

1998 Dictionary Reviews

Dictionary Reviews compiled by Albert Bork

January 1998

The Oxford Hindi-English Dictionary

Author: R.S.McGregor

Reviewed by: Dileep Karanth

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Date of Publication: July 1997 (first published 1993)

ISBN: 0-19-864339-X

Price: \$25 ppr.

This Hindi-English dictionary, edited by the author of a very influential work on Hindi grammar, fulfills a long-standing need in Hindi lexicography. McGregor points out in the preface that most of the work done in the last century in this field tended to emphasize the Urdu aspect of the language. The best dictionaries were arranged in a manner designed to facilitate a user reading Urdu. Valuable Hindi dictionaries appeared in the first half of this century, but they have not been able to keep pace with the rapid development in the language.

In recent years Hindi has emerged as a pan-Indian language. The debate whether languages such as Braj, Avadhi, and Bhojpuri are “dialects” of Hindi or “sister languages” has not been settled, and probably will not be for a long time to come; however, words from these languages have come to find a place in the Hindi lexicon. A student of Hindi will have to deal with literature in these languages sooner or later.

A good Hindi dictionary could reasonably be expected not only to cover Urdu vocabulary, but also words from Braj, Avadhi, and Southern Hindi, and even words heard commonly in the extremities of the Hindi-speaking heartland, in Punjab, Rajasthan, and Bihar. While much of this non-standard Hindi vocabulary is generously dealt with, the coverage of grammatical function words from these sources is rather insufficient. The Punjabi *haur* (and), the Eastern Hindi *klInna* (to buy), and the Braj *bhayau* (became) are all listed as are the standard Hindi *aur*, *kharIdna*, and *huA*. But the Rajasthan *mhAro* (my) and the Braj *ajhum* (yet, still) are surprisingly absent, while the decidedly less common Persian *hanoz* (yet, still) is listed.

Indian languages invariably use both *tatsama* (unmodified Sanskrit words) and *tadbhava* (modified words derived from Sanskrit). Thus, the Sanskrit word *mantra* and its *tadbhava* *mantar* are both in use. Both words, and many other such pairs, are listed. *Tadbhava* words also contribute significantly to regional variations in Hindi, and the dictionary captures all these diversities admirably. Complex words formed on the basis of Hindi etymology often compete with more classical Sanskrit words. In such cases, both forms have been listed, as in the case of the nouns *catuAI* (Hindi) and *caturtA* (Sanskrit), formed from the adjective *catu* (cunning).

The dictionary has profited from the fact that “by the time the work was nearing completion, production by computer combining of roman and Devanagari scripts had become feasible.” The result is a superb, eminently readable typeface. A few errors in transcription, presumably due to the eccentricities of the computer font, have crept in, as on page 781, where the word *magzi* appears as *magiz*. Rarer still are spelling errors such as the word *gaveshaN*a and *mriyamAN*a, which appear incorrectly as *gaveshana* and *mriyamAna*. In some places, the less common pronunciation variants of words have been listed as variants of more common forms, but the commoner forms are themselves unlisted. Such is the case with the word *catAkh*, quoted as a variant of the (unlisted) *catAk*.

Urdu words, transcribed into Devanagari often have more than one rendering. The dictionary takes care to mention such differences, as in the word *zard* (yellow), spelt both as *zard* and *zar(a)d*.

In addition to the pronunciation of all the words listed, the original source-words from Sanskrit, Prakrit, Persian, Arabic, and Turkish have also been included. The correct transliteration of the Arabic loanwords will be of great use to students learning Urdu. An attempt has been made to trace all words to their ultimate source, as for instance, in the Perso-Arabic word *daqiyAnUs*, which derives from the Latin *Decianus*. However, Indic words reentering Hindi via Arabic are not always traced back to their Sanskritic sources. That is the case with words like *shatranj* (chess), *sandal* (sandalwood), *kAfUr* (camphor), etc., which are properly derived from the Sanskrit *chaturanga*, *chandana*, and *karpUra*.

The few errors scattered amongst the 70,000 entries in the dictionary hardly detract from its utility. I predict for the dictionary a success as lasting as that of its predecessor, *Platts' Dictionary of Urdu, Classical Hindi and English*. In view of its guaranteed usefulness and long shelf life, it seems a pity that there should be any paperback editions of the book at all. Oxford University Press has done well to publish this dictionary under its illustrious logo.

A Dictionary of Euphemisms

Author: R. W. Holder

Review by: Mark Juditz

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Place of publication: Oxford and New York

Date of publication: 1996

ISBN: 0-19-280051-5

Price: \$13.95

Number of pages: 470

Binding: paperback

Typeface: entries in small print, explanatory information and quotations in very small print.

This dictionary sets out to cover the expressions English speakers use to convey concepts across the spectrum of human experience that they would rather not refer to directly. The author claims the four basic purposes for such indirectness are “evasion, hypocrisy, prudery, and deceit,” although he does not spend any time arguing that less sinister motives might not be just as important.

The author has culled expressions both from spoken language and from a vast gamut of written sources. As in other areas, decisions about what to include are very much the result of the author’s circumstances. He concedes that he spends almost all of his time in England and Ireland and has limited access to periodicals from English-speaking sources in other countries, though the books he quotes from are far more geographically diverse. In general, his coverage of North American usage is quite good despite his disclaimer. The admitted bias is clear from his marking strictly U.S. or strictly Australian usage as such, but not marking expressions used only in England.

His decisions about chronological coverage are likewise very personal. He quotes from sources as far back as Shakespeare, and includes expressions that went out of active use in the language centuries ago. His justification is that he included expressions he “finds interesting,” reflecting his generally very personal, slightly arbitrary, but ultimately fascinating approach.

Structurally, the work consists of an introduction, the body, and an index. The introduction discusses the author’s method in gathering information and offers interesting observations on the psychology of euphemism. In the dictionary proper, the heads of the entries are words or expressions given in bold face and ordered alphabetically. A definition follows, and a note in smaller type explains usage. In many cases a quotation demonstrates usage. Entries are indexed at the back of the book under various domains of euphemistic usage.

A survey of 30 euphemisms chosen by the reviewer [to represent the areas the author wants to cover] found 20 covered and 10 not covered by the dictionary. Given the subjective nature of the field and a possible bias of the survey list toward American expressions, the result shows the excellent coverage of the dictionary. This reviewer ran into one term while watching a documentary on gay pornography less than a week after encountering the expression for the first time in the dictionary. The definitions provided for the terms are quite accurate and clear, and information is quite up-to-date. No guidance on pronunciation is given but as almost all of the terms are in common English usage and could be found in even the smallest standard dictionaries, this omission is quite justifiable.

This dictionary will prove entertaining and informative for anyone interested in the English language. The introduction is a thought-provoking essay touching on the history, psychology, and sociology of euphemistic usage. As noted the body of the work shows good coverage, making it likely that any attempt to look up a specific term will be successful. The indexing of entries allows the book to be used as a reference on euphemism in specific domains or as a thesaurus for the writer looking for a different way to say, e.g., “copulation.” The work will prove invaluable for the translator living outside the English-speaking world, who may find it difficult to keep up with contemporary colloquial language and is impeded in looking up many terms by the squeamishness of many dictionary-makers about numerous topics even in euphemized form. Finally, simply leafing through the pages will bring a, perhaps amusing, recognition of just how much circumlocution each of us indulges in every day.

Elsevier's Dictionary of Acronyms, Initialisms, Abbreviations and Symbols

Compiled and edited by: Fioretta Benedetto Mattia

Reviewed by: Sharlee Merner Bradley

Publisher: Elsevier Science B.V., Sara Burgerhartstraat 25, P.O. Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Date of publication: 1997

Place of publication: Milan, Italy

ISBN: 0-444-82589-4.

Price: \$187

The first thing to notice about Elsevier's new volume of acronyms, etc. is the change in font from the pale type-writer Courier of my old Elsevier dictionaries to a beautiful, legible, large font, the name of which is not given, although the publishers do state that the paper is acid-free. The binding, as usual with Elsevier, is handsome, up to hard use, and in the same style as before.

Acronyms and abbreviations are one of the thorns that gall translators. Although many times the expansion of a new abbreviation is to be found elsewhere in the text, often the writer assumes knowledge on the part of the reader, not realizing the extent of the dissemination of the document. Even though translators can never have enough acronym dictionaries, the acronym they want is often not to be found in any. Sometimes the concept is newer than the dictionary, and all over the world the use of acronyms has become so widespread that they could never all be catalogued and published in time to be useful to cutting-edge translators.

Be that as it may, the new Benedetto fills its own niche, which a review of the introductory material and the contents will reveal is generally for translators who work *from American English*. There is an enormous list of subject fields and subfields covered. The compiler herself has a commercial, scientific, economic, and legal background with experience in chemistry, medicine, physics, energy, and other fields. So we can expect all these fields to be covered and more.

Curiously enough, the List of Sources and References, which I expected to be helpful, turned out to be basically a list of articles from only two U.S. publications: Murray State University's *Business & Public Affairs* and the *National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Review*.

The present evaluation of the content involved a triple comparison between Benedetto and two older volumes I have acquired in used bookstores: the large Gale of 1976¹ and its supplement, and a 1976 Elsevier by Ralph de Sola.² I took one page of Benedetto with its 31 entries from NECC to NEPHGE and compared it to the other two lists. In the same alphabetical space, Gale holds 164 entries, plus 14 in the supplement, making a total of 178, while De Sola lists 70.

The difference, mere quantity aside, is that the Benedetto is bound to be more useful for more current items. It is not unlikely that a fair number of the terms in Gale and De Sola are no longer used because the organizations or concepts are no longer in use or in existence. As for fields covered, Gale is near universal, Benedetto broad (claiming 800), and De Sola non-exclusive. In languages covered, percentage-wise the De Sola is best, though Gale also has several thousand foreign terms. Benedetto introduces only "a few" French and Italian terms.

On that one page in Benedetto, of the 31 acronyms, eight referred to different expansions from the Gale and eight to different expansions from De Sola. Benedetto listed only eight terms not listed in Gale (plus the eight with different expansions) and five not listed in De Sola. Of De Sola's 70 terms, 58 were not in Benedetto, plus eight with different expansions.

There are a number of appendices at the end of Benedetto's alphabetical listing that extract certain categories of abbreviations, such as airport codes. I looked up the code for Toronto, but I couldn't find it. It may be there, if it does not begin with a T, but you cannot search by city and find the code. I shall be nitpicky and complain of the space wasted by repeating a complete sentence after each code: "The airport code for..." That was probably the method chosen to distinguish the airport code from the airline code, the two types of code being melded into a single list.

I call attention to an oddity. Every acronym or abbreviation that coincides in form with a real Italian word is followed by another entry such as the following:

NEI National Eye Institute—U.S.A.

nei, the above acronym, was coined accidentally using the Italian word "nei" which means: "beauty-spots; birth-marks"

As with so many dictionaries that come to my attention, this one is most useful to translators from English. I would not part with my old Gale and De Sola, but I am looking forward to finding some unknown acronyms in Benedetto. The clear conclusion is that a translator needs every source he can afford.

¹ Acronyms, Initialisms & Abbreviations dictionary, Fifth Edition, edited by Ellen T. Crowley. 756 pp. (130,000 acronyms) and supplementary volume (12,000). Gale Research Company, Detroit, Michigan.

² Abbreviations Dictionary, New International Fourth Edition, 1976. 428 pp. American Elsevier Publishing Company Inc., 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, NY 10017. February

February 1998

Vocabulaire de la sécurité et des virus informatiques—Bulletin de terminologie 226

Vocabulary of Computer Security and Viruses—Terminology Bulletin 226

Reviewed by Yves Quervel

Author: François Richard

Publisher: Terminology and Documentation Directorate, Translation Bureau, Public Works and Government Services Canada

Date of publication: 1995

ISBN: 0-660-59791-8

Price: \$29.95 in Canada, \$29.95 in U.S.

Available from: Bookstores throughout Canada or by mail from Communication Group—Publishing, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0S9, Tel: (819) 997-2560

Number of pages/entries: 333 pp., approximately 1,600 entries

Type and quality of binding: Average (paperback)

Quality of paper and print: Average

Typeface and legibility: Medium size and clear

Convenience of look-up: Good

Grammatical information: None

Contextual and encyclopedic information: Approximately 75 percent of entries have definition, context, or usage sample

Appendices: Bibliography of about 50 works related to computer security

Percent “filler” words: None

20 terms one would expect to find in this type of work:

(X indicates that the term is present)

English-French Glossary

mutated virus	X
boot-sector virus	X
polymorphism	—
security breach	X
virus scanning	X
macro virus	—
multipartite virus	X
cookie	—
stealth virus	X
clear text	X
firewall	—
French-English Glossary	
virus furtif	X
intrusion	X
accès frauduleux	—
centre de sauvegarde	X
entrave volontaire	—
clé secrète	X
sinistre informatique	X
gabarit	—
somme de contrôle	X
chaîne d'identification	X

Reviewer's comment:

This 8.5”x 5.5” bilingual publication presents the vocabulary of computer viruses, their propagation, their reproduction, and the damage they cause. In addition to computer viruses, it covers the following specific areas of computer security: logical access control, data protection, back-up measures, cryptography, and criminal activities.

The 220-page English-French section contains the descriptions and usage notes for the terms, both in English and in French. A main term is followed by its synonyms in each language and the synonyms are cross-referenced to the

main term entry. The 100-page French-English section does not contain the descriptions and usage notes, but it directly provides the translated term (and its synonyms) for the synonyms of a main entry without resorting to cross-referencing.

Although this publication does not seem to focus on macro and Internet viruses, it provides a solid coverage of computer software security. In addition to terminology units, it contains phrases and translation units that can help the translators who are not very familiar with the topic.

**The World Bank Glossary
(English-Spanish/Spanish-English)**

Published: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, Washington, DC 1996

ISBN: 0-8213-3595-2

Price: \$49.95

Available from: World Bank Publications, Dulles, VA

Number of pages: 426 pp.

Type and quality of binding: Softbound, clear, easy-to-read type

**Elsevier's Dictionary of Financial and Economic Terms
(English-Spanish/Spanish-English)**

Authors: Martha Uriona and José Daniel Kwacz

Publisher: Elsevier, Amsterdam

ISBN: 0-444-82256-9

Price: \$172

Reviewed by Marian S. Greenfield

Elsevier's has 311 pp., many of them mostly white space, is hardbound, and has a clear, easy-to-read typeface, but a very annoying format. The dictionary is divided into four sections in the following order: S>E explanations, E>S explanations, S>E word-to-word dictionary (glossary), and E>S word-to-word dictionary. The two explanations sections also include translations. Some words appear in both sections, wasting (not-so-valuable) space, while others are not repeated, and therefore you have to look in two sections to be sure the term will not be found. Some acronyms/abbreviations are included, although I haven't figured out the logic behind where they are found. **FIFO** is a headword in the S>E explanations section, along with **F.O.B.** and **LIFO** and various other English acronyms, all of which have perfectly good equivalents in Spanish—**PEPS**, **LAB**, and **UEPS**. True, the English acronym is often used in Spanish, but why put it in the S>E section and omit the Spanish acronym? The same headwords appear in the E>S explanations section, this time with the definition in Spanish. Several other English terms appear in quotes in the S>E section and are repeated in the E>S section.

Look-up in the *World Bank Glossary* is generally convenient. However, it gives standard acronyms/abbreviations only after the headword. Unfortunately, they do not appear in any alphabetical listing, so they cannot be searched. In both works, each term has an individual entry, resulting in multiple entries for one term. I would prefer to see these entries aligned under a single headword.

Elsevier contains some absurdities: **processing beneficitation** as the headword for *beneficio de transformación*, and **interest method of accumulation** (rather than accrual) for *método de acumulación a base de intereses*, apparently reversals of a glossary with some bad translations. **Bleach** is given as a headword for *blanquear*, which means to launder (money). Many translations are also off target: **give a bonus to** is translated as *conceder un bono*—the same “word-to-word” section correctly gives *bonificación* for **bonus**. The translation given in the E>S explanations section for **consorcio de bancos** is *consortium bank* (rather than *bank syndicate*, correctly given for **consorcio bancario** in the E>S word-to-word dictionary). **Economía informal** is translated as *black economy* (black market) and **economías de escala** as *scale economies* (economies of scale). There are some typos (I did not find many): **action against endorses** (endorsers) **of a bill**, which is then mistranslated as *acción contra endosos cambiarios*. There are also many filler words: **listado, local, boss, buy, client, data, file of papers, jammed, keep, knowledge, reply, useful**.

The headwords in Elsevier's are printed in bold. Both works include diacritical marks for Spanish headwords. In *The World Bank Glossary*, it is the translations that are printed in bold, making the glossary somewhat more difficult to read. Neither work provides gender information or distinguishes parts of speech. No contextual information is given in Elsevier's and little in *The World Bank Glossary*. The explanations the latter does provide are quite useful: <<**Group of Ten**—*Grupo de los Diez*: Also known as the Paris Club, it consists of the wealthiest members of the IMF that provide most of the money for lending. It currently has 11 members...>> No examples, appendices, or tables are provided.

The following are the results of an English to Spanish expected-term search. Terms found in both these works as well as in other banking and business dictionaries (Gil Esteban's *Diccionario bancario español-inglés*, the LID *Diccionario empresarial Stanford* or Ariel's Alcaraz Varó/Hughes *Diccionario de términos económicos, financieros y comerciales*): **mutual fund, preferred stock, settlement** (in *The World Bank*, only in the sense of a dispute, while in Elsevier's, the translations given are *conciliación* and *saldo*—strange that a financial dictionary would omit *liquidación*).

Found in Elsevier, but not *The World Bank Glossary*: **interim dividend, trader**

Found in *The World Bank Glossary*, but not Elsevier: **arm's length** (principle), **foreign exchange risk, income bracket, pari passu clause, performance indicators, spin-off, takeover bid, take-and-pay contract, tax write-off**

Terms found elsewhere but neither in *The World Bank Glossary* nor in Elsevier's: **default interest, market maker, repo, white knight, Wages Guarantee Fund**

Now for the results of a Spanish to English search:

Terms found in both works as well as in other banking and business dictionaries: **exigible, plusvalía** (correctly translated in *The World Bank Glossary* as *capital gain*, while in Elsevier translated as *goodwill, unearned increment, and increased value*), **producto interno bruto**.

Found in Elsevier, but not *The World Bank Glossary*: **caja chica, and obligacionista**.

Found in *The World Bank Glossary*, but not Elsevier: **capital de riesgo, flujo de caja**.

Terms found elsewhere but neither in *The World Bank Glossary* nor in Elsevier's: **captación de fondos and pasivo circulante**.

Terms found in *The World Bank Glossary* but not elsewhere: **activos improductivos (activo improductivo** was found in Gil Esteban, but not translated correctly), **reintegro acelerado, relación precio-utilidades** (and various other ratios not found elsewhere).

