



ITIA BULLETIN

March 2006

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Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association
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■ Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome to this month's issue. Job security is definitely becoming something of the past. The current unrest in France is one example of this where a new type of job contract, the CPE (*Contrat Première Embauche*), is being introduced to give employers extended sacking rights. The introduction of this new contract is intended to encourage employers to take on more staff, thereby reducing unemployment. So, the trade-off, according to the French government, is less job security for more jobs.

In the world of translating/interpreting, secure jobs are fairly thin on the ground with most working on a freelance basis. The UN and the EU were the two large organisations with a good number of in-house positions with all the trimmings. According to a recent report by UN General Secretary, Kofi Annan, the body needs to start tightening its belt and the translation department is top of the list. For more on this, see the opposite column on this page.

Also in this month's issue is the next instalment on FLOSS which looks at OpenOffice, the open source alternative to Microsoft Word. If you are looking for a place to start working with OSS products, this is it.

It is always a pleasure to hear from readers, so send any comments or suggestions on!

Elizabeth Hayes
Editor ITIA Bulletin
elizabeth.hayes7(a)mail.dcu.ie

■ Fiction Prize rewards translators

The Independent Foreign Fiction Prize is awarded by Arts Council England on an annual basis. The prize of £10,000 is divided equally between author and translator. To qualify, the translated text must have been published in the UK at some point during the previous year. The six contenders for this year's competition are:

- Fatelessness by Imre Kertész
Translated from the Hungarian by Tim Wilkinson
- Mercedes-Benz by Pawel Huelle
Translated from the Polish by Antonia Lloyd Jones
- The Ministry of Pain by Dubravka Ugresic
Translated from the Croatian by Michael Henry Heim
- Out Stealing Horses by Per Petterson
Translated from the Norwegian by Anne Born

- The Door by Magda Szabó
Translated from the Hungarian by Len Rix
- This Blinding Absence of Light by Tahar Ben Jelloun
Translated from the French by Linda Coverdale

The aim of this prize is to encourage publishers to publish more translated works in the UK and, more importantly, to encourage readers to buy translated literature. The dearth of translated works being published in this part of the world has been highlighted before in this publication so it seems only fair to bring readers' attention to organisations and events that are trying to improve the situation. For more on this prize, see <http://www.arts.org.uk>.

■ UN May Outsource Translation Work

Structural changes in the functioning of the United Nations could negatively affect translators/interpreters working for the organisation. Speculation over the future of many services, including translation, has been rife for months. Fears for future job security have been justified following a report given by Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the organisation. The report, released on March 7th, calls for widespread change in the UN. The US, which pays about 22% of the general UN budget has been calling for a more cost-effective organisation for some time now. John Bolton, US ambassador to the UN, has made no secret of his view that the world body must cut back on what he considers a bloated bureaucracy. But his spokesman Richard Grenell said the United States has no policy on privatization and had nothing to do with the study, "Our position is that the UN needs to function better, whatever it takes. We need to look at all ways to make that better. No one is talking about cutting jobs or turning out lights. Talking about outsourcing is way ahead of the game."

Nonetheless, outsourcing is exactly what Annan seems to have in mind. While there is no outright call for outsourcing of work, Annan is looking for a liberalisation of the current system so that outsourcing could, at least, be considered. The report states, "Outsourcing — that is, contracting out to external providers — is an option that should be considered only for those functions that do not fall within the core competencies of the United Nations. Printing functions, which still take place in-house, may be a suitable candidate for outsourcing. Other steps of the document production cycle, such as translation, may be candidates for relocation to lower-cost duty stations — but not necessarily for outsourcing because of quality control

and other issues." While the report was not very specific, it did give plenty of scope for concern for translators working in the organisation. Annan went on to list some areas which he intended to undertake "systematic and detailed cost-benefit analyses of relocation, outsourcing and telecommuting opportunities." Translation was first in line.

Desirable in-house translation jobs look likely to get fewer and further between.

Elizabeth Hayes

■ New Members of the ITIA

The ITIA welcomes the following new members...

