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The ITRO/ROHIST Project: Digitalizing Romanian History and Histriography of Translation itro.info.uvt.ro

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ABSTRACT: Building on the rapidly increasing necessity to make information available in electronic, searchable format in all walks of life, the ITRO/ ROHIST project, coordinated by the ISTTRAROM-Translationes research centre, seeks to collect and digitize information on the history and historiography of Romanian translation, in order to offer researchers and the general public access to valuable information in these areas. It also aims to shed light on the role and place of Romanian translation history and historiography on the international stage. This article presents what has been achieved so far in the project (regarding the content of the database and the technical aspects behind its setting up) and speaks about short and long-term plans to carry it on.

KEYWORDS: digitization, digital humanities, ITRO/ ROHIST project, Romanian translation history, Romanian translation historiography

RÉSUMÉ : Dans cet article, notre attention se portera sur les efforts de numériser la recherche en histoire et historiographie de la traduction roumaine. Le projet ITRO/HISTRO (Histoire de la traduction roumaine) part d'un constat évident : la nécessité croissante de numériser qui touche le monde dans son ensemble, y compris les sciences humaines et sociales. L'objectif fondamental du projet est d'appliquer les nouvelles technologies d'analyse et de publication de données à l'histoire et à l'historiographie de la traduction roumaine afin que les documents numérisés soient accessibles à toute personne susceptible de s'y intéresser. Signaler la recherche roumaine dans ce domaine et lui rendre un rang au niveau international est précisément la mission du projet dirigé par le Centre d'études ISTTRAROM-Translationes. Cet article décrit l'actuel état des lieux de la numérisation dans ce domaine et envisage ses possibles retombées.

Mots-clés : numérisation, humanités numériques, projet ITRO/HISTRO, histoire de la traduction roumaine, historiographie de la traduction roumaine

Introduction. Paving the way to the ITRO/ ROHIST project

The ITRO/ ROHIST project is the natural continuation of research in the area of translation history – with special emphasis on translations

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into Romanian – that the ISTTRAROM (now ISTTRAROM-Translationes) research center members carried out as part of another project, entitled *Contribuţia traducerilor româneşti (sec. XVIII-XIX) din limbile franceză, italiană şi spaniolă la dezvoltarea limbii şi culturii române, a schimburilor culturale româno-occidentale* [*'The Contribution of Romanian Translations (the XVIIIth to XIXth Centuries) from French, Italian and Spanish to the Development of the Romanian Language and Culture, of the Cultural Exchange between Romanian and the Western World'*], financed by the Romanian National Research Council, as one of the winning projects submitted in response to a call at the national level.

The project was organically connected to the declared general objective of the center: to create an environment that should facilitate the exchange of information on and expertise in the evolution of Romanian translations and the role they played in the development of the Romanian language and literature, as well as of Romanian mentalities and culture in a broader sense. Between 2005 and 2007, the research team members collected and processed a significant amount of data that they were able to find in printed catalogues and documents that Romanian university libraries and the Romanian Academy Library held at the time. The data were then systematized and published in three volumes: the first two are repertoires of translated texts and, respectively, of translators, while the third contains studies on the history of translation. All three seek to bring into the limelight both the Romanian contributions and the foreign influences that shaped the practice of translation and its development in the Romanian space.

The publication of volume I, *Repertoriul traducătorilor români de limbă franceză, italiană, spaniolă (secolele al XVIII-lea şi al XIX-lea). Studii de istorie a traducerii (I)* [*'The Repertoire of Romanian Translators from French, Italian and Spanish (the XVIIIth to XIXth Centuries). Studies in the History of Translation (I)'*], published in 2006, was meant as a "reading guide" to the history of Romanian translators and translations. As the first instrument of its kind printed in Romania, it marked the initial step in the creation of a reference thesaurus that could be usefully accessed when studying synchronic and diachronic aspects of translation. The volume mainly contains names of translators, their bio notes and the titles of the works they rendered into Romanian. To round it off, two other reference lists were added: one of various traductology publications (books, book chapters, collective volumes, articles, PhD theses, etc.), focusing on the two centuries under scrutiny, and one containing instruments used by XVIIIth and XIXth century translators – dictionaries and encyclopaedias – to assist them in their translation endeavour. The latter is essentially informative for the history of terminology and, implicitly, for the history of Romanian lexicography. The volume also contains the general bibliography consulted by the authors.

