Knowledge Organization

Fourth Annual "Best Paper in KO Award" for Volume 43 (2016)†

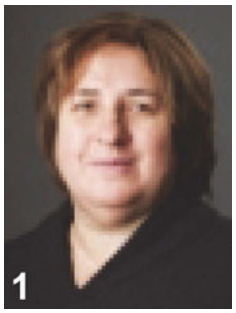
Awarded to:

Elaine Ménard, Nouf Khashman, Svetlana Kochkina, Juan-Manuel Torres-Moreno, Patricia Velazquez-Morales, Fen Zhou, Pierre Jourlin, Priyanka Rawat, Peter Peinl, Elvys Linhares Pontes and Ilaria Brunetti.
"A Second Life for TIIARA: From Bilingual to Multilingual!"
Knowledge Organization 43 no. 1: 22-34.

Abstract: Multilingual controlled vocabularies are rare and often very limited in the choice of languages offered. TIIARA (Taxonomy for Image Indexing and RetrievAl) is a bilingual taxonomy developed for image indexing and retrieval. This controlled vocabulary offers indexers and image searchers innovative and coherent access points for ordinary images. The preliminary steps of the elaboration of the bilingual structure are presented. For its initial development, TIIARA included only two languages, French and English. As a logical follow-up, TIIARA was translated into eight languages—Arabic, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Mandarin Chinese, Italian, German, Hindi and Russian—in order to increase its international scope. This paper briefly describes the different stages of the development of the bilingual structure. The processes used in the translations are subsequently presented, as well as the main difficulties encountered by the translators. Adding more languages in TIIARA constitutes an added value for a controlled vocabulary meant to be used by image searchers, who are often limited by their lack of knowledge of multiple languages.

Elaine Ménard is Associate Professor at the School of Information Studies, McGill University, Montreal, Canada. Her teaching expertise includes cataloguing, indexing, classification and information retrieval. Her main research interests deal with cross-language information retrieval, image indexing and metadata.

Nouf Khashman is Senior Information Services Librarian for Learning Resources at Qatar National Library (QNL), responsible for developing and coordinating programs and services for the community, and leading the activities of the Learning Commons and the Adaptive Technology and Services. Prior to joining QNL, Nouf worked on several research projects related to human-information interaction, including information visualization and bilingual information retrieval. Her research interests lay in design, user experience, and usability (DUXU) and cross-cultural communication.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Svetlana Kochkina is a PhD candidate at the McGill School of Information Studies and a librarian at the McGill University Law Library. Her main research interests include: evolution of the form and paratextual elements of the book; history of publishing, reading, and book collecting in cultural and social context; history of institutional and private libraries.

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† Awards Committee for Volume 43 (2016): Aida Slavic, chair; Kathryn La Barre, Widad Mustafa el Hadi, Rick Szostak, and Thomas Dousa.

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