BITRA: Three Years of a Bibliography of Interpreting and Translation Studies

Javier Franco Aixelá

Universitat d'Alacant. Departament de Filologia Anglesa
Ctra. Sant Vicent del Raspeig, s/n. 03690 Sant Vicent del Raspeig (Spain).

Abstract

The article explains the results of a personal project, BITRA (Bibliography of Interpreting and Translation) after three years of existence on the Internet. This is a monthly-updated online database which already (September, 2003) comprises more than 20,000 entries and which aspires to cover all the literature on interpreting and translation taking advantage of information technology. BITRA is: *1)* International, it includes works from any country and written in any language; *2)* Annotated, it includes metatextual fields aimed at offering an abstract, commenting on special traits of the text or reproducing the table of contents; *3)* Interactive, it allows users to propose changes in the existing data or the inclusion of new records; *4)* Flexible, it allows searches to be performed using any criterion or combination of criteria; *5)* Open and free, BITRA is easy to search and open to everybody without any sort of subscription or payment.

Key words: bibliography, theory, history.

Resum

L'article explica els resultats d'un projecte personal, BITRA (Bibliografia de Traducció i Interpretació), després de tres anys d'existència a Internet. Es tracta d'una base de dades en línia que s'actualitza mensualment i que ja (setembre de 2003) conté més de 20.000 referències, i aspira a abastar tota la bibliografia sobre interpretació i traducció, aprofitant els avantatges de les tecnologies de la informació. BITRA és *1)* Internacional, inclou obres de qualsevol país i escrites en qualsevol idioma; *2)* Comentada, inclou camps metatextuals dissenyats per a oferir un resum, comentar trets específics del text o reproduir-ne l'índex; *3)* Interactiva, permet als usuaris fer suggerències i contribucions; *4)* Flexible, presenta la possibilitat de fer recerques segons qualsevol criteri o combinació de criteris; *5)* Oberta i gratuïta, és de consulta fàcil i de lliure accés per a tothom, sense cap tipus de subscripció o de pagament.

Paraules clau: bibliografia, teoria, història.

What is BITRA?

BITRA, which was born on the Internet in 2001, stands for "Bibliography of Interpreting and Translation". This database is a monthly-updated international annotated bibliography on translation and interpreting which currently (September 2003) comprises more than 20,000 references (including more than 2,400 abstracts) and which can be freely searched on the Internet (http://www.ua.es/dfing/

tra_int/bitra_en.htm) in Catalan, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

Translation and interpreting studies have undergone an unprecedented boom which has brought about an abundant theoretical and applied production. However, the search for relevant bibliography on research, teaching or professional practice often involves an excessive effort looking everywhere for publications which can easily prove useless for our investigation.

Admittedly, at least since 1970 there have been occasional praiseworthy examples of partial bibliographies on translation and translations, and, right now, there are one or two journals which focus on this area, like *Translation Studies Abstracts*, published by St Jerome. By way of example, until 1950 almost the only representative is Unesco's bibliography of translated books, the *Index Translationum* (created in 1932). Between 1950 and 1970 there are basically two kinds of bibliographies: those on the national translations of some classic, like Horn-Monval's *Les traductions françaises de Shakespeare* (1963), and those on machine translation, the research focus of that period (together with Bible translation). The latter provide the first bibliographies on the theory of translation, however specific, with books like Delavenay & Delavenay's *Bibliography of Mechanical Translation = Bibliographie de la traduction automatique* (1960); Balz & Stanwood's *Literature on Information Retrieval and Machine Translation* (1962) or Walkowicz's *A Bibliography of Foreign Developments in Machine Translation and Information Processing* (1963). In 1970 we get the first attempt to cover the whole range of Translation Studies, with Bausch, Klegraf & Wilss' *The Science of Translation: An Analytical Bibliography (1962-1969)*. Things then start moving at a very dramatic pace, in accordance with the boom of Translation Studies, and we have very serious sectorial (most of them) and general (a few) attempts like Bowker, Kenny & Pearson's yearly *Bibliography of Translation Studies* (first published in 1998); or Santoyo's *Bibliografía de la traducción, en español, catalán, gallego y vasco* (1996); or Gambier's *Language Transfer and Audiovisual Communication. A Bibliography* (1994).

