as he foresees the needs of the translator within the translation world and adapts his creation and ideas to the new situations derived from the globalization of the profession. The next step for Champollion? The alignment of the World Wide Web.

María Teresa Campos Partera

First of all, it is extremely reassuring to know that Mr Champollion started as a translator himself, thus he is very well acquainted with all of the good and bad aspects of our profession. Secondly, he gave great advice to all those who are starting out in the industry: demand a terminology list when receiving a technical translation; save your work as often as possible; the cloud is safer than a hard-drive; rely on the plethora of resources the internet offers; and beware of cowboy translation agencies. He called translators "knowledge workers", a term I would like to back: it is through our work that information is spread, making it more accessible to the masses. I believe we are, somehow, messengers who carry good and not so good news across cultures and peoples. Much kudos to Mr Champollion for having devised Wordfast and giving a most helpful hand to the often neglected and ignored translator who hides behind an author's name, which is in big, glittering letters. Go, translators: look down and marvel at the wonders of the world from your newly-acquired cloud! "Hey, look!

There go some translators, proud of their contribution to the world! Well done, heroes!!!"

Luis (MSc Trans student at Imperial College)

An evening with a life coach

15 February 2011

Around 30 members of ITI LRG took part in a workshop on 15 February on the subject of "work/life balance". As it is a common discussion subject among translators and interpreters, I was really keen on hearing Claudia Gibson's take. Finding a good work/life balance is always difficult, so I never miss the opportunity to hear a talk on this topic.

Claudia Gibson is a life and business coach, whose interest lies in neurolinguistic programming. A professional singer and actress, she worked for the NHS before embarking on coaching. Among other clients, she teaches traders in the City how to be "more disciplined". She is also a researcher at the Institute of Psychology. Further details on Claudia's activities can be found on her website: www.makethatdifference.org.

Claudia started by defining coaching. In her view, coaching enables people to be more effective in their lives: we know how to do things, but we are often blocked by limiting habits and patterns. Life coaching is different to psychological therapies, in that it is not problem-focussed but rather outcome-focussed. Neurolinguistic programming was invented in the mid-1970s by linguists and psychologists who became interested in people performing well in certain areas. They studied how habits were developed in order to be able to help other people adopt them.

She then turned to the audience to ask what it meant to be a freelancer and to work from home. Among the various replies, some positive aspects came across, such as being able to organise your work in your own way, but also negative aspects, including (unsurprisingly) isolation, lack of social interaction, the need for a strong sense of time-management and the issue of frequent interruptions from family members.

Claudia analysed the situation and gave us some basic pointers. To feel good about working from home, to perform well in their job and to feel good about themselves, freelancers have to value themselves and their work, as well as keep to a routine (work/sleep/play) and take time for themselves. Fundamental activities should also be taken care of, such as exercise, regular fluid intake, a good diet, and proper care of one's body (especially upper body and back, in the translator's case). One very good piece of information I gathered is that the maximum attention span is 20 minutes, so do not hesitate to take a break every now and again and you will come back more refreshed. One member of the audience suggested setting an alarm clock in the kitchen, forcing the translator to leave their desk in order to turn off the alarm -- and to stretch their legs.

After freelance translators or interpreters become aware of the kinds of challenge they face, they can apply targeted pieces of advice to each issue, so as to change their bad habits and perform better. For this purpose, Claudia organised a brainstorming session with the audience in order to identify some of the issues translators and interpreters wanted to address. The basic rule for fighting bad habits is to observe everything you do on a perfect day of work and so identify a reproducible pattern which helps you get into the right frame of mind and helps you to work at your best.

Here are a few examples of the issues and possible solutions we identified and tried to address as a group:

- to perform better, try to avoid distractions; if possible, set times to check and reply to emails and/or set an alarm on Outlook as a reminder;
- to fight isolation, contact other freelancers in your area to exchange views and good practices. They do not have to be translators and interpreters;
- to value your work more and to boost your self-confidence, proactively seek feedback from customers.

Another very good piece of advice is to know your strengths and weaknesses, and to be more flexible. For example, busy periods and slower times are part and parcel of a freelance translator's and interpreter's life. Instead of fighting them, embrace this idea and capitalize on the free time you have to do useful things for your business. Finally, do not forget to reward yourself with a treat whenever you reach a milestone or you fulfil a small objective!

Charlotte Monnier

Networking evening – members' websites and social networking sites

24 March 2011

This very interesting and topical event proved to be very popular, with a good number of members - old and young, experienced and new translators - turning up to the Devereux to gain new insights and useful tips.

Over the last few years, we have seen an ever-increasing trend towards online communities and online networking, particularly with the growing popularity of social networking sites, such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

The first part of the evening focused on the use and usefulness of the above as marketing and networking tools for translators. The topic was very vividly presented by our first speaker, Ana-Luiza Iaria, who talked enthusiastically about Twitter and her own experience of using it. It can be used for following anything that is directly or indirectly related to the areas we work in, such as quick news updates, even from sources like *The Financial Times*.

