



eContent LIRICS

Deliverable D 6.3A

Industry Recommendation Report

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Overview and Structure of this Deliverable

The Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) had 2 meetings during the lifetime of the LIRICS project. But during the whole duration of the project, a lot of direct interactions took place with individual members of the IAB and with many other people from language industry, standardization, business, public organizations, user groups, researchers, etc.

This report is a summary of all recommendations we have been receiving from the IAB and all other relevant sources listed above.

The meeting of the Industrial Advisory Board that was held at AFNOR on the 10th of May 2007 also served as the demonstration workshop (see D6.4 on this aspect).

This report D6.3A will focus on the discussions within the IAB and the recommendations that were formulated cumulatively over time.

1. Agenda of the Industrial Advisory Group meeting



Linguistic **I**nfrastructure for **I**nteroperable
Resour**C**es and **S**ystems

<http://lirics.loria.fr>

Industry Advisory Board Meeting

Paris, 10 May 2007

LIRICS addresses the needs of today's information and communication society where globalisation and localization necessitate multilingual communication creating an increasing need for new standardization as well as urgent recognition of existing de facto standards and their transformation into 'de jure' International Standards. LIRICS thus aims to:

- ‡ Provide ISO ratified standards for language technology to enable the exchange and reuse of multilingual language resources;
- ‡ Facilitate the implementation of these standards for end-users by providing an open-source implementation platform, related web services and test suites building on legacy formats, tools and data;
- ‡ Gain full industry support and input to the standards development via the Industry Advisory group and demonstration workshops
- 🔗 Provide a pay-per-use business model for use by Industry and in particular SMEs validated during the project for the benefit of all actors in the content and language industries

Agenda 2007-03-05

1 Opening of the meeting and welcome of participants

2 Presentation of the state-of-the-art in the LIRICS project – demonstration of results:

2.1 INTRO

Opening session: outlines of the project (Laurent Romary)

LIRICS application contexts - overview and history of TC37 activities (Gerhard Budin)

2.2 LANGUAGE CODES & DCR

639 family of standards (Lee Gillam)

Morpho-syntactic profile (Gil Francopoulo)

Syntactic profile (Thierry Declerck)

Semantic profile and TimeML (Harry Bunt)

2.3 LEXICONS & ANNOTATION

LMF (Monica Monachini, Gil Francopoulo)

MAF & SynAF (Nuria Bel, Thierry Declerck)

2.4 MULTIMEDIA ENVIRONMENT

MLIF (Samuel Cruz-Lara)

Controlled Authoring and Video Annotation (Lee Gillam)

2.5 SOFTWARE Demonstrations

Reference implementation for DCR management, lexicon (Adam Funk, Marc Kemps)

Management, annotation

3 Discussion with IAG members on usefulness and usability of standards and software developed in the LIRICS context

4 Recommendations by IAG members and further work (joint testing, etc.) (-> see D6.3A)

5 Any other business

6 Closure of the meeting at 17.00

2. Summary of discussions in the IAB

This brief summary also includes discussions held at the first meeting of the IAB in May 2006 in Barcelona, where IAB members also presented their requirements and expectations to the LIRICS group, while this time the lion's share of the meeting time was used for presentations and demonstrations by the LIRICS group, plus time for discussions. In addition, many individual bi- or multilateral talks are summarized here that were held between individual members of the IAB and individual experts from the LIRICS group.

Language Industry shows a broad spectrum of technologies, services, user/customer communities with widely differing needs and expectations, and different developments. The involvement of the IAB was very useful for the LIRICS group as it gave valuable feedback to the project work, to the work plans, interim results, and pre-final results. Also, a lot of suggestions were given that were integrated into project planning as far as possible. Of course there are many aspects that were raised that are clearly beyond the scope of the LIRICS project that would partly qualify for a follow-up project.

The direct usability of the results of the LIRICS work has been a thread through almost all discussions and recommendations. Despite the academic orientation and composition of the LIRICS group with universities and research organizations, it was possible to develop results and products that are actually usable by industry. Yet this was not an easy, but sometimes painful education process for some LIRICS members.

In the first place it was also important, sometimes not easy, to explain the rationale of the standards that were proposed by the LIRICS group.

3. Conclusions - Recommendations

It was agreed to continue to work together beyond the lifetime of the LIRICS project, both in the context of upcoming projects and in direct cooperation for product development.

- 3.1 The most important recommendation that has been voiced repeatedly has been to make sure that the standards developed by LIRICS must not be too academic in their essence. They should be usable according to user scenarios validated by industry representatives. At the same time it was acknowledged that the computational linguistics research community does have the opportunity to work into the future by anticipating upcoming developments in users/customers, on the market as such, evaluating technology trends, emerging technologies, new business models, etc.
- 3.2 Multimedia has been mentioned many times by IAB members as an important direction of standards to be developed and implemented at the same time. This requirement has been addressed by MLIF+SMIL and the video annotation work
- 3.3 Multilingualism is another topic referred to by several companies, again MLIF but also LMF, ISO 639, the DCR, word segmentation, but also SEMAF and the other components are explicitly addressing multilingual issues.
- 3.4 A Reference implementation is crucial for the success of the project as it shows best how to implement the standards in a practical way. We think that this goal has been achieved as well, the reference implementation of the standards (see document D6.4!) shows how to use the software and how to implement the standards in industrial software developments in the future.
- 3.5 Suggestions for further work: Business process engineering was mentioned at the last meeting in May as a huge application area of LIRICS deliverables, mostly in connection with OMG products and specifications, such as the SBVR.
- 3.6 The motivation and rationale of the standards projects promoted by LIRICS have to be explained much more pro-actively. The business models and user reference implementations should always accompany a standards specification process.