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# ITIA BULLETIN

February 2003

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## In This Issue

■ Editorial .....	2
■ Copyright - 50 years on .....	2
■ New Localisation Book Launched.....	4
■ EUODICAUTOM: A Response.....	4
■ New Members of the ITIA .....	5
■ Reorganisation of EU Translation Service .....	6
■ Handy Online Resources .....	6
■ International Literary Translation Centre in Canada ..	6
■ Translators to face the balka?.....	7
■ Conferences.....	8
■ Training, Courses & Education .....	9
■ Contacting the ITIA.....	10

**Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association**  
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## ■ Editorial

Welcome to the second edition of the *ITIA Bulletin*. Since its launch last month the number of subscribers has soared. There are now over 740 people from every corner of the world reading the Bulletin. With such a varied readership it would be great to see this diversity reflected in the Bulletin. The *ITIA Bulletin* is a forum for all translators and interpreters everywhere so please feel free to submit articles or let us know of any interesting news or developments.

On a more practical note, I received an email from one of our members, **Crispin Welby**, which raises the age old problem of whether to charge for the number of words in the *source* text or for the number of words in the *target* text. Some clients prefer source rates because it means they know the exact cost before work starts. But bear in mind that with some language pairs, you will actually *lose money* by basing your rates on the source text because the wordcount can expand in the target text by anything up to 25%. So unless you increase your rates accordingly, you are giving clients what are frequently massive discounts.

In Crispin's case, a client wrongly assumed that the rate for a job was based on the source wordcount. In the interest of good business relations, Crispin accepted the source wordcount even though this meant losing money. It was agreed, however, that a higher source rate would apply to all future business.

The key to avoiding this type of problem is communication. The message from Crispin is always specify whether your rates are based on SOURCE or TARGET wordcounts.

**Jody Byrne, MITIA**  
Editor  
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translator's name should be his or her guarantee of the quality of a translation. The intention of this provision is not simply to give good translators the attention they deserve, but also to make less well qualified and less conscientious competitors more aware of their own responsibility, ultimately benefiting publishers and the reading public alike.

Another aspect of copyright is the right of integrity. While translators cannot oppose editorial revisions undertaken by a principal in agreement with the author, translators' texts are often 'revised' at will by people in no way better qualified than the translator. As copyright holders, translators are entitled by law to expect others to respect their rights, i.e. no one is entitled to randomly correct or edit a translator's work without his or

her approval. This means that when an editor makes incorrect revisions in a translator's text, then publishes the translation under the translator's name, both the moral aspects of copyright have been infringed. Likely as not, that editor has broken the law! What is more, these immaterial rights are inalienable. We cannot get rid of them, no matter how hard we try. Enforcement is another matter. That is one of the reasons translators' associations and FIT are so important.

**Material rights:** What are the financial implications of copyright? When someone photocopies a text or downloads it onto a PC, that user deprives all those holding copyrights in the work (author, translator, photographer, etc.) of income they might have had from the sale of the work. The same applies when a user borrows a book from a library. In both cases, the user reads the book, but the rightholders do not necessarily reap any financial fruits of their own labours. Accordingly, the financial benefits of copyright are based on (1) remuneration for reprographic reproduction (photocopying and, hopefully in the not too distant future, digital copying) and (2) the Public Lending Right (PLR), a small fee paid by library owners (often the authorities) for depriving rightholders of income by lending out their works free of charge.

## ■ Copyright - 50 years on

Copyright was one of the main issues that brought translators associations together to form FIT in 1953. Fifty years on, it continues to be a rallying point in the struggle for translators' rights.

Copyright is first and foremost the right to reap the fruits of one's labours.

Copyright in translation embraces both immaterial and material rights.

