

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE FBIS CONFERENCE
BY Richard See

1. The conference was very successful in bringing together experts on systems and techniques which one day may be useful in aiding the translation process or which are already available.
2. The overall impression I carried away from the conference was that none of the approaches presented were ready for immediate application by an agency now engaged in manual translation, without a great deal of preliminary preparation.
3. The machine translation systems demonstrated were clearly not yet able to completely replace human translation.
4. Whether or not presently available machine translation systems would be useful to an agency's translators in the preparation of human translations would have to be determined by each agency, based on the kind of text, the MT system available, and the type and quality of translation desired as a finished product.
5. General multifont OCR is not yet available and manual input is quite expensive with the techniques described.
6. In some special instances, text may already be available in machine-readable form.
7. The various possible benefits or advantages below would have to be examined by anyone interested in mechanizing some phase of the translation process:
 - a. lower cost
 - b. more rapid response (shorter lag)
 - c. higher quality, thru consistency of technical terms, for example
 - d. flexible capacity (possibility of handling larger volume than normally)
 - e. byproducts of value (text-based dictionaries, concordances, IR)
 - f. training aids (using Chinese dictionary indices, gaining familiarity with the state-of-the-art)
8. The technology relevant to machine-aided translation is advancing and many costs are coming down. The conclusion is, that in order to be prepared for future developments, any agency seriously involved with translation should begin to be involved with this technology, if only on a small scale.
9. Conversely, because of the unlikelihood of immediate substantial payoff from investment in this technology and uncertainty as to the exact direction it should take, a cautious and evolutionary approach is recommended.
10. In addition to in-house experimentation with some of the elements discussed above, the support by contract of carefully designed comparative experiments involving two or more competitive approaches would aid in evaluating prospective techniques.

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PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:

- 1958-1962 Professional Assistant, National Science Foundation, Washington, D. C.
 1959-1963 Chairman, Interagency Committee on Mechanical Translation Research.
 1959-1964 Chinese Translator, U. S. Joint Publications Research Service,
 Washington, D. C.
 1961-present Reviewer, Mathematical Reviews.
 1962-1964 Deputy Program Director, Documentation Research Program, National
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 1962-1965 Chinese Translator, American Mathematical Society, Providence, R. I.
 1964-1966 Program Director, Information Systems Program, National Science
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 1966-1967 Program Director, Research and Studies Program, National Science
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Related Publications

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