I found *The World Bank Glossary* to be generally reliable and to have few errata. It contains many useful, hard-to-find terms, particularly terms involving international financing. It is definitely a welcome addition to a Spanish translator's bookshelf, and a bargain to boot. On the other hand, while many of Elsevier's definitions in the explanations sections are quite good, its translations often are not and it is ridiculously overpriced. For a little less than twice the cost of the Elsevier, you could buy the excellent three-volume *Diccionario enciclopédico profesional de finanzas y banca* and for under \$20 each you could buy several volumes in the Barron's series of specialized (financial, insurance, accounting, etc.) dictionaries, giving you a lot more to show for your money.

Le guide du rédacteur

Avant-propos de Diane Monnet, présidente-directrice générale, Bureau de la traduction
Bureau de la traduction, Ministre des Travaux publics et Services gouvernementaux Canada
Public Works and Government Services Canada—Publishing, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0S9

Publication date: first edition in 1996. New edition, revised and expanded. Previously published as "Guide du rédacteur de l'administration fédérale," 1983

ISBN: 0-660-9500-5 Cat. # S53-8-1996F

Price: \$23.95 (Where available) sold in Canada in bookstores or by correspondence through Groupe Communications Canada. Availability by phone (819) 956-4800, Fax (819) 994-1498. For orders by Visa and MasterCard, 1-800-565-7757. Also available on Internet at www.publications.pwgsc.gc.ca

Reviewed by: Michel Meunier

Specialty or field:

This second edition of *Le guide du rédacteur* is a writing and editing tool that should be a significant contribution to effective communications in French speaking Canada.

Although designed primarily for federal public servants, it is particularly helpful to language professionals everywhere, including writers and translators facing the day-to-day problems of editorial style.

Over the years, *Le guide du rédacteur* has become an essential tool for anyone writing in French. It answers a lot of questions on the use of capital letters, italics, punctuation marks, the presentation of numerical expressions, abbreviations, quotations, as well as hyphenation. This completely revised edition covers additional topics. This guide now includes chapters on techniques to avoid sexual stereotyping, guideline in drafting correspondence and using plain language, and precise rules on bibliographic references for print, visual and electronic media, and geographic names.

Typographical guide

Written in French in Canada, many of the examples are geared to the French Canadian user, but the rules are applicable to all French translators, whatever the target market.

Type and quality of binding

This 319-page paperback uses fine quality paper. The type face is clear and easy to read. Italics and bold are used, but not in excess. *Le guide du rédacteur* has a straightforward presentation, extensive lists of examples, and a detailed index that makes it easy to find all information...a very practical and comprehensive guide. Overall, a very easy to read guide to a topic that, by definition, is less than attractive to most of us.

In addition to a detailed table of contents at the beginning (11 pages), there is a complete index at the end (30 pages). Looking up a rule is made very easy. The statement of the rule is followed by examples. Details that most of us ignore are presented clearly.

Examples—When preceded by a cardinal number, degree is abbreviated by the symbol ° (ASCII 248) right against the number that precedes it (20°). However, when the degree symbol is qualified (C for Celsius), these two must be against each other, but separated by a space from the number (25 °C).

Time is abbreviated as follows: 14 h 30 min 5 s, with the space before and after the abbreviations. But when this information is presented in columns, in train or plane schedules for example, it is preferable to use colons 14:30:05.

This book is a must for all persons responsible for producing a text into French—translators, reviewers, proof-readers, and editors. As translator, we have to deliver a translation that is correct, not only linguistically but also typographically. After we deliver a translation to the customer, we usually lose control over it. Many a typesetter has destroyed in minutes what took us hard work to produce. It is our responsibility to alert all concerned that typographical rules are different from one language to another, and impress upon them that we have supplied a correctly presented text. This guide is a necessary tool that allows us to do so. I own other French typographical guides, but this one is more complete than any I have seen before. It is definitely an important part of my library. No translator working into French should be without this very complete *Le guide du rédacteur*. I only wonder what the actual differences are between Canadian and International French.

French Usage, The Do's and Don'ts of Writing and Speaking French

Authors: Richard Wakely and Henri Béjoint

Publisher: Oxford University Press, Oxford New York, 1996, First published 1996

ISBN: 0-19-864334-9

Price: \$7.95, Oxford University Press, 198 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016

Reviewed by Michel Meunier

This book makes use of a database of French texts, which gives authenticity to a large number of translated expressions. They are real French as it is used in spontaneous conversation, in newspapers, on television, on radio, etc. On the whole an effort has been made to use only the most natural expressions in French, and to avoid the stilted, unnatural sounding language that is sometimes found in books for language learners.

The rule or introduction is given in clear terms and followed by examples. Exceptions are duly noted, also with examples.

This usage guide covers a wide variety of topics: how to tell time, use of articles with names of places, how to express quantities and measurements (not to be confused with conversion tables), elements and materials, flora and fauna, the human body, social roles and organizations, as well as artifacts. The gender of French words is always indicated.

The usage notes are aimed primarily to the person working from his/her native language and trying to produce text, oral or written, in the foreign language. In this case, the user is a native English speaker learning French. That is why English is used for all explanations (written in British English).

This 220-page paperback is printed on ordinary paper, and the type is easy to read. In addition to titles, bolding of text is quite extensively used to differentiate at a glance the French from the English in the examples. Although not necessary, I found this practice quite useful, in addition to the column format.

Not a dictionary, not a grammar book, this paperback is a very well-organized and presented collection of useful information on French usage, especially for the student of French. Not on my “must have” list as a translator, but I think it belongs in my reference library, if for nothing else to be able to answer with authority those pesky questions for which I know the answer, but do not know why nor the actual rule. This book can be read cover to cover or consulted as a reference as needed. It is a good companion to refresh my memory while waiting for a connecting flight somewhere, or even on a long flight. But on the other hand, I would want to use the space in my bag for something else.

March 1998

English-Japanese Dictionary of Finance

Reviewed by Yukako Y. Seltzer

Author: Not included

Publisher: AMCD (Publishers) Ltd., Cheshire, England

Publication Date: 1994

ISBN: 0-9515066-2-5

Price: \$25.00

Other: 155 pages, approx. 4,000 entries, pocket size, paperback

This small, 4" x 6" dictionary is a handy pocket size and would definitely be convenient for quick look-ups during on-site assignments. Also, it is attractively priced. It generally provides one or two Japanese translations per entry, but no explanations. Entries are easy to read, with the terms listed in bold face, as usual. But, would a non-financial person be able to rely on this dictionary? Who would benefit most from this type of dictionary? I evaluated it from the standpoints of: (1) appropriate users, (2) coverage, (3) convenience, (4) accuracy and dependability, (5) common technical terms, (6) translation versus transliteration, (7) acronyms and cross-referencing, and (8) appendices.

(1) Appropriate Users

This type of dictionary is clearly designed for people with extensive knowledge of financial matters and terminology. People with little or no background in finance would run into difficulty, for the reasons below:

- Many terms are too narrowly defined. For general phrases such as "agreed value," "portfolio," and "worldwide policy," the dictionary lists only one insurance-specific translation. For the word "cost," it provides one legal-specific translation.
- Explanations are not provided. For example, two translations are provided for the word "flotation"—"offering" and "issuance." A person unfamiliar with capital market terminology would not know which of the two to choose.
- The preliminary page of the dictionary lists abbreviations for certain funds, i.e., "acc" for accounting, "bank" for banking, "ff" for financial futures, "fx" for foreign exchange, "ins" for insurance, "leg" for legal, "reins" for reinsurance, and "se" for stock exchange. However, the only abbreviations I found were "ins" and a few banking and legal terms; no other abbreviations were used.
- The dictionary sometimes provides only a transliteration, rather than a translation. For example, phrases such as "comfort letter," "leverage," "waterborne agreement," and "covered interest rate arbitrage" are only transliterated. A person with little financial background would not know the meaning of these terms.

(2) Coverage

The field of finance encompasses several broad areas, such as banking, investment, insurance, accounting and auditing, taxation, international trade, economics, and even law. Each area is so broad and highly technical that it could have its own dictionary. I was surprised to discover that this dictionary tries to cover a little bit of everything. When translating a fairly basic insurance document recently, I tested this dictionary, and the success rate for finding terms was about 30 percent.

(3) Convenience

The dictionary focuses on frequently-used technical phrases (rather than basic words), such as, "in the money," "legal reserve ratio," and "incurred but not reported," and lists them in alphabetical order by the first letter of each word or phrase. If the exact phrase you are looking for is included in the dictionary, you are fine, but if what you need is a slightly different variation, you may not be able to find it. For example, the phrase "covered interest rate arbitrage" was listed, but "interest arbitrage" wasn't. In the case of the phrase "forfeit paper," not only was it misspelled as "forfait," but it was listed alphabetically under "a" as "a forfait paper" between "affiliate" and "after date." It is highly unlikely that you would ever find this term, should you need it.

The romanization of the Japanese characters is provided for the convenience. Although this feature may be useful for helping interpreters of non-Japanese-speaking people to find the proper pronunciation of the Chinese characters, considering the small size of the dictionary, it is unnecessary. I would rather see more entries.

Two of the convenient features in this dictionary are the inclusion of acronyms (most major financial institutions are included), and the indication, for a very limited number of entries, of U.S. or U.K. usage.

(4) Accuracy and Dependability

In general, the dictionary provides accurate translations, but I did find some that I felt were questionable. For instance, the word “advocate” is translated as one word—“attorney.” The phrase “deposit premium” is translated as “interim or temporary insurance premium.” “underwriting profit” is translated as “operating income.” There are also a few typographical errors, which is not a good sign. The term “co-financing” is translated as “emphasized financing”—a typical example of choosing the wrong Chinese character.

(5) Common Technical Terms

I chose 15 fairly common technical terms and checked to see whether or not they were listed in this dictionary. I found the following six terms: “hedging,” “greenmail,” “capital adequacy,” “derivative,” “straddle,” and “stop-loss order,” but could not find the remaining nine: “structured financing,” “mezzanine financing,” “value fund,” “pass-through security,” “collateralized mortgage obligation,” “stop order,” “GNP/GDP,” “mortgage-backed security,” and “stripped bond.”

I did, however, find some insurance terms in this dictionary that were not listed in the comprehensive insurance dictionary that I usually use, including “working cover,” “written line,” “with particular average,” “ullage,” “erection all risks,” “ONR,” and “OGR”—most of which are less commonly-used phrases.

(6) Translation versus Transliteration

It is true that many financial terms were invented by people on Wall Street, and sometimes these terms cover such broad meanings that no simple translation can properly reflect the original meaning. For example, terms such as “derivative,” “options,” “puts and calls,” and “impact loan,” are all transliterated as an accepted translation. But in this dictionary, phrases such as “implicit cost,” “company secretary,” and “uncovered position,” which definitely have proper translations, are only transliterated. At this point I began to wonder about the quality of the dictionary.

(7) Acronyms and Cross-Referencing

The dictionary includes acronyms for major financial institutions, as well as commonly-used terms and phrases such as “IBNR” for “incurred but not reported.” Approximately half of the spelled-out versions of these acronyms are listed as well. More well-known acronyms, such as “IMF” and “EMU” (International Monetary Fund and European Monetary Union), are also listed, but the spelled-out versions of less well-known acronyms such as “IFC” and “SWIFT” are not. The dictionary does not include cross-referencing.

(8) Appendices

A list of nearly 200 currencies from around the world is included in the back of the dictionary. I doubt that this section would be used frequently, but if you were desperate to find the currency used in Zambia or Papua New Guinea, it would be there.

Overall, I found more disturbing elements than positive ones. I would not rely upon this dictionary as a primary reference, but rather, a supplemental resource and, at that, only as a last resort, after having checked all other available sources. Additionally, as I noted at the beginning, it is essential that the user of this dictionary have a thorough knowledge of the subject field in order to determine whether the given translation of a term or phrase is appropriate or not.

This dictionary has been published in several language combinations—English-Chinese, English-Japanese, English-Russian, English-French, and English-Spanish. The English-Chinese version was reviewed by Heping Shi in the April 1996 edition of the *Chronicle*. In contrast to his positive review, however, I must admit that I am not as favorably impressed with the English-Japanese version.

Wörterbuch der Chemie/Dictionary of Chemistry, Deutsch-Englisch, English-German

Reviewed by S. Edmund Berger

Author: Antonin Kučera

Place and publisher: Oscar Brandstetter Verlag—Wiesbaden

Date of publication: 1997

ISBN: 3-87097-172-X

Price and where available: \$165.00; i.b.d. Ltd., Kinderhook, NY

Specialty of field: Chemistry

Type of work: Bilingual dictionary

Languages: English-German; German-English (American and British)

No. of pages: 735 including appendix

No. of entries: About 28,000 in each direction (56,000 total)

Binding: Hardbound, excellent quality

Quality of paper and print: Good quality, high-opacity paper; excellent print

Typeface and legibility: Typeface not identified; highly legible

Convenience of look-up and format: Double-column layout; headwords in boldface, with remainder of entry indented; easy to use.

Terms

I used this dictionary alongside the G. Wenske chemical dictionary, in my opinion one of the best German-English, English-German chemical dictionaries on the U.S. market today. Table 1 shows whether terms present in Wenske were also found in the Kučera dictionary. Table 2 indicates whether terms not found in Wenske appeared in Kučera.

Table 1—Terms Present in Wenske

<i>Term</i>	<i>Found in Kučera?</i>
Alkogel	Yes
Askarel	Yes
Butyldiglycol	No
Bodenprodukt	Yes
Deckkraft	No
Dilatanz	Yes
Echtgelb	Yes
Edukt	No
Gummiwischer	Yes
Hydrotalkyt	No
Molecular weight, weight-average	No
Ozone hole	Yes
Liquid hourly space velocity (LHSV)	No
Precision balance	No
Shrink wrapping	No
Temporary water hardness	No
Vibrational energy	Yes

Table 2—Terms Present in Kučera

<i>Term</i>	<i>Found in Wenske?</i>
Anatoxin	No
Antiskabicum	No
CHEMFET Transistor	No
Dokimasie	No
Eiaustauschstoff	No
Elektrofuge Gruppe	No
Einschlusspolymerization	No
Eindomänenkristall	No
Emanationsthermalanalyse	No
Goldorfe	No
Graminicide	No
Halogen dance	No
Iodophore	No
Isolobal	No
Isoteniscope	No
Lassaigne's test	No
Malabsorption	No
Minimum fluidization	No
Morphactin	No
Peeling method	No
Surface culture	No

Wagging vibration No

As can be seen, the term coverage in the two dictionaries varies somewhat.

Contextual and encyclopedic information, labels for distinguishing usage, technical field, and synonyms

In addition to being translated, terms and concepts are often also defined. Where appropriate, reference is made to a German industrial standard (DIN), a useful source of additional terminology for those having access to such standards. The terms are usually assigned to at least one technical field. Many synonyms are given. Chemicals are often identified by several different names usually indicating U.S., British, or other usage. Spelling is British. Some commercial names were found. Many English technical terms that have crept into German publications and usage are also given. Numerous abbreviations and acronyms are given, but they are not expanded, only translated.

Appendices, tables, illustrations

No tables or illustrations. The appendix consists of a very valuable concise section dealing with English (but not German) chemical nomenclature.

Percent “filler” words

Practically no filler words, or nontechnical terms, were found in this dictionary.

Accuracy, errata

Several inaccuracies were found. For example, “Azetylzahl” (acetyl number) is given as “OH number”; “Polyurethan” (polyurethane) is given as “polyurethane” or “polyisocyanate,” the latter being incorrect. The German abbreviation for “Polyacrylsäure” (polyacrylic acid) is given as PAA when it should be “PAS.”

Additional comments

This relatively small dictionary provides good up-to-date coverage of, for example, general and theoretical chemistry, name reactions, analytical methodology, and biochemistry. It is not as valuable when it comes to terminology related to industrial chemical processing. The opposite seems to be true for the Wenske dictionary used as reference. Thus, the two complement each other in many ways, although many terms are found in both dictionaries as was to be expected. The abundance of abbreviations found in the Kučera dictionary is particularly gratifying, considering that unexpanded abbreviations are often the translator’s “nemesis.”

Overall evaluation

This is a very good dictionary despite the fact that it contains fewer terms than the Wenske (available from i.b.d. Ltd., Kinderhook, NY). Translators working in the chemical field will find it quite useful, even if they already own other chemical dictionaries.

Elsevier's Dictionary of Financial Terms

Reviewed by Tom West

Publisher: Elsevier

Publication Date: 1997

Price: \$250

ISBN: 0-444-89950-2

Let's get right to the point. *Elsevier's Dictionary of Financial Terms* (new edition, 1997) does not stand up to a cost/benefit analysis. It contains 2,804 English terms translated into German, Dutch, French, Spanish, and Italian, and sells for \$250. For each of these languages, there is already a standard bilingual financial dictionary that will be in the library of most financial translators: Schfers *Wirtschaftswörterbuch* for German; Van Amerongens *Terminologie financieel management* for Dutch; *Le Robert & Collins du Management* for French; and Alcaraz Varó and Hughes *Diccionario de términos económicos, financieros y comerciales* for Spanish. Each of these “standard” dictionaries contains at least 25,000 terms (the *Robert & Collins* has 75,000 entries) and sells for around \$100, give or take \$20. In fact, given how much more comprehensive these dictionaries are than Elsevier, I would wager that the translator who has one of them already has access to many, if not most, of the terms in the Elsevier. For example, among Elsevier's 2,804 terms were the following, which I found in all of the language-specific dictionaries mentioned above: *limited liability, mortgage, public sector, minimum wage, stock exchange, insider trading, insurance company, interest rate, market price, junk bond, inflation, insolvent*. On the other hand, I did not find in the Elsevier many English terms that were included in many of the other dictionaries: *greenmail, red herring, mortgage-backed securities, white knight, European-style option*. Finally, given that the Elsevier authors undoubtedly came up with a list of English terms and then translated them into the other languages, the dictionary can hardly be expected to include country-specific terms, such as (in the case of France) *MATIF, taux d'intervention, taux de prise en pension, offre publique de retrait*.

There are several things about the dictionary that I like. First, instead of pretending that there is only one term in each language that matches a term in another language, the Elsevier gives synonyms for many of its terms, so that, for example, the entry for “exchange transactions” also lists “foreign exchange dealings” and “foreign exchange transactions” as English synonyms and gives three synonyms in German: “*Devisengeschäfte*,” “*Devisentransaktionen*,” and “*Valutageschäfte*.” Second, there is no filler whatsoever in the dictionary, and the terms that it includes are almost always correctly translated—although it is irritating that the French/Spanish term *reserva estatutaria/réserve statutaire* is translated both correctly (as “reserved prescribed by the articles”) and incorrectly (as “statutory reserve,” which at least in American English means “reserve prescribed by the law,” not “reserve prescribed by the articles of the company”).