**Immaterial rights:** Please take a few moments to review one of FIT's most fundamental documents, "The Translator's Charter" (<http://www.fit-ift.org/english/charter.html>). Based largely on the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (<http://www.wipo.int/treaties/ip/berne/>), which covers 90 per cent of the global population, the Charter stipulates that a translator's name shall be published each and every time his or her translation is presented to the public. This 'moral' aspect of copyright is called the right of attribution or paternity. It applies not only to literary, but also to technical and scientific translations. A

Where do the associations come in? Rightsholders' associations, including translators' associations, face tremendous challenges in this context. It is essential that translators be included in national copyright legislation. The associations also need to monitor closely the national progress of photocopying and PLR issues, not least in terms of precedent law. Associations would be well-advised to support their members in connection with copyright infringement cases. They should also try to ensure they are on any and all hearing lists related to copyright legislation so they know what is going on and can have a say before laws are adopted. The most important message in this context may be 'Strength in numbers'. Contact other rightsholders' associations in your country and try to find ways in which to co-operate on these issues.

Most countries have legislation that protects the rights of creators. For links to copious volumes of information on the subject of copyright, please follow the links posted on the FIT Copyright Committee website (<http://www.fit-ift.org/english/copyr.html>). Perhaps the single most important thing associations can do is to educate their officers, then their members. Recruitment is important. The larger the percentage of organized translators, the greater their chances of obtaining standard contracts that specify translators' rights. Interpreters have rights that are related to copyright, but covered under performance rights conventions. Interpreters should be aware that they are not required to interpret into multiple microphones if not contracted to do so in advance.

Do the same laws apply in all countries? No, different countries have different systems for dealing with copyright. Your association needs to find out exactly which systems apply in your country, and to determine their implications for translators. Many countries have reproduction rights organizations which collect remuneration on behalf of rightsholders. FIT is an associate member of IFRRO, the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations (<http://www.ifrro.org/>). Check the IFRRO website to learn more about collecting societies and to see whether your country has one. Fifteen countries now have Public Lending Rights. For a list of the countries with PLR and more detailed information, see (<http://www.plrinternational.com/>). The authorities are usually the rightsholders' counterpart insofar as PLR is concerned.

Where does the money generated by copyrights go? In some countries, the money derived from photocopying and/or PLR is paid out as individual remuneration.

## ■ New Online Translator's Groups

Two new online groups have recently been established for translators, teachers and students of translation.

### Hebrew Translating

Hebrew translating is dedicated to Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, and Aramaic translators and translation teachers and students.

**For more information, visit:**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hebrewtranslating/>

### Professional Arabic Translators (PAT)

Professional Arabic Translators is a forum promoting discussion, exchange of ideas, and the dissemination of information relevant to Arabic translation and translator education.

**For more information, visit:**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ParabT/>

Others, like the Nordic countries, apply what is known as an 'extended collective licence' (see <http://www.kopinor.no/english/ext-eng.html>). Unfortunately, the translation contracts used in many countries entail that all financial benefits derived from copyright go to the publisher or another principal. It is up to our associations to address this issue at the national level and to make every effort to ensure that translators, individually or collectively, share in the financial benefits of copyright. No one can do this for you. It is up to the associations themselves to take stock of the situation and identify potential sources of copyright revenues for translators.

Leading up to the *FIT Copyright Conference November 2003*: FIT invites its members to examine the copyright legislation in their home countries. Review the legal precedents being set. Work within your association or with other rightsholders' associations to determine exactly what your rights are and how you can best exercise and defend them. Although copyright is covered by international conventions, it is up to individual nation-states to adopt and enact the various provisions.

It is critical to defend translators' rights at this juncture. While the advent of the Internet has been a boon to translators, it also leaves us wide open to mass copying and the digital distribution of our works. What is more, unless we put in place and enforce copyright protection now, products such as translation memory threaten to divide our utterances up into such small segments in

databases that we will have no hope of defending our rights in the future.

The copyright situation is different in every country. FIT urges you to join forces with similar groups of rightsholders in your country to examine the options open to you.