Ordinary Members

EVA HERREROS, MA
6 Priory Walk
Manor Grove, Whitehall Road
Terenure, Dublin 12
Tel: +353(0)87-6818937
Email: eva.herrerros2(a)mail.dcu.ie
Spanish to and from English, Spanish from French
Business, Technical

AMOR SANTOVEÑA M.A.
3043 Liffey Heights
Ballymore Eustace, Co Kildare
Tel: +353(0)45-863299
Email: englishspanish(a)eircom.net
English to Spanish
Commercial, technical, literary, cultural.
Bilateral Interpreting.

Joining the ITIA

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* is always delighted to welcome new members to the Association.

There are five categories of membership:

- ◆ Ordinary
- ◆ Professional
- ◆ Corporate
- ◆ Concession (undergraduate & senior citizen)
- ◆ Honorary

Ordinary membership is open to anyone with an interest in translating or interpreting. *Professional membership* is for those who meet strict criteria set by the

professional membership committee of the ITIA and which is part of the drive to raise the status of the profession in the European market.

Corporate membership is for firms and agencies associated with the profession while *concession* membership is for undergraduate students engaged in third level language and/or translation studies and senior citizens. Finally, *honorary* membership is intended for national and international persons who have distinguished themselves in our professional field.

For more information on how to join as well as for the relevant application forms, visit the ITIA website at: www.translatorsassociation.ie

■ Official Languages Act and Recent Media Coverage

On February 22nd, the Irish Times reported that €30,000 had been spent by Clare County Council translating reports into Irish, none of which had been bought by the public. The Official Languages Act (OLA) requires that major policy documents of Government departments, State bodies and organisations, including annual reports, have to be translated into Irish. The issue continues to divide politicians and the general public alike. Green Party councillor Brian Meaney stated that "Money could be spent on Irish in a much more positive and proactive way." Éamon Ó Cuív, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, defended the costs on the basis that this was only a percentage of the total cost of the reports themselves.

In another article on the OLA, Eoin Ó Murchú writes in Village Magazine about Irish interpreting in the European Parliament. While translation is going ahead as planned, interpreting is not being given the same

■ Next Issue of the ITIA Bulletin

The next issue of the ITIA Bulletin will be out in April 2006. If you have any contributions, suggestions or scandals that you would like to share with over 950 subscribers worldwide, send them to Elizabeth Hayes at [elizabeth.hayes7\(a\)mail.dcu.ie](mailto:elizabeth.hayes7(a)mail.dcu.ie).

Subscribing to the ITIA Bulletin

To subscribe, simply send an Email to [itia-ezine-subscribe\(a\)yahoogroups.com](mailto:itia-ezine-subscribe(a)yahoogroups.com)

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importance. He reports that interpreting in the European Parliament and its committees will be "limited to translation from Irish to English, with no clarity as to the issue of further translation to other languages, and no right at all to have speeches in other languages translated into Irish for the benefit of Irish speakers." In practice, this means that while MEPs will be able to speak in Irish, they will not have the right to have other people's speeches translated into Irish so, in effect, they will be speaking Irish but hearing English. There is a five year transition period so nobody expects things to fall into place immediately.

...money could be spent on Irish in a much more positive and proactive way...

Ó Murchú claims that the lack of qualified Irish interpreters is a major stumbling block. The funding of suitable interpretation courses is therefore imperative.

The full text of this article can be read at:
<http://www.villagemagazine.ie/article.asp?sid=1&sud=40&aid=1381>

■ ITIA 20 Year Anniversary

In 1986, 'The Irish Translators' Association' was founded by Ann Bernard, Cormac Ó Cuilleanáin and J.F. Deane. In 2002, interpreters entered the fold and the association became the Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association. To celebrate the founding of the ITIA 20 years ago this year, a calendar of events is being finalised. Details will be announced at a later date.

