News from the Archive of the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics

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ISO TC37/SC4
Another TC37/SC4 meeting took place in Pisa recently. This ISO subcommittee has the task of creating standards in the area of language resource maintenance. A number of projects are underway:

- An open and ISO compliant registry for linguistic data categories (concepts that occur in metadata, morphology phonology etc.), has been defined and will soon be available to the general public via the web;
- A standard for a flexible lexicon model called LMF (Lexicon Markup Framework) is being discussed;
- A standard for a flexible annotation framework called LAF (Linguistic Annotation Framework) is also being discussed.

The MPI presented its lexicon tool, LEXUS, during that meeting. It implements the LMF model and allows us to work with lexicon structures in a manner similar to Lego blocks, and already has a connection with the data category registry. It was accepted as a test and implementation platform.

Archive exploration framework
Web-accessible language archives are becoming increasingly important. Therefore, it will be very important to create frameworks that allow us to easily ingest new resources, or new versions of existing resources, and to explore the archive content in a flexible way via the web. Currently, the MPI is working on an exploration framework that will include working on annotated media with ELAN-type access methods, on lexica with a web-based LEXUS version, and on texts. IMDI metadata will be used to select a set of resources. A first meeting with some interested users was organised to talk about general concepts and ideas. Further discussions with other potential users will be held in the future to consolidate ideas. A first version will be presented at the beginning of the new year with the goal of opening up a broad discussion within the DOBES programme and at the MPIs in Nijmegen and Leipzig. Co-funding from the Max-Planck-Society was granted to work on a system for collaborative commentaries that will allow the drawing of relationships between different corpus fragments, exploration of these relationships, and the ability to make comments on corpus fragments. In 2005 we hope to be able to work on these projects as well.