In sum, even with its lack of filler terms and largely accurate translations, the Elsevier is simply not worth \$250 when an overwhelmingly more comprehensive financial dictionary can be had for less than half the price. The only audience that might find this dictionary attractive would be the translation department of a large bank that routinely translates financial documents into all or most of the languages represented and wants to create a multilingual glossary for consistency among the translations. Even then, however, I suspect that they would need to purchase the financial dictionaries for each language and would not find that the Elsevier adds much to their collection.

April 1998

The Oxford English-Russian Dictionary

Editor: P.S.Falla

Publisher: Oxford: Clarendon Press

Oxford University Press, 1984, first paperback edition 1992

ISBN: 0-19-864192-3

Price: \$29.95

Reviewed by: Vadim Khazin, Ph.D.

Type of Work: General English (predominantly British)-Russian dictionary.

Volume: 1,053 pages, 92,000 entries (which include individual words and illustrative phrases) and 148,000 translations.

Typographic Quality and Arrangement: Paperback edition, good paper, two columns/page; bold typeface for English (only for entries), normal for English subentries (with a tilde) and for Russian; italics for English abbreviations, and brief comments, such as about style, given in parentheses.

Grammatical Information and Pronunciation: For English entries no pronunciation is indicated, only parts of speech with more detail for verbs; for Russian translations there are stresses and sometimes, when it is unclear (for non-Russians), also the gender, number, endings for plural nominative and genitive, case usage for nouns, and aspectual forms (imperfective versus perfective) for verbs.

Appendices: None. Personal and geographical names are included in the main alphabetical listing, as are some abbreviations.

Evaluation: A good dictionary of general usage, probably not for specific translation jobs, useful for both English and Russian speakers. Many entries include not only direct translations but also expressions and phrases (quite frequently idiomatic) illustrating the usage. I believe this to be the strongest aspect of the dictionary. However, sometimes the expected direct translation is missing, giving place to examples of usage.

Compiled and published in Britain, the dictionary contains a certain number of Americanisms (denoted “Am.”) which do not always seem appropriate. For example, I found an “Am.” version of “**township**” translated as **район** which is definitely not what is meant by that Russian word. In some cases quite usable words, like “**customize**” or “**scam**,” are missing, while some important variants of translation are missing in others, like **явный** for “ostensible” or **самобытность** for “identity.”

Another deviation I noticed is that certain preference is given to religious renderings at the expense of lay ones. For instance, “**enshrine**” has only one direct translation, **помещать в раку**, which I believe would not be understood by most Russians; for “ascension” one can find the religious **Вознесение**, but not **вступление на престол**. The same deviation, in my opinion, is characteristic for the selection and translation of personal names. Apart from a few names of ancient philosophers like Plato or Socrates (but no Aristotle, only the corresponding adjective), the others are biblical and translated only as such. So for “**Jacob**,” “**Peter**,” or “**Paul**” the dictionary gives, respectively, **Иаков**, **Пётр**, and **Павел**, which is good only for biblical usage. Other (nonbiblical) names, however widely used, are not included.

As for abbreviations, their number appears to be quite small (no UFO or CIA, for example), and it is not clear why only some of them are expanded, among them such well-known as UN or USA, and others are not, like **PTO** translated as **см. на об.** (**смотри на обороте**). For those who do not know, the expansion here is “please turn over.”

A relatively innovative feature of the dictionary (by the way, there is no entry for “innovative” in it) is the inclusion of expletives (labeled “*vulg.*”), or, as the authors put it in the introduction, “four-letter words.” I was curious enough to look them up (there are not as many of them in English as in Russian) and soon found a rather strange omission: the Russian translation given for the notorious “f-verb” lacks two letters (the second and third), and if you utter this crippled word in Russia, nobody will understand what you mean.

The above shortcomings notwithstanding, this dictionary is quite good and useful in its category.

(1) *Russian-English/English Russian Dictionary: Pipeline Technology and Transportation of Hydrocarbons*

Publisher: Russian Business Consultants, El Cerrito, CA

Publication date: 1994

ISBN: Not available

Number of pages: 397

(2) *English-Russian-English Dictionary of Petroleum Business and Commerce*

Author: Arthur Stepanyan

Publisher: Russian Business Consultants, El Cerrito, CA

Publication date: 1994

ISBN: Not available

Number of pages: 393

(3) *Russian-English Dictionary of Oilfield Technology*

Author: Kirill Izvekov

Publisher: Russian Business Consultants, El Cerrito, CA

Publication date: 1993

ISBN: Not available

Number of pages: 238

Reviewed by: Alexandre Mikheev¹

These dictionaries do not contain illustrations.

Type of work: Bilingual Russian-English-Russian dictionaries. An in-house publication.

Specialty of field: Petroleum industry.

Type and quality of binding: Good hardcover binding.

Typeface and legibility: Very clear with matching typeface in English and Russian in (2); good English typeface and somewhat small, but legible Russian typeface in (1); very small typeface in Russian and somewhat better typeface in English in (3).

These three publications make up a series of dictionaries published by Russian Business Consultants, one of many U.S.-based companies serving the demand for Russian language services, including technical translation. They follow in the wake of several other dictionaries published during the past decade, which have established the standard of lexicographical work in the petroleum industry with the *English-Russian Dictionary on Well Drilling and Completion* by A.I. Bulatov and V.V. Palchikov (1991) and the *Russian-English Oil-Field Dictionary*, edited by D.E. Stoliarov (1982) serving as just a few examples. Compilation of dictionaries is a very difficult, time-consuming, and frequently unrewarding exercise. The ancient curse “May you compile dictionaries for the rest of your life!” sounds just as sinister in our age of the computer.

The authors of the dictionaries under review certainly deserve praise for their attempt to bring terminology up to speed with the recent developments in the petroleum industry and international business and finance. Any addition to the dictionary shelf is welcome, and the new dictionaries contain some useful new information which is absent in other dictionaries, for example: “downstream **отрасль нефтегазопереработки**,” “downtime **простой**” [p. 63 (1)], etc.

However, the new publications simply do not measure up to the standard. It is clear that they are the work of a technical translator, a practitioner who knows little or nothing about lexicography. In fact, they are more like a glossary of terms which technical translators, including the present writer, compile over the years.

The most important drawback of all the dictionaries under review is that, unlike their predecessors, they are not organized by key entry words, but list words and word combinations alphabetically. The verb is the only grammatical marker used in (2). As a result, “bridging,” “brine corrosion,” and “bring pipes into alignment (v)” [p. 29 (1)] are strung along on

the same page. Note that the last entry is not listed either under “pipe” or “alignment” where the translator would normally look for them.

Some translations are simply wrong, inaccurate, or incomplete: “общество потребления affluent society,” cf. consumer society; “catering общественное питание,” cf. снабжение (продуктами питания), ресторанное обслуживание (на рабочем месте) [p. 41 (2)]; “logistics логистика (планирование и обеспечение снабжения)” [p. 136 (2)], cf., организация чего-либо, организационные мероприятия (в т.ч. размещение в гостинице и т. д.); “production-sharing agreement (PSA) договор о разделе добычи,” cf. соглашение о разделе продукции; “budgetary appropriations выделение средств по бюджету” [p.34 (2)] cf. бюджетные ассигнования; “призабойная зона со сниженной проницаемостью skin” [p.168 (3)]; “торная порода с аномально—высоким давлением overpressured” [p.45 (3)], etc.

All dictionaries under review contain ordinary words with only one translation to choose from, which raises doubts about their usefulness in a specialized dictionary. For example, “make (v) делать” [p. 138 (2)]; “stick (v) наклеивать” [p. 202 (2)]; “passenger пассажир” [p. 161 (2)]; “free свободный” [p. 101 (2)], etc. Some of the important and frequently used terms are absent, for example, “grandfather clause,” “grandfather (v),” “negative pledge,” etc.

The dictionaries do not contain a list of abbreviations frequently found in technical documents, for example, МСК монтаж станка—качалки, ОПЗ обработка призабойной зоны, ПГИ промысловогеофизические исследования, РИР ремонтно—изоляционные работы, ФРН фонд распределения прибыли. The abbreviations used in the body of the text are not given in full, as in “FIM survey контроль утечек методом автоионной микроскопии” [p. 79 (1)]; or actually mistranslated, as in “BTU БТЕ (британская термическая единица)” [p. 34 (2)] instead of британская единица теплоты.

Transcription and transliteration of terms, such as “lucrative лукративный (выгодный)” [p. 136 (2)], “time sheet таймшит,” “timing тайминг” [p. 212 (2)], are not very helpful. On the other hand, standard translations, such as “non-convertible необратимый,” cf. ; “non-exclusive неисключительный” cf. не-эксклюзивный [p. 148 (2)], are not used.

The dictionaries do contain errata, as in “общая система предпочтений,” which is listed twice and “общедоступная информацию” [p. 307 (2)].

Another major drawback is that the dictionaries provide virtually no contextual information and usage labels, for example, “dealings торговые связи” [p.65 (2)], and synonyms are not distinguished as in “граница frontier,” “граница border” [p. 253 (2)].

Dictionaries (1) and (2) rely on the English alphabet to indicate the pronunciation of Russian terms, which can only be useful for someone who does not speak Russian at all.

The overall conclusion is that the dictionaries may not measure up to the expectations of the professional technical translator and, whatever their merits, should be used with caution.

Routledge French Technical Dictionary

(On diskette or CD-ROM)

Volume 1: French-English

ISBN: 0-415-13343-2

Price: \$159

Volume 2: English-French

ISBN: 0-415-13347-5

Price: \$159

(Each volume available on diskettes for \$159, both volumes available on CD-ROM for \$295)

Publisher: Routledge 1-(800)-634-7064

Publication date: 1996

Reviewed by: Yves Quervel

The electronic look-up of dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other terminology references is clearly the way of the future. After a long delay, publishers are now releasing electronic terminology tools in ever greater numbers. Are these new products truly ready for prime time? Have the publishers mastered the new electronic medium? Have they liberated themselves from the classic constraints of paper format and adequately exploited all the new possibilities?

For most of the first-generation products, this Routledge offering being one of the better ones, the answer is: not quite. Of course, they offer tremendous improvements over the paper dictionaries they replace but, with two notable exceptions, they have hardly made the paradigm shift allowed by the electronic technology.

The 1996 electronic version of the Routledge *Dictionnaire technique anglais* contains the integral text of the 1994 paperback version. It delivers the key expected advantages of an electronic version: a no-hassle installation, extremely fast access to data, a good search engine, and an adequate user interface.

The product installation is straightforward, flexible, and very fast. The full installation requires less than 20 MB of hard disk to store all the data, which is very reasonable. The normal installation requires less than 2MB of disk space, but requires access to the CD-ROM for consultation. An uninstall module is provided. The only weakness of the installation dialog is that it does not indicate how much hard disk space is required for each type of installation.

Performance is quite good. The search engine can retrieve terms on the basis of any word the term includes. It supports the traditional * and ? wild card characters and provides a basic (one operator) Boolean search logic capability. However, it does not allow selection by subject area. With an eye to the future, Routledge includes the BOOKcase 3.1 and OPENshelf programs which provide a shell for joint access of future compatible electronic dictionaries organized as virtual reference shelves.

The user interface offers all the required functions, but with an almost complete disregard for the Windows user interface standards. As a result, you may or may not like this idiosyncratic user interface, but you certainly will have to spend some additional time learning how to use it. The program pops up in the middle of the screen (in full screen mode on a VGA monitor) and few settings are remembered across sessions. On the positive side, information display is compact and the font size is selectable. The information is displayed in the same way as in the book version, with indication of the subject area and of the part of speech.

Being the electronic version of the well-known and generally well-liked 1994 paper version, the dictionary obviously has the same lexical power and characteristics: over 100,000 references in each language covering 78 technical subject areas from acoustics to wave physics.

Apparently because of formatting challenges, the appendix containing the conversion tables for the physical units was not included. This omission is symptomatic of a lack of imagination in taking advantage of the power of the electronic format. Instead of just giving up on these cumbersome tables, why not replace them with a calculator interface that actually does the conversions? More generally, this product, as most other electronic dictionaries, remains bound by many of the limitations of the original paper versions. Because of the space constraints of its original paper environment, this product provides a carefully limited number of terms selected by professional lexicographers without context, definitions, or bibliography information. The terms that are finally chosen may be the correct ones in the source and/or target languages, but I am not convinced that they are always the ones that are most commonly used.

At a price of \$295 for both volumes, this dictionary is in the same price league as the *Termium* and *Le Doc* terminology databases. These competing products have a completely different history. They were developed over many years exclusively for the electronic support of legions of practicing translators working on real translations, and it shows. They do not eliminate terms for the simple reason that they may be too common or not quite the right ones. They cover many more subject areas and they provide definitions, comments, synonyms, and bibliography information.

Justifying such a price in this tough and competitive environment requires superior hit ratios in some predictable areas. I must admit that after several months of use of the *Routledge*, I have not yet discovered these areas of clear superiority. For me, it has not displaced *Termium* and *Le Doc* as my first line of reference, even for highly technical terminology. It may be that my translations are too pedestrian but, for whatever reason, my experience has been that when these products do not give me an acceptable answer, my odds of finding it in the *Routledge* are low.

The *Routledge* is squeezed between *Termium* and *Le Doc* on one hand, and the free access to *Eurodicautom* and other Internet resources on the other. In my opinion, a person on a tight budget may find it difficult to justify purchasing this dictionary at its current price, while a translator who wants to cover all bases will want to acquire it. It should be noted that the traveling translator will find it a great product to install on his notebook because of its low hard disk requirements and good performance.

¹ I'd like to express my gratitude to Laurel Nolen for her assistance in the preparation of this review.

May 1998

Elsevier's Dictionary of Information Technology

English-German-French

Authors: J. P. Hoepelman, R. Mayer, J. Wagner

Publisher: Elsevier Science B.V., Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Publication date: 1997.

ISBN #: 0-444-88410-6

Price: \$169.75 in the U.S. through i.b.d. Ltd, 1-800-343-3531

Reviewed by: *Claudia Kellersch*

This brand-new reference source and dictionary has quickly become one of my favorites because of its excellent content and lack of filler words. Especially helpful are the concise explanations of this new and quickly evolving terminology. The more than 4,500 terms are each listed with a definition, synonyms, translations into French and German, and cross-references to other terms in the dictionary. When a term is very common or important for forming a compound, only the translation is given. Gender and number are given for nouns, and verbs are marked as transitive or intransitive. Abbreviations are in the main body of the dictionary and spelled out.

Not all terms have translations in both languages, partly because the translation would be a descriptive explanation since no definitive usage has been coined yet. For example German often adopts the English term. When the best translation is a prefix, it is marked with *pref* and a trailing hyphen. Example: *destination* is translated into the German *Ziel-*, translating *destination file* into *Zieldatei*.

A terminology database developed under the ESPRIT project HUFIT (Human Factors in Information Technology) at the Fraunhofer Institut für Arbeitswirtschaft und Organisation in Stuttgart forms part of this dictionary. Even though this project was commissioned and partially supported by the Commission of the European Communities, the dictionary consistently uses American English spelling, which I welcome.

I would have liked to have found the following missing terms: “bay/card bay,” “build,” “disclosure,” “docking station,” “dongle,” “enhancement,” “Glasgow Interpretative Algorithm,” “color separation,” and “quantizer.” Nonetheless, it turned out to be an excellent quick reference, even in the booth during a recent simultaneous interpreting assignment during which Bill Gates presented his latest visions of the use of the Internet—the new digital nervous system—by governments all over the world.

The book is printed on acid-free paper and has a good binding. It has 406 pages, with the main section from English into French and German, and two shorter sections from French to English and from German to English (referring to the main English entry). The text was generated with Framemaker under Unix and prepared by the third author in XREF. XREF automatically maintains the original database, all cross-references and translations, and the language-dependent alphabetic sequence. The two-column layout and larger font size guarantee good readability.

Even though I have been a skeptic concerning extensive multilingual dictionaries from this publisher, I must say that this one was very thoroughly researched, and is an excellent addition to my IT library. In fact, it has become my first candidate when I look for brand-new terminology. It is a great help for the translator in understanding the underlying functionality of IT.

Wörterbuch der industriellen Technik, CD-ROM

Dictionary of Engineering and Technology on CD-ROM

German-English, English-German

Author: Richard Ernst

Publisher: Oscar Brandstetter Verlag, Wiesbaden, FRG

Publication date: 1996

ISBN #: 3-87097-182-7

Price: \$295 in the U.S. through i.b.d. Ltd., 1-800-343-3531

Reviewed by: *Claudia Kellersch*

Anxiously awaited on CD-ROM, Ernst remains the long-standing industry leader in its field, a standard dictionary in the library of any serious German technical translator. The printed user's guide is available in both languages. By reading through the roughly 40 pages in each language, the translator can quickly become a power user. You can edit and produce your own custom dictionary for each client or project, and use the “Comment” window to add a comment to a marked headword, or simply skip to “Fast introduction” to learn how to use the dictionary in the traditional way. Custom

dictionaries may be read- and write-password protected. A list of error messages rounds off the user's guide, and known or easy-to-fix problems can be solved with a visit to the Web site at http://www.epp.de/help_uni.html. Comments may be sent to unilex@epp.de.

The installation requires a PC with Windows 3.11 or higher, a minimum of 4 MB RAM (8 MB RAM recommended), and free hard disk space of 3 MB for the program itself, but a whopping 150 MB if you want to install the whole dictionary on your hard disk. Even then, the program asks the user to insert the CD-ROM for a license check at irregular intervals. Macros for the following text processors are included: *WinWord*, *AmiPro*, *StarWriter*, and *WordPerfect 6.x*. Translation bureaus and companies with in-house translators may use the one-license or multilicense version (network version), and several additional dictionary formats are supported and can be read, such as *TransDic* and *GlobeDisk*.

Installation is quick and easy. Unfortunately, the first box that appears is partially cut off at the right bottom of the screen and has to be pulled up each time the dictionary is first opened, as happens with the Routledge CD-ROM. Abookcase group (*Bücherschrank*) allows you to choose the language direction, and then simply click on a letter in the alphabet, or enter a search word on the "Entry Line." The latter also allows search strings (fuzzy searches) and insertions from the clipboard. A hypertext search finds all entries in which a certain term appears in all open dictionaries.

Entries are displayed in the "Results Window," in a bold and clearly readable font, with gender and subject fields (e.g., chem for chemistry). This feature may be turned on or off with the right mouse button. Entries are also hyperlinked to cross-references and synonyms. I was unable to find very few words that I expected to find: *nonmarking* and *wireframe*.

