

understand why it is not possible and why you may not have time to chat. You keep a smile and carry on rushing.

The big day arrives. What can go wrong? Plenty, and mostly the unexpected.

In Lorient, we did not plan on the storms, nor the power cut that followed, nor for that matter getting locked out on Saturday morning because the security man had overslept. I am used to forcing the doors of the university, my setting off the alarms does add to the early morning atmosphere, but it does not do good for my nerves. Throughout, the team kept its good humour and the participants put up with the minor, and some major, inconveniences.

Day to day management requires a good team; keen student helpers and wonderful staff do help greatly. In Lorient we had both. There are a myriad of problems that the staff will have to deal with, and provided they can do it with a smile all goes well. People may fail to have booked a hotel room, they may have a car accident and need an interpreter, health problems, again requiring an interpreter, clashes may occur which require oil on troubled waters. All of these can happen and must be dealt with. None of these can be really planned for, but if the team is there an answer will be found.

Neither the organiser nor the team can be said to “enjoy” the congress in the same way as the other participants. They never stand still, they rarely finish on time, they never get to listen to a paper all the way through. They must be everywhere at the same time. Thank heavens for mobile phones. And yet, the congress is the climax of two years hard work, so with the adrenaline running high their enjoyment will be there. There is nothing quite as thrilling as the buzz of conversation. In July 2004, from Tuesday to Saturday, our faculty buzzed and everyone could feel the satisfaction. Conference organisers and their team are enablers, and enabling is exciting.

Come Saturday lunchtime the pressure should begin to drop. Saturday afternoon is for excursions, and if the planning has been done the coaches and guides will be there and a new holiday atmosphere will reign. The team can then relax... until Monday morning when the tidying, paying bills, sorting out cancellations et cetera begins.

Financial aspects

Now that we have looked at the organisational problems and their happy outcome, we need to look at the financial side of things. Congresses require time, and time may be money, but other factors

also have their costs.

Running a congress ain't cheap

In the introduction I said that it might seem natural that the task of congress organisation fall to an academic. This is of course not really so. There are many large conventions, much larger and more expensive, but less friendly, than EURALEX that are organised by professional bodies and set up by professional organisers. So why go to an amateur?

The answer is, of course, cost.

Many see EURALEX as an expensive congress. Compared to some it is, compared to others it is not. If the money is coming from your pocket attending a congress is a pricey thing, especially once you add in the cost of travel and accommodation. On the other hand, food is included and you walk away with a couple of volumes of proceedings that reflect what is best in lexicography at the time. The cost aspect is also a cultural one. In France we try to keep our meetings cheap as we get little or nothing from our universities to help with conference attendance, students may get a grant, but lecturing staff do not, so that an active researcher is going to be heavily out of pocket. The northern hemisphere tends to have higher overheads so relatively high fees are not surprising, it may be that laboratories also defray some of the costs involved.

Keeping costs very low works for small events, as grants will cover the basic costs, but as soon as an event goes beyond a critical size, costs inevitably rocket. Whilst not being of the size of vast impersonal conventions, EURALEX congresses do bring together an average 300 participants, which means that some sort of infrastructure is essential. This means that relatively high fees are requested. However, I hold that EURALEX congresses do offer tremendous value for money. Some professional help may be called in, but the vast majority of the workload is undertaken by people working for free. To explain the cost factors involved I shall outline the main sources of income and outgoings.

• Income

Fee structure

Fee structure must take into account the ability of people to pay, which is why we have a variety of fees and deadlines. In building a fee structure a number of factors have to be taken into account: job status, geographical origin, membership and date of payment.

Les Journées Allemandes des Dictionnaires Klingenberg am Main

‘Les Journées allemandes des dictionnaires’ is a new lexicography conference devoted to French dictionaries taking place in Klingenberg am Main, Germany. It is organized by the Institut für Angewandte Sprachwissenschaft of the Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nürnberg and is coordinated by Michaela Heinz.

The first meeting was held on 25-27 June 2004 with the theme **Entre définition et citation – l'exemple** featuring the lexicographic example in contemporary French dictionaries as a multiform and plurifunctional lexicographic unit which can be addressed to all types of users for different purposes in monolingual and bilingual dictionary contexts.

The event gathered some sixty participants with papers from Josette Rey-Debove, Bénédicte Gaillard, Jean Pruvost, Louis Mercier, Pierre Rézeau, André Thibault, Michel Francard, Pierre Corbin, Alise Lehmann, Michèle Fourment, Martine Coutier, Christiane Tetet, Peter Blumenthal, Franz Josef Hausmann and Michaela Heinz. The proceedings will be published by Max Niemeyer Verlag.

