Perspectives on Machine Translation Evaluation

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Moderator: **Keith J. Miller**

As one of the first applications of Human Language Technology, Machine Translation remains one of the most elusive. Although we can agree that we have made great strides in MT since the first systems were developed, these advances remain difficult to quantify. Indeed, over the years there have been many proposals for measuring the quality of Machine Translation, and various approaches to MT Evaluation have gained and lost popularity over time. Questions posed to panel participants will include:

- What can we see by looking at the development of machine translation evaluation alongside the development of machine translation itself over time?
- Are some types of evaluation better suited to certain audiences/uses? That is, are certain audiences better served by particular types of evaluation?
- Have we learned anything over the years of evaluation of machine translation, and if so, what?
- How can we leverage and best apply all that we have learned about MT evaluation in order to:
  - inform potential users/purchasers of MT?
  - help users to select the best MT technology for their particular use case(s)?
  - help to drive the state-of-the-art/quality of MT?
- Has MT evaluation reached the level of maturity of evaluation for human language technologies that appeared after it (e.g. Information Retrieval, Information Extraction, Language Identification, and others...)? If not, why not?

This panel will draw on experts in both human and automated metrics for MT evaluation from the EU, US and Asia. Panelists will include: Susan Armstrong (ISSCO, University of Geneva), Gregor Leusch (RWTH Aachen University), John White (The MITRE Corporation), Billy Wong (City University of Hong Kong).

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