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The MITA Reader is published for the benefit of MITA members and friends. Submissions are welcome and should be submitted to the editor, Carol Shaw, at cshaw@nexuslanguage.com

MITA, Moving Forward

Thanks to all of you who provided input through the survey, emails and direct participation at the October meeting, MITA will greet 2008 with a new structure. The highlights of our changes are:

- Four meetings per year: two social and two educational (workshops);
- New website, complete with truly searchable database

Workshops and Socials

One of the socials will be held in the late Spring, while the other will be our annual year-end party. The social committee including **Maria Elizalde-Honoman**, **Cody Serra**, **Elsa Pittman** and **Ana Laura Gamborino**, is already busy planning this year's party, to be held on **December 1, 2007**. Details will be sent out soon, but meanwhile... *mark that date!*

Planning of the first workshop day is also underway. The workshop will be held in March, and will offer different classes geared for interpreters, translators and training for technical skills. (Rumor has it one class will focus on Adobe Acrobat.) Thanks to **Marilyn Retta**, **Francisco Guerrero**, **Inna Oslon**, **Tiina Fallini**, and **Ricardo Bozas** for their participation. If you would like to join the planning stage, help with the setup or teach a class, please contact anyone on the committee!

Every member of MITA is invited to serve on these committees throughout the year. We can all benefit from the skills and knowledge that you bring.

Website Wonders

Another very welcome change will be to our website! Funds have been assigned to a new website, a truly searchable database, easier access to information and user-generated changes to profile data (so that each member can make changes to their own information, as needed.) Thanks to **Maria Yolanda Rivera** who is putting in some hard work to get the right people lined up and working for YOU!

The Reader

And of course, there is the Reader. **Laura Tamayo** has been an invaluable contributor in the past, and is already planning her next article. **Karen Sharp**, MITA's greatly appreciated secretary, keeps a weather eye open to items that may be of interest. Other members, like **Buddy Strittmatter** and **Mariana Peterson** have contributed in the past.

What about **YOU**? Going to a conference? Write a report! Taught a class? Give us a summary! The newsletter format has changed in order to make it easier (and faster!) to publish, but we need articles. Key ideas to keep in mind: all submissions *must* somehow relate to our industry (linguistics, software, research, marketing, business practices, etc.) They *must* be of interest to speakers of all languages, not just one. Reprints are only acceptable with permission from the owner of the copyright. And humor is always welcome!

Interpreter CE Course offered in Richardson November 3, 2007

Access Language Center is pleased to announce an upcoming workshop day in Richardson. The workshop, taught by MITA's Carol Shaw, will address a variety of tools used in court interpreting—and provides all eight CE units required by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation!

For more information, contact Access at 972-808-0100, or go to www.accesslc.net

Interpreter CE Course offered in Houston November 3, 2007

Berkana Language Center is offering a two-section course for interpreters seeking CEs and those interested in specific terminology:

- a) Code of Professional Conduct in Court Interpreting (Instructor: **M. Eta Trabing**; and
- b) Illegal Drugs Terminology for Judiciary Interpreters—Names, Classifications, Ingestion Methods, Uses and Effects
Instructor: Alex Trabing

For more information visit www.eberkana.com

ALTA Conference in Richardson November 7-10

ALTA (American Literary Translators Association) is celebrating its 30th anniversary conference ("ALTA at 30") this 7-10 November 2007 at the Renaissance Richardson-Dallas Hotel, located at 900 E. Lookout Dr., Richardson, TX 75081. The following are direct links to details:

Main link to ALTA web site:
www.literarytranslators.org

Link to program: <http://www.utdallas.edu/alta/conference/schedule.html>

Registration form: <http://www.utd.edu/alta/conference/documents/ConferenceRegistrationForm.doc>

ATA members will be given a certificate worth 10 credit points at the conference.

ALTA is a non-profit organization that promotes translation of foreign literature into the English language. Courses on the theory of literary translation are given at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Interpreter CE Course offered in New Braunfels, November 10

MasterWord Services is pleased to introduce the newest in our series of professional development seminars, "**Inside Civil Litigation: Practical and Ethical Applications for Interpreters.**" The next seminar will be held in **New Braunfels, TX on November 10th** from 8:00am - 3:30pm. The program features guest speaker **Ramon M. Del Villar, J.D.**, a staff interpreter for the United States District Court in Houston and a faculty member of the Agnese Haury Institute for Interpretation.

"**Inside Civil Litigation: Practical and Ethical Applications for Interpreters**" has been approved for 8 hours of continuing education by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation for licensed court interpreters. In addition to the TDLR CE's, the American Translators Association has approved this seminar for 5 hours of continuing education for certified translators. For more information visit at <http://www.masterword.com>.

A Halloween Tale

By Carol Shaw, Editor



Just in time for Halloween, life has handed me a horror story to share. But first, a little background: four years ago, my late husband and I bought two identical computers. We got a lot of mileage out of our matching laptops, and used them as each other's backup. The two machines were rarely more than one week out of sync with each other.

