

# Translation-spotting

## Scientific translation bibliographies and the construction of a translation knowledge infrastructure after World War II

Garda Elsherif & Tomasz Rozmysłowicz

University of Mainz

Based on original archival research, this paper observes the sudden emergence of a large number of periodically published scientific and technical translation bibliographies in various Western countries. It proposes that these bibliographies should not (only) be regarded as a resource for research into the history of (scientific) translation, but that they themselves can be conceptualized as a new type of object of such research: translation bibliographies are a form of explicit translation knowledge that can and should be investigated with regard to the historical conditions of their production as well as their functions. This paper claims that these translation bibliographies form the core of a 'translation knowledge infrastructure' that was successively built up from 1945 onwards in the wake of the internationalization of the academic field in order to control the massive increase in translation production and to organize it rationally.

**Keywords:** translation history, scientific translation, translation bibliographies, knowledge infrastructure, history of sciences

### 1. Introduction

Since the early 2000s, there has been an increasing convergence between the history of translation and the history of science (e.g., Montgomery 2000; Sarukkai 2001; Rashed 2006; Olohan and Salama-Carr 2011; Cook and Dupré 2012; Dietz 2016b; Vandaele and Boulanger 2016; Dupré 2018; Sumillera, Surman and Kühn 2020; Rozmysłowicz 2022, 2023a; Schippel 2023; Schögler 2023, Elsherif et al. 2024,



Heller and Hawkins 2025, Elsherif 2025a).<sup>1</sup> Scholars from both fields have begun to develop an interest in the role(s) translation has played in the construction, development, and circulation of scientific knowledge. Research on translation in the history of science varies in temporal, spatial, and disciplinary focus; however, it is based on a common assumption that gives rise to it in the first place: that translation is not a neutral transfer of scientific knowledge but a participant in the very *construction* of that knowledge. This construction process is investigated on different levels. Translation is analyzed, for instance, as a generator of reputation (for authors as well as translators) (Schögler 2018; Gipper and Stefanelli 2021); with regard to the development and establishment of a scientific terminology (Ji 2012; Egmond 2012; Dietz 2016a); as a strategic device in academic disputes or controversies (Bret and Kawashima 2019; Elsherif 2025a, 204–241); for its effects on the reception of texts and authors (Reichenberger 2018; Meneghello 2020), and many more. In general, these works argue for the fact that translation is not to be viewed as a mere subsidiary instrument for scientific research. Instead, they emphasize that translation has always been *integral* to scientific research and very often carried out by researchers themselves (also as self-translators) (Bret 2012, 948–954; Dietz 2016b; Willer and Keller 2020; Elsherif 2025a, 160–172). On these premises, the practice of translation is increasingly conceptualized as “part of (scientific) life” (Dupré 2018, 302; see also Bret 2012, 928) and as enabling a “Scientific Babel” (Gordin 2017). These conceptualizations, one could say, suggest the idea that translation is something that *surrounds* and *underlies* scientists and scientific research.

The arguments made in this paper maintain this line of research. Its contribution is to be accomplished, however, not by adding a further case of scientific translation to the stock of knowledge accumulated so far. Instead, a new *type* of object for research on translation in the scientific field shall be introduced: scientific translation bibliographies. By translation bibliographies, we mean bibliographies that specifically compile information on existing translations of (scientific) texts. To be sure, translation bibliographies are not unfamiliar to translation studies. They have long been both a goal of and a resource for research into translation history. They have been a goal insofar as the question of which texts have been translated (when, into which languages, by whom, etc.) is a leading research question in translation historiography (Pym 1998, 5; D’hulst 2010), and they have been a resource insofar as (translation) bibliographies (such as the — discontinued — *Index Translationum* or the *Digital Library and Bibliography of Literature in Translation and Adaptation*,<sup>2</sup> but also national bibliographies such as the *Bib-*

1. If not stated otherwise, by ‘sciences’ and ‘scientific’ we refer to the German notion of *Wissenschaft*. It includes the natural and social sciences as well as the humanities.

2. <https://dlbt.univie.ac.at/>

*liographie de la France*) can and are used to generate and answer new research questions (such as on macro-trends in the form of translation flows, but also, for example, on translator biographies) (D’hulst 1998; Pym 1998, 38–55; Poupaud and Pym 2009; Wilfert-Portal 2012; Richter 2020, 70–82; Hermans 2022, 28–32; Gómez-Castro 2022). However, translation bibliographies have not yet been considered an object of research in their own right, with the single exception of Carbò-Catalan’s recent study, in which she also deals with the genesis of the *Index Translationum* (Carbò-Catalan 2024, 448–470).

Translation bibliographies, this paper argues, are themselves an interesting object of inquiry for the historiography of translation. Translation bibliographies and lists have existed long before translation studies as an academic discipline. An early example is a list of extant translations of Galen’s medical writings into Arabic and Syriac, which Hunain ibn Ishaq included in a letter sent to Ali Ibn Yahia in AD 850 (Shamma and Salama-Carr 2022, 75–84). Bibliographies in general already existed in antiquity and the Middle Ages (Blair 2010, 162). With the improvement of book printing in the fifteenth century and the ensuing “flood” (Burke 2000, 103) of books, bibliographies experienced an upswing. With his *Bibliotheca universalis*, Conrad Gesner for the first time published a bibliography that aimed to be universal, exhaustively listing all writings (printed and manuscript) composed in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. Bibliographies such as Gesner’s *Bibliotheca universalis* had the function of maintaining an overview of existing knowledge – together with book reviews, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and atlases (Burke 2000, 169; Blair 2010, 162–164). Universal bibliographies were followed by more specialized bibliographies focusing on publications of a specific nation (such as the *Bibliothèque Française* of La Croix du Maine in 1584), on a specific thematic field (medicine, physics, literature), of specific languages (such as Anton Francesco Doni’s *Libreria* devoted to Italian vernacular authors and published in 1550), or of foreign-language books on a specific topic, whose translation into one’s own language was recommended (such as Rougemont’s *Bibliothèque de chirurgie du Nord* of 1788; see Elsherif 2025a, 119–123).

The first known periodically published bibliography listing exclusively extant translations was the *Index Translationum* established in 1932 (Carbò-Catalan 2024, 448), followed by, as this paper will show, a great number of specifically scientific and technical translation bibliographies that emerged in the aftermath of World War II. Translation bibliographies, thus, are *themselves* a historical phenomenon – not only a tool for research on historical phenomena – and make an interesting object of research into translation history. They prompt several research questions: In what historical moments did the need for compiling translation bibliographies arise? Which functions did they fulfill? What information did they contain? Who compiled them? And for whom?

Translation bibliographies are a new type of object for historical research because the object does not consist of actual translations but of “translation knowledge” (D’hulst and Gambier 2018). More specifically, they constitute a form of explicit translation knowledge. As such, it is a form of *knowing that*, not a form of *knowing how* (Ryle [1949] 2002). Translation bibliographies do not consist of practical knowledge about how to translate or how to deal with translation problems; rather, they contain knowledge about translations as facts. This is important for translation history because practical translation knowledge in the form of knowing how is fundamental. There is no translation without this knowledge. But explicit translation knowledge in the form of knowing that is not a necessary prerequisite of translation practice (just like, for instance, explicit grammatical knowledge of a language is not a precondition of being able to speak it). Explicit translation knowledge is only articulated under specific circumstances, which can be investigated historically. Thus, the study of translation bibliographies is part of a history of explicating translation knowledge.

