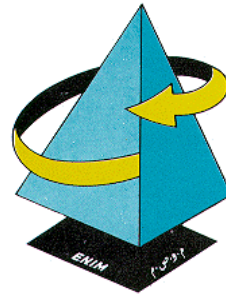


US – Morocco Language Technology Research and Education Program: Project Startup and Team-Building Workshop

Hosted at

Ecole Nationale de l'Industrie Minérale
Ave. Hadj Ahmed Cherkaoui, B-P 753, Agdal, Rabat, Morocco



May 29 - June 2, 2006

Sponsors

The National Science Foundation ♦ *Kansas State University*



The Great Plains Network ♦ *American Distance Education Consortium*



WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVES

With the support of the National Science Foundation of the United States, a workshop targeted at developing stronger research and educational ties between Moroccan and American universities and establishing a joint program of study towards a Master's Degree in Human Language Technologies will be held in Rabat on the aforementioned dates. The workshop envisions the participation of faculty members, researchers, and students at several Moroccan and American universities, as well as selected industrial employers in Morocco. Participants in the workshop will engage in building a common research and education agenda through *information sharing*, *goal setting*, *strategic planning*, and *cross-cultural teambuilding* activities. The workshop is sponsored by the National Science Foundation of the United States of America through an award to **Kansas State University**.

RESEARCH GOALS

To enable participating faculty and students from the US and Morocco to:

- 1 Familiarize themselves with research problems currently being tackled and expertise in the Human Language Technologies areas;
- 2 Identify a common set of research problems relating to the processing of the initial languages of interest (English, Arabic and Berber) and make plans to develop HLT applications; and
- 3 Prioritize and develop partnerships to tackle the set of problems.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

To enable participants to:

- 4 Identify methodologies for effective teaching of Human Language Technologies to an audience with diverse backgrounds (Linguistics, Computer Science, Psychology, Information Science), and with a wide range of proficiencies in these fields;
- 5 Identify potential contributory components (courses) from each university towards a joint degree program in HLT and needed courses to be developed to complete a program in HLT;
- 6 Develop a plan for implementing the joint HLT curriculum.

Additional goals for the workshop include developing a plan for collaborative exchange between faculty and students in Moroccan universities and universities in the GPN region of the US and increasing ties between industry and academia in Morocco.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Dr. Gregory E. Monaco (greg@greatplains.net), Co-chair
Great Plains Network and
Kansas State University

Dr. Janet Poley (janetpoley@yahoo.com)
American Distance Education Consortium

Dr. Abdelhadi Soudi (asoudi@gmail.com), Co-chair
Ecole Nationale de l'Industrie Minérale

Dr. Violetta Cavalli-Sforza (violetta@cs.cmu.edu)
Carnegie Mellon University

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Monday, May 29

Tour of Rabat

Tuesday, May 30

09:00 – 10:00 Opening ceremony: formal welcome and introductions; workshop overview

10:00 – 10:15 Coffee break

10:15 – 11:15 Climate Setting/Team Building Activity; Expectation Sharing; Workshop Overview; Goals and Activities Discussion – (J. Poley, American Distance Education Consortium, United States)

11:15 – 12:45 Research Presentations (30 min. each, including questions/discussion) 1.30

- 1 Using Morphological Generalization in Arabic-English Example-Based Machine Translation (Violetta Cavalli-Sforza, Fulbright Visiting researcher at the Ecole Nationale de l'Industrie Minérale, Morocco)
- 2 Machine Translation and Statistical Language Learning in the KSU Lab for Knowledge Discovery in Databases (William Hsu, Kansas State University, United States)
- 3 A Psycholinguistic View of Language Processing Issues Relevant for Machine Translation (R. Harris, Kansas State University, United States)

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Research Presentations (30 min. each, including questions/discussion) 1.30

- 1 Promotion of Language Resources and Language Engineering For the Mediterranean Languages (H. Kerfi, Mediterranean Language Technology Center)
- 2 Research activities of the Arabic NLP research group at IERA (A. Hamdani, Institut d'Etudes et de Recherches pour l'Arabization)
- 3 Some aspects of the processing of the Amazighe language (L. Zenkouar, Institut Royal de la Culture Amazighe, Morocco)

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 – 16:15 Collaborative Research: The GPN Experience (G. Monaco, Great Plains Network Consortium and Kansas State University, United States)

16:15 – 17:45 Research Presentations (30 min. each, including questions/discussion) 1.30

- 4 MachineProse: An Ontological Framework for Scientific Assertions (Yugyung Lee, University of Missouri Kansas-City, United States)
- 5 Development of NLP systems, Intelligent Systems, and Multi-Agent Systems with Amine Platform (A. Kabbaj, Institut National de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée, Morocco)
- 6 E-document scientific multilingual processing (A. Lazrek & K. Sami, Faculty of Science, Cadi Ayyad University, Morocco)

17:45 – 18:15 Reflection on the Day - What did we learn? What do we want to know more about? What worked?

Dinner

Wednesday, May 31

09:00 – 12:00 Visit of Rabat universities and Mediterranean Language Technology Center

12:00 – 13:15 Lunch

13:15 – 13:45 Climate Setting - Goal Sharing and Overview of Day – J. Poley, ADEC

13:45 – 15:15 Research Presentations (30 min. each, including questions/discussion) 1.45

1 Experimental Phonetics in Speech (M. Yeou, Chouaib Doukkali University, Eljadida, Morocco)

2 The Centisecond Two-Level Hidden Semi-Markov Model (A. Yousfi & A. Meziane, Institut d'Etudes et de Recherches pour l'Arabization and Mohammed I University, Morocco)

3 The Linearization of Arabic Morphology: Should It Take Place in the Lexicon, in Morphology or in Both...? (A. Souidi, Ecole Nationale de l'Industrie Minérale, Morocco)

15:15 – 15:45 Roundtable 1: Interdisciplinary Research and Education in HLT

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30 Research Presentations (30 min. each, including questions/discussion) 1.30

1 Arabic Dialect Modeling (N. Habash, Columbia University, United States)

2 The "Marqueur" system and its role in automatic lexical disambiguation (A. Mokhtari, Ibn Tofail University, Morocco)

3 Parsing Using RDF for Support (P. Juell, North Dakota State University)

17:30 – 18:15 ADEC Experience on Distance Education (J.Poley, American Distance Education Consortium, United States)

18:15 – 18:30 Reflection on the Day

Thursday, June 1

09:00 – 09:30 Climate Setting - Goal Sharing and Overview of Day

09:30 – 11:30 Research Presentations (30 min. each, including questions/discussion) 2.00

1 Applying Human Language Technologies—Ontologies, Clustering, Classification—to Multi-Site Browsing (M. Spiretta, University of Kansas, United States)

2 Conceptual Web Search (A. Garrett, University of Kansas, United States)

3 Arabic Text Retrieval (S. Boulaknadel, F. Ataa Allah, A. El Qadi, D.Aboutajdine, Mohammed V University, Faculty of Sciences, Morocco)

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 12:45 Roundtable 2: Research Exchange and Partnerships

12:45 – 14:15 Lunch

14:15 – 15:15 Roundtable 3: Joint Curriculum Development Opportunities

15:15 – 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:00 Strategic Planning and Next Steps

17:30 – 18:00 Final words and then ...Dinner

Friday, June 2

Excursion to Fez