

www.terminologieforum.de

The Internet Discussion Platform for Terminological Subjects

Abstract

The internet discussion platform *www.terminologieforum.de* intends to be an independent, central and non-commercial meeting point for terminologists, translators, and technical writers to exchange knowledge on terminological subjects.

1 Idea

After having founded a consultancy in the fields of terminology and translation management and solutions) in 2004, Rachel Herwartz realized that there was no central and independent mee-

ting point on the internet to discuss terminological subjects.

On the one hand, there are web discussion platforms which also cover issues in the field of terminology work and translation such as e.g. the “tekom webforum” (*www.tekom.de*) or the BDÜ discussion platform. However, these are not independent as they are only accessible to members of the respective associations. Their intention is to support expert discussions among the associations’ members.

On the other hand, there are web portals such as “DTP – Deutsches Terminologie-Portal”

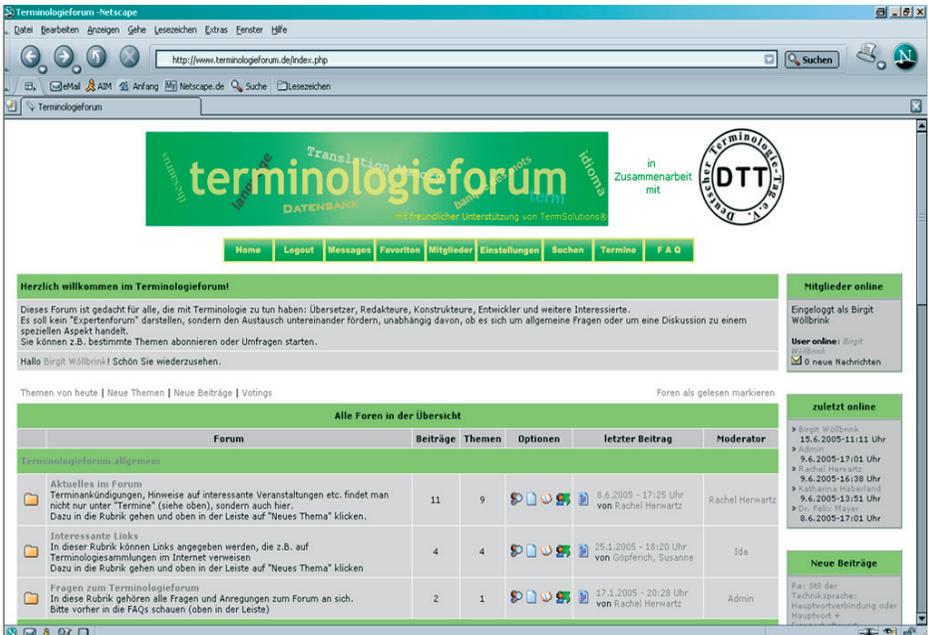


Fig. 1: Introduction, navigation bar etc.

(www.iim.fh-koeln.de/dtt/), the web portals of the University of Innsbruck (Austria), Saarland University and University of Leipzig (Germany), Vaasa University (Finland), or “ETIS – European Terminology Information Server”, see also (SPAETLING 2002). These portals only provide information (in different forms and with different focus on terminology issues), but do not offer a possibility for discussion.

Keeping this in mind, the idea of an open, independent and central discussion platform on terminological subjects was born.

2 Status, Members and Associates

www.terminologieforum.de started in January 2005 and is an individual website, supported by TermSolutions⁶ (www.term-solutions.com/) in providing webspace and technical support.

It is a non-commercial, non-profit website, open and free for any interested person.

Up to now, the forum has approx. 50 registered members, mostly technical writers and translators.

The forum cooperates with the DTT (Deutscher Terminologie-Tag e.V.) and its various boards are moderated by e.g. Prof. Dr. Klaus-Dirk Schmitz (FH Cologne) or Dr. Felix Mayer (SDI Munich).

3 Structure

Figure 1 shows the start page and navigation bar of the “terminologieforum”, where you can find a “Search” function, a list of members, a calendar of events, a list of links.

On the right hand side, information on the latest contributions and their status as well as on the members last online is given.

Below this “introductory area” you will find the “discussion area”, containing several categories and their boards to post contributions (see Fig. 2).

Current user languages are German and English, further languages will follow.

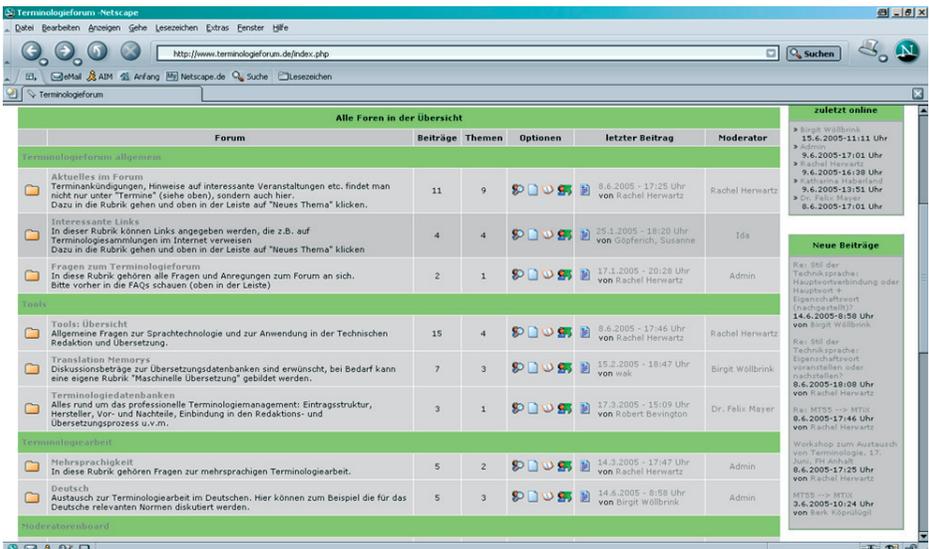


Fig. 2: Categories and boards of *terminologieforum.de*

The forum is subdivided into the following categories in which members can enter and read contributions to the respective subjects:

- terminology work (including the boards German, Multilingual),
- tools,
- terminology databases,
- translation memories,
- software localization.

Furthermore, the forum provides a collection of links and a calendar of events.

Following questions have been of special interest over the last few months:

1. Which literature can be recommended for students in the field of terminology work?
2. Where can you find information on the differences among the various translation memory and terminology tools or information on termcheckers?

Further issues have been the provision of rules on how to form denominations as well as questions on converting data from one terminology database into another.

4 Prospects

The discussions are currently followed by many interested persons so that the forum provides a productive exchange of information.

If desired by the members, new categories (e.g. “Machine Translation”) can be introduced at any time. A category to gather new subjects for master theses/Diplomarbeiten is planned as well.

References

- SPAETLING, G. A. (2002). “DTP – Deutsches Terminologie-Portal”. In: Mayer, Felix et al. (eds.) (2002). DTT Symposium eTerminology. Akten

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