**Suggestions:** Organize a national copyright event that brings together all rightsholders or their representatives. Meet with your national collecting society. Invite experts to speak on copyright in translation on ITD. Contact other rightsholders' associations in your home country and examine the issues together. Contact sister organizations in other countries to find out about their situations, and then send a representative to the Copyright Conference FIT will be organizing in Paris on 21 November 2003 in conjunction with FIT's 50th Anniversary celebration on 22 November 2003 to learn more about copyright!

© Linda Sivesind Chair of FIT Copyright Committee

## ■ New Localisation Book Launched

Lingo Systems Publishes Fourth Edition of Translation and Localization Guidebook in Partnership with American Translators Association

Lingo Systems, a translation and localization company located in Portland, Oregon, and the American Translators Association, have published the fourth edition of *The Guide to Translation and Localization: Preparing Products for the Global Marketplace*. This 104-page guide covers all the steps necessary for mastering the localization process. It details the technical strategies needed to successfully prepare documentation, software, training and marketing materials and websites for the global marketplace.

"This book is intended to be both educational and fun" said John Watkins, Lingo Systems Vice President of Operations and the book's editor.

*The Guide to Translation and Localization: Preparing Products for the Global Marketplace* (ISBN 0-9703948) is available free of charge from Lingo Systems.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.lingosys.com/news/NewGuideBook.htm>

## ■ EURODICAUTOM: A Response

In response to recent actions by various groups, including the ITIA, FIT and other translators' groups over the future of Eurodicautom, The European Commission Translation Service has issued the following statement:

**Luxembourg, 10 January 2003**

*Dear Sir, Madam, Dear translator colleague,*

We should like to thank you for your interest in the Eurodicautom terminology database.

Please note that Eurodicautom will soon be integrated into a new inter-institutional terminology database, which is intended to incorporate the contents of the databases already existing in the various institutions and bodies of the European Union.

The aim of this project is to meet the challenge of the forthcoming enlargement, which will extend the problems associated with terminological data to some twenty languages. The result will reflect Europe's linguistic diversity and richness.

We will be examining the question of access to the new base keeping in mind the need for sound management of public funds. We will, of course, keep you informed of developments in the project through the usual channels.

Yours sincerely,  
Hubert Paesmans

Head of EC-SdT Terminology Unit  
European Commission Translation Service  
Resources and Language Support  
Terminology and Language Support Services

## ■ Next Issue of the ITIA Bulletin

The next issue of the *ITIA Bulletin* will be out on **15th March, 2003**. So if you have any contributions, news, suggestions or something you'd like to share, send them to [jody.byrne@dcu.ie](mailto:jody.byrne@dcu.ie). The deadline for submissions is **8th March**.

### Subscribing to the ITIA Bulletin

To subscribe, simply send an email to [itia-ezine-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:itia-ezine-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

To unsubscribe, simply send an email to [itia-ezine-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:itia-ezine-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## ■ New Members of the ITIA

The Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association is delighted to welcome the following new members to the Association:

### SULEMAN YASIR, MA

12 Kennelsfort Green,  
Palmerstown, Dublin 20  
Tel.: 01-623-1374 Mobile: 087 297 1692  
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PUNJABI URDU to and from English – IT, legal, political, marketing, insurance, banking, general

### SCHMIDT SANDRA, DIPTRANS (IOL), DIPSPASP

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GERMAN from English – social science, literature, equestrian, travel, environment, DIY, commercial

### WALSH SABINE, LLB, SOLICITOR,

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### MONDIAL INTERPRETING SERVICES LIMITED

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Email: info@mondialinterpreting.com  
WebSite: www.mondialinterpreting.com  
Contact: Alexander Peshony  
Languages: 61 source and target languages  
Specialisations: technical, legal, commercial

### ULTONIA SOLUTIONS

12 The Brae, Groomsport, BT19 6JG, Northern Ireland  
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Languages: English, German, Irish, Ulster Scots  
Services: Translation and interpreting to and from English

### ARMISEN SARA DIPTRANS

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ENGLISH to and from Spanish – general

### ROS VASILE

162 Briarwood Close, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15  
Tel: 01- 821 1363 Mobile: 085 730 6357 eMail: vasiletina@iolfree.ie  
ROMANIAN to and from English, German – general, commercial, medicine  
Interpreting: Bilateral/Conference

## Joining the ITIA

The Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association welcomes applications for membership. There are five categories of membership:

- ◆ Ordinary
- ◆ Professional
- ◆ Corporate
- ◆ Student
- ◆ Honorary

*Ordinary membership* is open to anyone with an interest in translating or interpreting. *Professional membership* is for those who meet strict criteria set by the professional membership committee of the ITIA and which is part of the drive to raise the status of the profession in the European market.