She also pointed out the usefulness of Twitter as a means of networking with other translators before or during

events, such as the ITI Conference. It may also help first-timers feel more integrated when they are part of a small group or network.

However, integrating Twitter into one's working day also raised the question of its effect on our work / life-style and the issue of maintaining our work discipline and our regular break times. Ana-Luiza Iaria really shared her own personal enthusiasm for this new tool, which she uses as part of her daily routine and life as a translator, and concluded that you could make it anything you like.

The second part of the evening focused on translators' own websites and the benefits of having your own website. It also included useful tips and hints, and other points to be considered. Daniela Ford spoke about "10 reasons why freelance translators need their own website", stressing some obvious benefits such as creating your own online presence, selling your unique services and attracting potential clients via search engines such as Google. She also stressed the cost advantage of having a website, compared to conventional print advertising, as it is quick and easy to change the content compared to print media. It enables you to reach a much wider, even worldwide audience and become accessible from anywhere in the world.

However, once you have a website, it must be kept up-to-date. This may be hard if you are short of time. Daniela also stressed the benefit of adding testimonials to your webpage, as this can greatly add to your credibility and convince potential clients that you deserve their trust. Clients can also make more informed buying decisions, and they can contact you more easily.

One more aspect that Daniela raised was the fact that a translator's website ought to be customer-oriented. Translators' websites often tend to contain information or links that may be more relevant to fellow translators, such as glossaries and dictionaries; these may not be of much relevance to potential clients.

One more aspect to consider when making the decision to invest in your own website is that it may take time, typically several years, before you actually generate real business from the website. A show of hands revealed that some members had their own websites while others expressed interest in a possible future LRG event about building a website. (So do watch this space - the committee will try to organise something if possible).

In addition, Daniela also briefly touched on the new trend towards "cloud-computing" and mentioned one very useful tool called Dropbox (see www.dropbox.com from where it can be downloaded for free storage of up to 2 GB). This is a tool which comes in particularly handy when travelling, as it allows you to access files saved in Dropbox from anywhere. Any file saved to Dropbox is instantly saved to your computers, phones and the Dropbox website. For translators it can also be useful for saving dictionaries or glossaries so they can be accessed

from wherever you are. Your files will always be available from the Dropbox website. Your access is via a password so you have security. It can also be a useful tool for enabling several users in different locations to work in one file. Dropbox works with Windows, Mac, Linux, iPad, iPhone, Android and BlackBerry.

The third and last session, presented by Peter Linton, covered websites and portals for translators and interpreters, such as Proz.com. Proz is the largest and most active and the focus of his presentation as an experienced user of this portal. He presented the main features of Proz.com, such as the possibility of: adding your professional profile (with different levels of membership) and thus marketing yourself to a worldwide audience on the internet; being notified of jobs and bidding for jobs; checking out customers and agencies before accepting jobs (Blue Board); comparing translation rates by language/topics; asking and answering questions about difficult terminology (Kudoz); joining translator groups; reading useful articles by colleagues or discussing relevant topics and/or asking for advice in user forums; learning about computer software (CAT tools etc.); purchasing software etc. at discounted prices; exchanging goods/services with other translators/interpreters; seeing lists of glossaries and other terminology; and even attending social meetings (Powwows) or professional conferences in different countries.

In addition, Peter also covered various issues related to bidding for jobs (such as the fact that many jobs are restricted to paying members and the controversy about potentially low rates) and gave a typical example of a bid for a job. He also pointed out that Proz.com, as well as other portals or websites, may be a good starting-point for new translators, although they also provide useful resources and features for more experienced translators. In addition, they also provide jobs for interpreters.

Although Peter's presentation focused on Proz.com, there are other translation portals, such as: www.translatorscafe.com; www.translatorsbase.com; www.gotranslators.com; www.aquarius.net; www.traduguide.com; www.linguistfinder.com; and www.translationjobs.net.

All in all, in addition to providing a range of useful tips and insights into the topics under discussion, the evening provided another good networking opportunity in a friendly and relaxed, informal atmosphere. It was a very popular and successful networking evening, and I'm sure many of us will not only have been greatly encouraged to think about our own websites or to get into using social media for professional networking purposes, but also have gained some very useful ideas and inspiration.

A big thank you to the Committee for organising this event!

Isabel Brenner

LRG News

New LRG members

We welcome the following new members who have joined the LRG since January:

Rocío Baños, Olivia Clark, Kerstin Knepper, Fran Lawrence, Majlinda Nisku, Joanna Roche-Kelly, Robert Rowe, Selma Seferovic, Aatur Siddiquey, Lena Watson, Katharina Wawrzon-Stewart and Eva Xu.