This is a brief summary of the evolution of bibliographies on translation and on translations since 1900 (data from BITRA as at September 2003):

1900-1950....	4 books
1951-1960...	2 books
1961-1970...	10 books
1971-1980...	28 books
1981-1990...	32 books
1991-2003...	63 books

The upsurge is unquestionable, showing what seems to be a general agreement regarding the need to obtain a bibliographical tool that enables us to find our way in a discipline which has grown dramatically in the last decades and covers a huge area due to its interdisciplinary scope. Nevertheless, the fragmentation and the limited nature of this material make searching difficult and, regrettably, it has to be stated that in the world of translation and interpreting there is currently no really

flexible bibliography, capable of constant growth and open to contributions, available in the form of a single international and user-friendly tool. BITRA was born to meet all these needs, taking advantage of current IT in order to fill this bibliographical gap in our discipline.

If we consider that the scientific study of translation does not appear at least until after the Second World War, and that the dramatic upsurge in publications brought about by modern Translation Studies does not take place until the 80s (17,000 after 1980 as opposed to 3,000 before that date in BITRA), we can call ours a really young discipline, so that collecting a very significant portion of the literature on translation and interpreting in a single bibliographical and multilingual tool is at least thinkable.

And that is what BITRA has been trying to do these last three years. At present this online database comprises more than 20,000 records including books, chapters, articles, dissertations and journals on translation and interpreting. Though we are aware of the utopian nature of the enterprise, this ever-growing database (it is updated once a month) aspires to encompass in a systematic way everything published on interpreting and translation, by classifying the material in accordance with multiple simultaneous criteria and completing the bibliographical references with metatextual information. In this connection, BITRA has been designed to provide classifications and comments on the texts, thus enabling researchers, students or professionals to find out what has been published on any subject or by any author, publisher, etc., and to determine with a reasonable degree of certainty whether a given record will be likely to prove helpful or not even before reading it. The time and effort saved by such a project, together with its proposed accuracy, seem to be worth considering.

After three years of work, the chances for students, scholars and professionals of obtaining useful information from BITRA are almost boundless and will continue to increase as the database grows. In spite of obvious issues of accessibility, BITRA seems to be solving its problems of bias in favour of Spanish (c. 3,800) and English (c. 10,100) texts vs. other languages (in French there are about 3,600; and 2,200 in German; whereas in Russian there are about 200; and more than 450 in Italian). However, it must not be forgotten that English increasingly plays the role of *lingua franca* in scientific communication, including translation and interpreting, so it is very much to be expected that it will continue to be the dominant language for a long time. If the academic and professional communities consider it worthwhile to contribute their own publications or those they know of, BITRA will be an even more reliable guide to everything ever published in our (inter)discipline, with the result that the data will be more and more representative and complete.

Apart from the obvious possibilities of gaining access to a complete and annotated bibliography on the author, publisher, journal, subject, language, year, etc. we might be interested in, BITRA can also provide some enlightening data on the nature and approaches of the theoretical and applied branches of translation and interpreting through a study of the quantitative and qualitative evolution of publications throughout history.

In line with its academic nature, searching in this database is free and open to all. However, acknowledgment would obviously be appreciated whenever BITRA proves helpful to its users.

In keeping with its international vocation, BITRA is intended to be as accessible as possible to the greatest number of users by means of an open policy as regards working languages. The above-mentioned progressively universal nature of English has led me to adopt it as the *lingua franca* in BITRA, but this does not at all mean that it is the only working language used. Generally speaking, the data is offered in the language of each record and also in English. However, multilingual reality has been respected whenever the ratio of effort to cost and the necessary transparency have made this possible. To be more specific, although I will try to explain all this below in greater detail, all fields which were capable of being systematised due to their having a limited number of possibilities are already offered in all the working languages, whereas titles are given in their original language and in English, tables of contents in their original language, and abstracts and comments in English or in the original language.

As to sources, BITRA uses practically every conceivable means, from bibliographical references in books, articles or dissertations, to the information publishers issue through the Internet, including the catalogues of all sort of online libraries. There is one exception. In order not to interfere with the work of other colleagues, I have made every effort to avoid taking any reference from publications (books or journals) specifically focused on the bibliography of translation or interpreting, although it is impossible to guarantee that no reference comes indirectly from these sources. Given the public nature of the project and the fact that the Internet allows free-flowing communication with users, it would be especially helpful to receive direct contributions from the authors or readers, either as corrections of wrong data or as new records.

Any substantial contribution (e.g. a record or an abstract) will always be explicitly acknowledged in BITRA with the name of the contributing person or institution. To make contribution easier, at the bottom of the searching page you only have to click on "Comments or suggestions" to access the appropriate section. The contribution then goes via e-mail and, if valid, will appear in the following month's update, including an explicit acknowledgement of the source. For a new record to be valid, it must contain at least the following minimum data: author, year, title, place, publisher, pages, language and type.

