

Module 8 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Introduction

Professional translators normally only receive an arts-based education. University translation and interpreting courses, even today, are normally strongly rooted in the humanities.

The texts translators have to work on during their professional careers, however, belong to technical fields. Training in these fields, therefore, has to take place after finishing university studies, and tends, naturally, to be self-taught.

In order to provide a bridge across this gap between the two branches of Sciences and Letters in education, this course has been designed to provide some technical knowledge in disciplines as Information Technology that generate a high volume of documentation.

Course/module Description

Information technology is one of the areas of knowledge in which more is invested in research and development, as regards both applications and components. Having knowledge of this field of information technology is not just an important skill for the translator to have, but has also become an essential factor in the technical translation market.

The IT for translators course provides basic, though not necessarily obvious, knowledge in this field, vital to a translation professional.

As translators, we are used to talking about *scripts* (sequences of commands or orders, depending on the client), but have we ever seen one?

Training topics

- Basic concepts: computing, telematics, office automation, hardware and software
- PCs and components: motherboard, processor, memory, drivers, adapters, peripherals etc.
- Workshop: assembling hardware components
- Computer networks
- Operating systems (DOS, Windows, Macintosh 4.4. Unix/Linux)
- Databases: types, features, purposes and benefits. Database applications for translators
- Workshop: database for documental resources
- Translation and the IT market
- The translator as IT user
- Workshop: improve productivity through IT use (application control, editing, information retrieval)
- Translation of texts for specific purposes
- Workshop: translation of different levels/types of IT texts