A few points of comparison between the *Ernst* and the *Routledge Technical Dictionary*: (1) Ernst allows you to copy multiple entries or several compounds into a document or database or other program; Routledge lets you copy only one entry at a time; (2) both automatically look up a word highlighted in the text processor, but only when it is first opened; (3) Ernst lets the user transfer the translation with the help of a macro back into the text processor, or use the cut and paste functions via the clipboard; (4) Ernst notifies you if a translation cannot be found, whereas Routledge does nothing; (5) Ernst quickly counts through the number of hits it finds, before they are displayed, Routledge does nothing. Routledge appears to have been rushed to market, whereas the wait for the Ernst CD-ROM was fully worth it.

If your budget allows for only one CD-ROM, then the investment in the quality of the Ernst CD-ROM, even at a higher price, will pay off after just a couple of translation assignments, and the added software capabilities and advantages over the paper edition make this CD-ROM the choice for the future.

German Dictionary of Medicine

Volume 1. German English

Author: Fritz-Jürgen Nöhring

Publisher: Langenscheidt-Routledge: New York

Publication date: 2nd Edition, 1997

ISBN #: 0-415-17130-X

Price: \$150 (Hardback)

Reviewed by: *Leon McMorrow*

This is a "revised and expanded edition" of the dictionary published in 1987. The first edition contained 75,000 German terms, and the second edition claims to have added "some 16,000 new entries," and brought the number of "translations" to 180,000, but most of all to "have completely reworked and revised the manuscript of the 1st edition, reviewing the meanings of every term, updating them where necessary, and very often indicating the specific fields to which they apply."

Great! From the perspective of German-English translators, a complete revision was needed—the selections/omissions and handling of terms in the earlier edition was disappointing. What a medical translator working with current medical literature wants from a dictionary is to: 1) find the source-language term and field; and 2) find an accurate and current target-language equivalent. The first edition did not meet either 1) or 2) in several areas.

The second edition claims to fulfil these critical requirements by incorporating and marking terms from allied fields, such as biology, biochemistry, bioengineering, laboratory methods, and dentistry, and including usage as well as naked terms: "the actual language spoken by specialists and heard in hospitals and family practices" (Preface). One

feels moments of intense satisfaction and anticipation while reading the preface (however, a word of warning: the German text is not as colorful as the English translation—for example, the “*startling developments in many specialized fields*” is a rendering of “*den ständigen Fortschritt der Medizin in einzelnen Spezialgebieten*”). Then you begin to use the dictionary itself and to occasionally doubt the exuberance of the preface.

I happened to be working on three translations of German medical materials during my review period, totaling about 10,000 words, including a patent, a 1990 journal review in cardiology, and a video voice-over for a new surgical procedure. The size and mix of this translation work seemed adequate for judging the dictionary as a translator tool in actual practice. I ran almost every term in the source material by the dictionary, checking for its presence in German and treatment in English. In addition, I had lists of hard-to-find terms in my files awaiting dictionary confirmation. The following are the results of this dictionary “bench test.”

The surgical document did best, with 57/97 terms found, including some verbs and adjectival forms. Anatomy terms did very well with 32/41 terms found—the absent terms were compounds and not a problem. On the English side, I could not verify “bridle” as an exact rendering of *Narbenzug*; scar formation would have been better. I could also not accept the inclusion of the translation “ligament” under both *Sehne* and *Tendo* (“tendon”), since they are anatomically quite distinct. On the other hand, there was a high failure rate on instrumentation and equipment, and terms I expected to find such as *fußbetrieben* (pedal-operated), *Reguliertventil* (control valve), *Sichelmesser* (sickle knife), *Mikroschere* (microscissors), and *Wundsperrer* (retractor) were not there. The surgical verbs *frakturieren* (fracture), *abstützen* (support), *aussaugen* (aspirate) were not found. Whenever a common surgical verb is included, however, the dictionary has an excellent feature of using full phrases as context. For example, under *durchführen* (perform), we find 33 sub-entries or applications ranging from *Experiment durchführen* (perform an experiment) to *Wundtoilette durchführen* (debride a wound). This is very helpful, since the English treatment can vary so much. Field references were also very helpful.

The endovascular catheter patent received less help from this dictionary. While there is a good case to be made that medical patents require a *set* of dictionaries (medical + chemical/engineering/materials science), it is now standard for modern medicine to import knowledge and products from other sciences, as the Preface itself indicated. I did indeed find expected basic terms such as *Ballon*, *Stent*, *Katheter*, *Führungsdraht*, *Bypass*, *Gefäßprothese*, but not the allied terms clustered around these devices, such as *Rohrraum*, *Lumen*, *Arbeitskanal*, *Spiral*, *Anmodellierung*. Some apparently successful finds in the German (*Compliance*, *Gestaltung*, *Profil*) referenced on the English side an anatomical field only and not bioengineering.

The lack of involvement with modern medical writing comes across rather strongly in the cardiology field. Germany is the country that most closely matches the U.S. in cardiology research and technology, and one would expect that pacemaker developments between 1960 and 1990 (reviewed in an article from *Zeitschrift für Kardiologie*) would be reflected in this dictionary. After all, in the dictionary preface, inclusion of the German term for “mad cow disease” is listed as proof of modernity. Yet the terminology of implantable cardiac devices (pacemakers, defibrillators) has very limited support. Not only are many expected terms absent, but the treatment of several of those present betrays a strong sense of unfamiliarity with the field. Where would one find support for translating *das Herz stimulieren* as “to pacemake the heart?” Not in a current English source document! The correct term is “to pace.”

A similar familiarity problem occurs with translating *intrakardiale Elektrodenableitung* (“intracardial electrode lead”). Pacemaker technology originated in the U.S. and the Germans initially had problems in finding suitable matching terminology. One problem was the English term “lead,” which means the conductor from the device to the heart. Germany eventually settled on the single word *Elektrode* after testing the acceptability of *Katheterelektrode*, *Elektrokatheter*, and *Sonde* (from French). The term *Elektrodenableitung* has never had any degree of acceptability in cardiac pacing journals; *Ableitung* is reserved to surface ECGs and is not used for intracardiac leads attached to pacemakers or defibrillators. The German entry then is defective. On the English side, the correct term is intracardiac (electrogram) lead (abbreviated: IEGM lead), which is the term exported to Germany in the 1980s.

The progressive area of angioplasty gives mixed results (the dictionary gives the basic term only in the spelling *Angioplastik*, although *Angioplastie* seems now more common). I could not find the term *transluminal* nor the very common procedure *PTA* (*perkutane transluminale Angioplastie*). On the other hand, the less common *Rotablation* (misspelled in English: “*ratoblation*”), *rotabladiieren*, and *Rotablator* are present. As noted above under the patent discussion, some allied angioplasty terms are also missing.

A peculiarity of the dictionary on the English side is the fairly widespread use of superfluous, archaic, or uncommon terms alongside more commonly used equivalents. Nöhring time and time again engages in superfluous English translation. For example, *Compressio cerebri* is listed as both “cerebral compression” and “compression of the

brain”; *Commotio cerebri* gets three shots: “concussion of the brain,” “brain concussion,” and “cerebral commotion.” I fail to see the rationale behind such redundancy; some translators simply call it “filler material,” but probably it is a form of Teutonic thoroughness and purism—nothing must be omitted, even though it may not be very useful to the user. After browsing widely, I decided to do a short comparison between Nöhring and *Dorland’s Illustrated Medical Dictionary*, 28th Edition, 1994, tracing about 50 unusual English terms. I simply began scanning under the letter “g” in German and flagging less familiar English translations and then checking for their presence in Dorland. Before I finished the “g” section, I had uncovered well over 50 instances where Dorland did not support the Nöhring term (e.g., pachychoia, galactin, bilifaction).

In summary, this is an older-school dictionary with an enormous emphasis on traditional anatomical and therapeutic terminology. It has been updated to provide samples of newer terms. It will be of considerable help for translating non-specialized medical documents and includes many useful features, only some of which have been mentioned. On this score alone—comprehensiveness—I am delighted to have it on my shelf. On the debit side, it lacks any charts, illustrations, conversion or other tables; it gives no clue to the unwary translator as to which translation is current medical English; it does not go far enough in pulling recent terminology from major journals in different specialties on both sides of the language equation, although some of these are alluded to in the preface as sources. There is no one perfect medical dictionary for the translator, as we know; this one goes a good distance in covering some of our needs.

Oxford Dictionary of the World

Author: David Munro

Publisher: Oxford University Press, New York

Publication date: 1997

ISBN #: 0-19-860060-7

Price: \$16.95 (paper)

Reviewed by: *Ann C. Sherwin*

If you’re looking for a gazetteer that reflects the many recent changes in the world political scene, the *Oxford Dictionary of the World* may fill the bill. The jacket of this monolingual work proclaims it to be a “complete and up-to-date guide to 15,000 places, countries, and peoples of the world.” In addition to 686 pages of alphabetical main entries and appended tables, the volume includes 16 pages of colored topographical maps. Among the tables of possible interest to translators is a list of acronyms for international organizations and their expansions, as well as a list of countries, each with its adjectival form and the correct way to refer to its citizens. Surprisingly, the list does not include the United Kingdom or any of its constituent parts; and the Republic of Ireland, alphabetized under *R*, is not cross-referenced under *I*.

Each main entry includes pronunciation information, followed by pertinent facts regarding population, topography, history, industry, natural features, historic sites, etc. Interspersed throughout the main section are small locator maps and supplemental tables. The layout is attractive and easy to navigate, with effective use of boldface. The type in the appended tables is actually larger than in the main section. The paper quality and binding appear to be good.

If you enjoy browsing in encyclopedic dictionaries to increase your general knowledge, this work is a good source of geographic basics and trivia. However, if your primary need is to verify spellings of place names, you may find a detailed atlas more suitable—especially for cities.

While I would not use it on a daily basis, I believe that an up-to-date gazetteer belongs in a well-rounded translator’s library. The modest price makes this one a good buy.

The Oxford Dictionary of World Religions

Editor: John Bowker

Publisher: Oxford University Press, New York

Publication date: 1997

ISBN #: 0-19-213965-7

Price: \$45 (cloth)

Reviewed by: *Ann C. Sherwin*

In his preface, the editor of the *Oxford Dictionary of World Religions* acknowledges the magnitude of his task and the virtual impossibility of completeness. The long list of editors and contributors shows that the work was a major joint effort. Its purpose, according to the editor, is “to provide initial bearings on new and unfamiliar ground...” for those who have an interest in religion but “find the subject vast.” This monolingual dictionary is clearly not intended as a translator’s tool, but neither are many of the other references we use.

The sturdy cloth-bound volume has 1,111 pages, with over 8,200 main entries arranged alphabetically, headwords in boldface. Also included is an index of Chinese headwords with a Wade–Giles > Pinyin conversion table. No pronunciation information is given. Look-up is easy if you happen to hit one of the headwords. The topic index (13,000 entries), with its finer print and compact layout, is less user-friendly. Here the reader can get an overview of the entries pertaining to any of some 250 general topics, but it’s not always easy to guess what general topic to look under. Notes to the reader regarding conventions used in the dictionary are helpful. Also included is a 10-page essay on the general subject of religion—its meaning, its role in the human experience, and its future.

The slant is decidedly British. My first test of the work was an attempt to verify the origins of a U.S. denomination that was part of my own heritage, the Evangelical United Brethren, which became part of the United Methodist Church three decades ago. Neither of the above churches had its own listing, and under “Methodism,” an account of church mergers in the United Kingdom merely concluded with the statement, “In the USA, a similar process brought into being was the United Methodist Church in 1968.”

Since one of my translation specialties is Germanic genealogy, I often encounter words pertaining to the external trappings of Christianity and Judaism, and for the past few months, I have been checking the Oxford first. While I almost always find the words I need there, they can also be found in *Webster’s Third International Dictionary*. I suspect that the Oxford is not complete enough to be a main source of terminology for translators specializing in any one religion. (Specialists in Christianity, for example, might find more help in the *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*.) But it’s better than Webster for terms of foreign origin, especially those pertaining to religions, movements, sects, and cults outside the Judeo-Christian framework.

June 1998

Vocabulaire Trilingue des Véhicules de Transport Routier

Trilingual Vocabulary of Road Transport Vehicles

Vocabulario Trilingüe de Autotransporte de Carga

Author: Office de langue française (Original Canadian French version)

Translation: Translation Bureau, Ministry of Public Works and Government Services

Publisher: Les Publications du Québec, Case postale 1005, Québec, (Québec) Canada

Publication Date: 1995

ISBN #: 2-551-16391-9

Price: CDN \$29.95 + CDN \$4 shipping

Reviewed by: Harvie Jordan, ABC

A unique response to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), this French-English-Spanish glossary is the first in what hopefully will be a series of trilingual glossaries or dictionaries addressing the multiplicity of specific subject areas directly related to North American trinational trade.

Originally published as a Canadian French glossary in 1991, the current 316-page soft-cover volume represents a true trilateral collaboration to ensure that the languages of the three NAFTA nations are accurately represented. The trilingual version resulted from a Mexican government request to expand the original French glossary to a trilingual publication.

The Translation Bureau of the Canadian Ministry of Public Works and Government Services translated the French text to English and Spanish. The English version was reviewed by Transport Canada and the Society of Automotive Engineers, a standardization organization in the United States. British terms and spelling in the first edition were replaced with U.S. terms and spellings. The Mexican Secretariat of Communications and Transportation, the Mexican National Motor Carrier Association, and other technical experts in Mexico reviewed the Spanish text to ensure appropriate Mexican terminology.

The organization and presentation of this glossary are in themselves unique. Terms are grouped by related concepts into five chapters: Body Understructure, Cab, Vehicle, Superstructure, and Braking. The chapters are presented in the order in which a commercial motor carrier vehicle might be constructed, from the ground up.

The chapter headings are subdivided into sections that further refine the concept classification. The introduction to the glossary points out that “In addition to providing the user with the option of studying concepts in a [categorical] context, this classification system has the further advantage of being neutral: since the concepts are not presented in alphabetical order, all three languages in the vocabulary are on the same footing.”

The classification system requires that entries be numbered sequentially, because they are not arranged in alphabetical order, and that an index be compiled for each language.

“These indexes provide quick access not only to entry terms and synonyms, but to the terms in the technical and linguist notes as well.” Abbreviated forms and terms mentioned in the notes are identified by a reference number in parentheses. They also include, in italics, terms to avoid.

As an added feature, high-quality illustrations are included at the end of each chapter to aid in visualizing many of the concepts defined in the chapter as well as the relationship to other components of the vehicle. The elements of each illustration are numerically referenced to the terms presented earlier in the chapter.

In addition to equivalent terms and definitions in the three languages, 718 entries are amply annotated. In fact, the notes comprise a substantial portion of the text. When applicable, the notes identify terms which are not appropriate and should be avoided.

The 15 cm x 21.5 cm volume is a handy size convenient for travel, but a paper weight is necessary to keep the book open. Its sans serif typeface in two-column format is very readable. However, italicized terms and phrases are not as obvious as they would be in a serif font.

The publisher includes a range of applications in its target audience. “Users, be they manufacturers, mechanics, or truckers are sure to find most of the terms they are seeking as are those responsible for the drafting of regulations and technical texts or for specialized translation.”

My sampling of the trilingual glossary (for English and Spanish use—I do not translate French) confirmed that expectation: it has been useful and efficient on several translation projects.

As stated earlier, the cooperative approach used to produce this glossary, and the resulting precision, could be precedent-setting in developing companion volumes in the NAFTA context. Because trade is based on transportation, the first complimentary glossary could well deal with the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of highways, and the growing importance to international trade of multimodal transportation. Such a volume would fill a void and meet an important need much as this motor carrier glossary has done.

The Wiley Dictionary of Civil Engineering and Construction

Author: Felicitas Kennedy

Publisher: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York

Publication Date: 1996

ISBN #: 0-471-12246-7 (cloth: alk. paper)

Price: \$55—Available through specialized dictionary suppliers

Field: Civil Engineering and Construction

Type of work: Dictionary

Languages: English (American)-Spanish/Spanish-English

Number of pages: 552

Number of entries: Not available

Type and quality of binding: Hard cover, 7 1/2 x 10 1/8, cloth-bound

Typeface and legibility: Serif typeface.

Reviewed by: Sergio Graciano

Convenience of look up: Two columns layout, secondary entries, and compound terms aligned and indented below the main entries. Headers and secondary entries are in ALL CAPS instead of the typical bold character design found in most dictionaries. The use of all caps makes the reading somehow more difficult.

The title of the work might sound very appealing for translators specializing in these fields. There are not too many dictionaries covering the civil engineering and construction areas. However, in spite of its title, Kennedy’s dictionary is quite a disappointment. Spelling errors pop out from almost every page. The accuracy of some terms is doubtful. Labels indicating a country’s usage or regionalisms are scarcely used.

Spelling horrors:

I wonder if the dictionary was reviewed or edited, or if the author even ran a spell-checker utility before sending her work to the publisher. Some highlights: *cental termoelctrica* (steam-electric power plant); *imipetuoso* (flashy); *manquito* (bushing); *abedur* (birch); *aleaje* (alloy).

Much of the information was inaccurate or incomplete (see Table 1).

Terms found: *Anchor bolt; angle brace; bulge; girder; gusset; hickey; rafter*

Terms not found: *Bur; balloon frame; blow pipe; broken circuit; chicken wire; crook; deed; face-nailing; single-tub injector; teaser transformer; telegage; twin cable; zip tool*

Another surprise was to find some terms, such as *dolly*, completely copied from another dictionary (in this case, Louis Robb's *Diccionario para Ingenieros*). It may be just a coincidence, but it looks so much the same that one could not help but wonder.

This hard-bound dictionary looks great on my coffee table, and makes a nice paperweight. In any case, as manufacturers of some products would advise: use at your own risk!

Dictionary of Information Technology Span–Eng/Eng–Span

Author: Otto J. Vollnhals

Publisher: Oscar Brandstetter Verlag, Wiesbaden

Publication date: 1997

ISBN #: 3-87097-174-6 \$139.00; Hardcover: 970 pages, 100,000 entries

Reviewed by: Alicia Gordon

A Spanish–English computer dictionary from Germany? Actually, perhaps not a bad idea, as the author seems to have gone out of his way to focus on actual usage found in the two languages rather than the inventions and literal translations too often found in existing volumes. Overall, I've been heartily impressed with this paperback-sized, hardcover dictionary. With some 100,000 entries and almost 1,000 pages, split equally between language directions, coverage is also relatively extensive. And may I add that this even split is a very welcome change for translators into English, who not infrequently have to deal with skimpy Spanish to English glossaries that are simply back translations of English concepts with little relation to actual usage. This is perhaps due to the fact that the dictionary was designed to complement the German–Spanish edition and therefore, does not show the typical U.S. English and *Spanglish* bias.

