

# Web 2.0 as a tool for improving communication among international MeSH translators

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# How to define Web 2.0

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- The concept of Web 2.0 has been defined “architecture of participation”, as it implies an active end-user role of sharing and collaboration in the production and dissemination of information on the net
- Web 2.0 does not refer, therefore, to a technical standard, but to new ways of exploiting the network, used as a platform for interactive applications



# Creating connections

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- The first phase of growth of the web was based on posting online information on the net and on the development of search tools to ease its retrieval.
- The current phase, known as Web 2.0, is primarily devoted to the development of links among people

# Cooperation among people

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- Another expression used to define the Web 2.0 is “social networking”, a cooperative scenario that brings together people in a creative and dynamic environment, where users can meet, discuss, share documents, pictures and opinions
- The result is “a more socially connected Web where everyone is able to add to and edit the information space” [\[i\]](#).

[\[i\]](#) Miranda G, Gualtieri F, Coccia P. *The revolution of the web 2.0 in the library and information services*. In *Proceedings, 11th European conference of medical and health libraries*. Helsinki, Finland, June 23-28 2008.  
[http://www.terkko.helsinki.fi/bmf/EAHILpapers/Giovanna\\_F\\_Miranda\\_paper.pdf](http://www.terkko.helsinki.fi/bmf/EAHILpapers/Giovanna_F_Miranda_paper.pdf)



# Web 2.0: Pros and Cons (1)

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- Web 2.0 technological instruments – social networking sites, social bookmarking, blogs, podcasts, wikis and RSS feeds - beyond offering interesting applications in scientific and medical areas, launch new ethical issues
- All these phenomena affect the way we now live, communicate, and work and have a strong impact on our lives, since the endless exchange of suggestions, opinions and reviews by citizens, patients, doctors and researchers, may, through this process of continuous interaction, determine changes and influence the choices and decisions of millions of other people



## Web 2.0: Pros and Cons (2)

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- How can the reliability of websites be guaranteed, if anyone is allowed to modify the contents or to create new ones?
- The tools so far used in order to assess the quality of health websites, are still valid in a such modified framework?
- The Web 2.0 world where no one is obliged to identify himself/herself and anyone can disseminate news without taking any responsibility of it, does really create an egalitarian dream, or rather a reign of chaos and an information drift?



# Aim of this paper

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- To present a new reference tool designed to help translators working on the translation of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)
- The creation of a dialogue tool for translators scattered over the globe could enhance translation and improve collaboration and exchange of opinions, by exploiting the possibilities offered by Web 2.0 technologies
- The interaction is limited to a **restricted group of people**, working on the same topics

# The Italian MeSH translation, an early example of cooperative work

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- The Italian Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) translation, originated from the collaboration between the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), was conceived in order to join NLM's Unified Medical Language.



# How is the translation work organised?

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The translation work began in 1998 and every year requires the following steps:

- addition of new translated terms, on the basis of NLM yearly update
- revision of previously-translated terms
- addition of synonyms (new terms and current ones)
- deletion and modification of terms according to NLM annual update



## **New release of the Italian MeSH translation** <http://www.iss.it/site/mesh/>

- It includes the translation of English Entry Terms, in order to permit multi-entry and easier access to information stored in the MeSH database. So far, approximately 13.000 entry terms have been translated
- The Italian interface includes the translation of all terms (synonyms and preferred terms). Preferred terms in English and in Italian are check-marked

# Entry Term display on the new Italian MeSH translation website

NLM Mesh Browser		Albero in italiano
DNA		DNA
1		
Sinonimi	Lingua	Termini Preferenziali
B-DNA	ENG	
Deoxyribonucleic Acid	ENG	
DNA	ENG	X
DNA, Double Stranded	ENG	
DNA, Double-Stranded	ENG	
Double-Stranded DNA	ENG	
ds-DNA	ENG	
DNA, B Form	ENG	
DNA, B-Form	ENG	
B-Form DNA	ENG	
DNA	ITA	X
B-DNA	ITA	
ds-DNA	ITA	
Acido desossiribonucleico	ITA	
DNA a doppio filamento	ITA	
Forma B di DNA	ITA	



# Translation resources on the net

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- A large number of dictionaries and glossaries are now available, free on the net, offering a variety of different tools and products
- There is a current trend towards a new global approach
- Multilingual multidisciplinary collections of terms, conceived and implemented on the net, have been examined.

# Wikiwords

<http://www.wikiwords.org/>

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## Welcome to Wikiwords.org


Wikiwords is a collaborative project to create a dictionary of all terms in all languages.

[Learn more about Wikiwords.](#)

Tech/Engineering  
Art/Literary  
Medical  
Law/Patents  
Science

Bus/Financial  
Marketing  
Other  
Social Sciences

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Search terms	Search Translations	Advanced
<div>Any language </div> <div><input type="text"/></div> <div><input type="button" value="Search"/></div>		



# Wikiwords

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- Collaborative project aimed at creating a dictionary of all terms in all languages, developed and maintained by ProZ.com
- Browsible glossary of terms called the KudoZ Open Glossary (KOG). Created in 2003, the KOG now has term translations in over 900 language pairs



# WordNet®

<http://wordnet.princeton.edu/>

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- Large database of English nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs grouped into sets of cognitive synonyms (synsets), each expressing a distinct concept
- WordNet is freely and publicly available for download and can be used for computational linguistics and natural language processing

# WordNet

a lexical database for the English language

Cognitive Science Laboratory Princeton University 221 Nassau St. Princeton, NJ 08542

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## About WordNet

WordNet® is a large lexical database of English, developed under the direction of [George A. Miller](#). Nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs are grouped into sets of cognitive synonyms (synsets), each expressing a distinct concept. Synsets are interlinked by means of conceptual-semantic and lexical relations. The resulting network of meaningfully related words and concepts can be navigated with the [browser](#). WordNet is also freely and publicly available for [download](#). WordNet's structure makes it a useful tool for computational linguistics and [natural language processing](#).

