

Institute for Multilingual and Multimedia Information
Institut des technologies Multilingues et Multimédias de l'Information
Institut für multilinguale und multimediale Informationsverarbeitung
immi-labs.org

A joint Research Unit between CNRS, RWTH and KIT



Introduction

- Introduction
- Research Topics
- Structure
- Status
- Means
- Goals
- Actions

- Background (2005)
 - Political will at the highest level (President / Chancellor) to reinforce scientific cooperation between France and Germany
- Mission
 - Conduct research on
 - Multimedia (text, speech, sound, (image)...) document processing
 - Multlingual document processing
 - Major European/International challenge: access to information, whatever the media and the language in which it has been encoded
- 3 founding partners
 - LIMSI-CNRS, HLTPR-RWTH, Interact-Karlsruhe Inst. of Technology
 - Important participation in Quaero program (LIMSI responsible for Core Technology Cluster, RWTH for Corpus project)
 - Experience in research and innovation
 - Similar approach / resources and evaluation
- Location
 - Choice to settle the Institute in France

Research topics

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- « Natural » language processing
 - Text analysis, filtering, indexing, automatic summarization,...
- MachineTranslation based on statistical approaches
 - text to text, speech to text, speech to speech,...
- Acoustic speech processing
 - Speech recognition, language identification, speaker diarization (who speaks when ?), speech understanding, audio classification, acoustic scene analysis, audiovisual speech processing,...
- Multilingual documents processing
 - Written and spoken language identification, crosslingual information retrieval, document translation,...
- Multimedia documents indexing
 - Information content extraction, content-based indexing, media surveys (alert...),...
- In perspective: Sign Language, image and video processing

Structure

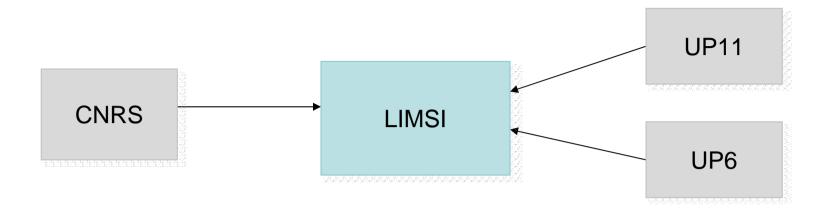
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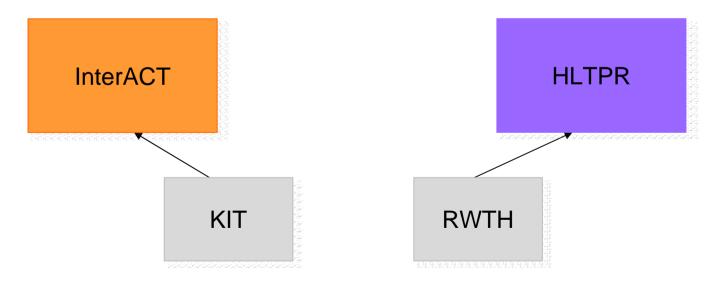
UMI

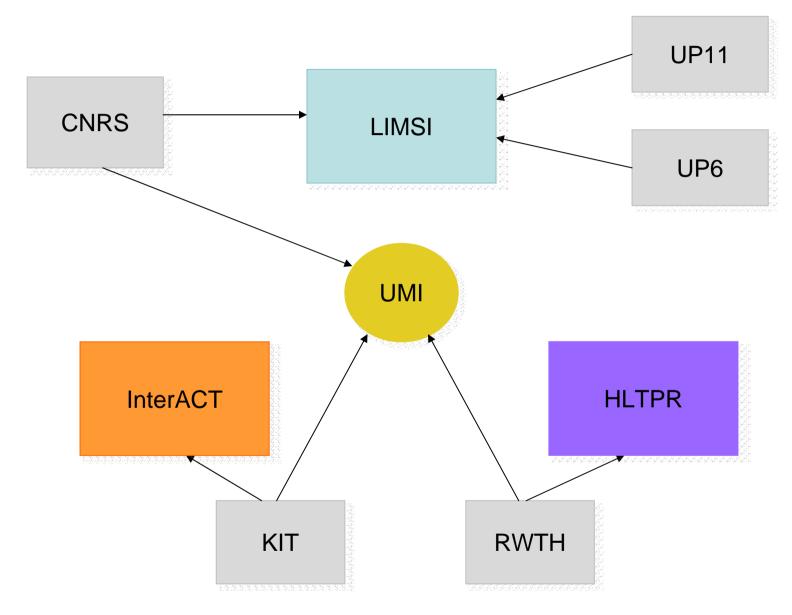
- Unité Mixte Internationale (International Joint Unit)
- Managerial, administrative and technical support to the Institute: Human Resources Management, projects management, industrial partnership, international cooperations..., computer facilities, data storage and management...
- 3 partners : CNRS, RWTH, KIT

