

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION (Session 7)

Rapporteuse:

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The speaker was asked if the tables in the Glossary of European Accounting Charts could be used for other countries using the same languages, e.g. French to African francophone countries? And further if it was planned to extend the glossary to these countries.

We were told that since accountancy terms and requirements vary from country to country the glossary only applies in the named countries although it could be used with caution to obtain a rough idea of the terms for other areas. But English accounting terms could not, for example, be applied in the USA. Other countries may be covered in subsequent volumes but any such project takes 2 years. Volume 1 will of course, be updated.

Questions were asked regarding LEXIS, the legal information retrieval system (not to be confused with LEXIS the German data bank, the subject of a subsequent paper - Editor). Delegates were told that the system covers US law as well as English, Welsh, French law etc. The system software for this vast data store of legal cases was not for sale. Users hire a LEXIS terminal linked by private cable to the data store. The cost of access is £1.20 per minute which compares favourably with lawyers' fees. LEXIS trains the users and maintains its terminals. The system is able to output complete major collections of legal cases in as many minutes as lawyers take months.