

Partial translation issues

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Partial translation issues

- Only partial translation in Sweden
- Translating “2019-04-14 (release 3.2.0, vocabularies only)”
- Have come across some general issues
- Three questions with answers from Daniel Paradis on the RDA Translations Working Group list

Partial translation issues

1. Complicated definitions

- Many of the definitions are, in my opinion, unnecessarily complicated and hard to read, like the following in Illustrative content:

Map

An illustrative content that consists of a representation, normally to scale and on a two-dimensional medium, of a selection of material or abstract features on, or in relation to, the surface of the earth, another celestial body, or an imaginary place.

Partial translation issues

Question 1

- Are we obliged to follow the wording closely here, or are we allowed to rephrase to make it easier for the reader?

Answer 1 (highlights)

- a translation must be faithful to the original text
- all the elements that form the definition must be present in the translation, even though the word order might be different or a word in the original text might be rendered by more than one word in the translation or by a word of a different nature
- not acceptable to simplify, abridge or shorten the original definition.

Partial translation issues

Comment 1 (to discuss)

- I have followed the original text very closely so far, but have begun to change the word order when it gives a better result in Swedish.

Partial translation issues

2. Inconsistencies

- There are many inconsistencies between definitions of terms belonging to the same group, as in File type:

Audio file

A file type for storing electronically recorded audio content.

Video file

- A file type for storing electronically recorded content representing moving images.

Program file

- A file type for storing electronically recorded programs consisting of organized lists of instructions to be executed by computer software.

Partial translation issues

Question 2

- Are we obliged to follow the wording closely here, or are we allowed to rephrase in some of the definitions to make it consistent? I.e:

[translated back into English]:

Video file

A file type for storing electronically recorded video content.

Program file

A file type for storing electronically recorded program files.

...and so on for the rest of the terms under File type,
i.e. use the definition of audio file as a pattern.

Partial translation issues

Answer 2

- This kind of rewording does not reproduce the meaning of the original and is not allowed. If you think you have found inconsistencies, please report them on this list and Gordon will let us know if he agrees with you and if a revision is necessary.

Partial translation issues

Comment 2 (to discuss)

- I have all the original text with translations in a Word file. When I have translated all the terms, definitions and scope notes I will make a list of incorrect terms/definitions and inconsistencies and send them to Gordon. If he decides that changes are necessary, we will then have to make new translations of the changed original text, which gives us extra work.

Partial translation issues

3. Additions in scope notes

- In some cases, especially for the terms concerning tactile music notations under Layout, there are no existing terms in Swedish, e.g:

Bar by bar
Line over line

Partial translation issues

Question 3

- We intend to use the terms in English as Swedish terms, but are we allowed to make additions in the scope note as a help to our Swedish users? E.g:

Scope note: This term applies to tactile music notation. [Addition:] Translation: [term translated into Swedish, e.g.] “takt för takt” – Swedish term missing.

Partial translation issues

Answer 3 (highlights)

- also proved problematic in French /---/ But we found that most terms used general words such as “line”, “bar”, “paragraph” or “section” that could be translated literally, and that is what we did (e.g., "mesure sur mesure", "ligne par ligne", etc.)
- The question you asked about scope notes was raised before and unfortunately, the answer was that it was not possible for translations to add their own scope notes (see the wiki [here](#)).
- It seems however that you would be able to provide literal translations in the notes. Couldn't they be used as labels?

Partial translation issues

Comment 3 (to discuss)

- I find it awkward to invent terms in Swedish that don't exist. What is then the point of having them in the Registry, Glossary, etc?

Example: “Table book” does not exist in Sweden and there is no Swedish term. But if we translated the term it would be “Bordsbok” in Swedish, which will confuse the users and be of no help to anyone.

- And the reason given on the wiki for not allowing additions in the scope note was that the user would not be able to see what belongs to the original RDA Toolkit and not. But if we clearly state that we have made an addition, e.g. by beginning every addition with the phrase “Swedish addition”, it would be very clear for the user what is in the original text and not.

Partial translation issues

Help for consistency

- I list certain reoccurring words and phrases to make it easier to be consistent when translating, e.g:

... are included = Innefattar ...

Bearing = med (som rymmer?)

By using = med hjälp av

Commonly = vanligen

Comprise = utgörs av

Conceived = uppfattas

Essentially = i huvudsak

Generally = i allmänhet

Imaginary = inbillad

Multiple = flera, flertal

Normally = normalt

Perceived = uppfattas

Primarily = huvudsakligen

Principal = huvudsaklig