

# Teaching Terminology Work with Databases. A Case Study

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**ABSTRACT:** In the field of international communications in particular, terminology work has become more important than ever. In accordance with the constant growth of technology, new technical terms are being developed. Online databases, for example the IATE database of the EU, and their collaborative opportunities, are the modern solution for these new challenges. Future translators must thus be educated to be able to work with these online databases independently.

In this paper, a case study will be presented. In a Technology–Enhanced Terminology Project Work at an Italian University, students were encouraged to create terminological records using the IATE database and to take on different roles in the translation process. Beyond improving their methodological skills, the participants were given the opportunity to discover the value of group work.

*Keywords:* Terminology, Translation, Databases.

## 1. Introduction

In recent years, technological and scientific advancements have been growing rapidly. At the same time, it has been harder to communicate due to the spreading of technical terms to all corners of the world, often without consistent terminology. Gone are the days when a dictionary had all the answers.

In a world in which language is changing rapidly and new technology with new technical terms is being developed every day, there has never been a greater need for excellent terminology work. Institutions in the field of international communications especially use databases as an indispensable tool for the modern translation practice. In the case of particularly difficult specialized translations, where more than fifty percent of the requested working time regards terminological research, the databases offer important advantages for translators. Through the use of database, the translation process can be speeded up and, thus, become more efficient, and research for the appropriate and equivalent term will be simplified. The quality of

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