

*Language Resource Management*  
*Descriptors and Mechanisms for Language Resources*

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CALL FOR INTEREST

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## Multimodal Semantic Representation

### CALL FOR INTEREST

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The SIGSEM Working Group on the Representation of Multimodal Semantic Information, which was established earlier this year and had a small preliminary meeting at LREC 2002, will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2003 in Tilburg, the Netherlands, in conjunction with the 5th International Workshop on Computational Semantics (IWCS-5, January 15-17). This will be a one-day meeting for discussions on a number of important issues relating to the representation of multimodal semantic information. Working Group members and other experts will be asked to prepare position statements on these issues. We intend to make a website where these position statements will be made available, together with background material that may be useful for preparing the discussions. The meeting should then primarily consist of structured discussions, fueled by summaries of position statements.

Topics to be addressed at the meeting include:

\* About the WG in general:

- aims and scope
- objectives and general requirements

+ extensibility, openness,..

(see also LREC 2002 workshop paper "Towards multimodal semantic representation" by Harry Bunt and Laurent Romary, which can be found at <http://let.kub.nl/people/bunt>)

\* meaning representation from different perspectives, such as:

- language (text and speech) interpretation
- language generation
- design of embodied agents
- interpretation of gestures and facial expressions
- fusion and coordination of modalities
- multimodal dialogue system architecture

\* what should be represented

- semantic and pragmatic aspects of meaning
- information in gestures, postures, facial expressions
- nonlinguistic information in speech and text
- metadata: time stamps, processing information,..
- social and cultural information
- links to other information

\* basic components and mechanisms

- representational constructs
- mechanisms for linking and sharing
- specific representational issues, such as
- + underspecification techniques
- + flatness of representations

- which representation formalisms should be analysed for best practices, lessons learned, common underlying ideas, special features,..

- \* relation to neighbouring activities

- XML, RDF, semantic web
- ontologies, domain modeling, user modeling
- lexicon formats
- annotation schemes

- \* action plans

- activities to be undertaken
- who does what when
- WG membership
- WG communication
- next meeting

This WG meeting is open to anyone who takes an active interest in the representation of multimodal semantic information; the working group also welcomes new members. If you are interested in participating, and/or in joining the working group, please get in touch with Harry Bunt (at [harry.bunt@kub.nl](mailto:harry.bunt@kub.nl)) who is chairman of this WG and organizes the WG activities together with Laurent Romary (Nancy) and Kiyong Lee (Seoul). Suggestions for additional topics or for contributions relating to WG topics are also welcome!

For background information about the WG see also [www.sigsem.org](http://www.sigsem.org)

for information about IWCS-5 see <http://cwis.kub.nl/~fdl/research/ti/sigsem/iwcs/iwcs5/>