A good example are the multiple entries found under *interconexión*—too often literally transposed as interconnection, which really isn't used quite so frequently in English. The options given, each nicely defined with interparenthetical subject, usage, or country indications, are interconnection; interfacing, link, internetworking, networking, and even gateway. Bless you, Otto! *Interconectividad* is rightly given as just connectivity. Going in the other direction, gateway shows up as *conexión a una red externa; centro de tránsito; vía de acceso; puerta (de acceso)*; or alternately as *interfaz de redes; pasarela; servidor de interconexión* for a gateway server or as the verb *interconectar*. Cross-references and synonyms are given and even occasional definitions. This is what a dictionary should do if it is to be of real use, and these examples are typical of the thorough approach taken in compiling this work.

Furthermore, entries cover quite a wide range of what can be found in the broad fields of information technology, from mainframes to MIDI and from historical and legal terms to the names and acronyms of national and international organizations, with little in the way of filler. The entries on any given page are really quite impressive for their depth of scope, and translations are surprisingly accurate in conveying real usage and nuances.

While favoring U.S. spelling, both British and U.S. usage is given and indicated, as well as differences between the various Spanish-speaking countries. The author has not shied away from including Anglicisms, as they are so widely used in the technical literature, and he goes so far as to differentiate between *anglicismos puros*, such as *utilidad* or *facilidad*, and *anglicismos adaptados*, which tag on a Spanish ending to an English word, such as *sortear* or *masterización*. These are nicely distinguished from other entries by their appearance within “quotes.”

A fairly extensive listing of abbreviations and acronyms appears alphabetically within the text and are also sometimes included under an entry. Look up is straightforward and legibility is quite good, with key words and subentries in bold or italicized in a two-column format and first and last entries at the top of each page. Definitions are indented, so you can quickly scan for key words. Binding and paper quality appear good, although pages may not always stay open where you've left them. The upside is that you can hold it in one hand.

This is not to say that errors were not encountered or expected words not found. KbPS, in caps, looks rather strange to this eye, but such minor errors do not appear to be pervasive or of great import. (Computer or 3D) rendering was missing, despite coverage of CAD/CAM processes.

While by no means exhaustive, I am pleased to say that this dictionary is becoming one of the first I pull out for relevant documents. The extensive research of the technical literature and updating done by the author through publication in 1997 appear to have paid off and justify the somewhat steep price. This is indeed a welcome addition to the difficult and ever-changing field of information technology. I would go so far as to say that it neatly surpasses any of the other bilingual volumes I have on my shelf in these fields. Translators working in both directions will find this dictionary extremely useful.

Elsevier's Dictionary of Archaeological Materials and Archaeometry

Author: Z. Goffer (Soreq Research Center, Yavne, Israel)

Publisher: Elsevier Science, Amsterdam

Publication date: 1996

ISBN #: 0-444-81949-5

Price: NLG 275.00 (\$172 in the U.S.)

Reviewed by: Nicholas Hartmann

This is a multilingual glossary of archaeological materials and archaeometry, consisting of alphabetized entries in English, with translations into German, Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese. The typeface and general layout are of moderate quality only; hardback binding appears sturdy, and paper has minimal show-through.

This work should be avoided. The number of factual errors and mistranslations is so great as to render the book unusable by either the specialist or, much more dangerously, the interested but unwary layman:

- The written English style of the entries is not that of a native speaker (“without recurring to excavation”; “submitted to pressure”; “mythical believes”; etc.).
- The book is riddled with typographical errors (“chrysolite”; “iridescent”; “millifiore”), almost all of them unacknowledged on the single Errata sheet inserted by the publisher.
- As far as the German “translations” of the English terms are concerned, the mistakes and misapprehensions are literally too numerous to count, including a grammatical howler in the very name of the German “translator” listed as consultant. The German terms indicate a poor understanding of compound word formation, hyphenation, capitalization, the use of umlauts, and distinctions between singular and plural.

Although I did not examine the Romance-language terms in similar detail, the poor quality of the German entries immediately disqualifies this work as a tool for serious translators, since in this regard it is as likely to mislead as to inform.

- There are numerous basic errors of scientific fact and terminology: quartz is defined as an “oxide of silicium”; the Celsius temperature scale is referred to throughout as “centigrade,” and the term “degrees Kelvin” is used; the atom is listed as being an elementary particle; diamond is defined as a polymeric material; and many more.

The book does provide some interesting details about natural dyestuffs and pigments, and might constitute a useful introduction to organic materials and their use in pre-industrial contexts. There is also an extensive bibliography (also marred by errors in German). But in the body of the work, the German translations (at least) are so unreliable, and the number of errors so great, that this “dictionary” should be actively avoided by anyone looking for an authoritative reference work, even a monolingual one. Given these enormous shortcomings, the publisher’s price of \$172 is unjustifiable.

July 1998

English-Arabic / Arabic-English Translation: A Practical Guide

Author: Basil Hatim

Publisher: London: Saqi Books, 235 pages

Publication Date: 1997

ISBN #: 0 86356 341 4 (hb); 0 86356 155 1 (pbk)

Reviewed By: Shuckran Kamal

Basil Hatim’s *Practical Guide* is a welcome addition to the still very small number of language-specific references available for translators who work in the Arabic <> English language combination. According to the author it is intended primarily to serve as a skill-building tool for professional translators and trainees, and it can also serve as a

classroom textbook or a private guide of a sort for “those thousands of young men and women aspiring to a career in this most valuable of services to the building of a better world” (p. 7). The book contains approximately 100 text passages in English and in Arabic compiled from 68 sources to provide readers with samples of different text types for translation exercises. The book also contains a glossary of terms and a select bibliography of 20 items.

Table 1: Spelling Horrors

Adobe structure	estructura barrota que se agrieta al secarse	A more accurate definition would be the one found in the <i>Diccionario de la Real Academia Española</i> : Mixture of mud and straw, molded as bricks and dried in the open air, used in the construction of walls.
Bird’s mouth	muesca	There are many types of muescas (grooves). A bird’s mouth groove is just one. A better translation would be <i>muesca en pico de pájaro</i> .
Bonnet	cap (cars)	Meanings used in construction are not even mentioned.
Rigging	aparejos, enjarciaduras, cordelera, soguera, cabuyera	Lets go sailing! All these terms are related to naval architecture and sailing. The author omits the one most used in construction: cableado.
Shim	plancha de relleno, planchita, calza, calzo, zoquete, calce, laminita; (v) calzar	What about <i>cuña</i> ?
Sweat	(s) soldar	This is a generic translation. Sweat solder is a type of welding.
Badger	molestar, importunar	I wonder what harass or disturb has to do with civil engineering. Again, Ms. Kennedy ignores the context and the audience of her dictionary. Putnam and Carlson’s <i>Diccionario de Arquitectura</i> gives <i>brocha</i> , a term used in the trade.

The materials in the book are logically organized in a way that makes them easy to use. The book itself is divided into three parts, each of which is subdivided into units. The three parts reflect the three text types which Hatim chose for his discussion (legal texts, exposition texts, and argumentation texts) and the units illustrate the variations within these text types. In Part I, devoted to legal texts, Hatim presents and discusses the formulaic structures and stylistic peculiarities of preambles, of articles in the body of a given law, and of initial and concluding legal articles—or what he calls “initializers” and “concluders.” Each text presented by Hatim in this and in the two subsequent parts is glossed to highlight its characteristics, and these notes are supplemented by a glossary to assist the reader with the text analysis and translation exercise. The first Arabic and English texts cited by Hatim in each unit are texts offered as “sensitizer” texts to “sensitize” the reader to the peculiarities of the text type before he/she embarks on an attempt to analyze and translate the text.

Hatim’s rhetorically based classification of texts highlights certain text characteristics that may be placed on a continuum of “detachment” and “evaluativeness.” He argues that legal texts, which are instructional, that is, focusing on shaping future behavior, are extremely detached and non-evaluative. Argumentation texts, which lie at the other end of the continuum, are marked by being “extremely involved” (or subjective) and “evaluative,” as arguments and points of view are presented and countered. Expository writing lies somewhere between these two extremes. It is exemplified by synopses, summaries, abstracts, and reports of various kinds. As these text types move closer to argumentation, Hatim argues and demonstrates that they become less detached and more evaluative.

Professional translators and trainees would do well to heed the astute observations made by Hatim about the differences between English and Arabic texts that must be taken into account when translating in either direction. In his notes on one legal text, for example, Hatim explains the need for using a connector (the equivalent of the English conjunction), *and* in translating that text from English into Arabic by pointing out that “punctuation marks are necessarily redundant in Arabic” (p. 21). He explains the force of legal “shall” in English language legal texts and how the “obligatoriness” feature of this “shall” can be correctly rendered in Arabic (p 31). He also points out that a “heavily ellipted utterance” in the source language (SL) must be explicated in the target language (TL). In general, Hatim’s glosses on the texts are helpful and thought provoking.

While these glosses on the Arabic and English sample texts are abundant and helpful, Hatim's suggestions for translating difficult or challenging strings, collocations, or sentences lack the justification and explanation that the reader would need to understand the process, the rationale, and the mechanics of coming up with the proposed translation. For example, in his notes on one legal text, Hatim maintains that "a literal approach to the translation of legal texts necessitates that we preserve source text word order as far as possible" (p. 16). In another note on another legal text he holds that "the good reason principle" may be invoked for deviating from this literal approach (p. 17). He does not explain what this "good reason principle" is and under what conditions it may be invoked. Elsewhere, Hatim does not explain his reasons for telling readers that "a slight restructuring [of a legal text] may be necessary," nor does he tell them what would make such restructuring necessary.

Despite these minor shortcomings, Hatim's *Guide* will prove to be a very useful reference for many practicing and aspiring translators because of the detailed discussions and analyses of text types it contains. Users are advised, nevertheless, that Hatim's approach will not answer all their questions about challenging and problematic structures. Users with such questions will have to look elsewhere for those answers.

***Export Financing and Insurance Vocabulary
English–French–Spanish
Terminology Bulletin 230***

Publishers: Janeen Johnston-Des Rochers
Public Works and Government Services Canada

Publication Date: 1996

ISBN #: 0-660-59978-3 \$32.95

Soft cover; 572 pp; 1,400 entries

Reviewed by: Alicia Gordon

Another entry in the often valuable terminology series published by the Canadian government's translation bureau, this volume is a new addition to the list of trilingual glossaries being developed in light of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Aimed at exporters, insurers, suppliers, financial experts and, of course, language specialists, it comes with an impeccable list of contributors and an extensive bibliography of materials consulted. I would never hesitate to make room on my bookshelf for one of these new releases.

That being said, is it worth seeking out? If you can get past their questionable policy of tacking a U.S. \$ symbol on the Canadian price for any purchases outside of Canada, no matter where and no matter what the exchange rate, the answer is a definite maybe. Do I really need this book to look up "foreign customer" in three languages, only to be given *client étranger* and *cliente extranjero*? And of 470 definitions of complex terms, did I really need this book to tell me in three languages that a foreign customer is a person or foreign government that carries on business or other activities outside a country? Complex?

Compounding my hesitation is the essentially one-to-one correspondence found for each entry: comfort letter/*lettre de confort*/*carta de seguridades*. This wouldn't have helped me when I first ran into *confort* and *conform* letters in a Spanish document unless I managed to put the pieces together. Nice definition though. While there are 17 entries in French for various types of *société* (SARL, for example), there is no entry at all for *sociedad anónima* in Spanish, nor for the very NAFTA-relevant Mexican S.A. de C.V. You have your *contrat de location-financement* as *contrato de arrendamiento con opción de compra* in Spanish, but where is my option-to-buy or my lease-purchase agreement in English? Not here, as they give only "finance lease."

The impression is of a work in progress, with internationally acceptable translations for commonly encountered terms, as opposed to terms in actual usage. Many terms, while finance-related, appear to be filler, or things you would rarely need to look up. But will it help you confirm that a *traité de reassurance* is a reinsurance treaty and that *cuota-parte* is indeed *quota-part* reinsurance? Sure.

Where usage has been found in a country, it is nicely indicated in brackets. Some unusual abbreviations are included, although not many, and I didn't see any unreliable entries. The layout is serviceable if not pretty: three columns with plenty of white space split into three sections. I'm not sure why entries for all three languages are bolded in the English portion, while none of them are in the French or Spanish sections. However, it is fairly quick to thumb through the sections with key words in the top margin of each page.

In total, I expect this volume will come in handy periodically, but I don't expect I'll go to it first, second, or even third. However, putting enough of these glossaries together, you wind up with a Termium, and I look forward to the day that the valuable French-English CD-ROM will be available in a trilingual edition.

Information on all of the publications available from this office can be found on the Web at <http://www.translationbureau.gc.ca/> or by calling (819) 956-4802. They can also be ordered from your local bookstore.

Routledge-Langenscheidt German Dictionary of Electrical Engineering and Electronics/Wörterbuch Elektrotechnik und Elektronik Englisch

Author: Peter-Klaus Budig et al.

Publisher: Routledge, London/New York

Publication Date: Vol. 1 (5th edition) 1998; Vol. 2 (6th edition) 1997.

ISBN #: 0-41517132-6 (Vol. 1: German-English); 0-415-1731-8 (Vol.2: English-German)

Price: \$110, each volume, Number of pages: 729 (Vol. 1), 750 (Vol. 2), hardcover

Reviewed by: Frank Dietz

The prospective purchaser of these two volumes will immediately notice the two publishers' logos on the covers, and the preface informs us that these are editions of *Langenscheidt's Dictionary of Electrical Engineering and Electronics* published by Routledge under a licensing agreement.

These dictionaries cover a relatively large subject area ranging from physics through electric power engineering, laser technology to microelectronics, process control engineering and information processing, among others. The revised editions have been enlarged by about 3,500 (English-German) 4,000 new terms (German-English), and now contain around 67,000 entries each.

The typeface and layout make these volumes very easy to read, and the generous margins let the pages appear much less crowded than in some other dictionaries. The binding appears sturdy enough to stand up to years of use. Even the format and weight of the volumes are just right and make for easy handling.

Of a number of terms I expected to find in the German-English volume, *Zeilensprungverfahren*, *Wolframfadenlampe*, *Handy* (German pseudo-English for cell phone), *Lötspunkt*, *Netzrauschen*, *Funktörungsmessung*, *Umspannwerk*, *Streuoeffizient*, and *Kriechstrom* were all present. *Hartvergoldung* was missing (though *Hartgoldbad* was included), as well as *Bügelshelle*. *Datenfernübertragung* was listed, but not its common abbreviation *DFÜ*. The English-German volume covered *information sink*, *X-ray lithography*, *female connector*, *nominal voltage*, *transducer*, *ribbon cable*, *photomask*, *doppler shift*, *maser*, *VLSI*, and *wafer yield*. The term *zero insertion force* was included (though not *ZIF*), but *smart card* and *line conditioner* were missing. Among the items present in the Routledge dictionaries but missing from Ferretti's *Wörterbuch der Elektronik, Datentechnik und Telekommunikation* would be *Diodenlaser*, *Fadengalvanometer*, *impedanzarm*, *Lötautomat*, *thermal resistor*, *synthetic aperture*, and *feeler switch*. On the whole, the Routledge dictionaries are very comprehensive in their coverage, and one would only wish for a greater number of acronyms and abbreviations to be included in these two volumes.

The entries sometimes provide short definitions of less common terms (such as *Gaussistor*) and also mark the particular subject area if necessary. There seem to be hardly any "filler" words that might also be found in general dictionaries, and so far I have not found any typos.

Overall, this is a very useful tool for the technical translator. I suspect that one of its main competitors will be its own CD-ROM version which is scheduled for the fall of 1998 (at an announced price of \$250 for both volumes). While the CD-ROM will be somewhat more expensive than the printed version, the savings in shelf space and the faster and more extensive search capabilities should be worth that premium.

TERMIUM®

Translation Bureau/Bureau de la traduction Public Works and Government Services—Canada Travaux publics et Services gouvernementaux—Canada

Price: \$395

Reviewed by: Françoise Herrmann

TERMIUM® is “the Government of Canada’s linguistic data bank, [...] established in 1975 [...] first used by the translators that serve all the departments of the Canadian government” (User Manual, p.2), and on a linguistic level, the potential of this as a tool is worth every cent. It is an exceptionally well-conceived, researched, and practical bilingual (French-English/ English-French) lexical and syntactic resource for translators in numerous technical domains. Additionally, with its promise to update the linguistic contents on a yearly basis, this project makes fine use of an important aspect of computer technology: its fluidity and modularity. However, on a computer design level, the 1996 version (still the one available in 1998) that I purchased is far from satisfactory. Hence, I recommend, without hesitation, a future version where a major overhaul of the interface design has taken place. In the interim, you will still find this resource invaluable—providing that you are willing to put up with minor incompleteness of records and less-than optimal interface design.

As a database, *TERMIUM®* consists of one million records (1,030,168). According to the User’s Manual, there are four different kinds of records: records for individual lexical items; records for acronyms and proper names; records for translation problems (e.g., proverbs and phrases); and records that document the bibliographic sources for the other records. This makes *TERMIUM®* a terrific hybrid. It is a compilation of many glossaries in specialized fields of interest, combined with the very best of monolingual and bilingual dictionaries, and a hint of the encyclopedia. From the glossary, *TERMIUM®* incorporates the precise specification of the lexical domain (i.e., indexing by fields such as finance, electricity, chemistry, etc.) and single-item and multiple-item lexical entries (i.e., words and phrase entries). From the monolingual dictionary, *TERMIUM®* incorporates such information as origin, synonyms, and context of use, including definition, exemplification, and observations. From the bilingual dictionary, *TERMIUM®* incorporates the translation of terms and phrases which have been researched. And from the encyclopedia, *TERMIUM®* incorporates bibliographic source information. This combination alone makes *TERMIUM®* an invaluable tool for translators. But there is much more...

TERMIUM® could still easily fall short of its practical utility: providing translation of terms, and/or information to help in the translation of terms. Just as the usefulness of a favorite dictionary or glossary can be easily exhausted when the translation domain is specialized or very recent, how robust is *TERMIUM®*?

For quick sets of astronautics abstracts that I worked on (outside of my usual field), *TERMIUM®* was a blessing on many counts. First, because astronautics, aviation, and space technology were fields included in *TERMIUM®*. Secondly, because I could find the terms I searched for in *TERMIUM®*. And finally, because there was sufficient contextual information. The term “charge utile” (payload) is a case in point. Typing in the term “charge utile” invoked 10 records. Scanning the record summary, I could quickly eliminate records by field (i.e., “types of concrete, underwater navigation equipment, textile industries, rolling stock—railroads,” etc...none of these matched). But “research and development—astronautics—spacecrafts—space centers” matched perfectly. The record for “charge utile” in the domain of interest is shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: *TERMIUM®* record #3 for the term “charge utile.”