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The translators included in volume I are grouped chronologically in the two sections of the volume, each dedicated to one of the two centuries, the XVIIIth and the XIXth, while their translations are divided into literary and non-literary (medical, pharmaceutical, juridical, administrative, etc.). This structure makes it possible for the readers to approach the material both as a whole with strictly correlated parts and as a collection of individual parts. For the translators who signed their translations with their initials only, but whom the researchers could, nevertheless, identify, there is a single entry in the book, corresponding to their full name (for example, Aron Densuşianu, who signed his translations with the initials A.D. as well as C.R., occurs only once, as a full name entry; the translations signed by him in either of the two alternative ways mentioned are indicated as such). Anonymous translators who signed their translations with their initials only and could not be identified are not included in this volume. Instead, their translations are listed in volume II (in the entries containing the source text author and title), together with a reference to the fact that the translator remains unknown.

The majority of the titles of the translated works were preserved as they occur on the front page of the translated book, the researchers' decision to keep them as such being ment to offer information on the evolution of the Romanian language on the one hand and on the translators' choices, on the other.

The first volume of the trilogy is the result of the researchers' joint effort to disseminate knowledge about translation and to capitalize on the contribution of translations per se and of reflections on translation to the linguistic, cultural, political, social and economic development of the Romanian provinces. It is important to know who the Romanian translators were and to acknowledge the merits of all those who made the contact between cultures possible, through import and domestication of foreign linguistic and extra-linguistic realities; undeniably one becomes thus aware of the importance of translators as cultural mediators – as representatives of a distinctive cultural and ideological heritage – and of the role they played in the exchanges of all kinds between Romania and the rest of the world.

The second volume, *Repertoriul traducerilor româneşti din limbile franceză, italiană, spaniolă (secolele al XVIII-lea şi al XIX-lea). Studii de istorie a traducerii (II)* ['*The Repertoire of Romanian Translations from French, Italian and Spanish* (*the XVIIIth to XIXth Centuries). Studies in the History of Translation (II)*'], also printed in 2006, preserves the structure of the first: the material is divided into two sections, based on the same chronological criterion as previously – the works that were translated in the XVIIIth century are grouped together in the first section of the book, while those translated in the XIXth century are gathered in the second. The literary – non-literary classification of the translated works is also used here, but unlike in the previous volume,

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where anonymous translations were not included, the focus being placed on the translators themselves, translations that are not clearly attributed to a certain translator are part of this second volume of the trilogy. Like before, the Romanian titles corresponding to the original foreign ones are indicated in the *Repertoire (II)* just as they appear on the title page, the alternation between contemporary Romanian language and XVIIIth and XIXth century Romanian being due to the fact that the information has not always been collected from libraries, where the researchers had direct access to the books, but from other, indirect sources as well. The fact that more numerous sources were accessed when compiling the translations lists for the second volume than for the first volume resulted in the inclusion of a higher number of titles (approximately thirty new titles were added).

Volume III, *Un capitol de istorie a traducerii româneşti. Studii de isorie a traducerii (III)* [*'A Chapter of the History of Romanian Translation. Studies in the History of Translation (III)'*], builds on the data gathered in the previous two volumes and seeks to provide the readers with a general view of the historic and cultural context of the two particular centuries when translations into Romanian of interest to the authors were performed. Besides this, a glimpse at some linguistic peculiarities of the target texts is offered, including reference to features such as, lexically – the use of archaisms, of words specific to a certain regional variety of Romanian, of neologisms of Latin, Modern Greek, French, German or Russian origin, and syntactically – the employment of calques.

Many of the peculiarities of the texts translated into Romanian in the XVIIIth and XIXth centuries were, undoubtedly, the consequence of the stage reached by Romanian in its development at the time. If the majority of the European vernaculars had already won their battle with Latin, the *lingua franca* in Europe for quite some time**,** in the space delimited by the Danube, the Charpatians and the Black Sea, the official language depended on who dominated the Romanian provinces at a given moment. The Romanians, the educated ones undoubtedly, experienced bilingualism, a fact that marked their linguistic and cultural autonomy.