*Corporate membership* is for firms and agencies associated with the profession while *student membership* is for undergraduates engaged in third level language and/or translation studies. Finally, *honorary membership* is intended for national and international persons who have distinguished themselves in our professional field.

For more information on how to join as well as for the relevant application forms, visit the ITIA website at:

[www.translatorsassociation.ie](http://www.translatorsassociation.ie)

## ■ Reorganisation of EU Translation Service

### Commission approves major reorganisation of its Translation Service to increase effectiveness and prepare for European enlargement

The European Commission has approved a major reorganisation of its Translation Service, on a proposal by Vice-President for Reform Neil Kinnock. The main objectives are to refocus activities on the Commission's core business, increase productivity and effectiveness and introduce the translation capacity required for the new languages resulting from the next enlargement. The Service will be based around two 'Language' Directorates (in Luxembourg & in Brussels) carrying out the translation work itself, and a Resources Directorate to provide horizontal support and management.

The Language Directorate in Luxembourg will be responsible for translation into the languages of the future Member States, as well as German and Dutch. The Brussels-based Directorate will deal with the other languages. The Resources Directorate will increase its focus on sound financial management, set up a central system of contracts with freelance translators and manage the requests and deadlines for freelance translation.

All told, the reorganisation will lead to the progressive creation of 460 posts in Luxembourg, thus contributing to the Commission's aim of consolidating its presence in this Member State. The reorganisation will be effective as of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2003. The Translation Service becomes the Directorate-General for Translation.

## ■ Handy Online Resources

### ONLINE GLOSSARY OF COMPUTER SCIENCE ACRONYMS AND TERMS

Although not the most ergonomically elegant site in the world, Jens Dengler's online glossary does provide some very useful information on abbreviations, acronyms and selected computer terms. The site provides a search function and some entries also give extended German explanations and equivalents.

The glossary can be found at:  
<http://www.surveyor.in-berlin.de/perls/>

### VAT NUMBER VERIFICATION

The European Commission has launched a new online database which allows you to check the validity of a VAT number issued by any EU member state. This free service allows users to quickly confirm the validity of people they are doing business with or considering doing business with.

The database can be found at:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation\\_customs/vies/en/vieshome.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/vies/en/vieshome.htm)

For background information on this service, visit:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation\\_customs/databases/vies\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/databases/vies_en.htm)

## ■ International Literary Translation Centre in Canada

A new international literary translation centre has been established at *The Banff Centre*, in the Canadian Rockies.

Just over a year ago, Peter Bush from the British Centre for Literary Translation and Claude Bleton from CITL in Arles, attended an exploratory colloquium, organised to study the feasibility of setting up the first North American centre in Banff. The colloquium resulted in unanimous support for the creation of the *Banff International Literary Translation Centre (BILTC)*.

The centre will be truly North American in that programming and adjudication will be overseen by an advisory board composed of literary translators representing associations from Canada, Mexico and the United States. The programme at BILTC will begin with a first residency of three weeks, running from 17<sup>th</sup> August - September 2003. The residency programme is open to translators from Canada, Mexico and the United States, translating from any language. The programme is also open to international translators translating literature from the Americas. Applications to the International Literary Translation Centre must be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

For more information, visit:  
[http://www.banffcentre.ca/programs/wp\\_translation\\_centre/](http://www.banffcentre.ca/programs/wp_translation_centre/)

Or contact:  
**Linda Gaboriau**  
*Director*  
*Banff International Literary Translation*  
Email: [arts\\_info@banffcentre.ca](mailto:arts_info@banffcentre.ca)

## ■ Translators to face the balka?

It seems that despite the 10-point plan, which I outlined in the last issue to raise the profile of translators and interpreters we're all doomed! Those clever eggs at *HewlettPackard* have come up with something that could conceivably see translation becoming a thing of the past, something to be looked back on fondly and studied in much the same way as scholars study Sanskrit. How you might ask? Well, what do you get if you cross English, Japanese and Esperanto? You get a hybrid, manufactured language called *Computer Pidgin Language*, CPL for short.

