

You need to be able to search through your archives efficiently...

As a content provider you probably have access to large archives of digital text, images or sound files. Undoubtedly, you will also have your own ways of searching through this database effectively. It is highly likely that these include the use of HLT: Human Language Technology. Do you search by keyword, for example? Do you use tools to produce a summary of a large document? Or perhaps you use advanced search technology to retrieve (speech) files. HLT provides the underlying technology in each of these cases.

... and HLT can help.

As is the case with any technology, progress in HLT is based on continuous technological advancements. We are constantly carrying out research into new and improved applications. And in the Netherlands and Flanders there is no shortage of ideas or expertise: We are proud to be one of the leaders in the field of HLT in Europe. In spite of our strong position, there is one thing that is always in short supply: speech and text material.

HLT needs vast amounts of language data...

Large quantities of language data are needed in order to develop more effective classification techniques for written and spoken texts and to improve speech recognition software, automatic summarizers and search engines. The latest generation of language and speech processing software is based on real examples: How does a journalist write when producing a newspaper article? How does a sports reporter speak? The more examples, the better the results. HLT results are based on statistical analysis, which requires huge quantities of language data. Text material and speech recordings are normally protected by copyright. HLT researchers only use material free of copyright and occasionally collections made available by licence holders for research purposes.

... would you be prepared to help?

You could support HLT developments by donating language material. In 2004 the Nederlandse Taalunie (Dutch Language Union) founded the TST-Centrale (HLT Agency) as a resource centre for managing data collections. If you are able to help, in return we guarantee that your data will only be used for the (further) development and testing of HLT. Researchers are not allowed to distribute texts and sound recordings after they have been used for analysis. And of course... you will be able to find your way through your own digital archives faster and more efficiently as you will be able to follow the latest developments in HLT as they are made.

The **Nederlandse Taalunie** (*Dutch Language Union*) is an international treaty organization, providing a framework in which the Netherlands, Flanders and Suriname cooperate in the areas of Dutch language and literature, education in Dutch and the teaching of Dutch.

STEVIN is a long-term research and incentive programme set up to stimulate the provision and development of speech and language resources and technology in Flanders and the Netherlands in order to consolidate the position of Dutch in the modern world of information and communication technology. The STEVIN programme is funded and supervised by the Dutch and Flemish governments and implemented under the auspices of the Dutch Language Union. The Dutch partners are the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research and the Dutch innovation agency SenterNovem. The Flemish partners are the Department of Economy, Science and Innovation, the Institute for the promotion of Innovation through Science and Technology in Flanders and the Research Foundation - Flanders. The **HLT Agency** (TST-Centrale) is responsible for the acquisition, management, maintenance and distribution of various HLT resources that have been developed for Dutch with the help of government funding.

If you are able to help and would like further information on either the STEVIN programme or the work of the HLT Agency in general, please get in touch.

Additional information about the STEVIN programme:

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