The second conference will be held on 7-9 July 2006 with the theme **Le Dictionnaire Maître du Langue: lexicographie et didactique** and be dedicated to the memory of Josette Rey-Debove.

It will highlight the didactic aspects of French

▶ dictionaries – their presentation, analysis and critique, and cover monolingual, bilingual and semi-bilingual learner's dictionaries, for native French speakers and for learners of French as a foreign language, for children, elementary French, chrestolexicography, the didactic value of illustrations in dictionaries, dictionaries and grammar, and didactic aspects in big dictionaries.

<http://www.ias.uni-erlangen.de/klingenberg2006> (from August 2005)

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The first, job status, is relatively straightforward as we differentiate between students and non-students. It is obvious that students have a lower income than the fully employed; they are also the lifeblood of the discipline as they represent new ideas and future full members of the association. There is thus a much lower fee in this case. However, increasingly, institutions will only pay a fee if a communication is accepted. This is particularly problematic as the doctoral student gets no preferential treatment in the review process and is up against established researchers in the selection process. This is another reason why student fees must be kept low so as to allow self-financing students to attend, and also why we set up a special pre-congress work-in-progress session at EURALEX 2004 so that students would have a greater chance of getting a paper accepted.

Geographical origin is slightly more complex. Originally this was put in to assist with people coming from behind the iron curtain, or to economies that were gradually adapting to the western European economy. In this case we would offer a low fee, and in many cases participants would be assisted with a grant from the Hornby Trust. This low fee category only concerned European countries, as we are a European association, and is also one that is being phased out as the candidate countries are now full members of the EU.

Membership is the third factor. There is no point in having an association if everyone, members and non-members pay the same fees. Lower fees are a privilege of membership and may even incite some to join. There is more to EURALEX than just the congresses and the more we are, the more we can do to promote all aspects of our discipline.

The final factor is one of time, and that is one that many have trouble understanding. Congress organisation costs, EURALEX does have seed money to help get congress organisation going, but many outlays come before the event, so money must come in from somewhere. In addition, the organiser has to have an idea as to numbers involved. Lunches and receptions are included in the fee, so the restaurant must have advance notice. Food wastage increases costs, and in a hungry world is also immoral. The only way of covering initial costs and calculating numbers is to give a variable fee structure based on date of payment.

Sponsors and grants

Fees may seem high, but they do not cover overheads. Other sources of financing are required. A considerable amount of time

can go into this. National, regional and local authorities may help, either in cash or in kind. Conference bags and contents have a cost, so when someone gives them, it helps greatly. The EU may be a source of funding, but we found that the weight of bureaucracy was enormous and then we got a refusal. So much wasted time for no result is depressing, but then a sponsor comes along.

Some give for general funds, others for more precise areas. We were extremely lucky to have the assistance of at least one major sponsor. The money was important, and their presence throughout the week also added to the event. The great generosity of the Hornby Trust enables many from central and eastern Europe to attend; they also covered the costs of the Hornby lecture, a fitting tribute to a man who did so much for lexicography. As we move around Europe, the local dictionary houses will come forward to help. Le Robert provided the CD-ROM dictionary that was in the Lorient congress bag, Larousse paid for the champagne aperitif at the gala dinner. These are all things that would otherwise have to come out of general funds.

Sponsorship also comes in through the exhibition, the fees are ridiculously low for the service provided. During a whole week, some 300 people representing all aspects of the lexicographical world will see a stand. This is the time to compare what other companies are doing, to show off products, and make contacts. Exhibitors may even find new staff.

This is what the exhibitor gets, but sponsorship is a two-way thing. EURALEX congresses are run by academics who are training the next generation of lexicographers, the EURALEX association is promoting good lexicographical practice and bringing awareness of dictionaries to a wider public. Sponsorship is thus putting back a little of what the publishing industry takes back. Coming forward spontaneously, as our sponsors did, saves time for the organisers and clearly shows a commitment to the event, and to the discipline itself.

● **Outgoings**

Staff

Very many hours of unpaid labour go into organising a congress, but inevitably some paid staff are necessary. Everything depends on the individual institution, some may charge for secretarial assistance, others not. If the assistance is not available, outside staff will have to be brought in.

In Lorient, we are a young dynamic