In this paper, we focus on translation bibliographies in the scientific domain after World War II. After the war, from the 1950s onwards, there was an outright explosion of periodically published bibliographies in English, German, and French compiling information on already existing translations of texts from the natural and technical sciences.<sup>3</sup> Notably, translation bibliographies were produced almost exclusively in the natural and technical sciences. Translation bibliographies for other disciplinary fields were only produced sporadically, if at all (e.g., Kastner 1957).

Since there is virtually no research on these bibliographies, the task we have set ourselves for this contribution is to outline this unfamiliar territory by giving an overview of the various periodically published translation bibliographies: Where and when did they emerge? What information did they contain and regarding which translations? Who were the agents behind the bibliographies? For how long were they published? Although clarifying these questions is our primary concern here, it will be embedded in general reflections on the historical conditions behind the emergence of these translation bibliographies and their functions in the scientific field. As will become clear, these bibliographies were designed for *translation-spotting* (Gibb 1977), that is, for informing researchers of extant translations of scientific and technical texts in order to organize the production of scientific translations more rationally. In this sense the emergence of

---

3. The scope of the following overview and analysis is restricted by our limited linguistic repertoire: English, German, French, Italian, Arabic, and Polish. It is conspicuous that, within this repertoire, we were only able to find bibliographies in English, German, and French, reflecting the dominance of these three languages as academic languages at the time (Reinbothe 2011).

these translation bibliographies can be understood as the emergence of a (global) translation knowledge infrastructure of the scientific domain.

## 2. Overview of scientific and technical translation bibliographies after WWII

The extensive and widespread publication of translation bibliographies began in the 1950s.<sup>4</sup> These periodically published translation bibliographies were preceded by translation bibliographies that were used for internal purposes only and had already been compiled during World War II.<sup>5</sup> The earliest (unpublished) translation bibliography known to us originated in the *Centre national de la recherche scientifique* (CNRS), founded shortly before the occupation of France by the Nazis in 1939 to foster foundational research in the natural sciences (Beydoun 1983). The *Rapports d'activité* (RA), which are stored in the archives of the CNRS, offer a striking demonstration of the CNRS's main effort to organize scientific translation for the whole of France. From 1940 onwards, the CNRS had a *Service de traduction* of its own where scientists could order translations of scientific papers written in languages other than French (RA 1944/1945, 27). Also in 1940, the CNRS began publishing the *Bulletin Analytique* (renamed *Bulletin signalétique* in 1957), an abstract journal in French about recent internationally published scientific articles. Although the *Bulletin* also contained abstracts of French publications, most abstracts represented 'foreign' works in French.<sup>6</sup>

In 1944, the CNRS compiled a bibliography of already existing translations, "to avoid the same text being translated in different documentation centers" (RA

---

4. In addition to materials freely available on the internet, this overview is based on research in the archives of the *Technische Informationsbibliothek Hannover* (TIB) and the *Centre national de la recherche scientifique* (CNRS), as well as in the holdings of the *Staatsbibliothek Berlin* and the *Bibliothèque nationale de France*.

5. It is difficult to say whether the *Index Translationum* also forms part of the history of scientific translation bibliographies. On the one hand, it also listed translations of scientific books. On the other hand, the primary focus of the *Index Translationum* was not on scientific books, but rather on literary and 'intellectual' works (including books on history, philosophy, religion, law). Moreover, the *Index Translationum* was initiated and organized by UNESCO, a political organization, whereas the scientific translation bibliographies to be discussed in this paper were initiated and organized by various specifically scientific institutions (including CNRS, TIB, EURATOM, OECD). It seems that the *Index Translationum* and the scientific translation bibliographies are products of different social fields.

6. The periodic publication of such interlingual abstract journals has a long tradition in the academic field and can be observed without interruption from the middle of the eighteenth century onwards (see Bret 2012, 962; Elsharif 2025a, 119–128; Gordin 2017, 248).

1944/45, 27). At first, these bibliographies remained unpublished and were only sent to other French documentation centers and libraries. From January 1952, this bibliography was published as the *Catalogue Mensuel des Traductions effectuées dans les Services et Centres français de Documentation* (1952–1969) (RA 1952/1953, 58).<sup>7</sup> It compiled bibliographical information on translations of technical and scientific texts into French, which had been commissioned by the CNRS itself or other institutions. For this purpose, the CNRS was in close contact with numerous public and private institutions in charge of translating. The *Catalogue Mensuel* issue from January 1961, for instance, demonstrates that the catalogue compiled information about existing translations from 153 different French institutions reporting their translation activities to the CNRS. The most frequent source languages were English, German, and Russian. However, translations from Czech, Dutch, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Romanian, and Swedish were also listed.

Similar structures of producing translations and bibliographical translation knowledge emerged in the following years in other countries. For example, after World War II, the *Russian Translation Service* was installed at the University of Delhi in India and published a monthly *Bulletin of the Russian Translation Service* consisting of information about English translations of publications by the Soviet Academy of Sciences. More translation bibliographies emerged in India from 1980 onwards. In 1980 the *Defense Scientific Information and Documentation Centre* in Delhi started to publish the *DESIDOC Transindex*. It was published annually and listed English translations of works such as periodical articles, reports, patents, conference proceedings, and monographs. In 1981, the *Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre* (INSDOC) began to publish the *National Index of Translations*, which listed unpublished English translations of scientific and technical texts produced in India on a monthly basis.

In the United Kingdom, the *Aslib Index of Unpublished Translations* started to be published by the *Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux* in 1951 and continued up until the 1980s. *Aslib* was first set up in 1926 to improve information flows between British libraries, universities, and industry (Bawden 2016, 16). During World War II, its main task was to acquire works difficult to find for British scientists, including literature hard to access because of linguistic barriers. The purpose of the *Aslib* index was to inform all libraries, translation agencies, and translation recipients (scientists) in the UK about which texts were already available in translation in which institutions. It also informed readers of translations that were in preparation. The main idea behind this index was twofold: it

---

7. The *Rapports d'activité* do not contain any indication as to why the CNRS started publishing the *Catalogue* in 1952.

was supposed to avoid multiple translations of the same source text – and thus a “waste of money” (Glover 1979, 525)<sup>8</sup> – and to enable as extensive a reception as possible of foreign-language scientific publications.<sup>9</sup> In 1960, the scope of the *Aslib* index was expanded to the whole Commonwealth. In different member states of the Commonwealth, centers were established and supplied the bibliography, now known as the *Commonwealth Index of Unpublished Translations*, with information on already existing English translations of scientific and technical texts.

In addition to *Aslib*, the *National Lending Library for Science and Technology* (NLL) was also set up in the UK in 1961, which was to become the primary point of contact for English scientists when it came to obtaining foreign literature (Watson 1970, 4). Moreover, the British government assigned the NLL the task of coordinating the translation of Russian scientific literature (ibid., 63). For this purpose, the *Translations Service* at the NLL was established, from which translations of books, entire journals, and individual articles from Russian could be ordered. The NLL also published the *NLL Translations Bulletin* (1961–1974) in 1961, probably in another attempt to avoid multiple translations.<sup>10</sup> This consisted of information on recently published Russian books of which no English translation was yet available and which the NLL therefore intended to translate. Unlike most other translation bibliographies discussed so far, the *NLL Translations Bulletin* was not a bibliography of existing translations. Instead, the bibliography highlighted translation gaps, while signaling which texts the NLL intended to translate. Although the focus was initially on scientific literature from Russian, the *List of Scientific and Technical Periodicals* also documented information on scientific and technical texts from China, published by the NLL starting in July 1964, thereby showing the growing interest in scientific literature originally in Chinese.