The succession of various dominant powers in the Romanian provinces, supported by historical proofs, turned the educated Romanians into perfect bilinguals and trilinguals (a fact frequently proved by their own writings in foreign languages), able to communicate easily, efficiently and, more often than not, better in languages other than their own mother tongue. This was mostly because Romanian was a very young, not yet well-established language, not in the sense in which any language, as a living organism, develops and then decays, but rather in the sense that it had not yet been born, it had not yet reached the ideal state of being the norm (see, in this sense, Teodosie's confession in Ursu and Ursu 2004: 232-233). In this context, the translator's task was ingrate, but it proved formative, moralizing, and powerful.

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When talking about the rhetoric of Romanian translations in the XIXth century, the ISTTRAROM-Translationes centre scholars present the conclusions they have reached, based on resources produced at different moments in time. Research in the area of translation history up to the moment when the three volumes were published displays an obvious contradiction: the crucial role that translations into Romanian played in giving birth to the national literature, in shaping the public's taste for reading, and, more generally, in educating people (in other words, in boosting linguistic and national self-determination) was acknowledged, but a minute presentation of the aspects specific to the translation process had not been done.

Therefore, without any pretence of offering a comprehensive view, what the authors have intended to bring into the limelight – based on information found in book prefaces, articles, literary declarations, etc. – was the meaning of translation in the XIXth century Romanian culture. They have been aware of the double risk implied by their attempt to talk about translation as it was perceived and put into practice two hundred years ago: on the one hand, there may be the danger of involuntarily placing too much emphasis on the general, shared tendencies, to the detriment of what was peculiar in certain translation contexts; on the other, there is also the peril of relativizing points of view that may seem secondary to some readers, but fundamental to others.

A first thing that the authors could notice was the sharp distinction between translations into Romanian done at the start of the XIXth century (a continuation of the translation practice begun in 1780) and translations into Romanian during the latter half of the 1800s, marked by "Dacia literară" journal, printed in Iaşi, beginning with 1840. At least theoretically, it became obvious that the role of translation in culture and society started to change and this brought about a break in the Romanian translation movement, which drew a clear separation line between past rhetoric and translation strategies and those about to be used. Thus, a switch occurred from practicing free translation - *ad sensum*, with extensive adaptations and additions, to applying literal translation - *ad verbum* (the former betrayed the translators' insufficient knowledge of the working languages and their inability to find proper equivalents for realities that differed in the source and target languages and cultures).

However, one should bear in mind that the free translation – literary translation cleavage was not apparent to many, which meant that problematizing translation issues was still not of obvious concern to translators and scholars in general. Nevertheless, intellectuals like Titu Maiorescu, Alexandru Odobescu, Constantin Dobrogeanu-Gherea, Nicolae Iorga, writing mostly in the XIXth century and the beginning of the XXth, examined translation both as product and as process, paying some attention to the translation context, too (cf. Lungu-Badea 2015 [2013]). They thus produced genuine avant la lettre studies in the area of

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traductology and translation criticism. On the other hand, translators themselves would use terms like "free translation" ("traducere slobodă"), "localisation" ("localizare") and "faithful translation" ("traducere credincioasă") to characterize their own translations. Often, these translation methods were displayed on the title page of the translated works and, where it was available, this piece of information was accurately provided in the two repertoires because of its usefulness in the study of translation history and historiography aspects.

It was, however, only in the XXth century, once awareness of intellectual property rights was raised, that one could talk about faithful translation (in all its dimensions – faithfulness to the author, to the source text, to the target reader, to the communication context, to the historical distance, etc.) and that complex reflection on translation developed.

1. The ITRO/ ROHIST project so far

Work on the ITRO/ ROHIST project began in 2016, when the team of the ISTTRAROM-Translationes research center decided that the information gathered in the three volumes mentioned in the previous section is worth adding to and that it and the new data collected would reach a much wider audience, should they be digitized under the form of a searchable database, the first of its kind in Romania. The decision to proceed with the project was partly motivated by the fast growth of what Bunz (2014) calls the "digital public" – the mass of interest-driven users of electronic devices and the Internet, who have got into the habit of searching for information online, whenever they need it, from wherever they are, so as to make the most of what information is available in a short period of time. The necessity of having rapid access to information, unconditioned by the place where it is searched from, has been discussed by others as well (see, for example, Le Deuff, 2018).

