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Researchers study, in different languages, terms specific to the area of conservation

The Terminol Group builds databases available for translators, copywriters, and students in the field

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At all times, we come into contact with texts produced in different languages that are translated into Portuguese in order to facilitate our understanding. However, for a text to reach us, it must first be read by someone who may not have a thorough knowledge of the subject portrayed there: the translator. It is in order to facilitate the work of these and other professionals and students that the [Terminological Project Cone Sul \(TERMISUL\)](#), from UFRGS' Institute of Languages and Literature, has been working since its creation in the 1990s.

The project develops research in the fields of Terminology (the study of terms and organization of specialized languages) and Terminography (description of linguistic properties and production of reference works, such as dictionaries). The topic currently being addressed focuses on the area of conservation and restoration of mobile cultural assets on paper – such as books and documents. The idea came up during one of the team meetings and was driven by [Silvana Bojanoski's](#) doctoral thesis, which deals with the production of a glossary for professionals in the field. The professor at the Institute of Human Sciences at the Federal University of Pelotas (UFPeL) is part of Termisul.

As explains [Denise Regina de Sales](#), Professor in UFRGS' Institute of Languages, Linguistics and Literature and a participant on the project, the objective is to create a public database containing specialized eventive phraseological terms and units (eventive UFEs) and their equivalents in the defined languages, in addition to a collection with the analyzed texts. UFEs are expressions formed by at least two words – one verb and one specific term – that have their own particular meaning and use. For example, when you want to talk about cleaning collections, you use the expression *higienizar o acervo*, in Portuguese, which will be understood by other professionals in the field. If these words are translated separately, they will be understood differently from what is expressed in the cluster.

After defining the scope of the work, the texts that would be analyzed were chosen, both in Portuguese and in other languages, and all images, summaries and other annexes present were removed. The next step, with the help of AntConc and Sketch Engine software, consisted of searching for the most common terms in Portuguese – reference point. From this, a list with the selected terms was assembled, and common words, names of institutions and proper names were removed from it; only then the data collected went through the review of a specialist in the field.

In a second step, the search and identification of equivalent terms in the chosen languages were made according to the availability and research interest of the research group members. This study will feature five languages: Spanish, French, English, Italian, and Russian. In the final step, the terms and UFEs will be inserted into the database, together with the context in which each of them can be used, and, before publication, a final revision will be carried out.

The current project started in August 2019 and is expected to last two years. It is an offshoot of the previous one, carried out between 2016 and 2018, which collected the 300 most used terms referring to objects, diagnostics, products, materials and instruments, while the new research focuses on eventive UFEs. As a way of publicizing their research, the group usually participates in events, such as Salão UFRGS, and makes the materials available on its [website](#). In addition, they also intend to produce a digital glossary gathering all the data collected, as it has already happened for other areas. The databases are already under construction and will soon be available.

Translated into English by Marcos Viola Cardoso, under the supervision and translation revision of Elizamari R. Becker (P.h.D.) – IL/UFRGS.



The project aims to facilitate the work of translators and researchers in the field of conservation and restoration of mobile cultural assets on paper – Photo: Gustavo Diehl / UFRGS