SUBJECT FIELD(S) Research and Development (Astronautics) Spacecraft Space Centres	Recherche et développement (Astronautique) Engins spatiaux Centres spatiaux
English payload*a*CORRECT	French charge utile*a*CORRECT,FÉM
	OBS*Terme uniformisé par le Comité d’uniformisation de la terminologie spatiale—CUTS*b DEF*Équipement que transporte un véhicule spatial et qui est destiné à réaliser la mission. Dans RADARSAT, la charge utile se compose essentiellement du RSO et des équipements destinés à sa maintenance.*a

This “test” bears no real validity across domains, but it is quite consistent with the reported experience of translators in various fields—for example, medicine. The sheer number of terms, compared to standard dictionaries (e.g., *Le Petit Robert*, over 50,000 words; *Le Robert & Collins Senior*, over 300,000 words), suggests validity (more than three million terms with records per field, ranging from 8,491 for chemistry to 100,435 for humanities and social sciences). As a case in point, specialized and frontier terms such as “phase de sustentation verticale,” “tourbillon de sillage,” “cellule (d’avion),” “amarrage automatique en orbite,” and “antennes à balayage électronique,” made my experience of *TERMIUM*® a really satisfactory one. Where traditional references failed me, *TERMIUM*® stepped in with a perfect term, or a wealth of details to narrow down options. Each and every record did not display a complete context of use information (i.e., definition, observations, and examples), but across the range of records for a searched term, and with the specification of fields and existing contextual information, it generously accomplished its purpose.

On the flip side, comes the design of the interface. I purchased a Macintosh version which, according to the User Manual (“written in general terms for all three environments in which *TERMIUM*® can be used: DOS, Windows and, Macintosh”), displays a single interface for each of the platforms. Whether due to my equipment (Mac PowerBook 3400c/ 180 with 80 MB RAM) or to the actual CD-ROM software, I experienced repeated frozen-screen crashes when toggling back and forth from *TERMIUM*® to Word processing. This was a little disheartening because one of the major advantages of a digital translation tool is the ease that toggling provides. (Dictionaries are sometimes quite heavy, when they are not actually located in remote locations at a library. In digital format, access is fingertips away.)

Beyond this, however, I found the design of the querying functions cumbersome. It is not possible to scroll through the initial set of terms that appear on screen so as to select a particular one. The user must type in the searched word or phrase, along with Boolean operators when necessary. Similarly, access to French terms from English is separate from access to English terms from French. These are in two separate indices (or “volumes”). Switching from one to the other from either of the indices is possible. But there is no iconic (WYSIWYG- “What you see is what you get”) Macintosh design principle operating for the data bank artifact and its two-way search direction. Where users of CD-ROM dictionaries often complain of not being able to “leaf” through the artifact, baring tactile sensations, there is no reason that such direct access cannot be designed. Direct, forward and backward, click-and-scroll search access to capture “leafing” that comes as second nature to users of print media, and “mouse”-driven activity that comes as second nature to Mac and Web users (possibly even Windows users), without loss of the type-in search mode or the command-driven (short-cut) mode.

Secondly, I found the navigation system rigid (within records, between indices, or between searches). It calls up startling error sound alerts and messages (e.g., when scrolling is restricted by the single-screen size of a record; when the match and find function for queried items interrupts typing mid-word with “no match found”; and when all records for a given search have been perused). Though sound alerts can be turned off, interruptions remain in the flow of program use. And what is more, there are no cross-referencing options within a record (the hypertext user’s second nature). This means starting a new typed-in search for any terms that are of interest inside a particular record. There is no cross-referencing and no “book-marking” (part of the Web user’s second nature) to keep track of the search path of terms, and to enable backtracking to previous records without having to re-type the search term.

Finally, stop-watch in hand, one could gripe about the time lost having to switch indices. However, *TERMIUM*® searches are quasi-instantaneous, which is exactly as it should be.

In summary, on a Mac PowerBook in a Macintosh environment, *TERMIUM*® did not feel like a principled program for Macintosh: “I could not see, or anticipate seeing, what I was about to get!” Though in the end, I was quite pleasantly surprised each time with the linguistic results of the search.

References

- TERMIUM*® User Manual
- TERMIUM*® Documentation
- Le Petit Robert* (1967 Edition)
- Robert & Collins* (First Edition, 1978)
- Robert & Collins Senior* (Fourth Edition, 1996)

Stedman's Electronic Medical Dictionary 3.0

(Windows version on seven diskettes. A Macintosh version is also available, as is a hybrid Windows/Mac CD-ROM)

ISBN #: 0-683-18268-4

Price: \$79.95

Reviewed by: Albert G. Bork

A couple of years ago (October 1996 issue) Sharlee Bradley reviewed the DOS version of 2.0. I reviewed the Macintosh version and concluded the review with these words: "I have been testing it daily for over a month and have found terms and expressions that I never would have located in the print version. My only hope is that the electronic version of *Stedman's 26th* print edition, which is due out soon, does arrive soon. No medical translator should be without it." Here is that electronic version.

It is much faster than 2.0 and has a much improved interface. I continue to use it daily and find it much more useful than the print version.

Note that this version is not the one that comes with STAT!-Ref. This is the full version which allows searches in definitions, anagrams, and wild cards—not just headwords. You can still get the CD-ROM of 2.0 free when you buy the print version of the 26th edition. Presumably you can then upgrade the CD-ROM for a more modest price.

If you are a medical translator and English is one of your languages, get this electronic dictionary. You will love it.

Routledge's Diccionario Técnico Inglés, Spanish Technical Dictionary (Volume 2, English-Spanish)

Publisher: Routledge, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4P 4ENAER. Simultaneously published in the U.S. and Canada by Routledge, 29 West 35th Street, New York, NY, 10001.

Publication Date: 1997

ISBN #: Volume 2, English-Spanish 0-415-11273-7

Price: \$140

Reviewed by: Beatriz Quintana

The publishers say their technical dictionary covers more than 70 subjects with 110,000 entries. This review covers only Volume 2, the English-to-Spanish version. Volume 2 has 848 pages, and was produced with excellent binding, paper, and print. It does not have any glue or paper smell, which is great for those translators with allergies. The entries are easy to read because they are in bold type with the Spanish definitions indented and the text arranged in two columns. There were virtually no "filler" words found. Each entry has subentries, which also appear in bold. The gender of each term is given, as well as the technical field to which the term applies and, whenever it's relevant, the geographic area in which the term is used.

This dictionary has excellent cross-references to British and American English. It also has 15 very useful conversion tables. Each term is given in different formats, including common abbreviations. Abbreviations are expanded in English, which is wonderful.

The technical terms applied to welding provide a good example of the kind of information offered in this dictionary. For "MIG welding," this dictionary includes the meaning of the abbreviation (metal inert-gas welding), and then it gives the term in Spanish, as well as the technical fields in which the term is used. The designation of technical fields is a feature other dictionaries lack or do not handle as exhaustively. This dictionary includes this information for virtually each and every term. The two-volume Beigbender Atienza dictionary, for example, does not include this information, for the most part.

In the Routledge dictionary, abbreviations are interspersed in the text. For example, the entry "LD50" appears as an abbreviation along with its English meaning (mean lethal dose). Then the technical field is mentioned, and two Spanish definitions are given. It is this kind of feature that makes this dictionary such an invaluable tool for technical translations. The "LD50" abbreviation does not appear in Beigbender Atienza.

For "airframe," the Routledge dictionary includes two combined definitions in the field of air transport and one in acoustics. However, Routledge did not set "airframe" apart as a term with the more general "fuselage" definition. The verb "to engine," surprisingly, was not in the dictionary. The term "breakout box" wasn't in either dictionary. The *Diccionario de Telecomunicaciones* by Lazo-Ardois does have it, but that is a much more specialized dictionary.

To this reviewer, *Diccionario Técnico Inglés, Spanish Technical Dictionary* has proven to be an invaluable and time-saving tool, and its manageable size makes it a favorite.

September 1998

L&H Miljøordbog, dansk-engelsk, engelsk-dansk

L&H Dictionary of Environmental Terms, Danish-English, English-Danish

(Revised and expanded edition of 1987 dictionary of same name)

Publisher: L&H Ordbøger, Copenhagen

Publication Date: 1997

ISBN #: 87-7845-110-8

Hard cover: 327 pages, Danish>English; 315 pages, English>Danish. Approximately 50 entries per page.

Price: \$180

L&H Informatik Ordbog, dansk-engelsk, engelsk-dansk

L&H Informatics Dictionary, Danish-English, English-Danish

(Revised and expanded edition of the 1991 L&H EDB Ordbog (L&H Computer Dictionary))

Publisher: L&H Ordbøger, Copenhagen

Publication Date: 1997

ISBN #: 87-7845-104-3

Hard cover: 267 pages, Danish>English; 271 pages, English>Danish. Approximately 50 entries per page.

Price: \$180

Both dictionaries available from L&H Ordbøger, Siljengade 6, 2300 København S, Denmark;

Tel: (011) 45-32-96-49-49;

Fax: (011) 45-32-96-98-48;

E-mail: lhpubl@post4.tele.dk;

Web site: www.lhpublishing.dk

Reviewed by: Robert T. Creutz

Both dictionaries are available in electronic format for Windows for \$210 per language direction, or a total of \$420 each for the same content as the respective bidirectional hard copy versions. A free demo CD-ROM can be ordered from L&H's Web site. The purchased software resides on your hard disk. See my review of the *L&H Teknisk Ordbog* electronic edition in the February 1997 *Chronicle* for an overview of how this software works.

This new edition of the *Miljøordbog* claims to be twice as comprehensive as the old. For the most part, this claim is achieved through a definition of the environmental field which, upon inspection, is so broad that it could almost classify this work as a general dictionary, with entries like *house*, *fjord*, *vitamin*, *water*, *county*, *sand*, *vegetable*, *vertebra*, and *bird*. On the other hand, desirable and, one would expect, essential entries like *remediation* and *pitot tube* are absent. The reliability of its terminology sources and the care taken to avoid overstuffing it with even truly relevant terms have to be questioned, especially with threads of entries like *leaching of nitrogen* (*udvaskning af kvælstof*), *nitrogen leaching*, *N-leaching*, and *nitrogen washing out* [sic] (all *kvælstofudvaskning*). By contrast, the *exposure* cluster is only six entries long (*exposure*, *exposure dose*, *exposure-effect relationship*, *exposure hazard*, *exposure indicator*, and *exposure to radiation*) with the conspicuous absence of *exposure limits* and *exposure controls*, to name but a few. One wonders why in some instances entire pages of entries had to be included. There are 22 *sikkerheds-* terms, ranging from *sikkerhedsbestemmelser* to *sikkerhedsvurdering*. You could have correctly guessed them all.

One's general impression is of a sump, in part, for terms from L&H's database that had no proper place in its other dictionaries.

There is also quite substantial overlap with the *L&H Teknisk Ordbog*. However, there are terms not found in other lexical sources, particularly in regards to abbreviations and Danish names of U.S. environmental regulations and organizations such as ACWM (*asbestholdigt affaldsmateriale*), FIFRA (*amerikansk lov om insekticider, fungicider og rodenticider*), and EPA (*den amerikanske miljøstyrelse*).

As L&H is always careful to point out in its introductions, there are no definitions or examples of correct usage. There are just scattered, and apparently random, field glosses. Knowing that the field is chemistry for *fugitive* = *flygtig* is a help, but is it necessary to gloss *plantevæv* as a botanical term? Seven choices are given for *fungicide*. That's four more than *Kjærulff Nielsen* (*Engelsk-Dansk Ordbog*). What is the proper choice in your specific environmental context? You will find no help in answering that question here.

In other instances only definitions are supplied where a concise term exists. *Free-range egg* is rendered as *æg fra fritgående høne*, known both on the farm and in the supermarket as *skrabæg*. It does better than Kjærulff Nielsen with *free-range hen*, however (*fritgående høne* versus *høns som får lov til at gå frit omkring*).

In summary, there is little in this dictionary that is truly new or that one cannot figure out for oneself, particularly with the help of the *L&H Teknisk Ordbog*, *Gyldendals Miljøleksikon* (all-Danish), and, best of all, original environmental writings in Danish (available from Miljøstyrelsen, Strandgade 29, 1401 København K, Denmark).

The *Informatik Ordbog* leaves one in the dark for a translation of *dual in-line package (DIP only)*, *burning* (as in *PROM programming*), and *surge protector*, but had about a 95 percent hit rate in my look-up test of a broad range of commonly and not so commonly encountered information technology (IT) terms. Curiously missing is *datateknologi*, which appears in its own introduction.

The equivalents it gives for some terms raise an eyebrow: *hacker* = *computerekspert*, *edb-entusiast* (the term *hacker*, until it became confused with *cracker*, originally meant a person who employed trial and error to explore and master computers—maybe enthusiastic, but seldom an expert in the true sense). One is advised to verify this dictionary's entries for correctness and currency by reading IT periodicals in Danish on a regular basis and referring to the, albeit obsolescent, 1991 all-Danish *EDB LEX* put out by Teknisk Forlag. IT terminology is constantly evolving, and English/ Denglish tend to coexist with, and are sometimes eventually replaced by, accepted home-grown Danish (*e-mail* and *e-post*).

These reservations aside (and, mutatis mutandis, they can apply to any bilingual dictionary), *Informatik Ordbog* is the most comprehensive and complete Danish bilingual IT glossary presently on the market and truly replaces its predecessor (*L&H EDB Ordbog*). As a bonus, it contains a sprinkling of telecom terms (*dial-up terminal*, *wireless transfer*, and *lock word*). Filling (*book*, *length*, *drawing*, *new*) has been kept to a tolerable minimum.

A word on binding. The covers have fallen off all my L&H dictionaries, but after many years of frequent use not one has yet ended up a pile of loose pages. I've learned to live with the necessity of storing them along with the atlases on an oversized bookshelf.

Dictionnaire des sciences et techniques du pétrole

(Anglais - français, Français - anglais)

Comprehensive Dictionary of Petroleum Science and Technology

(English - French, French - English)

Authors: Magdaleine Moureau and Gerard Brace, Institut français du pétrole

Editions Technip, 27 Rue Ginoux 75737 Paris Cedex 15 France

Publication Date: 1993

ISBN #: 2-7108-0648-7

Price: 970 Francs, \$259

one volume hardback, 170 x 240, 1,040 pages

Available for purchase or rent from i.b.d, ltd. (800)-343-3531

Reviewed by: Patricia Bobeck

This bilingual French-English dictionary is a revision of the *Dictionary of Petroleum Technology*, published in 1979, which itself was a revision of the *Technical Dictionary of Terms Used in the Petroleum Industry*, published in 1963. The 1993 edition contains 70,000 entries covering a multitude of disciplines that relate to the petroleum industry: geology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, engineering, refining, petrochemicals, mineralogy, economics, communications, legislation, pollution, data management, and units of measurement.

For compilation of terminology, the authors used databases, including that of the American Petroleum Institute of the University of Tulsa, to systematically check English terminology, and the CNRS-INIST (Centre National pour recherche scientifique—Institut de l'information scientifique et technique) for French terminology, in addition to numerous publications. The dictionary includes six pages of information on how to use it and a list of selected references.

The dictionary has good quality binding, easily legible typeface, an obvious contrast between bold, regular, and italics, and high-quality paper. Arranged in double-column layout, the dictionary is easy to use, with headwords in large boldface, subentries in small boldface, and explanations in italics. Each entry is indented under the headword.

Grammatical information is limited to noun gender. Parts of speech and pronunciation are not indicated. Contextual information is provided, as are technical fields, along with abundant explanations, which makes this dictionary a truly valuable resource. For example, under the word "*diagraphie*" this dictionary says "*log, the profile recorded during a logging operation; the French word diagraphie means both the log recorded and the logging operations, logging; well log-*

ging, *methods of measuring various physical parameters of the formations crossed through by a borehole; not to be confused with coring, which refers to the obtaining of physical samples.* (Definitions are in regular type and explanations are in italics.)

The dictionary contains 12 appendices, including: SI numbers, SI conversion tables, energy equivalences, production measurements, crude oil conversion factors, temperature conversion charts, well mapping symbols, and the Greek alphabet. There are no illustrations.

Geologic and petroleum industry terminology used in the U.S. today includes many terms originally used in the field by drillers and miners, which were later found to be confusing or outdated and fell out of usage in published texts. However, this vocabulary can still be used in geologic and drilling reports for internal consumption within a company. This outdated vocabulary may be found in monolingual reference works, such as the *Glossary of Geology or the Dictionary of Geological Terms* published by the American Geological Institute, but many of these old terms are not found in bilingual reference books.

French no doubt has many old petroleum terms that have likewise fallen out of use, but which may still appear in recent reports. In addition, the French that is spoken in African countries will have additional dialectal variations on geologic terminology, which may or may not find their way into a bilingual dictionary.

See Table 1 for a list of some troublesome terms I have encountered in petroleum exploration and production translations, which I have looked for in this dictionary and in the *Routledge French Technical Dictionary* for comparison. Note that not all terms were found.

Table 1: Troublesome Terms

	Technip	Routledge
accident de terrain	yes	no
accident transverse	no	no
môle (breakwater, pier, mound)	yes	yes
épaisseur utile	no	no
hauteur utile (“thickness” of rock unit)	yes	no
puissance (“thickness” or rock unit)	yes	no
dynocystes	no	no
RHOB	no	no
*dismigration (dysmigration)	yes	no
pyrochromatogramme	no	no
*cricondentherme	yes	no
MTBE	yes**	no

*Technip dictionary provided explanations of these terms.
 **English only; French equivalent not found.

In my opinion, this is an excellent resource for petroleum industry translators because it contains and explains terms (for example, dysmigration, and cricondentherm) that are not found elsewhere, except in Norman J. Hyne’s *Dictionary of Petroleum Exploration, Drilling and Production*, a monolingual English reference work published by PennWell Books of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Technip dictionary is outstanding in the abundance of explanations of terms and in explaining usage differences between English and French, as illustrated above.

My suggestion for improving this dictionary is to expand on more terms, especially fuzzy French terms like “accident.” I have seen this used as a synonym for a geologic “fault” (or perhaps as a more global term indicating “structural movement resulting in a stratigraphic offset”) in texts, but it is defined in the dictionary only as the English cognate “accident” and as “ground feature” or “undulation.” Given the importance of faulting in the petroleum industry, I would suggest expanding on this term. I noted one error in the English part of the dictionary: The abbreviation “TCE” is defined as “trichloroethane” whereas U.S. usage of this abbreviation is as an acronym for “trichloroethene.” The usual abbreviation for “trichloroethane” is “TCA.” TCE’s properties and occurrence are very different from those of TCA. TCE is, unfortunately, a common contaminant of groundwater, and is regulated in drinking water supplies at very low concentrations. TCA is not as toxic or widely distributed.

It is my hope that Technip plans to release this dictionary in electronic format.

One final note—as a translator of Spanish to English, I suggest that PennWell Books create a similarly excellent resource by upgrading their *English-Spanish Glossary of the Petroleum Industry* using this Technip dictionary as a model. Such a work would be a much needed resource for Spanish-English translators working in the petroleum industry.