The main reason for engaging in the project is, however, that, so far, no database on the history and historiography of Romanian translation has been compiled, though information of various kinds in the area of Translation Studies in Romania – contained especially in research articles, books and book chapters by Romanian scholars (though not all concerning translation into and from Romanian or the history of Romanian translation) - is scattered in various other, especially European, databases. Thus, the ITRO/ ROHIST project represents pioneering work in digitizing information on both the history and historiography of Romanian translation and a useful supplement to other databases and electronic bibliographies in the area of Translation Studies. The ITRO/ ROHIST database assumes a special role among these, given its uniqueness and its potential to both valorize the Romanian translation heritage and to boost research, by facilitating access to resources that are

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connected in a collaborative network (see, on the impact of digitalization on science, Zacklad et al., 2014).

For example, the *Translation Studies Bibliography*, published by John Benjamins, now also incorporating Benjamin's former *Translation Studies Abstracts Online*, currently contains approximately 29.000 journal articles, monographs, (articles from) collective volumes, reviews, reference materials, dissertations and unpublished manuscripts, with CrossRef DOIs, where offered, for easier linking to source materials. The search term "Romanian" returns 109 hits, representing links to works by Romanian and foreign authors, written on topics connected to translation involving Romanian, very few of which, however, are dedicated to the history of translation in our country. *BITRA – Bibliography of Interpreting and Translation*, compiled by the University of Alicante, currently contains approximately 73.000 books, book chapters, journal articles, PhD theses, with abstracts available for about half of them. The bibliography is quite widely accessible through its searchable versions in 15 languages, Romanian included. A higher number of works with some relevance for translation in Romania are mentioned in this bibliography (386 hits are returned when the search term "Romanian" is entered), but here again, few deal with the topic of concern to the ITRO/ ROHIST project. Platforms like the *Routledge Translation Studies Portal* offer an assortment of online resources, including reading lists in various areas of Translation Studies, but information on Romanian history and historiography of translation is again scarce. Various reading lists suggest titles that may be useful in researching and writing about translation history. Some such lists are those posted by the Centre for Translation Studies, KU Leuven and Riitta Jääskeläinen's (2002) *Think-aloud Protocol Studies into Translation. An Annotated Bibliography* (containing titles accompanied by short abstracts). Nonetheless, neither of these offer any suggestions as to reading material connected to the history and historiography of translation in Romania.

1.1. The structure of the information stored in the ITRO/ROHIST database/application: itro.info.uvt.ro

In the process of digitizing historical data, Landon et al. (2002) identified the following steps to follow: establishing the structure of the acquired data, identifying a storage support, organizing data so that they should meet the project aims and facilitate future exploitation, developing an application for data visualization, exploration and management. Landon et al. (2002) suggested that the first step in the digitization process flow is to set up the design of the application. This, according to him, is followed by the implementation of the design and by the data acquisition stage. In our case, however, the data acquisition step preceded the digitization process, as the team of philogists collected the data first and

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stored them in doc. files. Only after this did the team of IT specialists design and implement the application. This was not regarded as a disadvantage, as knowing what exactly the application will contain was of help to them. Data collection is actually an ongoing process and the database is constantly updated.

So far, information on the history of Romanian translation of the following type has been collected for inclusion in the ITRO/ ROHIST database/ application: the translator's name (this is accompanied by a photo, when available), the translator's date and place of birth and death, his/ her pseudonym (if any), general biographical aspects and details about his/ her editorial and social contributions relevant for his/ her activity as a translator, his/ her activity as a translator and a list of the works translated, divided into manuscript translations, old and modern editions of the translated texts, translated texts without biographical coordinates. Dictionaries and textbooks authored by the translator – if they were produced – are also mentioned, as we considered them publications that demonstrated the translator's preoccupation with topics adjacent to translation, but closely related and significant to it. The sources from which the data have been assembled and the initials of the researcher who compiled the entry represent the metadata, given at the end of each record. Thus, the information about translators and their work, already available in the database, is displayed as in Figure 1 in the Annex.

