Usability of online terminology databases

«Content is the king»

Eduards Cauna
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About myself

- Editor (traditional media)
- Editor/Manager/Developer/Programmer (online media, news portals)
- Terminology work (IT, physics, general)
- Interests
  - Online media
  - Usability of online environments
  - Dictionaries
  - Programming
Terminology in Latvia

- Terminology organizations
  - Terminology Committee of Academy of Sciences of Latvia
    - Established in 1921
    - Restarted in 1946 (more than 60 years experience)
  - Terminology for official communication (legislation, textbooks, etc.)
  - Terminology and Translation Center (EU terms)
  - Latvijas Standarts — national standardization body (ISO, IEC)
- 200–300 dictionaries with Latvian terms
- Terminology databases
  - TTC CompleteDB
  - www.termini.lv
  - www.termnet.lv
  - www.eurotermbank.com
  - AkadTerm (termini.lza.lv/akadterm)

AkadTerm — academic terminology database

- Created in 2006
- Related with Eurotermbank activities
- Result of largest to date retroconversion (digitalization of paper dictionaries)
- Latvian terminology
- 64 terminology collections and counting
- 300,000 concepts
- 790,000 terms in 9 languages
- 560,000 distinct terms
- Focus on user interface
User interface I

- So many terms...
- Interface is so confusing...
- KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid)
- Usability
  - Cursor location
  - Search with enter
  - Search term remains selected
- Summary box
  - Instant access to all translations
  - One page for translators and terminologists
- Grouping by concepts
- Instant access to reverse translations
User interface II

- No frames, no scrollbars
- First screen usage
- Transparent web address of the term (easy to link)
  
  http://www.akadterm.lv/?term=amats&list=amats&lang=LV
  http://www.akadterm.lv/{amats|amats|LV}
  http://iate.europe.eu

Search

- So many terms...
- KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid)
- What user meant?
- Wildcard search
- Fuzzy search
  - Stemming (call/calling) LV, EN, DE, RU
  - Morphological forms (amats, amata, amatam, amatu, amatā) LV (weblog, videoblog, bogger) EN
  - Look-alikes/spelling variants (Sheppard/Shepard, co-operation/cooperation)
  - Sound-alikes (color, colour, kale, kalar)
Programming

- KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid)
- LAMP
  - Linux
  - Apache
  - MySQL
  - PHP
- Pentium II, 180 MB RAM (www.termini.lv)
- Pentium IV, 1 GB RAM (AkadTerm)