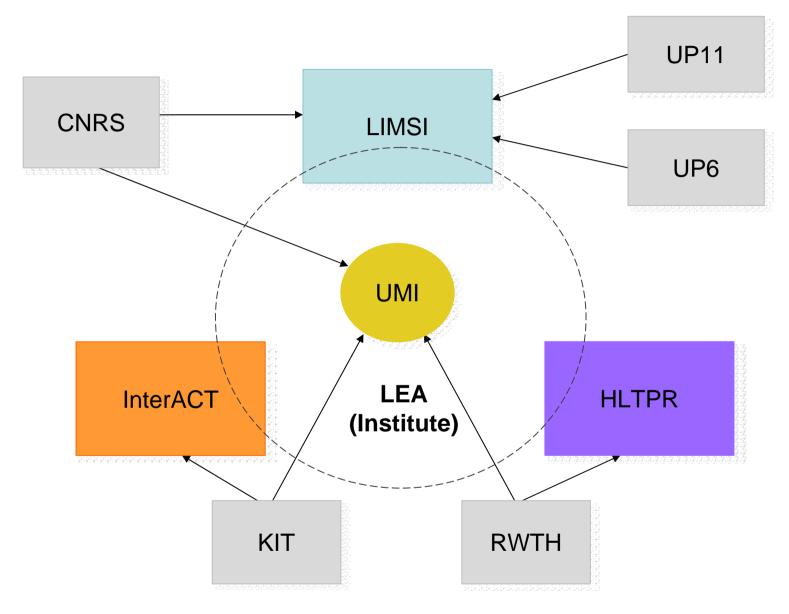
LEA

- Laboratoire(s) Européen(s) Associé(s) (European Associated Labs)
- Coordinate the 3 laboratories research activities in the related scientific domain, with the support of the UMI
- 4 partners: CNRS, RWTH, KIT, University Paris Sud 11









Status

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UMI

- Agreement signed on December 19,2007
- Staff: 8
- J. Mariani (Director), A. Waibel (Associate Director), H. Ney (Scientific Dir.), J.L.Gauvain (Scientific Dir.)
- M. Garnier-Rizet (Scientific Information Coordinator), L. Barreteau (Management/Communication), A. Azhar (Computers), G. Francopoulo (Expert Researcher)

LEA

Agreement signed on December 16, 2008

Means

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Staff

- 124 people in the 3 sites, as of Dec. 2009
- LIMSI: 1 Prof. 2007, 3 Assistant Prof. 2008-2009, 2 CNRS researchers (2008 + 2010) + Quaero recruitments (about 40 people)
- Support to scientific cooperation
 - 100 K€ per year from CNRS (INSIS + INS2I + DAE), KIT and RWTH

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- Benefits from the dynamics of Paris region in ICT
 - Digiteo Cluster of Excellence (RTRA) in ICT
 - Ile de France Competitiveness Clusters (System@tic, Cap Digital)
 - National Priority Program (OIN), Campus Program, Universud & ParisTech Academic Clusters (PRES)...
- State-Region Project Contract (CPER) (2007-2013)
 - Building (3000 m2) : 9.8 M€
 - Computer equipment (computers, storage...) : 2.8 M€
 - Signed in march 2007
 - CNRS 7.6 M€, CG Essonne : 2.9 M€, RTRA Digiteo : 2.1 M€
- Quaero Program
 - LIMSI + RWTH + UKA = 18.5 M€ funding over 5 years
 - UMI IMMI = 1.7 M€ funding over 5 years
 - 20.2 M€ total over 5 years

Goals

Address the Multilingualism challenge

- Preserve the culture for each country/region
- Allow for communication among humans
- Develop corresponding technologies
 - Multilingual recognition / synthesis systems for many languages
 - (Spoken) translation systems for many language pairs
 - Crosslingual Information retrieval
 - Processing of low / non resourced languages, oral languages, regional languages...
- Fully participate in the European effort
 - Cf. FP7 FlaReNet Thematic Network
 - Cf. FP7 T4ME Network of Excellence
 - Cf. Multilingualism Summit (Etats Généraux) (26 Sept. 2008)
 - Cf. Euro-mediterranean program
- Play a major role on the International scene
- Ensure relationship research-society
 - International Conference on «Translators and MT» (Paris, 2011)

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Goals

- Address the Multimedia challenge
 - Video processing (subtitling, dubbing...)
 - Radio/TV broadcast processing...
 - Live performances (Surtitling...)
 - Sign Language Processing (analysis/synthesis/translation)?

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Actions

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- Ensure the availability of a state-of-the-art research environment
- Support the organization of joint workshops
 - International Workshop on Spoken Language Translation 2010 (December 2-3, Paris)



- Organize exchanges of researchers
 - Digiteo Senior Chair of Excellence for H. Ney (part time, 2010)
- Welcome postdoc researchers in an international environment
- Extend the partnership?

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- First results
 - 90 publications (2008-2009)
 - Best results in Evaluation campaigns
 - - 1st in audio tracks at QA@CLEF (2008-2009)
 - - 1st in ASR at ESTER'08 (TechnoLangue)
 - 1st in ASR at N-Best'08 (Stevin)
 - Innovation : Voice search
 - Voxalead News (Exalead, Vecsys Research, LIMSI)
 - Most Practical Demo Award (ACM MM Challenge'09, Beijing)
 - Transcription in France24 HD Player
 - - Transcription Sarkozy's talks on Presidency Web site

Thank you.