ITI conference grant awarded

LRG has awarded a £100 grant to attend the ITI Conference, entitled "Expanding Horizons", to Charlotte Monnier. Congratulations to Charlotte. Charlotte will give a presentation about the Conference to LRG

members as part of the 2011 programme. Watch this space for further details.

LRG e-group

All LRG members have now been moved over to the LRG Yahoo e-group and you should have received an invitation from Yahoo by now inviting you to join. If you have not, please email Daniela at dford@softrans-ltd.com. You can change your settings (message delivery, message preference, email notifications) by going to <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/iti-lrg/join> and logging on using your Yahoo details. To send an email to the whole group, please send an email from your email program to iti-lrg@yahoogroups.co.uk. All LRG-related emails will now go to iti-lrg@yahoogroups.co.uk.

ITI News and Events

News of forthcoming ITI events and CPD opportunities:

Starting work as a translator or interpreter

Saturday, 18 June 2011

University of Westminster, 309 Regent Street, London

ITI/University of Westminster present the fourth in this very popular series, with talks and presentations by established and experienced translators, interpreters and other professionals. The event is designed to help those wishing to enter the profession or those who have recently entered, to gain a fuller understanding of what is involved. This year's event hopes to introduce guru sessions and small discussion groups.

Please contact education@iti.org.uk for further details.

ITI Annual Walking Weekend

17-19 June 2011

South Shropshire

This year's walking weekend in South Shropshire will be organised by Roger and Anne Hulme.

Please contact anne@annehulme.co.uk for further details.

ITI Webinars

Following the success of its trial webinar last July, ITI is now running a regular series of webinars. For further information, please contact education@iti.org.uk.

- Court interpreting: Jan Cambridge, Thursday 9 June
- Note taking for interpreters: Kirsty Heimerl-Moggan, Thursday 1 September
- Becoming an MITI: Elizabeth Dickson, Tuesday 1 November

Webinars are worth 1 hour of CPD.

Please see the ITI website, www.iti.org.uk, for further details.

Introducing the LRG committee: Kari Koonin

Kari Koonin joined the LRG committee as Publicity Officer after the AGM in December. Here she introduces herself and talks about her interesting career.



Languages and music often go hand in hand, and at school languages were very much my second love after music. But after failing all my auditions for a place

studying the cello at the Royal Colleges of Music I realised someone was trying to tell me something and fell back quite happily on my plan B: studying German and Russian at Bradford. Although I passed my degree in Russian, I struggled with it at university and have never really kept it up, so it isn't one of my working languages.

After taking my degree I moved to Linz, Austria, where I stayed for 6 years, learning Upper-Austrian dialect ('deutsch so wia mir's red'n'), gaining experience in the in-house translation department of the Voest-Alpine iron and steelworks, teaching English to staff there, learning to ski (not very well) and singing in a local big band at weekends during the Austrian carnival season. I came back to London in 1983 and got a job combining music and languages at the record company Decca International, but began to get itchy feet again after a couple of years and managed to get a transfer to Decca's parent company at the time, PolyGram Records in Baarn, the Netherlands.

Having been learning Dutch for a year or so in evening classes in London, I was determined to learn to speak it properly once I lived there, and insisted on my colleagues only speaking to me in Dutch despite their phenomenal command of English and other languages – even secretaries learn shorthand in 4 languages in the Netherlands, I was told! It was tough but I persevered, and it has stood me in good stead since turning freelance: the bulk of my translation work is in Dutch rather than German.

I loved living in the Netherlands, but after a year or so I met my husband through work – he was working for PolyGram's South African operating company at the time – and as he was unable to get a job at head office, I left the Netherlands and moved to Johannesburg, South Africa, for a year. A fascinating and at the same time deeply upsetting experience back then in the apartheid era – Net Blankes [Whites Only] signs still abounded, if not enforced as stringently by the 80s as in previous decades. But my husband had wanted to leave SA all

along, and after a year we returned to the UK, where we have been ever since. (He claims not to have married me for my passport, but I'm not so sure :-)

I started freelancing a year or so after my daughter was born – she's now 22. My first freelance jobs were done on a tiny Apple Classic with a monitor the size of a large smartphone, upgrading after a year or two to an IBM with 2 MB RAM and a 40 MB hard disk... No internet in those days: we had to go down to the local library to check information. The day I got my first 2400 bps modem was a true red-letter day: no more rushing round to the post office at 5 to 5 pm with a floppy disk in a padded envelope!

A few years ago I decided to see whether I could put my experience in translation to use helping other translators. So I started moderating ITI membership exam papers and got involved as a tutor on ITI's brand new Orientation Course for newcomers to the profession, which was set up three years ago. This year I took over as facilitator of the course and also joined the ITI PSG committee. It was and is a tremendously rewarding experience to be able to pass on tips and tricks to people starting out and feel that one has had a part in helping them become established.