The BBI Dictionary of English Word Combinations

Compiled by: Morton Benson, Evelyn Benson, and Robert Ilson

Publisher: John Benjamins Publishing Company

ISBN #: ISBN 1-55619-520-6; ISBN 1-55619-521-4

Price: (Hardback) \$38.00; (Paperback) \$19.95

Reviewed by: Tony Beckwith

B., B., and I. are the initials of the three compilers of this dictionary, now in its third edition. The accompanying promotional material says this one is far more splendid than the previous editions, and contains 18,000 entries covering over 90,000 English word combinations. There is no suggestion of what that number might represent as a percentage of the whole. No matter, the *BBI* is a great idea.

The first sections introduce the book through a series of graceful and erudite explanations. The authors present their concept and their efficient cross-referencing system for quick and easy tracking of the desired term. Or rather, *collocation*—a recurrent, semi-fixed word combination commonly used in English.

The dictionary's introduction explains that "a construction such as *condemn murder* is a free combination. The verb *condemn* occurs with an unlimited number of nouns: *they condemned—the abduction, abortion, abuse of power, the acquittal*, etc. In a similar manner, *murder* combines freely with hundreds of verbs: *abhor, accept, acclaim, advocate*, etc. On the other hand, *commit murder* is a collocation. The verb *commit* is limited in use to a small number of nouns, meaning 'crime,' 'wrongdoing'; it collocates specifically with *murder*."

Colloquial expressions are, of course, the challenge (and occasionally the nightmare) of every translator and interpreter. Knowing instinctively how word combinations are used is a sign of a native speaker—or one deeply steeped in the language. Anyone else working into English as a translator, interpreter, or student could benefit from this dictionary. It was first printed in 1986, then updated in 1993. Here are some of the collocations that have been included in the latest edition: *a borderline case, to come on strong, to gather speed, to put a spin on something, to create a homepage, to visit a Web site*.

Instructions for look-up are clear and simple: ". . . if there is a noun in the collocation, look under the noun; if there are two nouns, look under the second." And so on. Here's a typical example of how the dictionary works. In order to find the English for *poner la mesa*, a Spanish-speaker would look up the noun *table* and find that in American English one usually says *to set the table*, and in British English one says *to lay the table*.

Technical instruction is generous and clear in the introduction. We are informed right away that collocations fall into two major groups: *grammatical* and *lexical*. We are shown parts of speech in various combinations: "An example of an adjective + noun collocation is 'warmest regards,' as in 'I send warmest regards.' Typical violations of lexical collocability are 'I send hot regards' and 'I send hearty regards.'"

On a random look-up in the dictionary we find, for example, *absence*. The entry gives several collocations that use that word, such as an *unexcused ~ from school*. Under *egg* we find *to have egg on one's face*, explained as "to be in an embarrassing position." Under *either* we find a helpful Usage Note: "The use of the pronoun *of* is necessary when *two* or a pronoun follows ..." Under *hang* we find another: "The past and past participle of *hang* are *hung* or *hanged*..." Purists will be encouraged to read this sentence in the Usage Notes section: "The views of purists concerning correct usage are sometimes given."

Most dictionaries provide some help with phrases of this kind, but the *BBI* goes a lot deeper and mines a richer lode. I wish some group would create a dictionary like this in Spanish. I'd send in my order right away, along with my hottest regards.

Grafisk digital design ordbog

Publisher: L&H Ordbøger

ISBN: 87-7845-108-6

Price: Roughly \$225

Reviewed by: Yngve Roennike

The L&H set of dictionaries (both hardback and electronic) must rank among the top of what is produced in the “Commonwealth” of Scandinavia in the field of lexicography (along with Ingvar E. Gullberg’s Swedish-English dictionary of technical terms, of which a current edition seems to be finally on tap). Incidentally, on a Nordic scale, some of the Finnish dictionaries likely take the cake, which is useful knowledge if you happen to know even a little of this very different (from Danish) and highly complex language.

There is commonality, geographical and otherwise, between the people of Finland and the other Nordic countries which is often evident in words written in the Finnish language. For example, there are many so-called calques of Swedish (and by extension, Danish) terms of art. This is particularly true, I suppose, in the field of graphics, which takes into its scope collateral areas such as paper and pulp production, corrugator machinery, etc. If you know the Finnish equivalent of, say, a Swedish/Danish word, you can sometimes find a more suitable and “spot on” English translation in a Finnish dictionary. This is also the case with the panoply of German dictionaries currently available, if you know the not too difficult technique of switching between Danish and German.

But I digress. If viewed from an overall perspective, the L&H dictionaries can be described as a suite of independent, stand-alone works. The tradeoff is that there is too much overlap, too many related areas being covered with not enough separation, using a cookie-cutter approach, one might say. Therefore, you will be well served if you only acquire the technical and business dictionaries. What is sorely needed is a comprehensive medical dictionary, since a large share of trade and commerce between the U.S. and Denmark, and hence translations, occurs precisely in this field. L&H does not publish one, which is surprising given its “translation shop” background and image. There is only a handful of minor English/Danish medical dictionaries available, notably the one from the publisher G.E.C. Gads Forlag by Morten Pilegaard and Helge Baden (ISBN 87-12-02240-3), which is brief and patchy (and arguably inappropriate in that all explanations of Danish medical terms are in English, a convenient shortcut for the author, but an irritant for the serious translator of and into Danish).

The graphics dictionary (entitled *Graphical Digital Design Dictionary*, even though we are not supposed to bunch up nouns without qualifiers/modifiers in Danish, and yet it is done often as witnessed in this title), along with the L&H computer dictionary, seems more clearly dedicated than the rest. Taking it for a spin and test driving it on a sampling of articles from U.S. computer magazines covering DTP turned out to be a chancy venture when trying to measure the merit of this book. Such articles are often peppered with jargon and jazzy abbreviations that only randomly find their way into dictionaries. For example, I found ISDN, but not AGP (Accelerated Graphics Port); pixel, but not pixelate and pixelation; frame rate, but not fps (frames per second); texture mapping, but not texturing, although both shadow and shadowing were present; CAD, but not solid modeling; and refresh rate, but not baseline refresh rate. Videoconferencing, the hot new in-thing that involves much graphics, also seemed to get short shrift. Slide show does not even occur. Notwithstanding, you do get to appreciate what’s included in the book, the nuggets, rather than what is not.

Going the other way, i.e., from Danish to English, there is a set of Danish words—also included here—that are remnants of an era when computers weren’t even invented. The prevailing standard has been not to change these with time and to savor the special flavor of such words as Ombrydning (literally breaking the page, or paging); Ombrydningsfejl (misplaced line); Brødtekst (literally bread text, i.e., body text or all text [as in bread and butter] in a document, which sometimes gets highlighted, copied CTRL C and inserted CTRL V, or sent to the recycle bin (another English term not covered by the book—nor, by the way, was redline); Horeunge (literally bastard), English: widow, versus orphan, which is suddenly: Fransk Horeunge (French bastard).

HTML language and Internet-speak related to graphic page displays is another challenge to be met. But pausing for a moment, what also needs to be considered, of course, is the secondary, but very important question, are the translations per se proper? This is often a matter of taste and best left to the individual user/translator to decide. Someone prone to mood swings may either indulge in eulogizing or berating some of the dictionary entries/suggestions. However, the advantage of L&H has been that they include as many options as possible, with nary any explanatory attachments, so that if you don’t like one, you could use another based on various criteria, e.g., space requirements—some Danish words get awfully long, or even euphony, as judged by yourself.

On a final note and as an added bonus indeed, the book provides ample fodder in the field of paper machinery, e.g., jogger, nip roll, splicer, shear, sheeter, tamper.

October 1998

The Oxford Italian Minidictionary

Publisher: New York: Oxford University Press

Publication Date: 1997, 2nd edition

ISBN #: 0-19-860009-7

Price: \$6.50, Softcover

Reviewed by: Leon McMorrow

This is one of those fat little bilingual dictionaries that one sees at international airports and tourist venues, measuring almost as much in thickness as in length or width. It is advertised as “the most up-to-date Italian dictionary of its size.” It would certainly put a nice bulge in one’s pocket, so it may be better suited to purse or “fanny pack”—Hmm! I wonder if it gives the Italian for that?

No, it doesn’t; but this is a British dictionary and that term might be a vulgarism. In fact, the dictionary is very up-to-date in some areas I perused. I assume that the most likely user would be tourists or business people visiting Italy who need a larger or smaller aide-memoire, depending on how much they have brushed up their Italian (there is a corresponding version of the dictionary available for native Italian speakers). Since the many of the potential users will most likely do some shopping, at least “window shopping” (yes, it is there: *andare in giro a vedere le vetrine*), I concentrated on some terms associated with computer shopping, which is now very much *alla moda* in all countries.

The results were mixed and unusual. The English-Italian section did have “hard disk” (hard disk, *disco rigido*), but in Italian-English the term is *disco fisso*. It also has “computer, laser printer, modem, hardware, and software,” but not “byte, bit, driver, or color printing.” Checking on the Italian-English side for matching pairs, I found “computer, stampante laser, and modem,” but not “hardware or software”—what is going on! I could imagine a policy of omitting terms in the Italian-English section that are already in English in order to save space, but inconsistency does not help. I did not find “ergonomic” in either direction, if you are admiring the furniture or equipment.

Since one of my main hobbies in Italy is following political discourse (it rivals classical theater, and the Italian newspapers at all levels of journalism seem to enjoy reporting it), I did some digging in that field. I was able to find on the Italian-English side: “*tangentopoli*, *idea fissa*, *conferenza al vertice*, *soffocare* (= to cover up), *interrogatorio*,” but not “*fare politica* (= play politics), *criminalità organizzata*, or *prendere le distanze*.” On the English-Italian side I was hoping to find “security risk, balanced budget, and brinkmanship.” I did not, nor did I find here (and this is an important omission in tourist dictionaries) names of key importance in local affairs: political parties (especially abbreviations or acronyms), seats of power, or justice and economic institutions. These leave the visitor bewildered when watching or reading the news; imagine a foreign visitor trying to decipher: “The White House replied to Wall Street’s concerns today by indicating that the Pentagon does not make foreign policy.”

A few shots in the dark: “babysitter” (yes); “day care” (no); “weight loss” (no); “drug pusher” (yes) “team player” (no); and “loose morals” (yes). And a surprise of sorts: B.A. and Ph.D. degrees were translated, but not M.A. I guess there is no room in Italy for halfway university education. Now what about finding that “halfway house”? Not really; the closest I could get was *mezza pensione!*

The Canadian Style, Revised and Expanded

A Guide to Writing and Editing

Publisher: Dundurn Press Limited in cooperation with Public Works and Government Services Canada, Translation Bureau, Toronto, Oxford

Publication Date: 1997

ISBN #: 1-55002-276-8

Price: Price not indicated. Available from Dundurn Press Limited, Toronto, and Dundurn Press Limited, Buffalo, NY

Reviewed by: Michel Meunier

As the title indicates, this is a style guide for English-language usage in Canada. It covers all topics from abbreviation to revision and proofreading, including hyphenation, spelling, capitalization, numeric expressions, italics, punctuation, quotations and quotation marks, references, letters and memorandums, reports and minutes, usage, plain language, elimination of stereotypes in written communications, and geographical names.

It also deals with metric units, dates, and other numerical expressions, indexes and bibliographies, and even contains a short review of French typographical rules in the appendix.

The text is in English, except the examples in the appendix on French typographical rules, which, of course, are in French. It is 311 pages, including an 11-page table of contents and 11-page index. Such a detailed table of contents and index make it easy to find the needed information. The paperback version is printed on good quality paper. The typeface is easy to read, although at times pages appear to be a bit crowded.

The is one question I could not find the answer to: should there be a space between the number and the unit, as in 3m (3 meters)? Common sense says there should be one. All examples show there is one, but the rule is not stated. More and more U.S. documents submitted for translation give the number followed by the unit abbreviation without space in between. It seems wrong, but I could not find a rule to quote.

A complete style book for English-language use in Canada. Are all the typographical rules the same in Canada and in the U.S.? I have not been able to ascertain that point. With this possible caveat, *The Canadian Style* is an invaluable language guide for translators and editors and anyone writing in English.

French Correspondence: Guide to Communications in French

Author: No author given, but edited by Natalie Pomier

Publisher: Oxford Hachette/Oxford University Press, printed in Great Britain

Publication Date: First published in 1997

ISBN #: 0-19-860010-0

Price: \$7.95 Available from Oxford University Press

Reviewed by: Michel Meunier

This 158-page general guide on how to write French deals with different aspects of communications that often cause problems for people who are learning a foreign language, whatever their native language. It is divided into four parts: writing in French, telephone use (including the Minitel and e-mail), written correspondence, and French classified ads.

It is written in British-English, with examples in French. The paperback version is printed on ordinary paper. The print is clear and easy to read. Examples are well separated from the body of text using bullets and italics.

The first section gives advice on how to write in French; a very short reminder about punctuation and guidance on the style and structure of a text. Seasoned translators will find this very elementary and much too short to be of any use, but this book is primarily aimed at English-speakers learning French as a second language.

The second section, making a phone call using the Minitel and e-mail, is definitely outside of the realm of translation. This information is useful for someone just arriving for a stay in France. The information on making a call in France or to France is quite complete and up-to-date, and includes how to deal with the new prefixes added in late 1996.

The third section, correspondence, gives over 100 examples of letters, both personal and professional, to help readers write letters in various circumstances (from lodging a complaint to making reservations for a vacation, to sending a bill. The examples of correspondence are clearly presented with one letter per page, framed to give a better overall visual impression of the final letter. This section also contains several examples of a c.v. Although useful, these examples are geared more to the individual rather than the seasoned translator.

The fourth section gives examples and a useful list of the standard abbreviations one is likely to encounter in the classified ad section of a French newspaper.

Overall, this handy little guide would make a good gift to a student of French contemplating a first visit to France, but I would not put it on any translator's reference list.

Two Sleepers From Routledge

Routledge has gone to great lengths to publicize its line of specialized bilingual dictionaries. I myself have received in the mail six or seven copies of the brochure advertising these dictionaries. Nowhere, however, is mention made of the two dictionaries to be reviewed here, which is unfortunate, because both of them are extremely useful for translators.

German-English Dictionary of Idioms

Authors: Hans Schemann and Paul Knight

Publisher: Routledge, London

Publication Date: 1996

ISBN #: 0-415-14199-0

Price: \$99.95

Reviewed by: Tom West

This book was originally published by Klett in a monolingual German version entitled *Deutsche Idiomatik: Die deutschen Redewendungen im Kontext*. It contains 35,000 German idioms and shows how each of them is used in a sentence. It also indicates whether an idiom is colloquial, literary, vulgar, outdated, or ironic. This new version from Routledge retains all those features and also translates the idioms into English (although the sample sentences showing usage are left untranslated). So complete is this 1,253-page dictionary that I was unable to come up with an idiom that it omitted, but I did think that I could improve some of the suggested translations.

For example, “*Äpfel und Birnen zusammenzählen*” is translated as “to lump completely different things together,” but in American-English we have a comparable idiom: “to compare apples and oranges.” Similarly, “*seinen Friedrich-Wilhelm unter etwas setzen*” is translated as “to sign one’s name,” although a perfectly good equivalent in American-English is “to put one’s John Hancock on something.” However, the translator of the dictionary is British, and these equivalents may not exist in British-English (the “John Hancock” idiom almost certainly does not). The British bias can also be seen in “*den Boden unter den Füßen wegziehen*,” translated as “to cut the ground from under one’s feet,” whereas Americans would say “to pull the rug out from under someone.” Still, the vast majority of the translations are appropriate for both Britain and America, and more importantly, many of them cannot be found in the standard bilingual dictionaries. For example, the Routledge includes “*alles, was Rang und Namen hat*” (translating it correctly as “everybody who is anybody,” but this idiom is nowhere to be found in the Oxford-Duden and the Collins bilingual dictionaries. In addition to its complete coverage of idioms, the Routledge also has the advantage of offering a sample sentence for each idiom to show how it is used in context.

This dictionary will be particularly useful to literary translators, but even translators of annual reports will find it helpful in translating the colorful descriptions of a company’s business found in the management’s discussion in the past fiscal year.

Dictionary of Contemporary French Connectors

Author: James Grieve

Publisher: Routledge, London

Publication Date: 1996

ISBN #: 0-415-13538-9

Price: \$69.95

Reviewed by: Tom West

The back cover of this dictionary asks “Do you know the difference between *en effet* and *en fait*? Why do the French say *moreover* all the time? How can italics and three dots be connectors?” The 525-page book answers these and other questions by explaining in detail how 400 “connectors” are used in French.

Among these connectors are *par ailleurs*, *d’autre part*, *en l’occurrence*, and *cela étant*. For example, under the entry for *en fait*, the author explains that “some English-speakers confuse this structure and *en effet*. One of the most marked differences between them is that *en effet* never shapes an opposition, whereas *en fait* does...The confusion may be increased by the existence of *de fait* and the inadequate guidance of dictionaries on structures like *en fait* and ‘in fact.’ Both Harrap and Collins-Robert mention *de fait* as an equivalent for ‘in fact’—this despite the fact that, although a few writers do use it like *en fait*, most use it like *en effet*.”

The explanations are so complete that a French-to-English translator will find it helpful to read through it, or at least to read the entries for phrases that are notoriously difficult to translate. Obviously, this is a highly specialized dictionary and should not be among a beginning translator’s first purchases, but its thoroughness makes it useful to experienced translators. The book even contains a list of English connectors with possible French equivalents (e.g., “absolutely”—*assurément*, *bien évidemment*, *bien sûr*, *effectivement*, *en effet*), and will thus be of use to into-French translators as well.

November-December 1998

Diccionario de términos económicos, financieros y comerciales (English-Spanish/Spanish-English)

Authors: Enrique Alcaraz Varó, Brian Hughes

Publisher: Editorial Ariel, S.A., Second Edition

1,245 pages, hardbound with clear, easy-to-read type.

Publication date: 1997

ISBN: 84-344-0507-5

Price: \$96

Reviewed by: Marian S. Greenfield

Look-up is convenient in this dictionary, with terms aligned under a single headword. It includes lots of abbreviations and acronyms, and extremely useful explanations of many headwords, including such hard-to-find terms as: “**belt and suspenders** (*cinturón y tirantes*), préstamo con supergarantías; con esta expresión se alude a un tipo de (préstamo con caución)—*secured loan*—con supergarantía, porque el prestamista duda de la solvencia crediticia—*creditworthiness*—del prestatario; en estos casos, los bancos (amarran bien los préstamos), dicho de una forma expresiva (con cinturón y tirantes), a fin de que al prestamista no se le caigan los pantalones y se encuentre en una situación embarazosa.”

There are some filler words, but I didn't find too many: **begin, construct, contar, fuerte**. There are also a few gaffes, such as **preferential stock**, although under the same headword (**prefer**), the correct **preferred stock** is also included.