Structure and possibilities

A detailed summary of the searching instructions can be found on the website. These are very user-friendly, but if you want to make the most of the database, you are strongly advised to read them. At the same time as I explain how it works, here I will mainly focus on its rationale and its possibilities.

BITRA is divided into 16 fields which allow the information to be compartmented so that searching can be as flexible and discriminating as possible. A complete record covers the following fields:

 1. SUBJECT:
 2. AUTHOR:
 3. YEAR:
 4. TITLE:
 5. PLACE:
 6. PUBLISHER:
 7. PAGES:
 8. LANGUAGE:
 9. TYPE:
10. ISBN:
11. SERIES:
12. LIBRARIES:
13. CONTENTS:
14. ABSTRACT:
15. COMMENTS:
16. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

In keeping with the aim of flexibility, it is possible to search in all of them simultaneously, individually or by combining any number of fields. In an attempt to make searching simple, we have tried to make search strings as inclusive and easy to use as possible. Thus, there is no need to use wildcards. If you type in the string <ant> in the field "Author", you will get "Antonio, Antoine, Konstantinos, Confiant, Antton, Cervantes", etc. Obviously, the more complete the string, the fewer undesired results you will get. The search is not sensitive to upper or lower case, or to written accents, so it does not matter whether you write "INTERPRETING" or "interpreting"; "García Márquez" or "garcia marquez". Any sequence of strings within the same search window will be combined by the logical operator .AND.

The labels of all the windows can be changed to show any field, so that searching can be made-to-order and with any (combination of) field(s) as criteria. The first possibility shown is "All fields". This allows users to search for any string anywhere in the database. Of course, this involves a huge increase in the chances of finding information, wherever it may lie, but at the same time it also increases the chances of obtaining irrelevant data, an effect which cannot be disregarded given the already considerable size of the database. Instead, users are encouraged to refine their searches through concrete fields. Moreover, search windows can be combined through the logical operators .AND, .OR and .NOT, so that the chances of obtaining very accurate results are enhanced.

There are two modes of viewing the entries: "short view" and "complete view". Given the size of the database, "short view" offers the possibility of receiving up to 50 entries on one screen, including the following fields: Subjects, Author, Year, Title and Type. This way, searching will be much faster when the results are very large, and users only need to click on any word of the Title to access the complete entry on the screen. In "complete view", the results appear with all records complete, in batches of 10 records per window. Blank fields are automatically

excluded. In both modes, the records are ordered by author and, for the same author, by year. To have the records at their disposal, users only need to click on "Print".

The field "Subject", one of the great advantages of electronic databases, is designed to give a thematic description of the records. A list of keywords with different degrees of abstraction has been provided for this purpose. All keywords are classified under 10 macrocategories, which are intended to cover all the fields of our discipline, and which subsequently lead to a further list of about 80 much more specific keywords. In all cases, any keyword always appears together with its macrocategory and any record can be described through any combination of keywords from several macrocategories at the same time, thus allowing the above-mentioned multiple and simultaneous classification. For instance, a paper called "La asignatura pendiente con Sam Weller" [The unfinished business with Sam Weller] will be thematically classified (in English) as: "Author. Dickens. Work. 'Pickwick Papers.' United Kingdom. Spanish. Humour. Novel. Literature. Genre. Problem," and the results of any search including any of those keywords will include this entry, thus allowing multiple simultaneous classification and multiplying the informative potential of the title. Furthermore, in line with the international vocation of BITRA all keywords can be searched in any of the working languages.

This thematic classification is one of the most subjective issues in the whole project, both as regards the concrete phrasing of the descriptors and the selection and conceptual borders of the fields. Thus, the macrocategory "Teaching" could have been termed "Didactics", "Training", "Pedagogy", "Instruction", etc., whereas the keywords included in it ("Handbook" and "Thème") could be subdivided or modified in a thousand different ways. By way of example, in the case of "Teaching", it would be perfectly reasonable to add descriptors like "Foreign language". The reason for not adding them yet is simply that, at least for the moment, there are not enough records on these subjects to justify expanding an already very long list of keywords, but that may change at any moment.