Another monthly translation bibliography was the *Übersetzungsnachweis wissenschaftlicher Literatur aus der Sowjetunion und den Ländern der Volkdemokratie* (1951–1953; hereafter: *Übersetzungsnachweis*), which began in 1951. The *Abteilung Übersetzungsauskunft der Zentralstelle für wissenschaftliche Literatur*, a translation information service by the central office for scientific literature in East Berlin, was responsible for the publication. With the aim of providing

---

8. We make a distinction between multiple translation and retranslation. In the case of multiple translation, the translation is performed without the awareness of already existing translations of the same source text. In contrast, a retranslation is performed with the awareness that the source text has already been translated.

9. In case a paper had not been translated yet, researchers were directed to the *Aslib Register of Specialist Translators*.

10. The Bulletin was renamed *NLL Announcement Bulletin: A Guide to British Reports, Translations and Theses* in 1971, and renamed again *BLL Announcement Bulletin: A Guide to British Reports, Translations and Theses* in 1973.

information in the GDR about the progress of Soviet science, the publishing institution was to “record translations of scientific works from the Soviet Union and the countries of the People’s Democracy, coordinate them and make them accessible to a wider circle of research and industry” (Zentralstelle 1951, n.p.; our translation).<sup>11</sup> The *Übersetzungsnachweis* not only encompassed translations in the natural and technical sciences but also in the social sciences. Similar to *Aslib* in the UK and the CNRS in France, the *Übersetzungsauskunft* was to compile information on both planned translations and those already carried out by various institutions in the GDR and to make them available to all actors in order to avoid “unnecessary costs and working time”<sup>12</sup> (ibid.).

As a supplement to the *Übersetzungsnachweis*, the *Bibliographie deutscher Übersetzungen aus den Sprachen der Völker der Sowjetunion. Abteilung I: Wissenschaftliche Literatur* (1952–1965) was published quarterly by the *Öffentliche Wissenschaftliche Bibliothek Berlin*. While the *Übersetzungsnachweis*, in keeping with the aim of coordinating translation activity, announced not only completed translations but also those planned and in progress, this bibliography listed only published titles. Like the *Übersetzungsnachweis*, it also included translations in the social sciences. The source languages were limited to Russian and other languages of the Soviet Union.

The interest in specifically Russian scientific literature is also reflected in the translation bibliographies that were created in the United States. After World War II, translation centers were established at both the *National Science Foundation* (NSF) and the *Special Libraries Association* (SLA), both of which undertook translations of technical literature, especially from Russian. Beginning in 1953, both translation centers initiated bibliographies to account for existing translations into English, in addition to producing their own translations. The NSF published the *Bibliography of Translations from Russian Scientific and Technical Literature* (1953–1956), the SLA listed its own translations in the *SLA List of Translations* (1953–1956). In 1956, the two translation bibliographies merged to form *Translation Monthly*, which was renamed *Technical Translations* in 1959 and published monthly until 1967. After the discontinuation of *Technical Translations*, the SLA began to publish the *Translations Register-Index* (1967–1986[?]),<sup>13</sup> and the *Consolidated Index of Translations into English* (1967–1985). With the *Consoli-*

---

11. Original German: “[...] obliegt es der Abteilung Übersetzungsauskunft der Zentralstelle für wissenschaftliche Literatur, Übersetzungen wissenschaftlicher Arbeiten aus der Sowjetunion und den Ländern der Volksdemokratie zu erfassen, zu koordinieren und einem weiteren Kreis der Forschung und Industrie zugänglich zu machen.”

12. Original German: “unnötiger Aufwand an Kosten und Arbeitszeit”.

13. The question mark here indicates that the last issue found by the authors was dated 1986, but we do not have precise details on the exact last issue.

*dated Index*, the SLA attempting to overcome the issue that “the existence of so many lists causes serious complications in determining not only whether a given item exists in translation but also its actual availability” (National Translations Center 1969, 1). The bibliography therefore listed only English translations that were available at the SLA (over 142,000 items) from the eighteenth century onwards.

In addition to these general scientific and technical translation bibliographies, from the mid-1950s onwards there was a specific interest in literature on nuclear research. The *Atomic Energy Commissions* in the US, UK and Europe began to list specific bibliographies of translations dealing with nuclear research. The *United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority* (UKAEA) began publishing the *UKAEA List of Publications Available to the Public* (1955–1986) in 1955, which listed English translations of nuclear-related literature from Russian and other Eastern Bloc languages prepared by the UKAEA’s translation service in Harwell (Sykes 1963). Two years later, the *USAEC Translation List* (1957–1974) of the *United States Atomic Energy Commission* (USAEC) was issued for the first time. From 1960 onwards, the publication was followed by the establishment of the *European Atomic Energy Community’s* (EURATOM) monthly *Transatom Bulletin* (1960–1977), in which translation information of the UKAEA, the USAEC and various translation centers in Europe flowed together. EURATOM aimed to address the problem that, according to this institution, previous translation activities covered only around 15–20% of the nuclear technology literature of the East in Western languages.<sup>14</sup> While the USAEC and UKAEA bibliographies provide information on translations from Russian (and other Eastern languages) into English, the *Transatom Bulletin* distinguishes between Western and non-Western languages: it lists translations of texts “edited in languages unfamiliar to the Western reader” (Euratom 1960, n.p.). Although the *Transatom Bulletin* itself is published in English, the translations listed in it include not only translations into English, but also into German and French, and in a few cases into Italian.

The previous paragraphs have shown that in France, the UK, the US, the GDR, and India, translation bibliographies were already being created in the early 1950s, especially bibliographies that listed information on existing translations of scientific and technical literature from the Soviet Union. Against the background of this conspicuous temporal coincidence, it is all the more striking that similar efforts in West Germany (FRG) do not occur until much later. The lack of

---

14. See the letter sent by R. Bree, director of the Office for Information and Documentation (*Direktor der Zentralstelle für Information und Dokumentation*) at the EURATOM Commission, to Dr. Kluth, director of the *Technische Informationsbibliothek* (TIB), on 8 March 1964. The letter is kept in the TIB archives in Hanover and can be found in the ‘EURATOM’ file.

similar translation bibliographies was initially addressed by the journal *Osteuropa: Naturwissenschaft* (ON), published by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde* when it was founded in 1957. The journal aimed to increase knowledge of Soviet scientific research in the FRG, as the lack thereof often led to German scientists requesting costly translations of works with promising titles whose content would not prove worthwhile once translated (Wende 1957, 1). The journal aimed to counter this problem in two ways. Firstly, by familiarizing West German scholars with Soviet scientific culture, they were able to better assess the value of Russian manuscripts. Secondly, from its second issue onwards, the journal included a bibliography of scientific monographs from Eastern European countries translated into Western languages, which lists scientific translations primarily into German (but also into English and French). The editors of the journal were certainly aware of the existing translation bibliographies (*Catalogue mensuel*, *Technical Translations*, *Aslib Index*, etc.). However, the problem they saw was that these bibliographies did not list translations into German, only translations into the languages of the respective countries (French or English) (Redaktion ON 1957/1958, 169).

