

The *ILC audio-video Archives* and the History of Computational Linguistics

ILC CNR and CLARIN-IT

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Since I'm in Oxford, a bit of poetry...

All my past life is mine no more,

The flying hours are gone,

Like transitory dreams given o'er,

Whose images are kept in store

By memory alone.

-- Lord Rochester, Love and Life

ILC and the history of computational linguistics

The **Computational Linguistics section of CNUCE** (Centro Nazionale Universitario di Calcolo Elettronico) in Pisa (1970s), that was later (1980) to become **Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale** (ILC-CNR), can be legitimately considered the cradle of Italian CL, as well as being one of the first centres for CL worldwide.

The charismatic figure behind all of this was ***Antonio Zampolli*** (after whom ILC is now named). Zampolli managed to build a worldwide network of collaborations and exchanges with the pioneers of this new discipline.



ILC has a large archive of vintage audio and video recordings dating back to the golden age of "mathematical" linguistics and the beginning of computational linguistics.

The International Summer Schools in Computational and Mathematical Linguistics

5 editions: 1970, 1972, 1974, 1977, 1988

2-3 weeks in August, in Pisa, around 100 participants.

Teachers: R. Dyer, M. Gross, D.G. Hays, Ch. Muller, J. Raben, Joan Bresnan, Charles J. Fillmore, Barbara Hall Partee, Lauri Karttunen, Martin Kay, Yorick Wilks, Terry Winograd, Bernard Quemada, Ronald M. Kaplan, Igor Aleksandrovič Mel'čuk....

A generation of younger computational linguists were shaped by their attendance at these summer schools. These meetings gave rise important scientific collaborations: Joan Bresnan and Ronald Kaplan (LFG), 1977; Ch. Fillmore and Sue Atkins (Frame Semantics), 1988.

The material and its supports (1)

33 audio tapes (1972 to 1978):

- 13 basf tapes
- 12 Scotch tapes
- 1 Philips tape
- 7 Agfa tapes

Furthermore we have a whole box full of Reel-to-Reel audio tape recordings...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reel-to-reel_audio_tape_recording

The material and its supports (2)

Video tapes (1977 to 1988)

- 85 video tapes in a non-standard Scotch vc45 (45 mins) (<http://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/vintage-scotch-vc45-vc60-video-220693100>)

The Philips video recorder was in our possession and we were able to digitize some videos, but the recorder is now broken.

- 81 VHS (120 minutes) from the 1988 Summer School

The material and the supports (3)



The material and the supports (3)



Ensuring a Future for our Past!

We would like these initial experiments to be the beginning of a community effort, led by ILC- CNR together with you, and aiming to make the history of our discipline available, accessible, and explorable.

Preservation:

- Digitize all the available materials in a high quality format (equipment, best practices, ..)

Exploitation, Dissemination & Fruition:

- Make them all available in a web format in the ILC CLARIN center, but also through other channels (such as ELRA)
- Transcribe them, annotate them, study them...
- Address legal issues and open licensing

Videos

<http://webilc.ilc.cnr.it/videobox/>

5 seconds to wet your appetite!

... where we are!



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