Fast forward to October, 2007. Unaware of the impending drama, I sat down to my desk and turned on John's computer. Click. Whrrrr. Beep. Whoah...Silence. As I stared at the screen in horror, it booted up again all by itself. Click. Whrrr. Beep. Whoah... Silence. Again. Like something out of B horror movie, my computer mocked me over and over. The screen would give me just a tantalizing glimpse of the Windows logo before flashing the Blue Screen of Death, resetting itself and starting the cycle again.

The zombie computer and I sat there. I stared at it. It looped at me. Finally, I turned it off, packed it up and drove over to the computer doctor. "My computer is sick," I told him. "Have you backed up?" the doctor asked. I nodded wisely, thinking to myself, "Well, duh! Of course!"

Leaving my sick computer, I returned home and got to work. Three hours into my day, my own computer whirred. Disbelief washed over me as it started up the now-familiar chant: Click. Whrrrr. Beep. Whoah... Silence.

This time, the silence was deafening.

After no less than ten reboot loops, I turned the computer off, packed it up and retraced my steps to the computer doctor. He looked surprised. "The same thing, huh?" I nodded. And then he said comfortingly, "Well, at least you backed up!"

I didn't have the strength to point out that he already had my backup in the shop, with one of his best technicians attempting to resuscitate it.

For the next two days, I used my son's computer for work. Thankfully, I did have some backup on a flash drive, and was able to recover quite a few documents from my web server. I sure did miss my programs, though: DeJaVu, SnagIt, Acrobat, PractiCount, dictionaries...over two dozen programs that I had used, depended on and cherished over the years.

Then, the call came that I had been dreading. My computer doctor confirmed that electronic ghouls had played a very cruel trick on me: my hard drives—in both computers- were dead.

Think, for a moment, of everything you have on your computer. Work, accounting, contact information, historical data, pictures, programs and program registration codes. Now imagine it's all gone. Every bit and every byte. What would you do?

If you're wise, you would have implemented a few simple steps to a happier outcome than mine and would be recovered and functional within hours. Here are a few tricks I've learned in my journey to greater wisdom

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and –hopefully–avoidance of a similar catastrophe in the future:

A) Back up your backup.

For essential data, don't rely on only one form of backup. Whether you use an external drive, a zip drive or redundant CDs or DVDs, periodically create a redundant backup of your most essential data.

B) Software

There is a lot of backup and recovery software available. Most of it costs in the \$40-\$60 range for a single user license. Be careful when selecting your backup software: some programs do not override earlier versions of your saved data. That means that an external hard drive could fill up with multiple versions of the same historical data, which you would then have to delete manually. Other programs require the backup of your entire drive, rather than specified folders; be sure this is actually what you want before committing to the purchase.

C) Hardware vs. Virtual Space

The software alone is not enough. You have to have somewhere to store your backed up data. Physical storage systems can run from \$50-60 for a good flash drive, to under \$100 for LaCie's portable hard drive and over \$500 for network storage like Maxtor's One Touch III. Set-up and installation times will vary according to the complexity of the system.

An alternative to hardware is virtual storage space. This means copying the data on your computer over to space on an offsite server. The potential downside to online (or "remote") storage is that it relies on a fast internet connection and you must ensure that your data is properly protected: you're storing it on the Internet. The distinct advantage to online storage is that your data is protected from loss in the event that your computer equipment (including backup drives) is stolen, your office area suffers a fire, or some other catastrophic event occurs.

There are companies that specialize in remote data backup services for a monthly or yearly fee. If you choose this option, be sure to research the company carefully. After all, you are trusting them to safeguard your livelihood.

If you have a website of your own, you probably have FTP (file transfer protocol) space. That FTP space can be segmented, reserving part of it as backup space. In fact, some of the software programs (like Acronis' True Image) specifically provide for the option of FTP backup. This is space you already pay for, which makes it a very affordable option.

Every story has an ending, and even Halloween story endings can be happy.

I spent three days loading all of my dear old programs onto my new computer. Its memory capacity is massive (compensating, I suppose, for my own fading powers of recall). Only one of my programs was incompatible with Vista. My accounting system is almost completely restored.

I have segmented my FTP space, installed Acronis True Image software and found that my zip drive is not necessary: this "monster machine" I bought burns DVD backups in record time.

Tip: to research and compare software and hardware options, check out www.cnet.com!

Now if I could just get Windows Vista to quit asking me if I know what I'm doing...



October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

October 31: Halloween

October 31 - November 3: ATA Conference in San Francisco, CA (www.atanet.org)

November 3: CE classes for interpreters offered in DFW and Houston (www.accesslc.net, www.eberkana.com)

November 7-10: ALTA conference in Richardson, TX (www.utdallas.edu/alta)

November 10: CE classes for interpreters offered in New Braunfels (www.masterword.com)

November 22: Thanksgiving Holiday

November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	