Possibly as a reaction to this need for bibliographic records of German translations identified by the journal ON, the *Technische Informationsbibliothek* (TIB) was created in Hanover in 1959, initially with the primary task of acquiring Soviet specialist literature in non-biological natural sciences and technology and making it known among West German scientists. Interest soon expanded from Soviet specialist literature to American scientific journals and, in general, literature “in languages that are difficult to access.”<sup>15</sup> In its founding year, the *Ostsprachen-Abteilung* was established, which consisted of an evaluation unit and a translation unit. The evaluation unit was responsible for reviewing the newly acquired Soviet literature and deciding whether it should be forwarded to the translation unit for translation. Individual researchers could also request the translation of individual papers from the translation unit. In addition, the TIB evaluation unit began to record existing translations bibliographically in 1959. The bibliography was not published at first (but the bibliographical information was forwarded to the ETC, as discussed below) and only started to appear bimonthly as the *Nachweis von Übersetzungen* in 1970. The *Nachweis* listed German translations of mostly Russian, Japanese, Polish, Czech, Hungarian, Chinese, and Romanian scientific and

---

15. Original German: “Literatur in schwer zugänglichen Sprachen”. The quotation is taken from the minutes of a meeting between representatives of the German Research Foundation and the TIB, held on 9 December 1964. The minutes are in the archives of the TIB in the following file: G8a1, DFG, Atom-Bi, Kernforschungsanlage Jülich, G8, K, Direktoren TH-Bibl. U. Besprechungsgruppe.

technical papers that had not appeared in print. To this end, the TIB was in contact with numerous translation institutions in the FRG, which informed it of translations that had been completed (but not intended for publication). From 1965 onwards, the TIB increasingly took care of the procurement, translation, and bibliographical recording of Chinese and Japanese scientific literature.

In addition to the TIB, the *Medizinischer Literaturdienst* (MLD) was founded by the *Osteuropa-Institut* at the *Freie Universität Berlin* in 1967 to translate foreign medical works into German, as well as to systematically record existing translations of medical literature from Eastern European into Western languages.<sup>16</sup> The translation bibliography of the MLD was first released in 1969 under the title *Mitteilungen des Medizinischen Literaturdienstes: Medizin in Osteuropa* (1969–1984).

All translation bibliographies discussed so far – except for the *Transatom Bulletin* of EURATOM – were conceived as national projects and served to supply the respective national scientists with information from abroad. With the foundation of the *European Translations Centre* (ETC) in Delft (Netherlands) in 1960, this scope was extended to a European level for the first time. The ETC was established by the *Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development* (OECD) to facilitate access to scientific and technical “literature in the ‘difficult’ languages” (Hamel 1968, 28).<sup>17</sup>

The ETC emerged as a reaction to the problem that until then all indexing of existing translations was carried out at a national level, which in turn led to a duplication of effort and information gaps (*ibid.*). With the ETC, an attempt was made – at the instigation of the US – “to develop a system of cooperation through which European countries could simultaneously and jointly solve for the entire scientific world the problem of accessibility to foreign, i.e. non-Western, scientific and technical literature”<sup>18</sup> (*ibid.*). Although the ETC was based in Delft, it was a supranational entity financed and organized by multiple countries. In 1968, fourteen Western European countries and the US, Canada, and Israel were involved in the ETC. The primary task of the ETC was to maintain constant contact with all national and international institutions, to constantly encourage them to provide translation services, and to coordinate the individual national translation centers.

---

16. See the minutes of the meeting between representatives of the TIB and the MLD of 28 May 1971, which can be found in the TIB archives in the following file: X22, Med. Literatur-Dienst von 1967, Osteuropa-Inst. FU, Berlin.

17. Original German: “Literatur, die aus sprachlichen Gründen als schwer zugänglich gilt”.

18. Original German: “ein System der Zusammenarbeit zu entwickeln, durch das die europäischen Länder gleichzeitig und gemeinsam für die gesamte wissenschaftliche Welt das Problem der Zugänglichkeit fremder, d.h. nicht-westlicher naturwissenschaftlicher und technischer Literatur zu lösen begannen.”

From 1966 onwards, the ETC published a monthly *List of Translations Notified to ETC* (1966–1971), initially supplementing the national translation bibliographies, in which technical and scientific translations “from non-Western languages into Western [languages]” (description in *List* 1971, 6:2) were bibliographically recorded, but only those translations that had not yet been documented in the respective national bibliographies. This bibliography of the ETC was thus initially conceived as a supplement to the existing translation bibliographies. Only three years later, the ETC began to publish the monthly *World Index for Scientific Translations* (1968–1997),<sup>19</sup> which was now to include a bibliography of all translations reported to the ETC. The *World Index* was thus conceived as a replacement for the previous national translation bibliographies, and so it is not surprising that the publication of many national translation bibliographies ceased in the 1970s.<sup>20</sup> In addition to the *World Index*, the *Translations Journals: List of Periodicals Translated Cover-to-Cover, Abstracted Publications and Periodicals Containing Selected Articles* (1969–1997), a translation bibliography listing existing complete translations of journals (called “cover-to-cover”) as well as translations of individual articles from journals, was also published from 1969 onwards. In 1977, the *European Translations Centre* was renamed the *International Translations Centre*, reflecting the ambition to solve the language problem for the entire scientific world. Only one year later, in 1978, the newly dubbed *International Translations Centre* worked together with the CNRS in Paris to start digitizing the *World Index* and to run a database on existing translations called the *World Translations Index*, financially supported by the *Commission of the European Communities*. The publication of both bibliographies as well as the database were stopped with the closure of the *International Translations Centre* in 1997 due to a decrease in subscribers and financial funding.

---

19. In 1978, it was renamed *World TransIndex*.

20. The *World Index* was ordered by subscription for \$240 per year. In our article, we focus on the production of these bibliographies and not on their reception, which can be investigated in further studies. However, a quick search in the Karlsruhe Virtual Catalog (KVK; see <https://kvk.bibliothek.kit.edu/index.html>) shows that the *World Index* is available in a great number of libraries in Germany, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Israel, Denmark, Italy, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, the Czech Republic, Poland, and the US. The *World Index* was therefore widely distributed via the respective academic libraries.

### 3. Discussion

On the basis of the material presented in this overview, several general trends can be observed and analyzed. At first, in the 1950s, there was a rather sudden quantitative increase in translation bibliographies. Bibliographies containing information specifically on already existing translations of scientific and technical texts emerged across various European and non-European countries (France, UK, GDR, FRG, US, Canada, India). In the 1950s, a dominant interest in translations of scientific and technical texts written in Russian (and other Soviet languages) is clearly visible. From the late 1960s onwards, translations from Chinese and Japanese were increasingly included in translation bibliographies.

The sudden and widespread emergence of translation bibliographies during this time, it seems, refers to an equally dramatic increase in the production of translations in the scientific domain. After World War II, scientific translations were produced on an unprecedented and massive scale. Two examples demonstrate this fact. Firstly, the NLL in the UK not only published a translation bibliography but also became the largest production site for scientific translations. In the NLL, entire books, periodicals (journals), and individual papers were translated into English. While in 1959 the NLL began with continuously translating six Russian journals, from 1961 to 1966, the NLL's translation production already amounted to 16 entire journals, 60,000 individual papers, and 1,500 books. In addition, 200 further journals were translated cover-to-cover by cooperation partners of the NLL. Secondly, according to the MLD's activity report for 1967–1970, during that time 450 scientific texts amounting to 3,500 pages were translated. The emergence of the translation bibliographies discussed in this paper can thus be understood as a reaction to this massive translation production. From the perspective of the actors involved in their development, the primary purpose of these bibliographies was to “control” (van Bergeijk 1980) this situation by creating an overview of existing translations to avoid wasting time and money with duplicate translations. As a matter of fact, time and money were among the major issues raised in contemporary discussions of scientific translation practices: either as time and money lost because of missing translations (e.g., Tybulewicz 1970, 55) or the temporal and monetary costs of translation production (e.g., Glover 1979, 525).<sup>21</sup> The emergence of such translation bibliographies thus reflects the desire for a rational organization of the scientific field.