There are two basic approaches as to the way of structuring keywords. You can use "natural language", letting each text define itself through its own terminology and/or keywords, when included by the author; or you can build a closed list of predetermined terms. The advantage of the first method is its much greater accuracy and specificity, with an individual classification for each publication; its serious drawbacks arise from the different wordings that will be used, forcing the user to type in all sorts of variants and synonyms without any guarantee of completeness in the search. In BITRA I have chosen to offer a closed list, preferring exhaustiveness to intuition in this case.

Regarding the concrete phrasing of the descriptors, it is important to remember that computers do not "understand what we mean", so that users must key in an exact match for the keyword as it appears in the database. To enable users to know which are the keywords chosen for BITRA, in the searching page there is a button (List of Keywords) which opens up a list of descriptors that can be chosen by simply clicking on them. Although the idea is always to use common terminology

and to avoid personal preferences, it must be said that given the chaos which characterises (or even seems inherent in) the terminology of translation and interpreting, it is possible that the concepts covered by some keyword might not be completely clear. To define here the almost one hundred keywords used in BITRA would take up too much space, so I would invite anyone who is unsure about the meaning of a descriptor or its appropriateness, to contact me by e-mail. This kind of feedback is one of the basic traits in the rationale of this database and it would allow me to make the necessary changes and provide a better bibliographical tool.

As to the classification itself, every effort has been made to simplify things as much as possible for compilers and for users. In this regard, it is important to take into account that a list of, say, more than one hundred keywords would not be very operative for two reasons: from the point of view of the user it would be too complicated to choose, and, from the point of view of the taxonomy itself, borders would be extremely fuzzy and it would be very complicated to discriminate between closely related fields. The decision, then, has been to cover those fields which have proved to be of most interest in the world of translation and interpreting as seen in the records themselves. Even so, the list is open to any sort of change (addition, change of name, omission of the least relevant items) in accordance with the interests of researchers as manifested in their own publications.

Apart from the keywords, in the "Subject" field users can also gain access to authors, works, languages and countries (or other geographical areas, from continents to towns) whenever they are the subject of any record. Of course, a list of the thousands of possibilities involved would be impossible and here we have tried to be as intuitive as possible. As to the names of authors and works, they are always displayed in the way they are written in their original language, but if this does not use the Latin alphabet, their denomination in English and Spanish is offered instead (e.g. "Homero. Homer"). In the case of geographical terms and languages, given that a large majority of users in any given case may not be familiar with the form in the original language, the practice in BITRA is to use their names in the working languages (e.g. "Polonia" in the Spanish version; "Poland" in the English one; "Pologne" in French, etc.; or "German" in the English version, "Deutsch" in the German one, etc.).

The reason for including as a descriptor the name of the country the record focuses on is to make it possible to do significant geographical searching (for instance, records on working conditions in China, instead of having to look through all the regions and towns of that country). However, I am aware that adding the name of the country to a region or town may in some cases be problematic due to nationalisms and other political conflicts. To make things easier and to ensure the necessary uniformity in the descriptors, the current sociopolitical situation is taken as the norm[1] (thus, for instance, all records which deal in a general way with the

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1. A significant and unique exception is the Roman world, where it does not make much sense to refer to the country as "Italy." "Rome" is clearly a much better alternative.

USSR will be referred to as "Russia" in the English version) but his should not be taken as reflecting a given sociopolitical preference attributable to the compilers of BITRA. However, BITRA is prepared to consider the wishes of authors who may prefer a different geopolitical description for their work and, if no agreement can be reached, geographical descriptors can easily be dropped from a particular record.

BITRA's thematic classification (in English) is as follows:

BITRA — ENGLISH KEYWORDS

THEORY	RESEARCH	PROBLEM	GENRE	HISTORY
Bibliography	Corpus	Abbreviations	Advertising	[When possible,
Canon		Ambiguity	Audiovisual	century is included
Colonialism		Coherence	Dubbing	in Roman numerals]
Criticism		Phraseology	Subtitling	
Deconstruction	DOCUMENTATION	Paroemia	Comics	Earlier (before 20th
Descriptivism	Dictionaries	Culture	Journalism	century)
Equivalence	Internet	Dialect	Literature	Medieval
Gender		Humour	Children	Renaissance
Ideology		Pun	Drama	Baroque
Linguistics		Interference	Novel	Belles Infidèles
Grammar	PROFESSION	Metaphor	Poetry	Romanticism
Pragmatics	Initiator	Modernization	Popular	Modern (20th
Meaning		Orthography	Short story	century)
Normalization		Phonetics	Music	
Policy		Proper noun	Opera	
Polysystems	INTERPRETING	Quality	Reference	
Process	Community	Register	Philosophy	TEACHING
Retranslation	Consecutive	Slang	Psychology	Handbook
Skopos	Signs	Style	Religion	Thème
Terminology	Simultaneous		Bible	
Translatability			Koran	
			Technical	
			Business	MACHINE
			IT	
			Legal	
			Medicine	