Over the years, many people have contributed to the development of WordNet. Currently, the WordNet team includes the following members of the Cognitive Science Laboratory:

- [George A. Miller](#)
- [Christiane Fellbaum](#)
- [Randee Teng](#)
- Helen Langone

WordNet has been supported by grants from the NSF, ARDA, DARPA, DTO, and REFLEX.

[Current research on WordNet at Princeton](#)

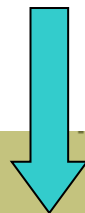


# ProZ.com <http://www.proz.com/>

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- Well designed, scattered through a variety of services such as glossaries, forum, news, events, tools
- Long list of glossaries grouped by language pairs and divided into specific fields
- KudoZ

# Proz.com



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## Translation jobs for language translators

206,549 translation jobs posted

ProZ.com is the leading site for interpreting and translation jobs. Translation jobs are passed either through the web's largest **translator directory** and user profile pages, or by public postings calling for quotes. Recent translation jobs:

08:53	<b>FR-EN translators</b> <b>French to English</b> SDL TRADOS /	
08:39	<b>Norwegisch - Deutsch, 46 Normseiten</b> <b>Norwegian to German</b> SDL TRADOS /	

### New at ProZ.com

- Mid-year report to members
  - ProZ.com is an approved SDL TRADOS Training center for online training
- More news >**  
**Press releases >**



## **KudoZ** <http://www.proz.com/kudoz/>

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- Translation network of mutual help among peers
- Anyone can post an answer in almost any source language for translation into a target language
- The question may refer to a single term, a few words up to a short sentence



## A workplace for MeSH translators (1)

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- Need for peer environment of international translators for MeSH
- Nature of MeSH is original and differs from other contexts
- The concept structure together with tree dissemination makes each record a single translation unit, like a sentence, having no other equivalent in translation sources.



## A workplace for MeSH translators (2)

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- MeSH translation is somehow different from scientific and technical translation, since it involves knowledge organisation
- Peculiar features of MeSH translation have promoted the creation of a private discussion forum, devoted to MeSH issues  
<https://portale.iss.it/sites/mesh/>

## Announcements

### A reason for this forum - tell me your experience

4/21/2009 5:04 PM

by Ceccarini Alessandra

The idea of creating a discussion forum for MeSH translators arose from my personal need of sharing knowledge and experience with peers.

Translation is a lonely work, where lack of competitors and revisers slow down progression, while team...

### <http://www.proz.com/> The translation workplace

4/16/2009 6:01 PM

by Ceccarini Alessandra

KudoZ

I spent some time on the web, searching for forum for translators. The majority of blogs/forums are too specific or lack in reliability.

ProZ.com is the ultimate site for translators.

Apparently, ProZ.com is a commercial site where translators...

### SIG on MeSH Meeting

4/7/2009 6:56 PM

by Della Seta Maurella

The first meeting of the EAHIL Special Interest Group on MeSH will be held on June 3rd at 12.30 in Dublin (EAHIL Workshop)

☐ Add new announcement

## Calendar

6/3/2009 12:30 PM SIG on MeSH Meeting

7/2/2009 12:00 AM ProZ.com 10th Anniversary International Conference  
<http://www.proz.com/conference/91>
☐ Add new event


## Links

- ☐ ISS Documentation Center website
- ☐ NLM Italian MeSH translation: evolution in progress
- ☐ The KudoZ network provides a framework for translators and others to assist each other with translations or explanations of terms and short phrases.

☐ Add new link



# The MeSH Translators Forum (1)

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- Sharepoint is a user-friendly Microsoft product. Under its plain, easy-to-use appearance, it discloses a heart of tools and applications for multi-purpose uses
- It's the ideal platform for a small group of people that may grow together and create a larger community
- Sharepoint was chosen for its possibility of creating discussion forums, while showing the features of a real workplace with its different sections



## The MeSH Translators Forum (2)

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- Each member can create a personal profile and display his/her knowledge, experience and whatever helpful for the group
- Links may highlight specific interests of the community. Calendar and tasks are helpful to remind events, but can be used to organize meetings, preparing together programs and documents in the “shared documents” section
- Official MeSH translators have been contacted and given ID and passwords for private MeSH forum. Many of them showed an interest in our project and joined the forum



# Conclusions

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- The Forum members could form an international team of translators with a multi-faceted experience in linguistic areas of different origin
- Not only a multi-language resource, but a translation KOS-oriented workplace
- MeSH are used in a variety of applications in different areas of knowledge, such as medicine-related fields, informatics applications, multilingual search engines, publishing, and library-oriented activities
- MeSH forum is a new product, its possibilities being all to be investigated and largely depending on members willingness to work together for common goals

Thank you  
for your attention !

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