Based on the information provided on the translators and their work, a WEB application was developed. In order to design an information retrieval system that should not pose difficulties to its users, a relational database was chosen. The WEB application is developed by using open source technologies based on J2EE[1] specifications which allow the division of the application into modules that can be reused. The information is displayed via a REST[2] API service, which means it can be interrogated so as to be incorporated into other applications, if necessary. Data protection and data transparency are two important aspects that need to be taken into account when an application that displays information publicly is developed. Data protection refers to aspects like information/ database backup and data management. In our case, data can be managed (i..e the existing information can be changed or additional information can be added) only by users that have signed in the application and thus have been granted authorized access to it. Registered users themselves can be added by the project manager only. Regarding data transparency, all information provided is assembled from public data sources that contain information on the translators and their activity, so no violation of personal integrity issues are raised by our project. The researchers that

[1] J2EE - Java 2 Enterprise Edition Platform (https://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javaee/appmodel-135059.html)
[2] REST API - Representational state transfer API

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have collected and processed the data have consented for them to be published (the initials of the first and last names of the researcher who managed the data are introduced at the end of each entry in the database).

The application has two main components: one that is dedicated to common users and one that is accessible only to the person who manages the data accessed by the general public.

Each of these components is detailed in the following two sections.

1.2. The ITRO/ROHIST database/application from the user's perspective

The common users can search through the database by using one of the following criteria: the translator's name (which may either be picked up from the list of translators that appear on the first page of the database or may be introduced in the dedicated dialogue box), the translated author (e.g. Victor Hugo), the title of the translated work (e.g. *Doamna Bovary*), and the time or period when the translations were carried out (e.g. 1800-1820). An advanced search option is available – it involves a combination of search criteria, based on which more refined results may be obtained. Figures 2 to 4 below illustrate possible ways of searching the database.



Figure 2. The user's perspective: search term - name of the translated author (Hugo)

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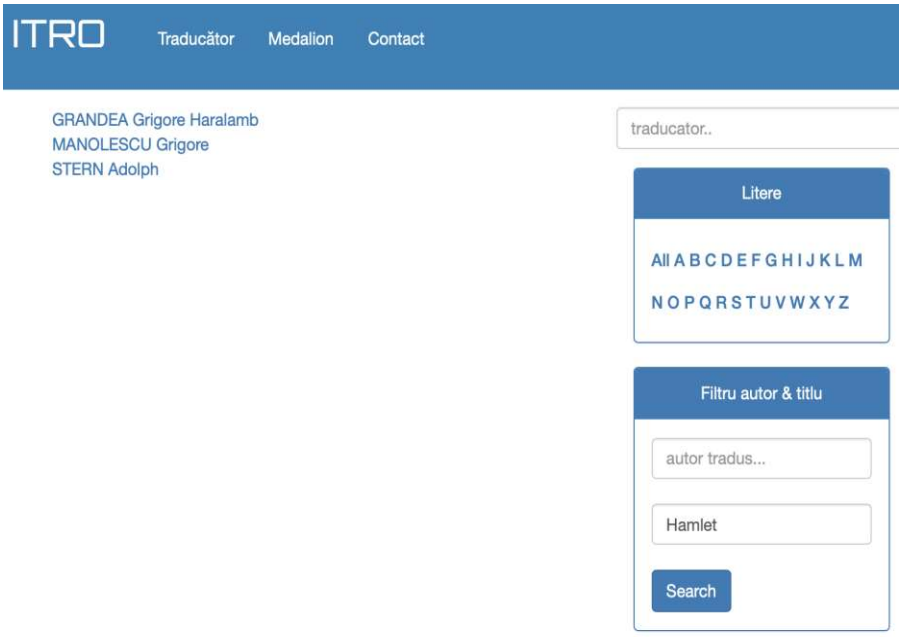

Figure 3. The user's perspective: search term – title of the translated work (*Hamlet*)

