Treebanks and other theme-specific annotation schemes, together with stand-alone resources such as syntactic and semantic lexicons, wordnets, and framenets, enable annotation of natural language at different structural levels. These resources have become crucially important for the development of data-driven approaches to NLP, human language technologies, grammar extraction, and linguistic research in general. However, most of these resources and schemes have been developed by different groups working at different sites around the world, and their design is often driven by different linguistic theories and/or application requirements. Efforts to merge resources and annotations in order to exploit the information in all of them have shown how difficult the problem of mapping categories and features reflecting a particular conceptual design can be.

This workshop is designed to bring together researchers involved in the development and/or use of theme-specific annotation schemes and supporting language resources to share experiences and methodologies, in order to provide a basis for addressing the obstacles to future resource and annotation development efforts. Another goal of the workshop is to move towards agreement on linguistic annotation standards for different levels of representation; that is, frameworks that will allow (a) individual annotations to cohabit with one another (providing consistency), (b) specification components from different annotation schemas to communicate with one another, in order to refer to merged information (creating integration), (c) underspecification of annotation information at all levels (enabling incremental addition of information over the processing history), (d) maintenance of individual annotations as separate schemas for development, acquisition, and processing purposes; and (e) annotation of multi-lingual and multi-modal data. Finally, the workshop is intended to promote collaboration within the international research community on the harmonization of representations for linguistic information for use in both language resources and annotations.
We invite submission of papers on topics relevant to resource and annotation formalisms, including but not limited to:

- design principles and annotation schemes for theme-specific annotations and resources such as treebanks, lexicons, etc.
- experiences with and methods for merging information in existing resources, including both resources of the same type (e.g., lexical/semantic resources) and those containing linguistic information of different types (e.g., syntax, co-reference, discourse, etc.)
- experiences with and methods for merging annotations for different linguistic phenomena;
- the role of linguistic theories in annotation development;
- representation frameworks for multi-layered linguistic annotations;
- methods for and results of evaluation of annotation standards;
- tools for creation and management of integrated annotation schemas;
- applications of resources and theme-specific annotations in acquiring linguistic knowledge for NLP.

DATES

Paper submission: March 8, 2006
Author notification: April 7, 2006
Workshop date: May 23, 2006

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Papers should be no more than 8 pages in length and follow the format for submissions to the main LREC conference. Submissions in pdf format should be sent to merging@cs.vassar.edu.

CONTACT

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