Icelandic Documentation Center for Language Technology

1. Introduction

The Icelandic Documentation Center for Language Technology was established in the autumn of 2001. Its goal is to collect and provide information on language technology in Iceland, and to promote language technology activities in the country. Professor Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson is the coordinator of the Centre, which is run in cooperation with the Institute of Lexicography at the University of Iceland. Aðalsteinn Eyþórsson, B.A., is responsible for the daily operation of the Centre.

2. The website

Our main task in the beginning was to build a website for the Centre; http://www.lexis.hi.is/isldok. Its structure is very similar to the other Nordic sites, with the headings *Information and knowledge*, *Players and teams*, *Resources and tools*, and *Communication and interaction*. Our main emphasis has been on the Icelandic version of the web pages, of course, but we also have a Danish and an English version of most of the pages. Since language technology in Iceland is in its infancy, and no similar documentation had been made before, we have had to start from scratch in gathering information on language technology related activities in Iceland.

3. Activities in 2003

Our main activities in 2003 were related to three events that took place in Reykjavík in the end of May that year. The first was a meeting in the NorDokNet network, hosted by the Icelandic Documentation Centre. This meeting took place in the afternoon of May 27. The following day, May 28, a general seminar sponsored by the Nordic Language Technology Programme, in cooperation with the Icelandic Language Technology Project, was held at the University of Iceland. Four ongoing Icelandic language technology projects were demonstrated at this seminar. Finally, the 14th Nodalida conference was held at the University of Iceland on May 30-31. 42 papers were given at the conference, which more than 100 participants attended – about 30 of them from Iceland. The Documentation Centre played an active role in organizing all three events, which were very important in promoting language technology in Iceland.

4. Future plans

The government-funded Language Technology Project has been running a website with similar aims as the Documentation Centre (http://www.tungutaekni.is). We have been negotiating with the representatives of the Language Technology Project about the possibilities of synchronizing the activities of these two organizations, and hope to be able to launch a restructured combined website in early 2004. We consider this a very important step in our efforts to prolong the life of the Documentation Centre, and we look forward to this cooperation.

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