

Journal des traducteurs Translators' Journal

Translators and Translations : Services and Sources. Second edition. Special Libraries Association, c/o Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta 13, Georgia, USA. (Preliminary Questionnaire)

Jean-Paul Vinay

Volume 8, numéro 3, 3e trimestre 1963

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1061024ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/1061024ar>

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal

ISSN

0316-3024 (imprimé)

2562-2994 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer ce compte rendu

Vinay, J.-P. (1963). Compte rendu de [Translators and Translations : Services and Sources. Second edition. Special Libraries Association, c/o Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta 13, Georgia, USA. (Preliminary Questionnaire)]. *Journal des traducteurs / Translators' Journal*, 8(3), 93–96.

<https://doi.org/10.7202/1061024ar>

§ INDEX TRANSLATIONUM. Répertoire multilingue, avec introduction en anglais et en français. UNESCO, janvier 1963. 800 pp., relié \$24.75, broché \$22.50. (Extrait des *Nouvelles publications de l'UNESCO*, Ottawa, Commission nationale canadienne pour l'UNESCO, juillet 1963).

Le quatorzième volume annuel de l'*Index Translationum* (nouvelle série) contient des renseignements sur près de 33,000 traductions publiées en volume en 1961 dans 75 pays. Compte tenu de ce dernier volume, on peut calculer qu'en quatorze ans plus de 310,000 traductions ont été répertoriées dans l'*Index Translationum*.

Les traductions recensées sont réparties d'après le pays de publication et, à l'intérieur de chaque bibliographie nationale, selon les dix grandes catégories de la Classification décimale universelle. Un tableau statistique, où est indiqué le nombre de traductions figurant dans chacune des catégories que comprend chaque bibliographie nationale, et un index alphabétique des auteurs complètent le présent volume. Les données sont généralement fournies par les bibliothèques et les centres bibliographiques principaux de chaque pays.

L'*Index Translationum* vise à répertorier chaque année toutes les traductions qui paraissent dans le monde entier sur n'importe quel sujet. Il permet à ceux qui s'intéressent aux échanges culturels internationaux de savoir quels ouvrages originaires d'un pays ou d'une région culturelle ont paru en traduction dans tout autre pays ou région du monde, et de déterminer dans quelles langues sont traduites les oeuvres de tel ou tel auteur.

La présentation uniforme des informations contenues dans l'*Index* en rend l'utilisation extrêmement aisée. Tous ceux qui s'intéressent aux traductions (écrivains, traducteurs, éditeurs, libraires, bibliothécaires, bibliographes, savants, etc.) pourront y trouver tous les renseignements qui leur sont nécessaires et notamment la manière dont ils peuvent se procurer les ouvrages.



§ *Translators and Translations: Services and Sources*. Second Edition. Special Libraries Association, c/o Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta 13, Georgia, USA. [Preliminary Questionnaire].

We have received, too late to be answered before the deadline of May 31, 1963, an announcement from the above Institute, announcing a second edition of this handbook. The *Journal* has recently¹ published a rather severe criticism of the philosophy which inspired the first listing; while it is too early to appraise the changes which are planned for the new edition, a careful perusal of the Questionnaire issued for this purpose brings out important items, which explain why Canadian translators in particular were dissatisfied with the book in its first form.

(1) Cf. *J. des Trad.* VII. 3 (juillet-septembre 1962), p. 86-87, article dans lequel M. Gode, président de l'ATA, réclame une collaboration avec la Special Libraries Association. Le présent questionnaire ne fait aucune mention d'une telle collaboration.

To begin with, the Questionnaire presents interesting information about the Special Libraries Association, a non-profit professional society presumably interested in cataloguing technical publications, amongst which are many translations. The Society is compiling and publishing a directory of translators and translations "as a service to those engaged in scientific and engineering research", although it apparently does not encourage translations nor does it enter into the field of technical translation as such. "There is no charge for inclusion of one's name and qualifications in the book. Publication is scheduled for the latter part of 1963."

The coverage of translators and translating firms is limited as follows :

1. To those located in the United States and Canada.
2. To those who translate scientific and / or engineering publications.
3. To those who translate the above subjects either into English from other languages or from English into other languages.

The instructions are most explicit on that point : "We do *not* need to know that you can translate one non-English language into another non-English language." In other words, the Association is only interested in a translation which has English as either its Source language or its Target language. Being an American association, the whole questionnaire is in fact slanted towards translation *into English*; and since it strictly limits its interest to scientific publications, the names of government translators, publicity agencies, and literary translators will not appear in its pages.

In view of the very great interest aroused in Canada by the projected *Répertoire des traducteurs canadiens*, it may not be irrelevant to present here the questions which were sent to translators whose names had come to the attention of the Society. The Questionnaire is subdivided into 6 subsections addressed to free lance translators, translating firms or bureaux, and covering the languages translated, the subjects translated.