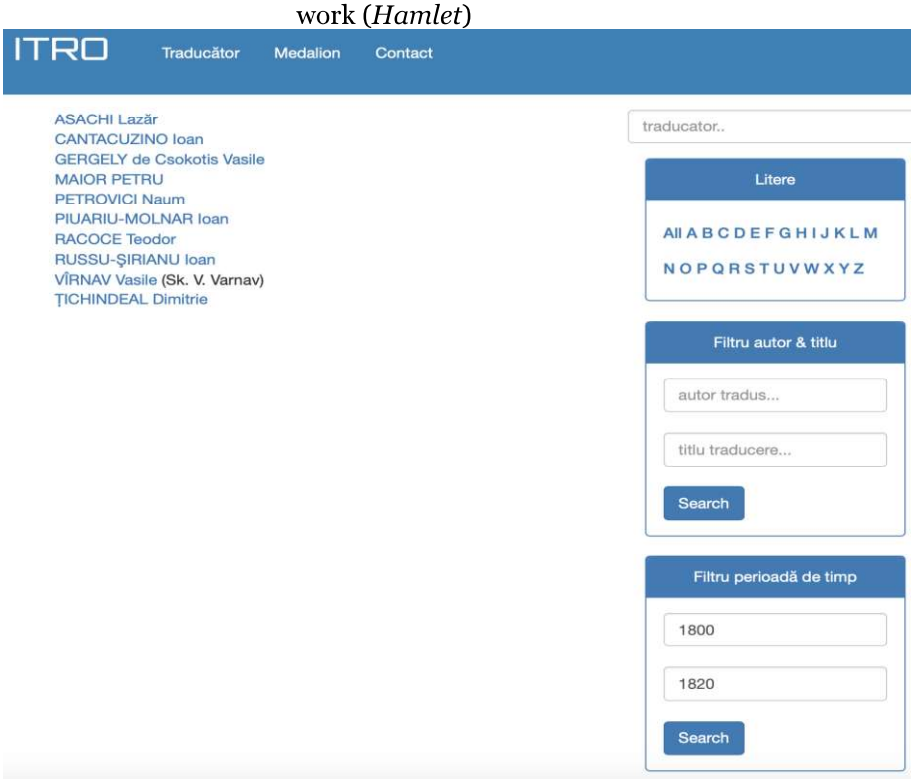

Figure 4. The user's perspective: search term – the time period when the translations were carried out (1800-1820)

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1.3. The ITRO/ROHIST database/application from the administrator's perspective

The data in the ITRO/ROHIST application are managed in separate categories accessible to authenticated users only. The information has been structured in such a way as to provide more flexibility for future developments. As it is quite rich, for ease of management, this information was split into two categories: one containing the translators' bio data (date and place of birth/death, education, positions filled, activities relevant for or connected to their translation activity, etc) and the other - titles translated, presence in electronic databases and references.

Since the information was collected before the ITRO/ROHIST application was developed, the database was populated manually, which resulted into some inconsistencies in data structure. These, however, allow for rapid uniformization in the near future.

An example of the perspective the database administrator has on the information s/he works with is provided in Figure 5 below:

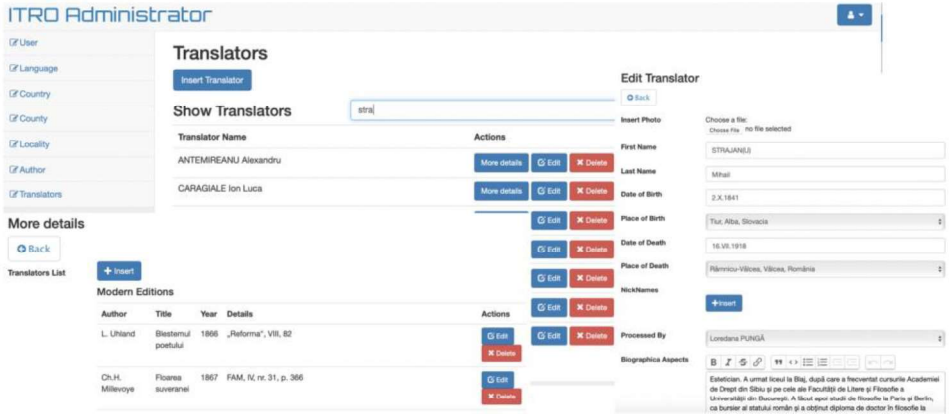

Figure 5. The administrator's perspective

2. Future developments of the ITRO/ ROHIST database

Besides the uniformization and correction (where necessary) of the existing data, the ISTTRAROM-Translationes researchers plan to develop the ITRO/ ROHIST database/application by introducing on the platform a digitized collection of texts on the historiography of translation in Romania; this would be a useful addition of interpretative, analytic material to the archive-type one. More exactly, what we intend to add is a secondary bibliographical database, containing titles of books, book chapters, articles whose topic is (directly or indirectly) the historiography of translation in Romania (so far, approximately 50 titles, written in the

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2000s, have been collected). The titles will be accompanied by all available reference data, the indication of the type of material included in the database, an abstract in the language in which it is available online (most of the times, this language is English) or an indication whether the printed material contains an abstract/ foreword, the link to the full text of the material (if available online) and/or an indication of the library that holds the printed material (for some of the entries, this piece of information is already available). Like the part dedicated to translators and their translations, this too will be searchable, based on all the inclusion parameters set. Where possible, links from pieces of information already uploaded on the platform will be established to the corresponding meta-text(s) (e.g. Balaţchi's (2012) article on *Madame Bovary* will be linked to the entries dedicated to Laura Vampa and Eugen Vaian, who both translated Flaubert's novel into Romanian).

