CALL FOR PAPERS **(Deadline for submission extended to 5 March 2012)**
Workshop on "Language technology for normalisation of less-resourced languages"
8th SALTMIL Workshop on Minority Languages and the 4th workshop on African Language Technology (AfLaT2012).

A full-day workshop at LREC 2012
Tuesday, 22 May 2012.
Lütfi Kirdar Istanbul Exhibition and Congress Centre, Istanbul, Turkey

SALTMIL: http://ixa2.si.ehu.es/saltmil/
AfLaT: http://AfLaT.org/
LREC 2012: http://www.lrec-conf.org/lrec2012/
Paper submission: https://www.softconf.com/lrec2012/Less-RessourcedLang2012/

Papers   are invited for the above full-day workshop, in the format outlined   below. Most submitted papers will be presented in poster form, though   some authors may be invited to present in lecture format.

CONTEXT AND FOCUS

The   8th International Workshop of the ISCA Special Interest Group on   Speech and Language Technology for Minority Languages (SALTMIL,   http://ixa2.si.ehu.es/saltmil) and the 4th Workshop on African Language Technology (
 AfLaT2012
) will be held as a joint effort in Istanbul, in May 2012, as part of the 2012 International Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC 2012).

Entitled "Language technology for normalisation of less-resourced languages", the workshop is intended to continue the   series of SALTMIL/LREC workshops on computational language resources   for minority languages, held in Granada (1998), Athens (2000), Las   Palmas de Gran Canaria (2002) and Lisbon (2004), Genoa (2006),   Marrakech (2008) and Malta (2010) and the series of AfLaT workshops,   held in Athens (EACL2009), Malta (LREC2010) and Addis Ababa (AGIS11).

The   Istanbul 2012 workshop aims to share information on tools and best   practices, so that isolated researchers will not need to start from   scratch. An important aspect will be the forming of personal contacts,   which can minimize duplication of effort. There will be a balance   between presentations of existing language resources, and more general   presentations designed to give background information needed by all   researchers.

While less-resourced languages and minority   languages often struggle to find their place in a digital world   dominated by only a handful of commercially interesting languages, a   growing number of researchers are working on alleviating this   linguistic digital divide, through localisation efforts, the   development of BLARKs (basic language resource kits) and practical

applications of human language technologies. The joint SALTMIL/AfLaT workshop on "Language technology for normalisation of less-resourced languages" provides a unique opportunity to connect these researchers and set up a common forum to meet and share the latest developments in the field.

TOPICS

The workshop takes an inclusive approach to the word "normalisation", considering it to include both technologies that help make languages more "normal" in society and everyday life, as well as technologies that normalise languages, i.e. help create or maintain a written standard or support diversity in standards. We particularly focus on the challenges less-resourced and minority languages face in the digital world. Papers are invited that describe research and development in the following areas in the area of technologies for language normalisation, including (but not limited to) topics such as:
* Keyboard layouts and entry methods
* Standardisation in machine readable lexicons/dictionaries
* Computer-aided language learning (CALL)
* Dealing with language variants in NLP
* Automatic identification of varieties, dialects
* Corpus construction and annotation
* Terminology development and management
* MT between varieties of the same language
* Spelling correction/normalisation
* Machine translation (MT)
* Morphological analysers
* Part-of-speech taggers and parsers
* Speech recognition and synthesis
* Information extraction/retrieval
* Localisation efforts
* Mobile phones as a platform for HLT

ORGANIZERS (SALTMIL and AfLaT)

* Mikel L. Forcada (SALTMIL): Machine Translation Group, School of Computing, Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland
* Guy De Pauw (AfLaT): CLiPS - Computational Linguistics Group, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium
* Gilles-Maurice de Schryver(AfLaT): African Languages and Cultures, TshwaneDJe HLT, South Africa & Ghent University, Belgium
* Kepa Sarasola(SALTMIL): Dept. of Computer Languages, University of the Basque Country
* Francis M. Tyers(SALTMIL), Departament de Llenguatges i Sistemes Informàtics, Universitat d'Alacant, Spain
* Peter Waiganjo Wagacha(AfLaT): School of Computing & Informatics, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

* Iñaki Alegria: University of the Basque Country
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* Lars Borin, Göteborgs universitet, Sweden
* Sonja Bosch, University of South Africa, South Africa
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* Hrafn Loftsson, Reykjavik University
* Guy De Pauw, CLiPS, Universiteit Antwerpen
* Laurette Pretorius, University of South Africa, South Africa
* Lori Levin, Carnegie Mellon University, USA
* Odetunji Odejobi, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria
* Benoît Sagot, INRIA Paris Rocquencourt & Université Paris 7, France
* Felipe Sánchez-Martínez, Universitat d'Alacant
* Kepa Sarasola, University of the Basque Country
* Kevin Scannell, Saint Louis University, USA
* Gilles-Maurice de Schryver, Universiteit Gent
 * Trond Trosterud, Universitetet i Tromsø, Norway
* Francis M. Tyers, Universitat d'Alacant
* Peter Waiganjo Wagacha, University of Nairobi

SUBMISSIONS

We   expect short papers of max 6,000 words (up to 6 pages) describing   research addressing one of the above topics, to be submitted as PDF   documents by using the LREC2012 START conference management system (URL: https://www.softconf.com/lrec2012/Less-Ressourced Lang2012//   ).

Submissions   should be anonymized. When submitting a paper through the START page, authors will be kindly asked to provide relevant information about the resources that have been used for the work described in their   paper or that are the outcome of their research. For further information on this initiative, please refer to   http://www.lrec-conf.org/lrec2012/?LRE-Map-2012   . Authors will also be asked to contribute to the Language Library, the new initiative of LREC2012.

Submissions   of papers should follow the same style as the papers for the main LREC conference (an Author's Kit made of specific guidelines and   downloadable templates will be published on the conference web site in   due time). All contributions (including invited papers) will be included   in the workshop proceedings (CD). They will also be published on the SALTMIL website.

IMPORTANT DATES

* 27 February 2012 **Extended to 5 March 2012**: Deadline for submission
* 14 March 2012 **Extended to 23 March 2012:** Notification
* 28 March 2012 **Extended to 2 April 2012:** Final version
* 22 May 2012: Workshop
REGISTRATION

Registration details will be announced in due course