The massive increase in translation production, to which the emergence of scientific and technical translation bibliographies seems to be a reaction, can itself

---

21. The time translation takes and the money it costs are issues that have been raised in the scientific field since the eighteenth century (Elsherif 2025a, 96–97, 114–118).

be understood as a reaction, namely to a changed linguistic situation in the scientific domain. The trilingual condition of the nineteenth century, in which English, French, and German were the dominant languages of scientific communication (Reinbothe 2011), was altered through World War I and World War II. Scientists from the Soviet Union increasingly began to publish in Russian, instead of German, French or English (Gordin 2017, 217). Additionally, new national agents such as China and Japan started to enter the scientific field. The multiplication of linguistic barriers within the scientific field, combined with its universalist self-understanding, obliged scientists to engage with all relevant literature, regardless of the language in which it was written. This led to a renewed relevance and necessity of scientific translation. In further consequence, translation bibliographies emerged to organize scientific knowledge production in a systematic and efficient manner. In this sense, they can be considered a solution to a problem caused by a great increase in translation production.

A further observable trend consists in the internationalization and centralization of scientific and technical translation bibliographies. The bibliographies that emerged in the 1950s documented information on translations into the respective national languages (English, French, German). With the establishment of the *Transatom Bulletin* and the ETC, however, the distinction between national languages was replaced with the distinction between Western and non-Western languages. This development not only demonstrates the increasing internationalization of translation bibliographies, but also their centralization. The individual national translation bibliographies were integrated into the larger, superordinate, and supranational translation bibliography *World Index for Scientific Translations* in 1968. Most of the national translation bibliographies continued to exist alongside the *World Translations Index* but were discontinued in the 1970s. The internationalization and centralization of the translation bibliographies presupposed a large network of institutions collaborating with the European/International Translations Centre, which served as the institution responsible for organizing, maintaining, and publishing the *World Index*. As already mentioned above, the ETC/ITC worked together with fourteen western European countries as well as with the US, Canada, Israel, India, and Japan. In each of these countries, the ETC/ITC had one national partner institution supplying it with bibliographical information. These partner institutions in turn were part of a network of national, subordinate institutions supplying the partner institutions of the ETC/ITS with their bibliographical information. In France, for example, the CNRS was the partner institution of the ETC/ITC. It had regular contact with 153 smaller French institutions supplying it with bibliographical information on translations (CNRS 1961). In the UK, the NLL was the partner institution, maintaining a network of forty-seven equivalent institutions (NLL 1971, 46–50).

What the emergence of translation bibliographies and their internationalization, centralization, and the corresponding network formation suggest is the establishment of a particular knowledge infrastructure in the scientific field — a *translation knowledge infrastructure*. Edwards (2010) defined knowledge infrastructures as “robust networks of people, artifacts, and institutions that generate, share, and maintain specific knowledge about the human and natural worlds” (17). They include individuals, organizations, routines, shared norms, and practices (Edwards et al. 2013, 5). Accordingly, we can define translation knowledge infrastructures as robust networks of people, artefacts, and institutions that generate, share, and maintain specific (and explicit) knowledge about already existing translations (in the scientific field). In this case, the relevant institutions are, first and foremost, scientific libraries and documentation centers. The people that were part of these networks were librarians, staff of the documentation centers, translators, and the scientists using the translations. Among the artefacts are, of course, the bibliographies themselves, but also order and feedback forms. The routines, shared norms, and practices that were established as part of the translation knowledge infrastructure include, for instance, the determination of the information required for the bibliographies, rules for transcribing Russian or Chinese titles and names, and the regular transmission of bibliographical information to superordinate institutions.<sup>22</sup>

The translation knowledge infrastructure that emerged in the 1950s not only reflects a certain demand for translation knowledge, which itself reflects a certain demand for translation, but also a specific way of *dealing* with this demand: a *modern* way of perceiving and dealing with “the language problem.” The transla-

---

22. The concept and term *infrastructure* has slowly been gaining currency in translation studies in recent years. So far, it has primarily been used to refer to attempts at making translation permanently and instantaneously available to society. The most prominent manifestation of this attempt is machine translation. Machine translation, in its current socio-technological form, turns translation into a part of the communicative infrastructure of global world society and a component of our daily digital ecology (Rozmysłowicz 2019, 18; 2020, 15–21 and 37–39; 2023b; 2025). The provision of translation and interpreting services by state or non-governmental agencies for the purposes of inclusion, accessibility, and diversity can also be interpreted along these lines as instituting translation and interpreting infrastructures that make translation and interpreting permanently available (see, for instance, Hlavac et al. 2018, 5; Rozmysłowicz 2024, 387). Moreover, translation bibliographies (or databases) have been referred to as “infrastructures” as well (Schippel et al. 2022; Carbò-Catalan 2024, 470). However, as of now, the notion of infrastructure still seems to be underdeveloped and undertheorized in translation studies. But there are promising signs that this is about to change. Intersections between translation studies and infrastructure studies are currently being explored, as evidenced by collaborations between scholars of both fields (Dizdar et al. 2025) and an infrastructure-oriented panel at the EST conference in Leeds in 2025.

tion knowledge infrastructure was characterized by the desire for a systematic and rational control of translation production. In this respect, it is related to machine translation, which was instigated as a technological solution to the “world-wide translation problem” (Weaver 1955 [1949], 1) during the same period (see Rozmysłowicz 2023b).

The translation knowledge infrastructure only lasted until the end of the 1990s: the last two big translation bibliographies, the *Aslib Technical Translation Bulletin* and the *World Translations Index*, were discontinued in 1987 and 1997 respectively. It is not unreasonable to assume that the discontinuation was related to the rise of English as lingua franca in the scientific domain – that is, due to a third solution to the “language problem.”<sup>23</sup> A lingua franca does not make translation scientifically irrelevant, but it makes translation a largely individual problem – as scientists become self-translators into the lingua franca (Montgomery 2000, 263; Elsherif 2025b) – and eliminates the need for collective organization of translation on the basis of translation knowledge infrastructures. However, it is precisely this collective effort that was necessary for English to rise to this status. We suggest that this rise was both preceded and accompanied by a massive translation production into English.<sup>24</sup> Using the *Transatom Bulletin* as a resource now, we can observe a steady increase of translations into English. While in the first issue of this bibliography (December 1960) numerous translations into languages other than English (especially German) are listed, in the last issue (December 1977) English is by far the dominant target language. In the sciences, then, English was among the most – if not *the* most – common target languages. This contrasts with other domains such as literature, where, since World War II, English has been the most translated language yet one of the least translated into (Venuti 1998, 160).

#### 4. Conclusions

By giving a preliminary overview and tentative explanation for the translation bibliographies that started to emerge in the 1950s in the scientific domain, this

---

23. In a paper published in 1993, Mickey Risseuw – Director of the International Translations Centre at that time – herself anticipated the “threat” English as a lingua franca poses to translation, and subsequently, to the International Translations Centre (Risseuw 1993).

24. One cannot help but think here of Guyton de Morveau’s appeal to the French scientific community, in which he exhorted his fellow chemists to translate more chemical texts into French so as not to lose French’s status as the scientific lingua franca to German (Guyton de Morveau 1787; for a discussion see Mannweiler 2021 and Elsherif 2025a, 321–327).

paper has only scratched the surface of a vast and largely unresearched realm. Further research could use these translation bibliographies not only as a research object but also as resources to quantitatively assess translation production in the sciences after World War II. Such assessments could, amongst other things, provide the basis for empirically backed counterclaims to general and far-reaching hypotheses, such as Venuti's claim that English is one of the languages least translated into.