Spanish Dictionary of Business, Commerce, and Finance

(Spanish-English/English-Spanish)

Author: Emilio G. Muñoz Castro

Publisher: Routledge, New York, NY

823 pages, hardbound with clear, easy-to-read type.

Publication date: 1998

ISBN: 0-415-09393-7

Price: \$99; Also available on CD-ROM as of Winter '98 for \$135.

Reviewed by: Marian S. Greenfield

Look-up is extremely convenient, with terms aligned under a single headword. Where this is unwieldy, as in the headword **acuerdo**, there is a separate paragraph for each letter of the second term: **~a—de abordo; ~b—de las bases de un sindicato...**, etc.

The dictionary includes lots of abbreviations and acronyms as well as very useful appendices, including sample financial statements, lists of job titles, and lists of world stock exchanges and financial indexes.

Filler words include **aphorism, first aid kit, contar, and fuerte**. Nonsense translations include **income bracket—tramo de renta white knight—persona respetuosa; casar—marry**

All in all, this dictionary is very British-biased, but some American usage is indicated. I believe it is also Spain-biased.

Diccionario de términos financieros y de inversión

(Definitions in Spanish with English equivalent/English-Spanish glossary)

Authors: Francisco Mochon Morcillo, Rafael Isidro Aparicio

Publisher: McGraw-Hill/Interamericana de España, S.A., Madrid, Second Edition,

502 pages, softbound with clear, easy-to-read typeface.

Publication date: 1998

ISBN: 84-481-2005-1

Price: \$42

Reviewed by: Marian S. Greenfield

HEADWORD	Terms found in other banking and business dictionaries	Terms found in Ariel	Terms found in Routledge	Terms found in McGraw-Hill
English to Spanish				
arm's length (principle)		X	X	
Chinese wall		X	X	X
default interest		X		
foreign exchange risk	X	X	X	X
gilt-edged	X	X	X	X
income bracket		X	x (badly translated)	
interim dividend	X	X	X	X
market maker	X	X	X	X
mutual fund	X	X	X	X
pari passu (clause)	X	X	X	X
performance indicators		X	X	
preferred stock	X	X	X	X
repo	X	X	X	x (only in the S>E definitions section)
retire/retired debt	X	X		
settlement	X	X	X	X
spin-off	X	X	X	X
take or pay (contract)	X	X		
takeover bid	X	X		X
tax write-off		X	X	
trader	X	X	X	X
Wages Guarantee Fund	X	X		
white knight	X	X	x (badly translated)	X
Spanish to English				
a fondo perdido		X		
caja chica	X	X	X	
capital (de) riesgo		X	X	X
captación de fondos	X	X		X
exigible	X	X		
flujo de caja	X	X	X	
nivel general de precios		X	X	
obligacionista	X	X	X	X
pasivo circulante	X	X		X
				(see comment above)
pliego	X	X		
plusvalía	X	X	X	X
producto interno/interior bruto	X	X	X	X

Look-up is convenient, although each term has an individual entry, resulting in multiple entries for one term. The dictionary contains brief, but useful, separate listing of Spanish abbreviations and acronyms, and a somewhat lengthier list of hard-to-find English ones.

It has excellent definitions of complex financial terms, mostly Spanish ones, but also some English terms that are often not translated: “**Bells and whistles**, Expresión del argot de emisiones en los mercados internacionales que podría traducirse por (campanas y silbidos), y que hace referencia a características secundarias como *calls*, *puts*, *warrants*, etc., que se incluyen en una emisión de valores cuyo objetivo es atraer a los inversores o bien reducir los costes para el emisor o ambas cosas a la vez.”

I didn't find filler words and there doesn't seem to be an overwhelming number of gaffes, but **boilerplate** is

spelled in every occurrence I could find (in both the Spanish>English and English>Spanish sections) as *bolero-plate*. Also, the dubious **administred** (sic) **prices inflation** appears in both the English>Spanish and Spanish>English sections, and is translated as *inflación de precios administrados*. The definition of *inflación de precios administrados* states that it is *también conocida como inflación reptante*. **Inflación reptante** is translated as *creeping inflation*, which is definitely a bona fide term. **Pasivo circulante** is translated as *current liability*, while this term is generally used, for example, as a heading for *current liabilities* on a balance sheet.

Headwords in all three dictionaries are printed in boldface and include diacritical marks for Spanish headwords. Both the Ariel and the Routledge include the part of speech and contextual information. The Routledge also provides gender information.

See table for the results of an expected-term search (the other banking and business dictionaries consulted were Gil Esteban's *Diccionario bancario español-inglés* and the LID *Diccionario empresarial Stanford*).

In conclusion, I would say that the Ariel is certainly a good value for your money and a must for a financial translator. The McGraw-Hill is relatively inexpensive and extremely useful, but definitely more for its definitions in Spanish and its English> Spanish translations than for its not-always-reliable Spanish>English translations. The Routledge is a nice addition to the collection, but would not be the first financial dictionary I would reach for. It's probably my third or fourth shot, when I figure I'm probably going to have to do a Web search to hunt down a term.

Routledge Spanish Technical Dictionary on CD-ROM

Spanish-English/English-Spanish

(Windows version)

Publisher: Routledge 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4P 4EE, U.K.;

29 West 35th Street, New York, NY 10001, U.S.

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Reviewed by: Robert A. Croese

Praises of the print version of this new two-volume technical dictionary have already been sung in the *Chronicle*. Tom West, in his review of the Spanish> English volume (July 1997) stated, "I believe that this dictionary is indispensable for the Spanish translator who needs a good, up-to-date, technical dictionary." And in her recent review of the English>Spanish volume (August 1998), Beatriz Quintana said, "[this dictionary] has proven to be an invaluable and time-saving tool."

Before obtaining the CD-ROM of this work I had already been reaching more and more for the Routledge as my preferred Spanish<>English technical dictionary, first, because it contains timely terms not found in other dictionaries and, second, because it has a visually and logically pleasing layout. Its use of boldface for source terminology, capitalization of subject areas, and alphabetic separators in lengthy multi-page entries is very helpful.

Now the CD-ROM version has appeared with the same 110,000 entries in each direction and encompasses 70 technical subject areas. The two-volume work comes on one compact disk, takes about two or three minutes to load onto the hard drive, and the search software, together with all the data, take up only 20 Mb. During installation the setup prompts for a preferred word processor, and, in my case, it produced a Routledge button on the tool bars of both Word 7.0 and Word 97 without a glitch.

Any CD-ROM dictionary is only as good as its search or retrieval software, which is independent of the quality or usefulness of the dictionary itself and is usually produced by different software developers. Routledge dictionaries operate under a software package called Bookcase 3.1[®]. Although up to this point I have only one Routledge CD-ROM dictionary, the software is set up to handle several dictionaries in a bookshelf array, allowing several dictionaries to be open at the same time.

One of the friendliest features of this software, not shared by any other electronic dictionary I regularly use, is that no matter where the cursor is on the screen, when typing a word or phrase, the typed text automatically appears in the search window without the need for clicking on the window or pressing tab, etc. I just type a term and hit Enter.

Accents or umlauts do not have to be typed when entering Spanish terms, but the "ñ" must be differentiated for the usual reasons. The main display consists of the customary vertically split screen—the narrow left side for an alphabetical listing of headwords and the right side for the full dictionary text and translations; however, unlike the hard copy dictionary, each entry starts a new line and rather than using a "~" for repeated headwords, the CD-ROM version repeats the full term in all cases.

In Look-Up mode, just a click on a headword or phrase on the left, and the full dictionary entry is displayed immediately at the top of the right screen with all the alphabetically-arranged material following under it. Then by clicking on any word in a definition anywhere in the right screen, the program goes immediately to that reference, but it goes even a step farther than that. A click on a source-language word leads to the definition and translation in the source-language; a click on a target-language word in the translation and it automatically goes to that area of the target-language dictionary.

Another helpful and unique feature is the Multiple Forms check box in the headword screen, which, when checked, shows the headwords of all the entries where the word typed forms any part of the headword rather than just the first word. For instance, typing the term “máquina” without activating Multiple Forms provides a long list of phrases with the term “máquina” as the first word, but by clicking the Multiple Terms check box, the term “máquina” occurs in any position of the phrase: initially, medially, or finally.

At first glance, the main interface of the search program appears a bit strange. Rather than employing the customary pull-down menus at the top of the screen, it displays the various search categories as tabs vertically along the left and right sides. On the left are the categories of Look-Up, Search, Labels, and Annotations.

The global Search feature searches the entire dictionary for a term or phrase in any position and automatically suggests the logical operators “and,” “or,” and “not” when more than one word is entered. The Labels category switches to the abbreviations used in the dictionary entries, which can also be invoked by right clicking on any abbreviation. The Annotations feature allows for entering, editing, or deleting explanatory notes anywhere in the dictionary. Such notes are then clearly marked with a special icon. By way of example, under the entry for “refrigerator,” I entered the annotation: “*frigidair* – (Chile),” which was not one of the options listed in the Routledge.

Along the right-hand side of the main screen are tabs for: English, Spanish, and Appendices. The first two speak for themselves, as they refer to the two main databases, and Appendices consist of an English and Spanish list of all abbreviations and acronyms in the dictionary, which are also found in their alphabetical slots within the body of the dictionary listings. A listing of chemical elements in both Spanish and English, which is part of the print version of the dictionary, is included in the Appendices section. The conversion tables that appear in the back of the hard copy are the only items I could not find in the CD-ROM version.

The program allows for seamless cutting and pasting to the clipboard or a document. By highlighting a term or portion and clicking the Copy to Document button, it automatically copies to a word processing document and pastes it at the cursor. These actions can also be performed with resident keyboard shortcuts.

In summary, the use of CD-ROM dictionaries not only allows the translator and the language student to perform quicker searches, but I believe that the versatility and speed of electronic searches makes me go more quickly to the dictionary to confirm the use of a term and to rely less on memory. By quickly clicking on related terms and cross-references, I frequently find words in the exact context I am looking for—something that may have taken much longer to do in the printed dictionary. This technical Spanish->English CD-ROM will save time and it will make it easier to go the extra mile to search for that precise term or phrase.

Meeting the Needs of Agribusiness: Two Very Helpful Dictionaries

Elsevier's Dictionary of Pests and Diseases in Useful Plants: English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Dutch, and Latin

Author: Ernest Eylenbosch

Publisher: Elsevier

Publication date: 1995

ISBN: 0-444-88066-6

Reviewed by: Loie Feuerle

Like many translators, I normally shun polyglot dictionaries. “Dictionary of the Construction Trades in 13 Languages”? No thank you! “Dictionary of Photography in four-and-a-half Languages”? Not on your life! If you have been translating for any length of time, you, too, have probably encountered a number of these dictionaries and harbor your own opinions about them.

To many translators, “polyglot dictionary” means an expensive reference book that contains whole sections that they will never have occasion to use, but which they will be forced to pay for. Also, the inclusion of more than two languages generally comes at a price. Usually this price is limited coverage coupled with the absence of certain linguistic features very dear to a translator’s heart, such as grammatical references, usage labels, collocations, and the like. This notwithstanding, I am now going to say some nice things about this particular polyglot dictionary.

First of all, I do admit, that like most polyglot dictionaries it is somewhat awkward to use. Unless, of course, English happens to be your source-language, since like many other multilingual dictionaries, *Elsevier's Dictionary of Pests and Diseases of Useful Plants* is organized with one main register alphabetized according to (numbered) English headwords followed by sub-entries for each of the featured languages. For all languages other than English there is a succinct alphabetical index listing the term in that language followed by the index number used in the main register. Frankly, it always bothers me when I am forced to look a word up twice in order to find its meaning once (just can't get Ben Franklin's words "time is money" out of my head). However, since here the headwords are numbered straight through from one to 3,026, it is less confusing and a bit faster to use than those multilingual dictionaries that start to re-number their entries with each new letter of the alphabet. Moreover, the nicely cut thumb index also helps to ease the pain of the double look-up, and the sturdy binding is also a plus (rather than the extremely sensitive, thin-film covered boards favored by some other publishers).

The nature of this reference work is actually rather well-suited to the conciseness that is generally characteristic of multilingual presentation. The book is intended to provide a list of the names of a variety of plant diseases and plant pests, with primary emphasis on phytoparasites and zooparasites. The author promises no more and no less, and he keeps his promise. When there are alternative terms, both are included with the headword and then each is indexed separately in order to make them fully retrievable. When a Latin name is available, it is provided. Grammatical information comes in the form of the genders of nouns, which are furnished for the French, Spanish, Italian, and German.

Coverage seems to be good. The book included the plant diseases and plant pests I needed and more. For example, over 60 different weevils and more than 20 types of thrips are listed. There are nearly 40 entries for various kinds of smut—plant smut, naturally. Those users who are familiar with *Elsevier's Lexicon of Plant Pests and Diseases*, which was published some 30 years ago, will note that Latin is no longer the language used for the main register (or "basic table," as the author chooses to call it). However, the binomial Latin names have been retained as an invaluable tool for cross-checking with other reference works, particularly monolingual sources. I for one would not want to be without the Latin.

The vast majority of the terms in this dictionary refer to specific diseases, insects, plants, or fungi. This is where the dictionary's strength lies. There are relatively few general or generic terms, but there are some. The list also includes a number of animals and the occasional bird, but not necessarily those that we might normally associate with being pests or perils to useful plants (e.g., the innocuous-sounding American robin). Moreover, the user might be familiar with a few of the plants listed here, but probably only as no-till cover crops rather than as menacingly proliferating rivals of the infamous kudzu vine. But as we all know, often it is a matter of perspective—one man's weed is another man's flower, and *Elsevier's Dictionary of Pests and Diseases in Useful Plants* is the reference work to have at hand when you are called upon to make this determination.

Dictionary: Agriculture, Forestry, and Horticulture
German—English

Author: Peter Mühle

Publisher: Verlag Alexandre Hatier, Berlin-Paris

Publication date: 1993

ISBN: 3-86117-025-6

Reviewed by: Loie Feuerle

For a number of years now I have been using several of Hatier's specialized bilingual technical dictionaries and, in general, have been quite pleased with them, both physically and substantively.

As far as Hatier's physical attributes are concerned, their size and weight is convenient, *händlich*, as we say. Moreover, the bindings are of a standard size that does not pose any special demands on our dictionary shelf spacing (a characteristic we appreciate even more as our reference libraries grow). The paper quality is good and the typeface is clear. *Mühle's Dictionary of Agriculture, Forestry, and Horticulture* is like other Hatier products in that the headwords are in a sans-serif bold typeface that is easy on the eyes. Moreover, the contrast between the boldface and standard typeface is sufficient enough to allow for rapid skimming. The alphabetical nesting system is straight forward. Typically entries are made under a headword followed by subheads for each complement (Boden, *_/abgetragener, _/allochthoner, _/bestellte*, etc.). Common compound names (Indischer Elefant or Chinesisches Maskenschwein) are entered alphabetically according to their naturally occurring order, i.e., under Indischer and Chinesisches respectively. Binomial Latin names or family names are frequently provided.

As in the other Hatier dictionaries that I have worked with, grammatical labels are limited to the gender of nouns and occasional plurals. Verbs are identifiable as such only through the use of the “to” infinitive form in the English. And, as is common in many glossaries, noun forms predominate; verbs and adjectives are relatively much rarer. Agricultural subfields are frequently designated in italicized parentheticals (e.g., *dairy, forest, vet*), as are other identifiers (*herbicide, enzyme, bile pigment, breed*, etc.) and very brief, but very useful, expansions of an explanatory nature such as (*for ovulation induction in mares*), (*for preservation of anatomical preparations*), and (e.g., *in wine-making*).

In terms of coverage Hatier’s *Dictionary of Agriculture, Forestry, and Horticulture* seems to have good coverage of food crops, crop protection, and domesticated animals and their diseases. Basic food processing terminology is included, but if you plan to work heavily in that field you would probably want to supplement this dictionary with a more specialized reference work focusing on processing concepts and equipment.

Abbreviations are alphabetized with the headwords and cross-referenced with a main entry rather than being listed separately in an appendix as is the custom with many dictionaries. The abbreviations, though not overly abundant, tend to be highly specialized and consequently extremely useful in that they will probably not be found in other more general collections such as the ubiquitous little Duden. An example of this type of abbreviation is *DFD-Fleisch*, translated as *DFD meat*, together with the note that “DFD” stands for “dark, firm, and dry.” Other abbreviations not easily found elsewhere include the short forms for various viruses and animal diseases, which are invaluable.

One strange lapse, however, occurs in the Preface, where the author mentions that the spelling of chemical compounds largely accords with IUPAC recommendations, but without expanding the abbreviation “IUPAC” either in the German or English version of the preface. Nor is it listed as an abbreviation in the body of the dictionary. Thus, if you were not already familiar with “IUPAC,” you would have no way of knowing whether it was an English or a German abbreviation. Fortunately, it is a more general term, so it can be found in both the handy little Duden and also in Hatier’s *Fachwörterbuch Chemie und chemische Technik*, so that the questing translator can learn that IUPAC is an English abbreviation which stands for the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. But this does not undermine the dictionary’s value.

All in all, I rate Hatier’s *Dictionary of Agriculture, Forestry, and Horticulture* as a valuable addition to the reference shelf of any translator who does any work in these fields.

Elsevier’s Dictionary of Acronyms, Initialisms, Abbreviations, and Symbols

Revisited by: Sharlee Merner Bradley

I recently had a translation from French to English concerning France’s nuclear waste policy. The first resource that occurred to me was Routledge’s *French Dictionary of Environmental Technology*, which I immediately rented from i.b.d., Ltd. and received from across the country the next day (a Saturday, too). Unfortunately, it proved to be of virtually no help for the terms and acronyms in my document—I found only one of a half a dozen terms and none of the 10 or so acronyms of nuclear organizations in Europe. A couple of the terms actually were in Routledge’s (French) *Technology Dictionary*.

But I saved the day using a combination of the Internet and Elsevier’s *Dictionary of Acronyms...* (1997, ISBN: 0-444-82589-4). Between the two, all but a couple of the terms and acronyms were covered. The dictionary was compiled by an Italian translator, Fioretta Benedetto Mattia. It’s nice to have something good to say about an Elsevier dictionary.

To review means to look back over something for evaluation or memory. "The year in review" is a popular form of news feature near the end of December. To review means to look back over something for evaluation or memory. "The year in review" is a popular form of news feature near the end of December. If your boss wants to give you a review, she wants to look over the history of your job performance. A doctor might review your medical record to help diagnose your sickness. Reviews. Cambridge international dictionary of English. Paul Proctor(ed). Collins COBUILD English di January 1996. ELT Journal. C Walter. Read more. Article. Review. The BBI Dictionary of English Word Combinations. M Benson, E Benson, R Ilson. January 2000. P Howarth. Read more. Article. Collins Electronic English Dictionary and Thesaurus, CD-ROM Version 2.0a9883 Collins Electronic Engl August 1998.