The personnel data include :

- § Name (Last name, first name, middle initial); address and telephone number. Birthplace; present citizenship; native tongue; most proficient language, if *not* native tongue.
- § Services : number of words (to nearest 1000 words) translated *into* English, 1962 calendar year; number of words translated *from* English, 1962 calendar year. Translator or Interpreter². Other services.
- § Education (Beginning with secondary school) : Names of school, city, and country; years attended; certificate, diploma, degree, etc.
- § Occupation : Present FULL-TIME occupation, with number of years of experience in same. Name of company or institution where presently³ employed full-time; title of position held. Present PART-TIME occupation, with number of years of experience in same.

(2) The Association seems to think that the word « interpreter » may not be currently understood among the members of the profession; it goes on to define « interpreter » as « oral translator ».

Licensed profession (by state exam, as M.D., lawyer, engineer, etc.)
date, place admitted. Name of a professional or honorary organization to which you belong.

The questionnaire directed to translation bureaux include the same type of information, to which pertinent details are added, such as : Name and title of the person in charge of translating service; year in which firm or service was established; number of FULL-TIME translation EDITORS employed; number of FULL-TIME translators employed; number of words (to nearest 1000 words) translated *into* English and *from* English during the 1962 calendar year; educational level and subject background of translating staff currently employed; affiliated firms (subsidiaries, branches, parent organization, affiliates in other countries).

The questionnaire related to languages translated takes into account a system of fluency ranking showing the language which one translates *into English* with greatest fluency (numbered « 1 »), the other language being numbered in order of decreasing fluency. A Canadian questionnaire would obviously have to pay an equal attention to fluency of translation *into French*, since the bulk of translations done in Canada at the present time is in French.

The typographic layout of that part of the questionnaire looks like this :

LANGUAGE TRANSLATED(4)	FLUENCY RANKING	
	(a) Into English	(b) From English
70 () Afghan
02 () Afrikaans
21 () Albanian
&c., &c.		

The languages listed in the Questionnaire number 75 out of a possible 84 (three columns of 28 positions). Among those specified are (besides the usual stock languages) Eskimo, Tajik, Basque, Flemish (as distinguished from Dutch ?)

(3) Presently : Cet usage reflète bien la différence entre l'anglais britannique et l'anglais d'Amérique. Alertés par Koessler et Derocquigny (*Les faux amis*, p. 286), les traducteurs auront froncé le sourcil devant l'emploi du terme pour signifier « actuellement, présentement ». Il est intéressant de consulter deux autorités, l'une britannique (*Oxford*, abridged edition, 1936) et le nouveau *Standard College Dictionary* qui vient de sortir (sans mentionner de date...) des presses de Funk & Wagnall.

Le Oxford déclare reconnaître les sens suivants :

1. In person, personally; on the spot.
2. At the present time, now (Obsolete, dialectal).
3. At once, immediately, shortly (Now the ordinary use).

Pendant que Funk & Wagnall posent les distinctions suivantes :

1. After a little, time, shortly.
2. At the present time, now.
3. (Obsolete) At once.

On admirera l'opposition complète qui existe entre le sens Oxford, 3 et Funk & Wagnall, 3.

(4) Languages are classified according to Code 60.

JOURNAL DES TRADUCTEURS — TRANSLATORS' JOURNAL.

and a mysterious Celtic, along with Gaelic and with Welsh. No mention is made of Amerindian languages, an omission which places Eskimo in a curious limelight.

The subjects list uses Code 70; it covers most of the sciences, 78 items being presented with 8 blank positions totalling 86 headings. The translator is requested to mark an « X » in the box beside each subject translated. No provision is made for rank of achievement in a subject. The questionnaire has the following typographical outlay :

CODE NUMBER		SUBJECT
0100	()	<i>Agricultural Sciences</i>
0200	()	<i>Astronomy</i>
0201	()	<i>Astrophysics</i>
0202	()	<i>Navigation</i>
0203	()	<i>Solar system physics</i>
0300	()	<i>Biology</i>
0301	()	<i>Biochemistry</i>
0302	()	<i>Biophysics,</i>
&c.		<i>&c.</i>

The questionnaire ends with an item on *publications* relating to translation or interpretation, machine translation, linguistics, etc. and *references*. Free lance translators are asked to supply the names of at least *three* clients for whom they translated in 1962; the translating firms should give the names of at least *six* clients for whom they translated in 1962, of whom three should be U.S. Government agencies, if possible. The questionnaire should be certified and signed before being returned to Frances E. Kaiser, the editor of *Translators and Translations*.

We supplied all the foregoing details in the hope that they clarify the scope of the future Canadian questionnaire; it seems urgent that a list of subjects translated be drawn for our purpose, but one which would comprise a wider range, notably in the field of advertising, insurance, banking, and government activities. This list alone will decide on who should be in the book, and it should be bilingual. The present American questionnaire has severe limitations, both in subjects and in languages used, but could serve as a useful model for our *Comité du répertoire*, to whom these notes are respectfully submitted.

J.-P. V.

