ULB UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES

TRADITAL
Centre de recherche en traduction, interprétation,
didactique et traitement automatique des langues

The Timely Archiving of Translation Technologies
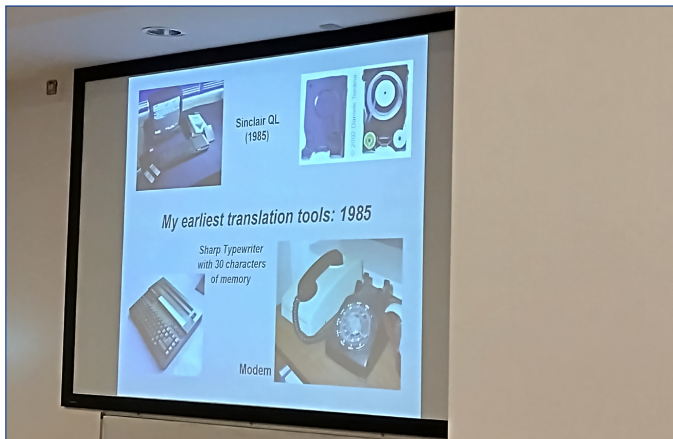
Transformation, Challenges and Trends

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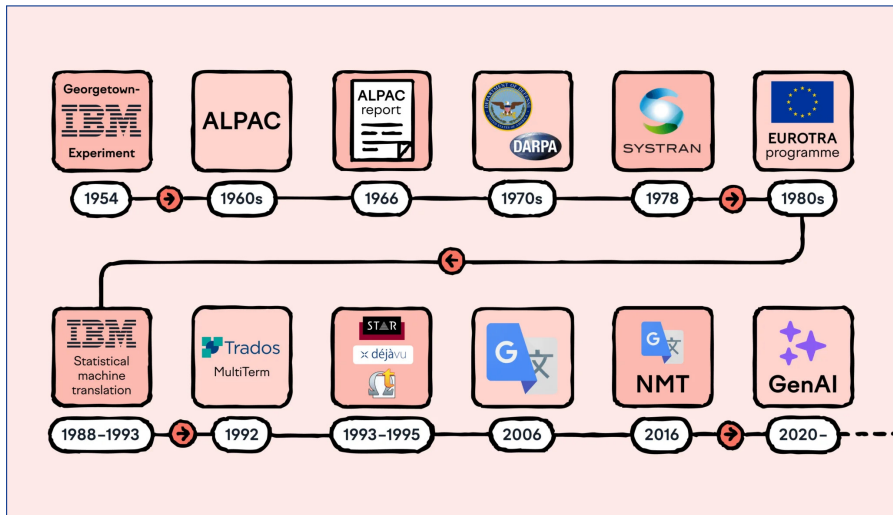TRADITAL

2 April 2025

▶ Game studies, where archiving is already crucial (cf. workshops)

 ↪ Belgian, Japanese, queer/feminist and journalism collections (physical, digitized and digital) of the Liège Game Lab

▶ Translation studies, where the question has not really surfaced

 ↪ What about professional/non-cultural software?

Why translation technology?

► Important element (and milestone) in professionals' careers

Why translation technology?

▶ Important element (and milestone) in professionals' careers

▶ Still possible to recover physical equipment and early digital tools

▶ Transversal issues and challenges related to technology

▶ Growing tendency to label everything as "AI" and omit the rest

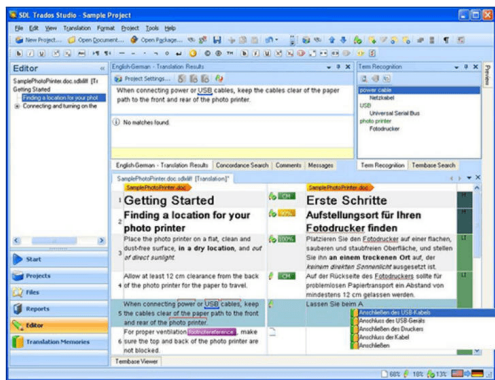Cf. https://lokalise.com/blog/translation-technology-advancements/.

▶ A better overview of translation tools would bring much needed nuance to the overly-optimistic/pessimistic discourses on technology

▶ Document alternative software and uncommon uses of technology

▶ Help better understand how translation practice is perceived

▶ And how tools are perceived by profesionals

▶ In turn, show the impact of technology on the profession*

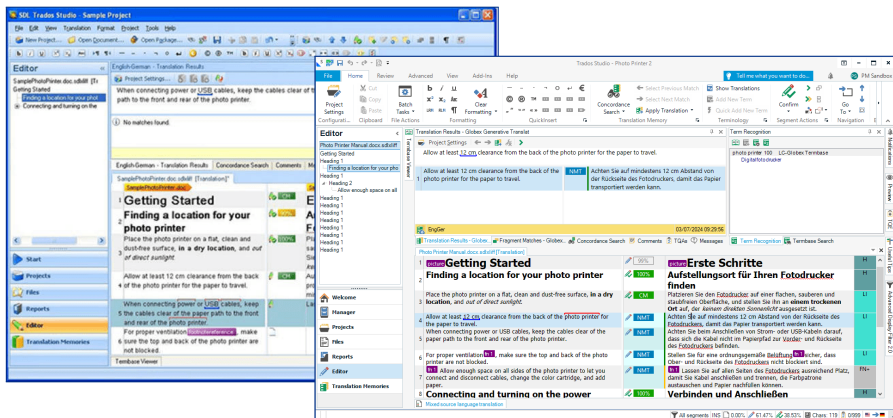* Moorkens, Joss (2020). "'A tiny cog in a large machine': Digital Taylorism in the translation industry." *Translation Spaces*, vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 12–34.

Aims

► Track the evolution of the technology

SDL Trados 2009. SDL, 2009.
Trados Studio 2024. RWS Group, 2024.

► Track the evolution of the technology (or lack thereof)

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▶ Hardware (e.g. electronic dicitonary, dictation, pocket translator)

▶ Software (computer-assisted translation tools, e.g. *MemoQ*)

▶ Web and API-based (generative AI, e.g. *ChatGPT*)

　↳ Increasing trend towards platformization practices and growing proportion of subscription-based services

Challenges

- ▶ Space and access (as with all physical collections)

- ▶ Versioning and device compatibility (as with all digital collections)

- ▶ Archival of hybrid and online-based software?

  ↳ Looking for recommendations, similar work, etc.

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Don't hesistate to reach out:
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Slides and references available
on my institutional repository
(DI-fusion)

Thank you for your attention!
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