■ FLOSS: OpenOffice

Introduction

Let me start this month's article by addressing some remarks to those of you who are new to the concept of Free/Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS). The vast majority of those reading this will have been reared on Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office. If, like myself, you started with computers that produced only text and were operating on MS DOS and the command line prompt, you will have witnessed a staggering rate of development in both software and hardware. Because of this short but very influential history most of us,

myself included, experience a certain sense of panic and potential loss if we try to wean ourselves off Microsoft with all its bells and whistles! All kinds of fantastic doomsday scenarios run through our heads. If I move to FLOSS programs will I still be able to use Windows? Are open source programs compatible with other commercial programs? Is my hard disk going to be able to cope with this? Will I be able to cope with this? If a program is FREE can it really be any good?

Because of these legitimate concerns I suggest that you stay with your existing Windows environment as long as you wish and we shall consider initially only those programs that will run under Windows. The first program, or rather suite of programs, we will examine is called OpenOffice. Believe me, OpenOffice is a serious contender in the same league as Microsoft Office. Even more importantly it is also FREE! I have been a heavy user of MS Office and other related programs in that suite but I now use OpenOffice almost exclusively. In the rest of this article I shall try to explain to you why that has happened. From the translator's perspective there is one particular reason that makes OpenOffice very important. If you wish to use OmegaT, which is Computer Assisted Translation (CAT) software, then the source document must be in a particular OpenOffice format.

If a program is FREE can it really be any good?

Getting OpenOffice

There are two ways to get a copy of OpenOffice, either by downloading it from the OpenOffice.org web site (www.openoffice.org) or by getting a copy on CD. If you have experience of downloading programs from the Internet and installing them yourself then the first option is probably the best. It requires that you know your way around the Internet and that you have some understanding of the jargon used on web sites. Where open source software is concerned some people experience an additional problem because of their relative unfamiliarity with the inevitable jargon that gets thrown around by the regular community members. Don't let yourself be put off by this because you will quickly learn to find your way around the bits that you don't understand.

Others of you may feel more comfortable having a CD with the program and specific instructions on how to install it. For that reason I shall make copies of the current versions of programs discussed in this and subsequent articles available on a CD (Please refer to Box A for details). These programs are free but I do request a small subscription to cover the expenses involved in producing the disks, preparing the documentation, providing packaging, and finally the postage. This will also entitle you to receive a regular quarterly e-newsletter of information about the programs and updates available plus further guidance arising from any requests for help I receive.

Step One:

Double-click the icon OOo_2.0.2_Win32Intel_install... and follow the instructions on screen. It is best to accept the default conditions at first unless you know precisely what you require. The default conditions can easily be changed afterwards.

Step Two:

When the program has been installed or when you open it for the first time you will then be asked to set your preferences. In case of any doubt, I suggest you fill in your personal details and for all the other headings accept the default values for the present. The only other Option that I like to change is 'Language Settings'. We hope to have the Irish language module available for selection soon in which case those of you who use Irish will have a completely Irish language environment in which to work!

Main features

OpenOffice consists of six core programs. OpenOffice.org Writer is the main word processing program in the suite and I shall focus on this for the remainder of this article. The others, briefly, are:

- Base, a sophisticated database program;
- Calc, a traditional spreadsheet format;
- Draw, an interesting and comprehensive drawing program with lots of extras;
- Impress, a program for preparing presentations with slides, overheads, notes, prompts, and
- Math, a high-powered program to provide advanced mathematical formulae for use in other programs. This is unlikely to be of interest to the general user but may be of great importance to translators of technical, engineering and scientific documentation.

When you open OpenOffice Writer for the first time you will see that the lay-out is very similar to that of MS Word. The first difference, however, that you may notice is the item "Export as PDF" (under the file menu). As you are, no doubt, already aware, MS Word documents are saved primarily as FILENAME.DOC or FILENAME.RTF, where the former is the standard MS Word format and the latter is a general, rich text format or basically a text document. Writer, however, offers two further options for saving your document. You may save in MS Word DOC format, useful if your client requires the target document in that format. You may also save your document in PDF format, or Portable Document Format, an industry standard, which up until recently has only been available in Adobe Acrobat. The PDF format is a very stable format and useful for ensuring that special symbols and formatting are maintained. For example, I submitted this article in MS

■ Box A

A CD containing the current versions of the following programs is available FREE:

- OpenOffice
- Omega T (translation software)
- Mozilla Firefox (Internet browser) (available in either Irish or English)
- Mozilla Thunderbird (email)
- Cats Cradle (translation software for web pages)
- PO Edit (localisation software)
- SimpleOCR (An Optical Character Recognition program converting a printed document to electronic format with the use of a scanner)
- plus, at a later stage, other programs that may be requested by readers or become available in the near future.