Analyzing these translation bibliographies as a specific form of (translation) knowledge infrastructure systematically links them to the social context of their production. The effort to build a global translation knowledge infrastructure for the sciences itself reflects, as we said, a specifically modern way of apprehending languages and their translation as a problem that can be solved and organized rationally. With the rise of English to the global scientific lingua franca and the individualization of the language and translation problem, this form of explicit translation knowledge became irrelevant. The fact that this development coincides with the end of the Cold War suggests a yet-to-be-investigated dynamic interrelation between the scientific and the political field. Another more recent development that seems to consolidate the individualization of translation is the spread of machine translation into everyday life. The automation and concomitant instantaneous availability of translation to researchers facilitates and further encourages the continuation of this trend. This does not mean that translation knowledge becomes irrelevant, but rather that another form of translation knowledge becomes relevant: the knowledge that goes into constructing translation machines. This includes mathematics and information science, but also the countless translations produced by human translators. The 'datafication' of translation in the form of bilingual corpora from which (statistical or neural) translation machines generate their output is an important component of this shift. Against this background, we can say that the translation knowledge infrastructure in the scientific field was not dismantled *per se* in the 1990s. Rather, it was replaced by or transformed into a different translation knowledge infrastructure, which becomes possible and relevant through the all-pervasive digitization of society.

This suggests that investigations into (the history of) translation knowledge have to take into account the infrastructural and social conditions of its production. From this perspective, translation studies — as a producer of explicit translation knowledge — also becomes visible as part of a translation knowledge infrastructure. It would be interesting to see, for the purposes of a reflexive historiography and sociology of translation, if and how the infrastructural shift described above affects the discipline and its self-understanding.

## Funding

Open Access publication of this article was funded through a Transformative Agreement with Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz.




## References

-  Bawden, David. 2016. "Aslib: A De Facto National Library/Information Organization." *Alexandria: The Journal of National and International Library and Information* 26 (1): 15–27.
- Beydoun, Ghada. 1983. *Études des Index des Bibliographies courantes: Bulletin Signalétique du C.N.R.S. Villeurbanne: École nationale supérieure des bibliothèques.*
- Blair, Ann M. 2010. *Too Much to Know: Managing Scholarly Information before the Modern Age.* New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Bret, Patrice. 2012. "Sciences et techniques." In *Histoire des traductions en langue française. XIX siècle*, edited by Yves Chevrel, Lieven D'hulst, and Christine Lombez, 927–1007. Lagrasse: Verdier.
-  Bret, Patrice, and Keiko Kawashima. 2019. "Madame Lavoisier's Diffusion and Defence of Oxygen Against Phlogiston: Her Translations of Richard Kirwan's Essays." In *Women in Their Element: Selected Women's Contributions to the Periodic System*, edited by Annette Lykknes, and Brigitte Van Tiggelen, 85–98. Singapore: World Scientific.
- Burke, Peter. 2000. *A Social History of Knowledge. From Gutenberg to Diderot.* Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Carbó-Catalan, Elisabet. 2024. *Language and Translation Policies in the Intellectual Cooperation Organization (1922–1946). Promoting the Internationalization of the Intellectual Field.* PhD diss. Universitat Oberta de Catalunya/KU Leuven.
- CNRS [Centre national de la recherche scientifique]. 1961. "Liste des Organismes participant à l'Inventaire Général des Traductions." *Catalogue Mensuel des Traductions effectuées dans les Services et Centres français de Documentation* 9 (1): I–XIII.
- Cook, Harold J., and Sven Dupré, eds. 2012. *Translating Knowledge in the Early Modern Low Countries.* Münster: LIT.
- Guyton de Morveau, Louis-Bernard. 1787. "Mémoire contenant des vues pour conserver à la langue française la prérogative d'être la langue universelle." *Journal littéraire de Nancy: Tome XXI*: 38–46.
-  D'hulst, Lieven. 1998. "Traduire l'Europe en France entre 1810 et 1840." In *Europe et traduction*, edited by Michel Ballard, 137–157. Arras: Presses Université.
-  D'hulst, Lieven. 2010. "Translation History." In *Handbook of Translation Studies. Volume 1*, edited by Yves Gambier, and Luc van Doorslaer, 397–405. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
-  D'hulst, Lieven, and Yves Gambier, eds. 2018. *A History of Modern Translation Knowledge: Sources, Concepts, Effects.* Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
-  Dietz, Bettina. 2016a. "Linnaeus' Restless System: Translation as Textual Engineering in Eighteenth-Century Botany." *Annals of Science* 73 (2): 143–156.
- Dietz, Bettina, ed. 2016b. *Translating and Translations in the History of Science.* Special issue of *Annals of Science* 73 (2).

- doi Dizdar, Dilek, Gabriele Schabacher, Kaiko Lenhard, Sophie Spallinger, Tomasz Rozmyslowicz, and Tom Ullrich. 2025. "Passagiere und Geflüchtete. Semiotische und räumliche Personenlenkung am Berliner Hauptbahnhof 2022." In *Humandifferenzierung im Vergleich*, edited by Anne Friedrichs, Stefan Hirschauer, Peter Hofmann, and Gabriele Schabacher. Weilerswist: Velbrück.
- doi Dupré, Sven. 2018. "Introduction: Science and Practices of Translation." *ISIS* 109 (2): 302–307.
- Edwards, Paul N. 2010. *A Vast Machine: Computer Models, Climate Data, and the Politics of Global Warming*. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Edwards, Paul N., Steven J. Jackson, and Melissa Chalmers. 2013. *Knowledge Infrastructures: Intellectual Frameworks and Research Challenges: Report of a Workshop Sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the Sloan Foundation, University of Michigan School of Information, 25–28 May 2012*. California: University of California Digital Library.
- Egmond, Florike. 2012. "Names and Naturalia in the Early Modern Period: Between the Vernacular and Latin, Identification and Classification." In *Translating Knowledge in the Early Modern Low Countries*, edited by Harold J. Cook, and Sven Dupré, 131–161. Münster: LIT.
- Elsharif, Garda, Andreas Gipper, Caroline Mannweiler, and Diego Stefanelli, eds. 2024. *Scientific Translation in the Early Modern Period*. Special issue of *Chronotopos: A Journal of Translation History* 5 (1).
- doi Elsharif, Garda. 2025a. *Forschen und Übersetzen: Translation im (früh)modernen Wissenschaftssystem am Beispiel Frankreichs (1600–1815)*. Stuttgart: Steiner.
- doi Elsharif, Garda. 2025b. "Scholarly Authors As Self-Translators: Tracing Hasan Hanafi's Philosophical Back-and-Forth Translations." *Target* 36 (4): 551–573.
- Euratom [European Atomic Energy Community]. 1960. "Introduction." *Transatom Bulletin* 1 (1): n.p.
- Gibb, J.M. 1977. "Translation-spotting in the European community." In *Overcoming the Language Barrier. Third European Congress on Information Systems and Networks. Luxembourg, 3–6 May 1977*, edited by the Commission of the European Communities, 219–226. Munich: Verlag Dokumentation.
- doi Gipper, Andreas, and Diego Stefanelli. 2021. "Die Wissenschaftsübersetzung als Generator symbolischen Kapitals: Das translatorische Dreieck Bonnet-Spallanzani-Senebier." In *Übersetzen in der Frühen Neuzeit – Konzepte und Methoden*, edited by Regina Toepfer, Peter Burschel, and Jörg Wesche, 161–184. Berlin: J. B. Metzler.
- doi Glover, W. 1979. "Services Provided by Aslib Relating to Translations." *Aslib Proceedings* 31 (11): 525–529.
- Gómez Castro, Cristina. 2022. "The Use of Corpora and Other Electronic Tools in Historical Research on Translation." In *The Routledge Handbook of Translation History*, edited by Christopher Rundle, 38–53. London: Routledge.
- Gordin, Michael. 2017. *Scientific Babel: The Language of Science from the Fall of Latin to the Rise of English*. London: Profile Books.
- Hamel, Gustaaf Adolf. 1968. "Der Nachweis von Übersetzungen nichtwestlicher Fachliteratur in westliche Sprachen: Die Arbeit des European Translations Centre in Delft." *Osteuropa Naturwissenschaft* 12 (1): 28–32.
- Heller, Lavinia, and Spencer Hawkins, eds. 2025. *The (Self-)Translation of Knowledge: Scholarship in Migration*. Special issue of *Target* 36 (4).

