NEMLAR Newsletter  
News on Arabic language resources and Arabic language technologies

Issue 18  
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1. News from the MEDAR project

The NEMLAR Network
We have decided to reconstruct the way the NEMLAR Network is working in order to make it easier for the members to share information and make contact. We have therefore created the NEMLAR Network group in LinkedIn. The Network is open to all experts in the field of Arabic language technology who share our goals. It is the intention that all members can use the network to discuss new activities, find partners etc.

Therefore we invite you to join the new NEMLAR Network group in LinkedIn http://www.linkedin.com/e/vgh/2410852/ (You sign up as an individual).

You can contribute to the NEMLAR Network group by:
- giving a description of your fields of interest and expertise in Arabic language technology (in your LinkedIn Profile).
- linking to your activities and languages resources.

Interview on Al Jazeera Satellite Channel
MEDAR gave an extensive interview to Al Jazeera on August 18 2009.

The MEDAR consortium was represented by Prof. Mohsen Rashwan (RDI, Egypt), Dr. Khalid Choukri (ELDA, France) and Prof. Mustafa Yaseen (Al-Ahlyya Amman University, Jordan).
See the interview here (in WMV-format) or (in MPG-format)
- or download the files (WMV-format, 0.6 MB) (MPG-format, 0.3 MB)
Online BLARK for Arabic
You can now find the very first version of the online BLARK for Arabic on our website: http://medar.info/BLARK/
The Basic Language Resource Kit (BLARK) is defined as the minimal set of language resources that is necessary to do any precompetitive research and education at all. The definition is in principle intended to be language independent, but as specific languages do come with different requirements, instantiations of the BLARK may vary in some respects from language to language.

2. Upcoming Events

• TRANSLATING AND THE COMPUTER 31
  19-20 November 2009
  at the Congress Centre, London

• Call for Papers
  MACHINE TRANSLATION TWENTY-FIVE YEARS
  21-22 November 2009, Mitchell Hall, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, UK
  Organised by: The Natural Language Translation Specialist Group of The British Computer Society (BCS-NLTS). 

• Arabization Annual Conference
  For more information see: www.taareeb.info
  Contact: mhamalwy@hotmail.com

• Impact of Media and New Technologies on Languages
  The Fifth International Conference
  of the Faculty Al-Alsun Minia University, December 7-9, 2009
  at the Suzanne Mubarak Auditorium, Minia University, Egypt

• 1st Symposium on Automatic Processing of the Amazigh Language (SITACAM)
  12-13 Dec 2009, Agadir, Morocco
  Web Site: http://www.encg-agadir.ac.ma/sitacam/
  Contact Person: Ali Rachidi sitacam@gmail.com

• Symposium
  Towards A Transliteration Standard of Arabic: Challenges and Solutions
  15-16 December,2009, Abu Dhabi, UAE
  For more information contact: Dr Abdulrahammn Al-Hashemi a.alhashemi@ioe.ae

• Call for papers
  Ninth Conference on Language Engineering
  23-24 December,2009
The Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt

- **ACSE 2010**
  The Sixth IASTED International Conference on Advances in Computer Science and Engineering
  March 15-17, 2010
  Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

- **INFOS 2010**
  The 7th International Conference on Informatics and Systems
  28-30 March, 2010, Cairo, EGYPT
  Special Track on Natural Language Processing and Knowledge Mining

- Call for papers

3. Other news

**Corpus:**
A new version of the Crescent Quran Corpus is now freely available online at http://quran.uk.net. The corpus contains both morphological and syntactic annotation of the Quran in Arabic. Previous releases of the corpus focused on the morphology of Classical Arabic, but this new release now includes an in-progress syntactic treebank of the Quran.

**Books:**
- Semantic Deviation in the Arabic MT’ed English Text; Symptoms & Effects by Dr. Ahmed Ragheb Ahmed; RDI.

- New Book on Arabic Second Language Acquisition of Morphosyntax by Mohammad T. Alhawary
  Yale University Press (April 2009)
  [See description]

  [See description at Routledge]

**Paper:**
by Attia, M., Rashwan, M., Al-Badrashiny, M.
4. **How to contribute to the MEDAR project**

Please help by sending us information on coming events, new software, resources, books, papers and journals. We will distribute it via this newsletter and put it on the MEDAR homepage [www.medar.info](http://www.medar.info).

If you wish to contribute to the work of the MEDAR project, please fill in the survey questionnaire about your language resources and/or the industry needs for language resources. You can find a link to the survey questionnaire at: [www.medar.info](http://www.medar.info)

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter, please send an email to: [nemlar@hum.ku.dk](mailto:nemlar@hum.ku.dk)

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