Just contact the author by e-mail at <tonypr@iol.ie> or write to the following address: Tony Pratschke, "Lothlorien", Síol Éalaigh, Co. Chill Mhantáin. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. Your subscription (€20 suggested) will help me to defray expenses and to continue providing this service in the spirit of Free/Libre Open Source Software.
Thank you.

Installing and Setting up

The process of installing OpenOffice will be the same irrespective of whether you download it or get the CD. Either way you will start with a zip file. If the file is downloaded then it will already be available on your hard disk, otherwise insert the CD in the computer and open it using My Computer. In the latter case double-click on 'DVD-RW Drive (E:)' where E: is the name of the drive allocated by the computer. This may be a different letter depending upon the configuration of your computer. This will open the CD and a list of the programs available will be presented. Then follow these steps:

Word DOC format and also in PDF format having prepared it in OpenOffice. The PDF file ensured that if the process of transmitting the article by e-mail caused any corruption or distortion of the Word file, the PDF file could be used for final proof-reading!

In general the drop-down menus will be familiar in content to anyone who uses MS Word. For example, in the 'Tools' menu, you can initiate 'Spellcheck', consult a comprehensive 'Thesaurus' and also access all the OpenOffice 'Options'. An additional feature that is very useful for anyone who writes or translates is the option, again under 'Tools', of checking the word or character count either for the whole document or for a selected portion of it at any stage. Finally, when it comes to saving your document in OpenOffice you have a large array of formats to choose from.

The .SXW format is also that used for source documents to be used in OmegaT translation software. I shall explain this in more detail in a special article about OmegaT in a future Newsletter.

Conclusion

In this brief overview of the OpenOffice.org suite of programs I have focused primarily on Writer, the main word processing module. If you are familiar with MS Word then you should have no difficulty in adapting to Writer. I would emphasise that it is a "good neighbour" and will sit quite happily next to all the other (more expensive!) programs on your hard disk. It also brings with it some additional benefits as mentioned above. There is a comprehensive Help file but if you find the wealth of detail given there a bit too much for you in the beginning just make sure that you register your copy of the program on the OpenOffice.org web site and thereby become a member of the community that comprises both the creators and the users of the program. You will find several groups of users available and willing to share their experience with you. Enjoy!

Next Month

In next month's article I shall complete the overview of OpenOffice by introducing you to the other programs in the suite. If you have any specific queries you are welcome to contact me at <[tonypr\(a\)iol.ie](mailto:tonypr(a)iol.ie)>. Please be patient but I will try to reply as soon as possible.

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This article is available complete with screen shots that could not be included here for reasons of size and space. If you would like to see the extended version of the article, send an email to the ITIA bulletin editor [Elizabeth.hayes7\(a\)mail.dcu.ie](mailto:Elizabeth.hayes7(a)mail.dcu.ie)

■ FIT Survey for eCoLoTrain Project

The *Institute of Translation and Interpreting* (ITI), a member association of FIT, is involved in a European-funded Leonardo project named *eCoLoTrain*. ITI calls upon all fellow FIT-Europe associations to draw their members' attention to the project described below and encourage them to take part in the survey. We would be grateful if you could pass the following information on to your members, and even put a link to the survey on your website:

The Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI) has been asked to organise a needs analysis questionnaire for the eCoLoTrain project described below. The questionnaire can be found on the home page of the ITI website www.iti.org.uk and select *SURVEYS*. The survey is available in German, French, Spanish and English.