- doi Hermans, Theo. 2022. *Translation and History: A Textbook*. London: Routledge.
- doi Hlavac, Jim, Adolfo Gentile, Marc Orlando, Emiliano Zucchi, and Ari Pappas. 2018. "Translation as a Sub-Set of Public and Social Policy and a Consequence of Multiculturalism: The Provision of Translation and Interpreting Services in Australia." *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 251: 55–88.
- doi Ji, Meng. 2012. "Translation and Scientific Terminology." In *Quantitative Methods in Corpus-Based Translation Studies: A Practical Guide to Descriptive Translation Research*, edited by Michel P. Oakes, and Meng Ji, 249–274. 51. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Kastner, Doris. 1957. *Sowjetpädagogik: Auswahl-Bibliographie der seit 1945 erschienenen deutschen Übersetzungen aus den Sprachen der Völker der Sowjetunion auf dem Gebiet der Pädagogik*. Berlin: Verlag Volk und Wissen.
- Mannweiler, Caroline. 2021. "Ce qui n'est pas traduit n'est pas français. Zur Universalität des Französischen in den Wissenschaften, von Rivarol zu Guyton de Morveau." *Romanische Studien. Blog zur Zeitschrift*. September 10. <http://blog.romanischestudien.de/mannweiler-zur-universalitaet-des-franzoesischen-in-den-wissenschaften/>
- doi Meneghello, Laura. 2020. "Travelling Knowledge in Nineteenth-Century Science: Jacob Moleschott and Materialism in Translation." In *Translation in Knowledge, Knowledge in Translation*, edited by Rocío G. Sumillera, Jan Surman, and Katharina Kühn, 59–80. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Montgomery, Scott L. 2000. *Science in Translation. Movements of Knowledge through Cultures and Time*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- National Translations Center. 1969. "Foreword." In *Consolidated Index of Translations into English*, n.p. New York: Special Libraries Association.
- NLL [National Lending Library for Science and Technology.] 1971. "Addresses and Notes." *NLL Announcement Bulletin: A Guide to British Reports, Translations, and Theses* 1 (1): 46–49.
- Olohan, Maeve, and Myriam Salama-Carr, eds. 2011. *Translating Science*. Special issue of *The Translator* 17 (2).
- doi Poupaud, Sandra, and Anthony Pym. 2009. "Finding Translations. On the Use of Bibliographical Databases in Translation History." *Meta* 54 (2): 264–278.
- Pym, Anthony. 1998. *Method in Translation History*. London: Routledge.
- Rashed, Roshdi. 2006. *Greek into Arabic: Transmission and Translation*. Leuven: Peeters Publishers.
- Redaktion ON. 1957/1958. "Bibliographie in westliche Sprachen übersetzte naturwissenschaftliche Bücher und Monographien aus den Ländern Osteuropas." *Osteuropa Naturwissenschaft* 2 (1): 169–176.
- doi Reichenberger, Andrea. 2018. "Émilie Du Châtelet's Interpretation of the Laws of Motion in the Light of 18th Century Mechanics." *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* 69: 1–11.
- Reinbothe, Roswitha. 2011. "Geschichte des Deutschen als Wissenschaftssprache im 20. Jahrhundert." In *Wissen schaffen – Wissen kommunizieren. Wissenschaftssprachen in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, edited by Wieland Eins, Helmut Glück, and Sabine Pretschner, 49–66. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
- Richter, Julia. 2020. *Translationshistoriographie: Perspektiven und Methoden*. Wien: New Academic Press.

- doi Risseuw, Mickey. 1993. "Will There Still Be a Need for Translations in the Year 2000 or Will There Be Just One Universally Accepted Language Used for Scientific and Technical Writing." *Online & CD Rom Review* 17 (4): 237–238.
- Rozmysłowicz, Tomasz. 2019. "Die Geschichtlichkeit der Translation (swissenschaft): Zur paradigmatischen Relevanz der maschinellen Übersetzung." *Chronotopos: A Journal of Translation History* 1 (2): 17–41.
- Rozmysłowicz, Tomasz. 2020. *Übersetzungsmaschinen. Ein translationstheoretisches Problem*. Berlin: Frank & Timme.
- Rozmysłowicz, Tomasz. 2022. "Soziologen übersetzen. Akademische Translation im US-amerikanischen Exil." In *Translation im Exil (1933–1945) I: Name und Orte. Recherchen zur Geschichte des Übersetzens*, edited by Aleksey Tashinksiy, Tomasz Rozmysłowicz, and Julija Boguna, 121–48. Berlin: Frank & Timme.
- doi Rozmysłowicz, Tomasz. 2023a. "Selektion, Inklusion und der soziale Sinn von Übersetzungen: Zum ambivalenten Verhältnis von Übersetzungspraxis und sozialem Netzwerk am Beispiel des Exilsoziologen Hans H. Gerth." In *Translation und Exil (1933–1945) II: Netzwerke des Übersetzens*, edited by Irene Weber Henking, Pino Dietiker, and Marina Rougemont, 259–274. Berlin: Frank & Timme.
- doi Rozmysłowicz, Tomasz. 2023b. "The Politics of Machine Translation: Reprogramming Translation Studies." *Perspectives* 32 (2): 493–507.
- doi Rozmysłowicz, Tomasz. 2024. "Zwischen Inklusion und Exklusion: Österreichische Translationspolitik." In *Sprachenpolitik in Österreich: Bestandsaufnahme 2021*, edited by Eva Vetter, Rudolf de Cillia, and Martin Reissigl, 377–400. Berlin: De Gruyter.
- doi Rozmysłowicz, Tomasz. 2025. "Human/Machine. A (Different) Genealogy of Translation Studies." In *The Routledge Handbook of Translation Technology and Society*, edited by Stefan Baumgarten, and Michael Tieber, 206–218. London: Routledge.
- Ryle, Gilert. 2002 [1949]. *The Concept of Mind. With an Introduction by Daniel C. Dennett*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- doi Sarukkai, Sundar. 2001. "Translation and Science." *Meta* 46 (4): 646–663.
- Schippel, Larisa, Julia Richter, Tomasz Rozmysłowicz, and Stefanie Kremmel. 2022. "Technical Infrastructures of Historical Translation Knowledge: A Call for the Use of the Digital Library and Bibliography of Literature in Translation: or: Invitation to Communism." *Chronotopos – A Journal of Translation History* 3 (1): 6–14.
- doi Schippel, Larisa. 2023. "Die mentale Translation eines ‚Denkraums‘: Texte und Personen auf der Vorderbühne – Begegnungen auf der Hinterbühne." In *Translation und Exil (1933–1945) II: Netzwerke des Übersetzens*, edited by Irene Weber Henking, Pino Dietiker, and Marina Rougemont, 275–296. Berlin: Frank & Timme.
- Schögler, Rafael. 2018. "Translation in the Social Sciences and Humanities: Circulating and Canonizing Knowledge." *Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics* 38: 62–90.
- doi Schögler, Rafael. 2023. *Die Politik der Buchübersetzung: Entwicklungslinien in den Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften nach 1945*. Frankfurt: Campus Verlag.
- Shamma, Tarek, and Myriam Salama-Carr, eds. 2022. *Anthology of Arabic Discourse on Translation*. London: Routledge.
- doi Summillera, Rocío G., Jan Surman, and Katharina Kühn, eds. 2020. *Translation in Knowledge, Knowledge in Translation*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

