Zusammenfassung:

Even if language resources (LRs) have a relatively short history, they are recognised as one of the pillars of language technology.

It was in the ‘80s when LRs started to be understood as critical to make steps forward, while before they were even despised as a burden. It was a change in the paradigm, in the sense of Kuhn. Since then we made many great advances (I’ll point at some EC project results, such as the KYOTO project), but the more we understand about language the more we see how many problems are still in front of us.

The traditional production process is too costly. It is urgent to create a framework that enables effective cooperation of many groups on common tasks, adopting the paradigm of accumulation of knowledge so successful in more mature disciplines, such as biology, astronomy and physics. This requires the design of a new generation of multilingual LR, based on open content interoperability standards, that finally enables building on each other achievements, integrating results, and having them accessible to various systems and applications. This is the only way to make a great leap forward.

Today again a new paradigm of R&D is emerging, pushing towards the creation of open and distributed language infrastructures for LRT, based on sharing language resources and tools. I will mention the current European infrastructural and networking initiatives in this area, such as CLARIN, FLaReNet (Fostering Language Resources Network), and META-NET / META-SHARE, which may have influence in how we shape the future of our field.

Technical scientific issues are obviously important, but organisational, coordination, political issues play a major role in our field as in every other. Technologies exist and develop fast, but the infrastructure that puts them together and sustains them must be created and sustained.

I will also point at the new LRE Map, a simple idea with great potential, a collaborative means of collecting info on LRT and a way to show the current LRT landscape and its trends. Finally I’ll mention the new idea of the Language Library to be launched at next LREC. I think we need to think at a sort of big “genome” project for language, where we collect all the possible data (even if we’ll never have all, by definition), and then try to derive and capture regularities.
**Kurzlebenslauf:**

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