In the field "Author" the name is displayed as it appears in the text, with the addition of "(ed.)" where appropriate. The only possible problem here is the different treatment of the same author in different publications. Thus, in the case of Spanish- or Portuguese-speaking authors, sometimes there is only one surname and sometimes there are two, and it is not unusual to find authors in other languages who appear with compound names sometimes fully developed and sometimes not. In general, our aim has always been to offer just one version per author and to make it the fullest available name.

The "Year" shown in BITRA is the date of the first edition of the text except in the case of a congress, when it is the year the published paper was originally

presented, if known, the year of the collective publication appearing in brackets. In this way, the user can see when the contribution was really presented and when it was published. When the record is a newspaper article, the day and month are shown in brackets in an "Arabic-Roman" numerals format, so that June 25th 2003 will appear as "2003 (25-VI)".

As stated above, the "Title" will always appear in the original language and, in square brackets, translated into English to cater for as large a number of users as possible. This way, too, BITRA broadens its searching possibilities allowing up any word in English liable to be included in the field "Title" to be looked up, whatever its original language, thus completing the thematic classification the keywords already offer.

As the translation offered in BITRA is not intended to replace the original title, but to act as a support, the type of translation preferred is clearly source-oriented and, when necessary and possible, explanatory at the same time. Fairly often, the titles of records include some sort of play on words. In these cases, priority has been given to transparency when no parallel English pun seemed available. In some instances, the titles were somewhat opaque and the absence of information about the texts may have brought about misunderstandings, either in the translation or in the thematic description. Since BITRA is first and foremost an interactive database, this problem can easily be solved if the author or readers of the given text can clarify what the intended sense was. When the original title is written in a non-Latin alphabet, BITRA reproduces the transcription included in the text or provided by the author. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to include non-Latin alphabets in BITRA. Whenever possible, we have tried to be as systematic as possible in the choice of the English words, in order to enhance the above mentioned possibility of searching for non-keywords through the "Title" field.

"Place" refers to the town where the text was published. It appears in its original language or, at least, in one of the official languages of the country of origin, as long as it is written in Latin letters. If this is not the case, the place will appear in its English translation (e.g. "Moscow"), which, hopefully, should be transparent to everybody. When the text is a journal article, BITRA has followed the bibliographical tradition and left this field blank. To enable readers to discover where a journal was published, BITRA includes the names of all journals on translation and interpreting for which information has been available, trying at the same time to give information on subscription and instructions for authors. To gain access to a journal, you only need to key in its name in the field "Title" and to add the word "Journal" in the field "Type".

"Publisher" includes the publishing house or the name of the journal.

When the publication is a book, in "Pages" we have omitted any in Roman numerals (e.g. introductory matter).

"Language" is given in all working languages (thus, for instance, in the German version "English" will appear and be searchable as "Englisch"). When the text has been translated into other languages, these are included in this field and the references to the translations (and to the translators, when known) are given in "Comments".

"Type" tells users the kind of record. This information is also available in all the working languages. The types of text BITRA includes are: "book", "chapter", "article", "journal", "monograph" (special and thematic number of a journal), "dissertation" and "electronic" (a text on the Internet or on CD). BITRA does not include unpublished papers or any other personal communications due to the difficulty involved in locating them.

"ISBN" indicates this number when the text is a book, or its ISSN when it is a journal. The format systematically excludes hyphens.

"Series" supplies this information, when available, for books.

"Libraries" is a field designed to tell the user in which public and university libraries the publication may be found. Right now, it only includes information on texts held in the University of Alicante, where BITRA was born in the year 2001, but there is no reason, except availability of the information, not to expand this information to the libraries of other colleagues who wish to join forces in this project. Right now, in this field you can see if the text is accessible in any of our libraries or if it has been ordered. I would like to take advantage of this small localism first to acknowledge the generous help given to this project especially by some members (students and teachers) of the English Studies Department and the staff of the CPD (computing service) of our university, without whose assistance BITRA would not have had such an attractive and user-friendly design. In the "acknowledgements" section on the website they are expressly mentioned. I would also like to take advantage of this mention of the University of Alicante to suggest that our library will gladly receive copies of any work on interpreting or translation, and that texts so donated are guaranteed fast entry into BITRA.