- Sykes, J. B. 1963. "Technical Translation at Harwell." *Revue Internationale de la Documentation* 30 (1): 2–4.
-  Tybulewicz, A. 1970. "Cover-to-Cover Translations of Soviet Scientific Journals." *Aslib Proceedings* 22 (2): 55–62.
-  Van Bergeijk, D. 1980. "Developments in the Bibliographic Control of Translations with Particular Reference to the Activities of the International Translations Centre." *Interlending Review* 8 (4): 128–131.
- Vandaele, Sylvie, and Pier-Pascal Boulanger, eds. 2016. *Sciences en traduction. Sciences in translation*, special issue of *Meta* 61.
-  Venuti, Lawrence. 1998. *The Scandals of Translation: Towards an Ethics of Difference*. London: Routledge.
- Watson, Peter G. 1970. *Great Britain's National Lending Library*. Los Angeles: School of Library Service.
- Weaver, Warren. 1949/1955. "Translation." In *Machine Translation of Languages: Fourteen Essays*, edited by W. N. Locke, and D. A. Booth, 15–23. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Wende, Erich. 1957. "Zur Einführung." *Osteuropa Naturwissenschaft* 1 (1): 1–2.
- Wilfert-Portal, Blaise. 2012. "Traduction littéraire: approche bibliométrique." In *Histoire des traductions en langue française. XIX siècle*, edited by Yves Chevrel, Lieven D'hulst, and Christine Lombez, 255–344. Lagrasse: Verdier.
- Willer, Stefan, and Andreas Keller, eds. 2020. *Selbstübersetzung als Wissenstransfer*. Berlin: Kadmos.
- Zentralstelle für wissenschaftliche Literatur. 1951. *Übersetzungsnachweis wissenschaftlicher Literatur aus der Sowjetunion und den Ländern der Volksdemokratie* 1 (1).

## Appendix. Metabibliography

Title	Institution	Dates	Languages and scope
Catalogue Mensuel des Traductions effectuées dans les Services et Centres français de Documentation	Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France	unpublished: 1944–1952 published: 1952–1969	Translations of technical and scientific texts into French Most common source languages: German, English, Russian But also: Spanish, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Romanian, Swedish, Czech, Dutch
Bulletin of the Russian Translation Service	Service at the University of Delhi	1950–[?]	Translations into English of the publications by the Soviet Academy of Sciences; listing only translations available at the University of Delhi

## Appendix. (continued)

Title	Institution	Dates	Languages and scope
Aslib Index of Unpublished Translations Renamed and expanded to the whole Commonwealth as <i>Commonwealth Index of Unpublished Translations</i> in 1960.	Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux (Aslib), UK	1951–1980s	English translations of scientific and technical texts
NLL Translations Bulletin	National Lending Library for Science and Technology (NLL), UK	1961–1974	Initial focus on scientific literature from Russian. From 1964 onwards also from Chinese
Übersetzungsnachweis wissenschaftlicher Literatur aus der Sowjetunion und den Ländern der Volksdemokratie	Abteilung Übersetzungsauskunft der Zentralstelle für wissenschaftliche Literatur; German Democratic Republic (GDR)	1951–1953	Compiled information on German translations (planned and already carried out) of scientific works (natural, technical and social sciences) from Russian and other languages of the Soviet Union.
Bibliographie deutscher Übersetzungen aus den Sprachen der Völker der Sowjetunion. Abteilung I: Wissenschaftliche Literatur	Öffentliche Wissenschaftliche Bibliothek Berlin; GDR	1952–1965	Already published translations into German of texts from the natural, technical and social sciences. Source languages: Russian and other languages of the Soviet Union.
Bibliography of Translations from Russian Scientific and Technical Literature	National Science Foundation (NSF), USA	1953–1956	Translations of scientific and technical texts into English. Focus on translations from Russian.
SLA List of Translations	Special Libraries Association (SLA), USA	1953–1956	
Translation Monthly	NSF and SLA	1956–1967	
Translations register-index	SLA	1967–[1986?]	


## Appendix. (continued)

Title	Institution	Dates	Languages and scope
Consolidated Index of Translations into English	SLA	1967–1985	Listed only English translations that were available at the SLA of scientific literature from the 18th century to the present.
UKAEA List of Publications Available to the Public	United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA)	1955–1986	English translations of nuclear-related literature from Russian and other Eastern European languages prepared by the UKAEA's translation service in Harwell.
USAEC Translation List	United States Atomic Energy Commission (USAEC)	1957–1974	Listed English translations of Russian nuclear-related literature.
Transatom Bulletin	European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM)	1960–1977	Listed translations of nuclear-related literature from languages “unfamiliar to the Western reader” into “Western languages” Various source languages (e.g., Russian, Chinese, Japanese, but also English. Target languages: English, German, French, and in a few cases Italian.
Bibliography of scientific monographs from Eastern European countries, in: <i>Osteuropa: Naturwissenschaft</i>	Journal published by the <i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde</i>	1957–1959	Listed translations of Eastern European languages into Western languages, mainly German but also into English and French.
Nachweis von Übersetzungen	Technische Informationsbibliothek Hannover, West-Germany (TIB)	unpublished: 1959–1969 published: 1970–[?]	German translations of mostly Russian, Japanese, Polish, Czech, Hungarian, Chinese, and Romanian scientific and technical papers that had not appeared in print.
Mitteilungen des Medizinischen Literaturdienstes: Medizin in Osteuropa	Medizinischer Literaturdienst (MLD) am Osteuropa-Institut, Freie Universität Berlin, West-Germany	1969–1985	Recorded existing translations of medical literature from Eastern European into Western languages.


## Appendix. (continued)

Title	Institution	Dates	Languages and scope
DESIDOC Transindex	Defense Scientific Information and Documentation Centre, Delhi, India	1980-[?]	Translations into English of scientific and technical periodical articles, reports, patents, conference proceedings, monographs.
National Index of Translations	Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC), India	1981-1997	Unpublished English translations of scientific and technical texts that were produced in India.
List of Translations notified to ETC	European Translations Centre (ETC)	1966-1971	Listed technical and scientific translations from "non-Western languages into Western languages," but only those translations that had not yet appeared in the respective national bibliographies.
World Index for Scientific Translations Renamed <i>World TransIndex</i> in 1978 Transformed into a database called <i>World Translations Index</i> in 1978, in cooperation with the CNRS.	ETC (later ITC)	1968-1997	Contained all translations reported to the ETC. Aimed to replace the previous national translation bibliographies.
Translations Journals: List of Periodicals Translated Cover-to-Cover, Abstracted Publications and Periodicals Containing Selected Articles	ETC/ITC	1969-1997	List of existing complete translations of journals ("cover-to-cover" translations) as well as translations of individual articles from journals.

## Address for correspondence

Garda Elsherif  
Fachbereich Translations-, Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaft  
University of Mainz  
An der Hochschule 2  
76726, Gemersheim  
Germany  
elsherif@uni-mainz.de  
 <https://orcid.org/0009-0009-2141-5196>

## Co-author information

Tomasz Rozmysłowicz  
Fachbereich Translations-, Sprach- und  
Kulturwissenschaft  
University of Mainz  
rozmyslt@uni-mainz.de  
 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0446-2221>

## Publication history

Date received: 9 July 2024  
Date accepted: 24 August 2025  
Published online: 22 September 2025