

# Multilingual Archival Terminology



## Technology and Collaboration in the Global Archival Community

AABC Conference 2016

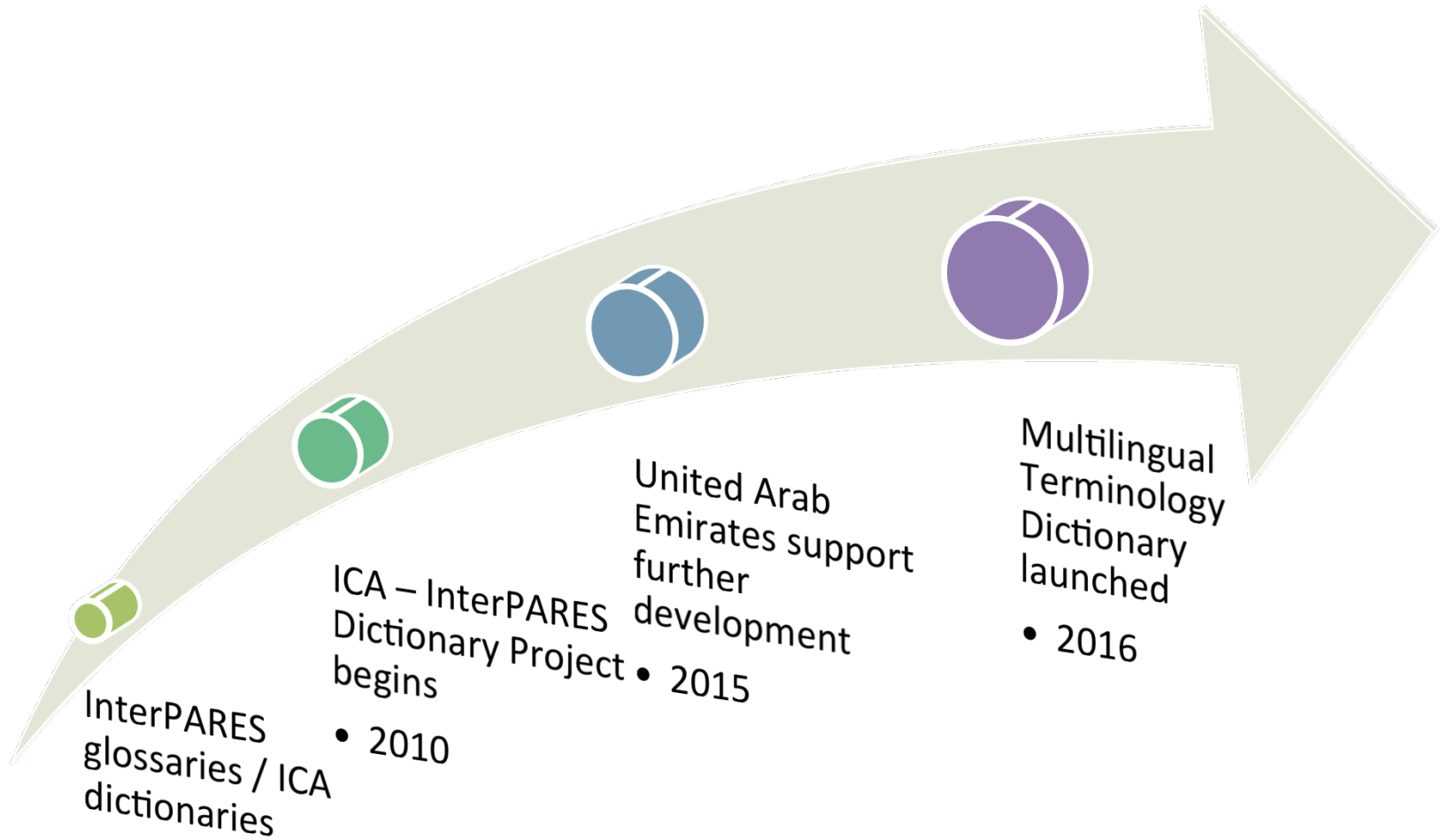
(De)Constructing Information: Frameworks,  
People, Technology

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# Background



# ICA-InterPARES Dictionary Project

- 2010 – ICA-SAE embraced the challenge of creating an interactive, online, multilingual archival terminology database based on usage
- Luciana Duranti – Project Director
- Corinne Rogers – Project Coordinator
- 300 core terms
- 16 languages

# Goal

- To support archivists, records managers, and information managers in their understanding of records-related concepts
- To reflect as much as possible national archival traditions and their evolution, and regional usage
- To approach an international shared tradition based on core concepts from archival theory

# Adding right-to-left language support

- Even while our intention was to remove language preference as much as possible, our bias for left-to-right written text affected the scope of the project
- In 2015 with the help of Ian Wilson, Luciana Duranti approached the United Arab Emirates to address this issue



A word cloud of various languages arranged in a circular shape. The words are of different sizes and colors, including red, blue, yellow, and brown. The most prominent words are Arabic, Chinese, and French. Other visible words include Spanish, German, Russian, Korean, Belarusian, Croatian, Indonesian, Swedish, Portuguese, Greek, Romanian, Italian, Dutch, English, Hebrew, Finnish, Catalan, Punjabi, and Farsi.

Spanish German  
Russian  
Belarusian **French**  
Korean  
Croatian **Chinese**  
Indonesian Swedish Japanese  
Portuguese Polish  
**Arabic**  
Greek Romanian  
Catalan Italian Hebrew  
Dutch English Punjabi  
Farsi Farsi

# The MAT is...

- An international source based on usage
- A dynamic tool reflecting changes over time
- A resource created by professionals
- A resource maintained by its users
- A reference for students and professionals

# The MAT is not...

- A static source purporting to provide the “right” definitions
- A source that preferences one language over another
- A straight translation of English terminology and definitions



# How does it work?

- Current version here:  
<http://www.ciscra.org/mat/>
- General Administrator: Luciana Duranti
- Individual language administrators
  - Responsible for registering contributors
  - Responsible for reviewing submissions for completeness, source, form
- If you want to be a contributor, request registration

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*Thank you!*

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