Tired and frustrated at the apparent lack of progress being made in the field of voice recognition, the boffins at *HP Laboratories Bristol* decided that rather than trying to bend computers to the will of their masters, it would make much more sense to get humans to adapt to the capabilities of computers. They examined various different languages - both natural and artificial - to see where computers scored best at voice recognition and where they ran into problems. Taking those phonemes from each language which computers found easiest to "understand" they transposed these rudimentary sounds onto an entirely new lexical and grammatical framework to form the basis for a new, albeit simple language which computers could understand with a great deal of reliability and which humans could learn with minimum effort.

According to the HP white paper which describes CPL, "This is a radical new approach to dealing with the problem of humans talking to computers. The new approach is to teach people a new language that is efficient for dialogues with computers - a sort of artificial spoken language. They go on to say that CPL

could conceivably become a cyber-latin or lingua franca of the Internet.

Sounds great doesn't it? Well it is until you hear what it sounds like. Printer becomes "*crinter*" while telephone becomes "*teleter*". Some expressions are particularly easy for computers to understand and these can be given any meaning you want. So you can say "*balka*", "*coupo*", "*obobify*" or "*okilimox*" and mean practically anything you want.

In designing CPL, the researchers were keen to make it as simple as possible. With this in mind they decided that:

- ◆ Only one diphthong is allowed per word. Diphthongs are: 'ey', 'ay', 'oy', 'ow', 'aw'.
- ◆ Short vowels are not allowed at the end of words. Short vowels are 'aa', 'ao', 'ih', 'eh', 'ae', 'ah', 'uh' and 'aw'.
- ◆ The phones *zh* and *th* are not used
- ◆ The phone *ng* is not a valid starting consonant.
- ◆ The phones *r*, *y* and *w* are not allowed either side of a diphthong.
- ◆ The phone *hh* is not allowed as a second consonant.

With a limited vocabulary and simplified pronunciation rules, it shouldn't be too hard to learn CPL. But kids and teenagers will apparently find it the easiest to learn. Now it's bad enough that they listen to manufactured music but now they'll all be speaking a manufactured language and us old fogies over the age of 20 will need interpreters to understand them when they speak to us. That's if they even bother speaking to us. I mean, if we don't speak CPL we're obviously nowhere near cool enough to merit our existence being acknowledged by them.

What's more, if CPL does become the language of the Internet, will we still need to localise websites? What if CPL breaks out of cyberspace and makes it into the real world? Could we see the end of natural languages and of translation as we know it? Probably not. But then again, stranger things have happened. More than likely it will be the kids who speak CPL. So maybe the future isn't so bleak for translators and interpreters after all. Admittedly, the landscape for translation could change radically with everything being translated into or out of CPL but parents will always need to talk to their kids.

One thing is for certain, though, if this does catch on it won't matter how *coupo* kids may find it, it'll be a pain in the *okilimox* for the rest of us!

Jody Byrne, MITIA

## ■ Work Placements & Internships

We have had a number of enquiries from Spanish postgraduate localisation students looking for work placements during the summer with companies outside Spain. These students are looking for professional experience translating from Spanish > English and vice versa.

If you can offer such placements or know of a company that does, please email [editor@skopos.net](mailto:editor@skopos.net). We have to stress that neither the *ITIA* nor the *ITIA Bulletin* can become directly involved in such placements and we cannot accept responsibility for them - we can only put people in touch with each other.

