

## **CompuServe deploys online MT for German and French**

CompuServe has introduced machine translation on one of its on-line forums, MacCIM, a support area for Macintosh users of CompuServe's navigation software. The new service consists of three parallel forums, one in English, one in French, and one in German, with message thread topology identical across all three forums. The native language of the forum participants is identified by a new entry in CompuServe's user profile section. The MacCIM forum is "free," ie, there are no connect charges.

Through such things as automatic translation of forum messages and an increasing number of international nodes in its network (thereby lowering the cost of access), CompuServe is striving to become a global information supplier.

CompuServe is using Intergraph's DP/Translator for on-the-fly translation. According to CompuServe's Mary Flanagan, a linguist who tested a number of potential MT systems, DP/Translator was chosen for three reasons: first and foremost output quality, second, economic considerations, and finally speed, because CompuServe needed rapid throughput for this demanding application.

Due to the nature of the material — largely spontaneous messages — CompuServe's system is a daring one with potentially high exposure. However, if it is a success, it will be a milestone in the history of MT and a clear sign that MT is ready for "prime-time."