

## MULTITA: Meeting with Partners 29<sup>st</sup> November 2013

**Present:** Erik Buelinckx, Eva Coudyzer, Christophe Delhaise, Evelyne Sinigaglia, Véronique L'heureux, Lies van de Kapelle, Marie Belina

**Excused:** Reem Weda, Christophe Roche, Caroline Esgain, Cathérine Gauthier, Karine Lasaracina

### 1. Practical Work: AICIM

The last of the practical work left on the thesauri of the project's partners involved the translation of the Walloon AICIM-thesaurus. This extensive thesaurus was only available in French until now. Even though it is mostly used by francophone institutions and museums, we assessed this thesaurus as possibly valuable for other (Flemish) institutions as well. Thus, we decided to translate all three sub thesauri (*matériaux*, *techniques* and *dénomination*) to Dutch and English, using the AAT as a benchmark, which amounted to a total of over 9000 terms. The work also included the translation of existing scope notes to Dutch; this was only a limited amount.

At present, this translation is nearly finished; a small number of problems remain, owing to the complex nature of the thesaurus, its specialized terms and a number of assumed spelling mistakes in the original word list. These problems will be discussed with Christophe Delhaise, who will also receive the entire work to implement it into the thesaurus itself.

### 2. Development of a textile-thesaurus and the use of xTree

In the next stage of the project, our work will focus on combining the knowledge and data from the partners' thesauri in the creation of a combined, shared micro-thesaurus based on a limited, fixed field of interest.

We have chosen to work with textile materials, techniques and objects, as this is a murky, difficult domain that often varies substantially between different thesauri. We will use a wide array of sources and terminologies, in the hope of creating a shared micro-thesaurus that can be used by the different institutions to enhance their own thesauri. Our sources will include:

Terminologies:

- AICIM textile terms
- AAT textile terms
- MET textile terms (Multilingual Egyptian Thesaurus)
- EU Fashion thesaurus
- PACTOLS textile terms
- KMKG-MRAH textile terms
- KIK-IRPA textile terms

- British Museum textile terms

#### Books:

- Textiellexicons (e.g. Amsterdam 1991, etc.)

#### Online Sources:

- Online sources (such as textile dictionary, Centexbel, etc.)

#### Textile specialists:

- Marguerite Coppens (curator KMKG)
- Chris Verhecken-Lammens (freelance textile expert KMKG)
- Guus Broekhorst (curator Textielmuseum Tilburg)
- Caroline Esgain (Musée de Costume et de la Dentelle)
- Cathérine Gauthier (Musée de Costume et de la Dentelle)

As a working method, we will again use the AAT as a benchmark and starting point. The AAT already has quite extensive textile terminologies, both in materials, techniques and objects, and would be interested to see further improvements made to these sub-thesauri.

Starting from their terms and hierarchy, we will start comparing terms with terms from other thesauri and add those missing. Additionally, we will provide translations and scope notes for each term in three languages: Dutch, English and French.

To create and manage this thesaurus, we will use an online terminology-platform: xTree, a commercial thesaurus management tool created by the German firm Digicult. We can use this for free, as partners in the AthenaPlus project. The tool has a number of interesting functionalities which will help us to add, enhance and map terms:

- Creation of new thesauri
- Editing thesauri
- Mapping thesauri concepts
- Adding scope notes
- Online environment
- Exportable in SKOS/RDF

A username and password will be provided to all partners in the project, who will be able to track the progress and make contributions. The bulk of the work will be done by Eva and Veronique and should be finished by the end of February.

Working intensively in this tool and exploring all of its possibilities, we hope to be able to point out its assets and its shortcomings, compare it to other tools (such as the TMP) and extract the best practices from what is currently available. While we will be working with this tool intensively, we hope our partners will also take a look and will not hesitate to let us know their remarks, so that we can gather and summarize all remarks, problems and assets of working with this (or other) terminology tool.

### **3. Involvement in Athena Plus (Terminology Working group)**

AthenaPlus is a Europeana project of which the principle objectives are:

- To contribute [metadata](#) records to Europeana.
- To improve search and retrieval of Europeana's content.

Work Package Four within this project focuses solely on terminology and the semantic and multilingual enrichment of terminologies. Its main goal is to improve multilingualism in Europeana, so that a visitor can enter a search term in their own language, but find results in all possible languages.

WP4 is also currently developing a thesaurus managing system of their own: the TMP (Thesaurus Management Platform), which will be a free, web-based, open-source thesaurus editor.

Through our involvement in AthenaPlus, we will be kept up to date on their latest evolvments and will be able to use the TMP once it is finished.

### **4. Call for BRAIN-projects**

We would like to propose a project dedicated to the translation of the AAT to French. Currently, only a very small amount of AAT concepts has been translated to French, which we perceive as a great shortcoming. Getty has already expressed great interest in a further translation of the AAT in French, but cannot pursue it themselves for budgetary reasons.

There will probably be two calls for BRAIN-projects in 2014, one in January and one in June. We will try to pitch our project for the June call.

In the meanwhile, we should already start developing our ideas and thoughts on this possible project:

- Which institutions want to be involved or would we like to see involved?
- What platform can we use to work on? Could we use xtree?
- What can be the added value of our project?
- How long should the project run for?

### **5. Next meeting**

The next Multita-meeting will take place in February 2014 (to be confirmed).

**Brussels,  
November 2013**

**Véronique l'Heureux, Eva Coudyzer**