ECoLoTrain (DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE ECONTENT LOCALISATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINERS AND TEACHERS IN PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATION)

eCoLoTrain aims to develop and test innovative training opportunities for trainers and teachers in the field of professional translation. It seeks to improve translator trainers' ICT skills in general and their eContent localisation skills in particular. From a practical point of view, eCoLoTrain will provide a set of original materials ranging from methodological and pedagogical guidelines to concrete course materials. The beneficiaries of these materials include teachers of traditional translation courses who will integrate Computer Aided Translation Tools (CAT-Tools) and Project Management Tools (PM-Tools) in their translation classes under various teaching scenarios, as well as teachers of CAT and PM tools who will train these translation teachers. Another targeted category is the growing field of community languages translation. All eCoLoTrain materials will be available on this website in four different languages: English, German, Spanish and French.

eCoLoTrain website:

<http://ecolotrain.uni-saarland.de/index.php?id=702&L=1>

The survey is only available on the ITI website:

<http://www.iti.org.uk>

Thank you for participating

■ Conferences, Calls & Courses

Ireland Literature Exchange (ILE) Residential Literary Translation Bursary Programme

Ireland Literature Exchange/Idirmhalartán Litríocht Éireann (ILE) invites applications from experienced literary translators from the following countries:

- ◆ Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, who wish to spend up to four weeks in Ireland in 2006, working on the translation of a work of modern Irish literature.

The bursary is open to experienced literary translators, not resident in Ireland, who are under contract to a publisher. The bursary will cover accommodation, board and living costs. All necessary arrangements will be made by ILE, and a substantial contribution will be made towards reasonable travel expenses. The bursary must be claimed before 31st December 2006.

Eligible candidates are invited to apply in writing by 28th April 2006 to:

Ms. Sinéad Mac Aodha

Director - Ireland Literature Exchange

(Translation Bursary Programme)

25 Denzille Lane,

Dublin 2, Ireland.

Email: [sinead\(a\)irelandliterature.com](mailto:sinead(a)irelandliterature.com)

Applications must include the following:

- ◆ Full contact details.
- ◆ A brief CV/résumé that lists qualifications and translation work to date, and details of publication where applicable.
- ◆ A brief outline of the work to be carried out during the residency.
- ◆ A copy of the signed contract with the publisher for the translation.
- ◆ Applications from translators who do not yet have a contract will be considered, provided ILE receives a contract before the residency begins.
- ◆ Estimated travel expenses (in Euro only). Please indicate if a contribution towards travel expenses is not required.
- ◆ The preferred period of residency. The bursary must be claimed before 31st December 2006.

Canvassing will disqualify.

The closing date for receipt of applications is: 28th April 2006. The successful candidates will be notified shortly thereafter.

Queries should be addressed to Sinéad Mac Aodha at the address above, or emailed with the subject line 'Translation Bursary Programme' to [sinead\(a\)irelandliterature.com](mailto:sinead(a)irelandliterature.com).

Certificate in Collaborative Translation Teaching**10– 14 July 2006. University of Vic, Spain.**

Organised by the Faculty of Humanities, Translation and Documentation of the University of Vic, supported by the Departament d'Universitats, Recerca i Societat de la Informació (Generalitat de Catalunya).

An intensive certificate course designed for translation and foreign language teachers who are seeking to enhance their course development and delivery skills in the field of translation; graduates of translation and interpretation, and of languages and teaching, considering a career in teaching; administrators exploring the possibility of starting a new translation program; experienced professional translators wishing to teach.

Course participants will be part of a small student group enhancing the learning environment. There is a maximum of 25 places available.

Co-ordination: Maria González Davies mgdavies(a)uvic.es

Lead instructors:

Don Kiraly, Maria González Davies, Richard Samson

The language of instruction is English

More information at:

http://www.uvic.cat/fchtd/especial/en/collaborative_translation_teaching.html

6th LRC Internationalisation and Localisation Summer School**12th - 15th June 2006. University of Limerick, Ireland**

The Summer School will offer attendees an in-depth look at, and hands-on experience of, localisation - from basic introductions to advanced concepts, and will include an intensive one day course in .NET localisation.

Attendance at the Summer School is strictly limited to 15 people so book early to avoid disappointment.

There will be ample opportunity for learning, networking and discussions. The social highlight of the week will be an overnight excursion to the Aran Islands - one of Ireland's most scenic and traditional regions.

