

BAAL Corpus SIG Annual Meeting 4th September 2009
Minutes

Attendees:

Paul Thompson, Nicholas Groom, Fiona Barker, Tilly Harrison, Katrien Deroey, Alice Henderson, Richard Badger, Joan Cutting, Hilary Nesi, Alice Deignan, Benet Vincent

1. Minutes of previous meeting: were not available.
2. Introduction to committee members:
 - Paul Thompson – Convenor (to be re-elected)
 - Fiona Barker – Communications Secretary (to be re-elected)
 - Hilary Nesi – Meetings Secretary
 - Richard Badger – Ordinary Member
 - Tilly Harrison – Treasurer
3. Voting in new committee members:
 - Convenor: Nicholas Groom - Proposer: Paul Thompson Second: Tilly Harrison
 - Communications Secretary: Fiona Barker (3rd term) - Proposer: Tilly Harrison. Second: Paul Thompson
 - Ordinary member: Joan Cutting - Proposer: Richard Badger, Second Hilary Nesi

ACTION: Committee to meet at least once before next SIG Meeting, either in person or virtually.

4. Mailing list: this is currently not very active, although we have 99 members from the UK and 14 other countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Spain, Sweden, UAE, 2 others - lb/cn). We need to think of ways to get more out of it. Suggestions welcome to Convenor or Communications Secretary.
5. Website: this currently contains some documents about the SIG and past/forthcoming events. More could be added, including links to email addresses/abstracts/full text of papers, theses etc and information about current research projects. The website and discussion still have the potential to be a useful resource for Corpus Linguists within BAAL, especially with the addition of a searchable site, including individual member's names, email addresses and research areas, also research projects and pdfs of papers, theses and presentations. Although we have a general links page there are sufficient other web pages containing links to useful resources so it may not be necessary or desirable to replicate them here, however a regularly-updated list of member's activities may be suitable instead. A web form might still be the best option for individuals to add their own details and materials online. The SIG strand paper presenters (and other corpus-related paper presenters) could be asked to submit their details/papers to test the website. We could have other resources online. Suggestions welcome to Convenor or Communications Secretary.

ACTION: Communications Secretary and Committee to update web pages in response to any suggestions.

6. Events: At the annual BAAL conference we have a SIG track; we could have a colloquium instead. The Corpus SIG currently has one other meeting a year, usually in Spring. In 2009 one didn't happen, so we need to have one in 2010. We have finances available to invite people for such an event. The accepted suggestion was for a meeting in 2010 for developers of corpus query tools to present their tools. Hilary Hesi proposed Coventry as a venue, and will see whether Mike Scott (Wordsmith Tools) will accept the invitation. This event could cover the latest WST developments, and explore the thinking behind its functionality. Oxford University Press could be asked to contribute finances (or software?). We could also invite people to present in a shorter session on (free) programs you can use to extracting data from corpora. Other suggestions were to invite along a Scientext researcher, also Paul Rayson to talk about WinMatrix. The WST event could be a blueprint for similar events if successful.

ACTION: Meetings Secretary and Committee to arrange 2010 event/s, Communications Secretary to publicise via discussion list.

7. Finances: We have a stable amount in the account - £640.07. All SIGs receive £200 start up monies, then are self-financing. We could budget to break even for our next event.
8. No further business.