"Contents" covers the structure of the books in their original language (translating them would mean taking up a lot of computer memory and making a huge effort for a possibly meagre result). This information is probably almost as helpful as the abstract itself when one wants to have a clear idea of the subject-matter and approach of a given work. For reasons of space, BITRA only includes the main parts and omits subchapters.

The "Abstract" is perhaps the most helpful metatextual field. Provided it is reasonably accurate, it is an essential tool for users who need to decide if a given text is likely to be helpful to them. For reasons of understandability to the greater number of users it is preferably in English, but, to make things easier for authors, it may also be in the original language of the record. Obviously one person cannot abstract thousands of different texts in many languages, so I appeal to authors and readers to contribute their own abstracts if the record does not have a sufficiently detailed or accurate one (it does not make too much sense to supply several abstracts of the same work). As stated above, this sort of contribution will always be explicitly acknowledged in BITRA.

"Comments" is, of course, a miscellaneous section which focuses on complementary information. Since BITRA is a bibliographical database, this section features data like the year and name of the congress the book is derived from, the references for any translations or reprints, or the editor, year and title of the book if the record is a chapter published in a collective work.

"Acknowledgments" includes the help provided by other persons or corporations in the compilation of that entry. As is only fair, this section is designed to give explicit recognition to any substantial help received, especially new entries, abstracts or translations of titles.

To end this section, let me step the user through some possible thematic searches so that the mechanics and the more or less specific potential of the database can be clearly understood. The numbers in the examples correspond to BITRA as at September, 2003.

Let us imagine that our main interest lies in drama translation. The first step would then be to click on "List of Keywords" and open the list. In the macrocategory GENRE we will see the keyword "Drama". We only need to click on it and on "Return" to place it in the appropriate window. If we then click on "Search", we will obtain the results (713 records on drama translation) alphabetically ordered by author. Suppose, now, that we only want information on the translation of Shakespeare's plays. We simply keep the keyword "Drama" and, after selecting the "Subject" option in any window, add the word "Shakespeare". This reduces the list to 193 records by excluding any texts on drama which do not refer to Shakespeare as well as any which deal only with his poetry. Let us further imagine we only want texts on the translation of *Hamlet*. Then we need only to type in a window with "Subject" the words "Hamlet" and "Shakespeare" (if we only write "Hamlet" we will also bring up texts on the homonymous work by Faulkner) and we will obtain 32 results which focus on the translation of Shakespeare's play. These texts are in several languages, but if you wish, you can also limit this to just one, English for instance, by adding the word "English" in a window with "Language" in it. The results will now be 11 texts written in English and dealing with the translation of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

To take another example, let us imagine we are looking for texts on the teaching of technical translation. We will then have to click on the keywords "Teaching" and "Technical" after looking through the keywords list described above. The result will be 309 records. Assuming that we want to limit the search to handbooks, we simply add this keyword from the list (88 records). If what we want is a list of handbooks on legal translation or interpreting only, we add the keyword "Legal" (34 records).

As a final illustration, if what we really want is to know what has been written on the translation and reception of poetry in/of France and Germany, we will have to type in two "Subject" windows the words "Poetry France" and "Poetry Germany", linking them with the logical operator ".OR". We will obtain 321 records on the translation of French and/or German poetry, or on the translation of poetry in France or in Germany.

A call for contributors

Over its three years of existence, some friends and colleagues have commented that the effort of updating and improving BITRA might be excessive. The truth is that the project is fascinating and that, for the moment, the effort is more than

rewarding. Furthermore, BITRA has already the selfless support of several members of staff at the University of Alicante and other institutions. If the academic and professional communities consider it a helpful tool and contribute to a database which aspires to belong to everybody and be made up from acknowledged contributions from everybody, the potential as I said above, is almost infinite.

Currently, I think this project can be considered a consolidated reality which, judging by my own estimate of hits and misses in reference lists accompanying publications, appears to comprise about two thirds of the existing literature on translation and interpreting. The time has now come for the systematic contribution of other members of the translation studies community. I would like to take advantage of this article to invite authors and researchers to join this effort. In order to do that they need only get in touch with me at the e-mail address printed below.

I hope that BITRA will meet with the approval of all those concerned with translation and interpreting. It only remains to add that I personally would welcome any suggestions for the improvement of this database.

References

All references can be found in BITRA (http://www.ua.es/dfing/tra_int/bitra_en.htm), with new ones on the same subjects every month.

Any comments or suggestions may be sent to: Javier.Franco@ua.es