## ■ Conferences

### **ICML-IX: International Conference of Minority Languages**

**Department of Finnish, Stockholm university in co-operation with Nordic universities**

6-7<sup>th</sup> June 2003, Kiruna, Sweden

The main theme of the conference will be revitalization of use of languages, especially languages used by small groups of people. The conference offers an opportunity to discuss:

- ◆ Revitalisation of minority languages, especially case studies of actual practice.
- ◆ Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages with particular attention to smaller language groups.
- ◆ Language policies concerning smaller language groups.
- ◆ Language planning by smaller language groups.
- ◆ Cultural development and quality of life in regions where smaller languages are used.
- ◆ Experiences from bilingual education and immersion classes for children who use smaller languages.
- ◆ Any topic concerning the smaller languages in the Barents and Baltic regions.
- ◆ Speakers will have 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion. Abstracts are due no later than 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2003.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.finska.su.se/konf03.html>

### **CORPUS LINGUISTICS 2003:**

**Department of Linguistics and MEL, Lancaster University**

28<sup>th</sup> March - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003, Lancaster University, UK

Corpus Linguistics 2003 will be a forum for all concerned with the computer-assisted empirical analysis of natural language. Taking a broad definition of 'corpus' the organisers would welcome those working on substantial literary texts or other kinds of text collection as well as more 'traditional' corpus linguists. Similarly, the conference aims to encourage further cross-fertilization between work occurring in language engineering (e.g. information extraction, parsing) and linguistics.

For the main conference, papers of ca. 20 minutes are invited on topics such as:

- ◆ corpus-based studies of any language level in any language,
- ◆ contrastive corpus linguistics,
- ◆ computer-aided studies of style,
- ◆ corpus- or text-based lexicography,
- ◆ corpus/text building,
- ◆ encoding and annotation, development of corpus-based language engineering tools,
- ◆ applications of computer-aided text analysis in non-linguistic fields (market research, advertising, media studies, sociology, psychology, etc.)

For more information, visit:

<http://www.comp.lancs.ac.uk/ucrel/cl2003/>

## ■ Conferences

### **STC Annual Conference**

#### **The Society for Technical Communication**

18<sup>th</sup> May 2003, Texas, USA

The *Society for Technical Communication* presents the largest conference in the world for technical writers, usability specialists, Web designers, and others involved in technical communication. Seminar topics include manual production, online help design, and internationalization of communication products. Information and a sign-up form are available from the STC website.

For more information, visit:

[www.stc.org](http://www.stc.org)

## ■ Training, Courses & Education

### **Intensive Courses in Translation for Media**

**Centre for Language Studies, City University, London, England.**

This course programme will equip the translator with the necessary skills to work in the fields of film and video, television and multimedia. The course content in each language option will vary slightly as it is tailored to the needs of the local market. The course is targeted at Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and German mother-tongue translators.

#### **Tuition fees**

Stage I    £495    Stage II    £395    Stage III    £395

For more information, visit:

<http://www.city.ac.uk/lang>

### **Institute for the Study of Language and Society:**

#### **One-day workshop on assessing translation**

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2003, Birmingham, UK

The Institute for the Study of Language and Society and the Translation Studies Subject Group at Aston University are organising a one-day workshop on assessing translation, to be held on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2003. The workshop will bring together academic staff from UK universities involved in teaching translation, representatives from language departments in colleges and schools, professional organisations, and professional translators.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.les.aston.ac.uk/isls.html>

## ■ Contacting The ITIA

Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association  
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### ITIA BULLETIN

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## ■ ITIA Resources for Translators

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* has compiled a series of useful information leaflets for translators and interpreters - both members and non-members alike. These leaflets are available from the ITIA website at [www.translatorsassociation.ie](http://www.translatorsassociation.ie).

- ◆ *The Translation Profession*
- ◆ *Joining the ITA*
- ◆ *Application Ordinary Members*
- ◆ *Professional Membership Application*
- ◆ *DataBase Entry*
- ◆ *Code of Practice*
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