The Summer School is aimed at individuals that are researching and studying localisation and localisation related issues. It aims to provide people from different disciplines with the opportunity to experience areas beyond their own expertise.

While experience in computer programming is not required, attendees will need a working knowledge of computers and the windows operating system.

Fees

All Four Days - €80 (€780 for TILP Members)

Fees include accommodation, tuition, morning and afternoon refreshments, lunch, Summer School booklet and excursion.

For more information: <http://www.localisation.ie/resources/courses/summerschools/2006/index.htm>

Simultaneous Interpretation Seminar

Harrison Conference Center, Glen Cove, New York. 3 – 7 April 2006

Subject to minimum enrolment of 10 qualified applicants, a simultaneous interpretation seminar will be held at the Harrison Conference Center in Glen Cove, New York, from Monday 3 April through Friday 7 April 2006. The working languages will be English (A or B), Spanish (B or C), French (B or C). The proposed schedule is as follows:

Sunday 2 April	7 PM: Arrival - Registration - Introductions - Dinner	
	9 AM – 12 Noon	2 PM – 5 PM
Monday 3 April	Spanish > English Session 1	French > English Session 1
Tuesday 4 April	Spanish > English Session 2	French > English Session 2
Wednesday 5 April	Spanish > English Session 3	French > English Session 3
Thursday 6 April	Spanish > English Session 4	French > English Session 4
Friday 7 April	Spanish > English Session 5	French > English Session 5

Program: Each 3-hour session will comprise a lecture/presentation and a workshop conducted “round-table” fashion, using audio and video recordings of UN and other speeches. The topics will include: 1. Speaking; 2. Preparation / Anticipating The Speaker; 3. Complex Syntax / Compression; 4. Word Order / Clusters; 5. General Adverbial Clauses; 6. Untranslatability; 7. Figures Of Speech; 8. Argumentation; 9. Diction / Register; 10. Formal Style; 11. The Lengthy Policy Address; 12. Quotations / Allusions / Transposition; 13. Political Discourse; 14. Economic Discourse; 15. Humor; 16. Latinisms; 17. Numbers; 18. Note-Taking

Required reading: *Interpretation Techniques and Exercises*, by James Nolan, available from the publisher, Multilingual Matters (www.multilingual-matters.com) or from the online vendors listed below. The seminar will include daily reading assignments and written exercises. Texts of speeches studied will be provided.

Activities: To wind down, participants will have access to the amenities and leisure / sports facilities (pools, gym, jacuzzi, sauna, squash courts, etc.) of the Glen Cove Mansion Conference Center (see www.harrisinglencove.com), hiking trails and beaches.

Applications: Applicants must have substantial interpretation or translation experience in the relevant language combination. To apply, please send an e-mail to jamespnolan@aol.com, with the following information: Your name, address, telephone number and e-mail / Brief description of translation interpretation experience / Native language, other languages, & degree of fluency.

Fee: The comprehensive fee for this seminar, including lodging, meals and activities at the Harrison Conference Center, is \$2,000. Payment is to be made by check upon acceptance of application.

Instructor: *James Nolan* is Deputy Director of the Interpretation, Meetings and Publishing Division and Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service of the United Nations. He previously served as UN Senior Interpreter and as Head of Linguistic and Conference Services of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. Mr. Nolan is a graduate of the School of Translation and Interpretation of the University of Geneva and of New York Law School, and a member of the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC). In writing *Interpretation Techniques and Exercises*, he brings to bear 25 years of experience as a UN interpreter as well as his teaching experience in the UN interpreter training program and the interpreter training programs of Marymount Manhattan College and New York University.



■ Contacting The ITIA

Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association
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ITIA BULLETIN

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■ ITIA Resources for Translators

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* has compiled a series of useful information leaflets for translators and interpreters - both members and non-members alike. These leaflets are available from the ITIA website at www.translatorsassociation.ie.

- ◆ *The Translation Profession*
- ◆ *Joining the ITIA*
- ◆ *Ordinary Membership Application*
- ◆ *Professional Membership Application*
- ◆ *Database Entry*
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