

THE HELSINKI TERM BANK FOR THE ARTS AND SCIENCES (HTB) http://tieteentermipankki.fi

Department of Digital Humanities
HELDIG Helsinki Centre for
Digital Humanities
University of Helsinki

Authors:

Johanna Enqvist

Research coordinator

johanna.enqvist@helsinki.fi

Tiina Onikki-Rantajääskö tiina.onikki@helsinki.fi

Director / Professor
Department of Finnish, FinnoUgrian and Scandinavian Studies
University of Helsinki

New Form of Academic Collaboration and Publishing

WHAT?

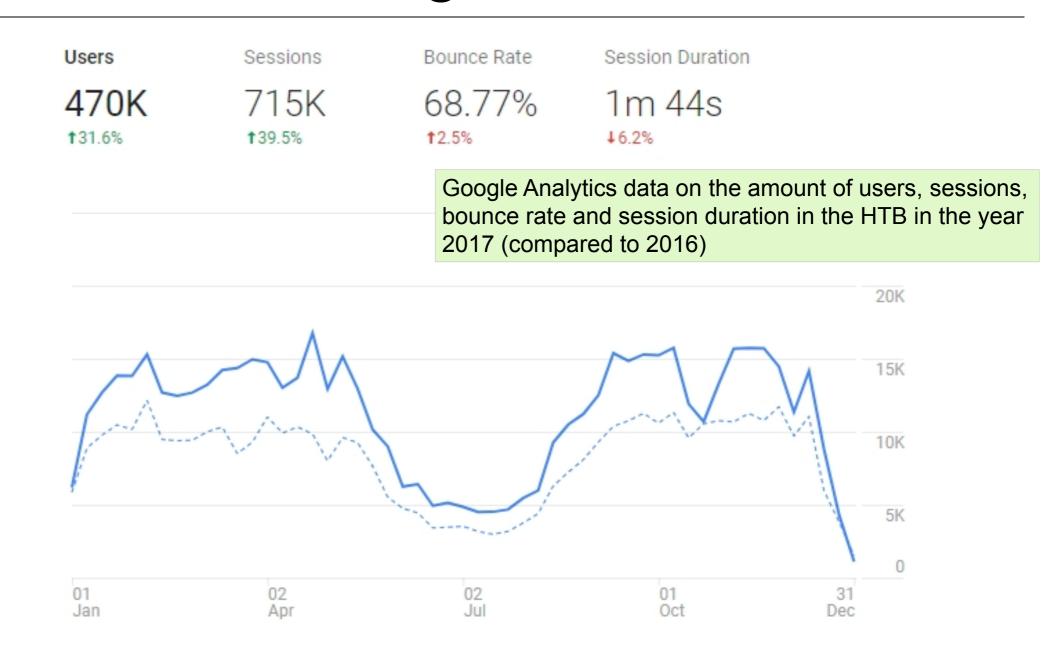
- Research infrastructure project launched in 2011 funded by the Academy of Finland (2011–2015) & the University of Helsinki, in cooperation with FIN-CLARIN
- Wiki-based website consisting an open and continuously updated database of multilingual terminology for all the disciplines of arts and sciences in Finland – of benefit to the students, researchers, enthusiasts, translators, journalists, politicians, everyone
- Platform for academic collaborative work on research terminology and conceptual analysis – where voluntary expert groups in the participating subject fields are contributing (*niche-sourcing*)
- Discussion forum open and available for all the registered users.

WHY?

- To facilitate communication and prevent misunderstandings both within the international academic community and between the researchers and other members of the society
- To enhance the understanding of particular field of research and the connections between the disciplines
- To promote the parallel use of languages in scientific terminology and research term equivalents are provided in over 30 languages
- To advance and support the status of national and minority languages of Finland in academic and vocational spheres as well as in popular science
- To offer opportunities for interdisciplinary discussions in the academic community to produce novel perspectives and research questions.

HOW?

- The HTB's content is structured on individual wiki pages with their history records, discussion forums and stable human-readable URLs
- Any page can function as a potential point of entrance, and users can access the HTB by merely googling a term
- Concept pages provide information on the concept, including synonymous terms, scientific definition, explanation, translation equivalents, related concepts, concept diagrams, images or other illustrations
- Designation pages contain linguistic, word-specific information, such as lexical category, information about word formation and etymological notes
- A concept page can be linked to any number of designation pages, informing the reader that these expressions are used to denote this particular concept – users can browse the HTB either as a conceptbased terminology bank or as a designation-based lexicon
- Wiki discussion forums allow concept-forming negotiations within the expert community and with a broader audience in a stable and moderated virtual environment.



CHALLENGES

- Reaching a critical mass in the number and input of experts in each field to achieve the required quality criteria based on community's self-correction and collective evaluation processes
- Professional researchers are forced to focus on duties which are directly measured in the performance indicators of academic institutions, such as teaching and producing journal articles.
 Terminological work in the HTB is yet to consist as a viable part of the academic profession
- For some researchers science occurs through the medium of English language; writing in Finland's national languages or popularisation of science is considered a waste of time
- Working and discussing 'publicly', opening the working process and publishing incomplete content may feel awkward for researchers.
 The profound rethinking of academic mentality and working culture is required.