Since then I have also spoken at events for newcomers, one of which led to my being offered a part-time position as a visiting lecturer teaching German to English translation on the MA in Technical and Specialist Translation at the University of Westminster. After so long away from an external workplace environment I am really enjoying actually having to go out to work once a fortnight and engaging with other people on a regular basis.

I am also learning Norwegian in evening classes at Westminster: my grandmother was Norwegian, as is my first name. However, no-one told me that the dialect my relatives speak bears little relation to the Norwegian you learn in evening classes! Nonetheless, I hope to be able to develop my knowledge of Norwegian as a cognate language to my other languages to a level at which I am confident to translate from Norwegian.

I joined LRG last year when we moved back to London after a 21-year absence, and am now trying to find the time to do all those things we have been planning to do in London for so long – if only I can get this last job finished!

Kari Koonin

Noticeboard

Diary dates

Poster Power: Images from Mao's China, Then and Now

12 May to 14 July 2011, Mon-Fri, 9am–5pm

University of Westminster, 309 Regent Street, London W1B 2UW

We tend to speak of the Chinese but there are people of some 56 different ethnic origins in that huge country. The Han are the largest, consisting of 1.2bn people. But the so-called national minorities cover diverse languages, cultures and religions.

During the Cultural Revolution, local religions and cultural practices in the ethnic minority regions, many in the Chinese borderlands, were vulnerable to attack.

Poster Power sites the collection's posters in relation to some contemporary visual material from China and elsewhere, creating some interesting affinities between China, then and now.

The University of Westminster's Contemporary China Centre is a new and vibrant interdisciplinary hub for China-related research. It builds on Westminster's long-term commitment to Chinese Studies and is committed to fostering interdisciplinary research and PhD training on contemporary China.

The Centre is also home to the unique online database of its Chinese Poster Collection which is on public view at the Regent Street site, from 12 May to 14 July 2011.

The exhibition displays posters produced between the 1950s and 1970s; they are visual reminders of both autocratic rule and exuberant youthful idealism. The images, produced to support a revolutionary ideology half a century ago, continue to resonate with current Chinese and Western audiences. The posters raise questions about China's recent past and shed light on its changing significance in contemporary China.

4th International Media for All Conference - Audiovisual Translation: Taking Stock

30 June - 1 July

Senate House, London, WC1E 7JG

The 4th International Media for All Conference - Audiovisual Translation: Taking Stock aims to bring together professionals, scholars, practitioners and other interested parties to explore audiovisual translation (AVT) in theory and practice, to ascertain the language needs of distributors and broadcasters, to discuss the linguistic and cultural dimensions of AVT, to look into potential synergies between the industry and the academic worlds, and to investigate the relevance and application of translation theory for this very specific and rapidly expanding translational genre. Special attention will be given to the notion of accessibility to information, and to the social and economic implications of implementing appropriate quality standards.

For further details, see www.imperial.ac.uk/mediaforall4.

Translating and the Computer 33 Conference: Call for Papers

17 & 18 November 2011

The Hatton, London

This event brings together a diverse group of delegates, to gain new insights and brainstorm ideas on the use of information technology for translation. It covers the following areas:

- ♦ language resources exchange;
- ♦ tools, technologies and standards;
- ♦ web-based collaboration models and tools;
- ♦ translation process control.

This call for papers invites you to submit abstracts of papers for presentation at the Conference.

For more information, please go to the website - http://www.aslib.com/training/conferences/tc_2011/index.htm

LRG events programme for summer 2011

<p>Thursday, 9 June 2011 6.30pm for 7pm</p>	<p>Computer and hardware up-date Devereux pub, Devereux Court, Essex Street, London WC2R 3JH</p> <p>Keith Todd of Kat Computers will answer your questions about computers and hardware.</p> <p><i>Free for LRG members; £3 for non-members.</i> <i>Please contact Peter Linton to book: peter@lintononline.co.uk.</i></p>
<p>Thursday, 7 July 2011 6pm onwards</p>	<p>Annual LRG pub crawl This year's pub crawl will take place in Southwark. Don't miss this popular, informal event.</p> <p><i>Cost: free.</i> <i>There is no need to book.</i></p>
<p>Thursday, 25 August 2011 6pm</p>	<p>Guided London pub walk in Clerkenwell Meeting at St Paul's tube station</p> <p>The perennially popular pub walk with specialist guide Roger Bone. This year, the walk takes in the sights and history of Clerkenwell.</p> <p><i>Cost: free to LRG members.</i> <i>Please contact Julia (j_tenelsen@yahoo.com) to book. Booking deadline: 1 July.</i></p>

See www.iti-lrg.org.uk for the latest updates on forthcoming events.

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