LISA/OSCAR Standards for Localization and Globalization Environments

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Abstract

The Localization Industry Standards Association (LISA) has been actively involved in standards development since the mid-1990s and has released standards for the globalization/localization industry, primarily related to multilingual automated language processing. Following early success with Translation Memory eXchange (TMX), a standard designed to increase application portability of translation memory assets, LISA's OSCAR (Open Standards for Container/content Allowing Re-use) standards committee moved into developing additional standards to address practical needs in the globalization industry. LISA's standards thus developed in a particular industry context, but as that industry has expanded to play a role in many vertical industries, these standards have had to expand in scope and serve more and more needs.

Because these standards have developed largely independent from ISO TC37 (although they are complementary to and rely on existing ISO standards), implementation by governments and large multinational organizations that are mandated to use ISO standards has been limited. In order to improve LISA standards through greater feedback and to encourage greater adoption, LISA has recently begun a policy of greater formal cooperation and engagement with ISO. Over the next year LISA will submit a number of standards to TC37 to be considered for adoption as ISO standards.

The first standard submitted to ISO (in February 2007) was Term Base eXchange (TBX), a standard for the representation of terminological data in XML format. Currently LISA plans to submit the following additional standards to ISO TC 37:

- Translation Memory eXchange (TMX)

- Segmentation Rules eXchange (SRX) for the representation of information about how linguistic tools segment text

- Global information management Metrics eXchange – Volume (GMX-V) for the representation of word and character counts and other metrics relevant to managing information

- xml text memory (xml:tm), a name-space for embedding text author and translation memory in XML documents

This presentation outlines these standards and their relevance to the work of TC 37. It outlines current plans and timelines for submission and the proposed frameworks for adoption.