Multilingual Archival Terminology

Technology and Collaboration in the Global Archival Community

AABC Conference 2016
(De)Constructing Information: Frameworks, People, Technology
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Background

InterPARES glossaries / ICA dictionaries • 2010

ICA – InterPARES Dictionary Project begins

United Arab Emirates support further development • 2015

Multilingual Terminology Dictionary launched • 2016
ICA-InterPARES Dictionary Project

• 2010 – ICA-SAE embraced the challenge of creating an interactive, online, multilingual archival terminology database based on usage

• Luciana Duranti – Project Director

• Corinne Rogers – Project Coordinator

• 300 core terms

• 16 languages
Goal

• To support archivists, records managers, and information managers in their understanding of records-related concepts

• To reflect as much as possible national archival traditions and their evolution, and regional usage

• To approach an international shared tradition based on core concepts from archival theory
Adding right-to-left language support

• Even while our intention was to remove language preference as much as possible, our bias for left-to-right written text affected the scope of the project

• In 2015 with the help of Ian Wilson, Luciana Duranti approached the United Arab Emirates to address this issue
The MAT is...

• An international source based on usage
• A dynamic tool reflecting changes over time
• A resource created by professionals
• A resource maintained by its users
• A reference for students and professionals
The MAT is not...

- A static source purporting to provide the “right” definitions
- A source that preferences one language over another
- A straight translation of English terminology and definitions
How does it work?

- General Administrator: Luciana Duranti
- Individual language administrators
  - Responsible for registering contributors
  - Responsible for reviewing submissions for completeness, source, form
- If you want to be a contributor, request registration
Thank you!
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