Scanning the resources that are not available in electronic format and uploading them on the platform is one of the long-term goals of the project. So are the addition of the most representative translators' medallions and the translation into English of the material uploaded on the platform (this will mean opening the database to a much larger, international audience).

Work in progress concerning the historiography of translation in Romania has so far yielded results that are organized as in Figure 6:

Autor: Balaţchi, Raluca
Titlu: "*Madame Bovary* en roumain ou un siècle de (re)traduction". În *Atelier de traduction*, nr. 17, 2012, pp. 53-69. Suceava: Editura Universităţii Suceava.
Tipul publicaţiei: articol
Rezumat: The paper focuses on the importance of the practice of retranslation for the history of translation, which is a central issue in any translation theory. After a brief review of the main theoretical approaches of retranslation, we illustrate the dynamics of this phenomenon on the basis of the six versions of Flaubert's Madame Bovary published in Romanian. The editor's and translator's paratext is the main focus of our analysis.
Online:
http://www.usv.ro/fisiere_utilizator/file/atelierdetraduction/arhive/arhive_full_text/ATELIER_nr_17.pdf

Fig. 6. Additional information to be included in the databse

Conclusion

The ITRO/ ROHIST project, as we see it, represents a contribution of the ISTRAROM-Translationes center researchers to the larger Europeana project (www.europeana.eu), launched in 2008 by the European Commission to promote the European heritage from pre-history to the present days. Europeana now offers access to more than ten million digital objects – books, paintings, movies, museum exhibits, recordings –

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contributed by EU museums, galleries, libraries and archives, and it continues to expand. In its 2011-2015 strategic plan, the following four tracks are mentioned as fundamental to the project (some of these have borne connections with ideas about the importance and the outcomes of digitization put forth by, for example, Warwick et al., 2012):

a) aggregate content, to build the open trusted source of European heritage;
b) facilitate knowledge transfer, innovation and advocacy in the cultural heritage sectors;
c) distribute the European heritage to users, wherever they are, whenever they want it;
d) engage users in new ways of participating in their cultural heritage.

We believe that these aims are perfectly transferable to the ITRO/ROHIST platform, which will hopefully integrate Romanian research in the European sphere interested in the diachronic investigation of translation. In seeking high quality data conservation, the platform combines the results of archivists', translation historians' and translation researchers' work, meant to offer user-friendly, compact, simultaneous, unlimited and on- the-spot access to a wealth of data concerning the history and historiography of translation in Romania, which may thus be searchable, depending on the focus of interest, on the basis of the filters that can be applied. Such access may ease the understanding of translation theories and strategies in our country and the complexity of their relation with the translation phenomenon beyond the our national borders.

Via the ITRO collaborative platform, the ISTTRAROM-Translationes center researchers contribute to creating a historiography of Romanian translation, a history of the the translation history (the process) and of the works translated into Romanian (the translation products). In Romania, like elsewhere in the world, the interest in the history of knowledge domains generalizes. Traductology, as one such domain, branches out in challenging directions, building mainly on: translation history research; the model of temporal continuity (inventorying translations, describing them chronologically, compiling translators' repertoires), in which division into time periods is taken over from the history of Romanian language and/ or literature; the translation studies terminology (strategies, methods, procedures, concepts, etc.); and the aims of research in the history and historiography of translation.

At present, more and more representatives of the academia in our country have displayed growing interest in the history and historiography of Romanian translation, their research being polisystemically semi-synchronized with research on similar topics in Western Europe.

The limitations of the ITRO/ ROHIST project, of which we are perfectly aware, derive, on the one hand, from the fact that the history of

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translation in Romania is still undergoing a process of genesis and so, it has not yet reached its peak, and, on the other, from the scarcity of financial and human resources needed in order to inventory the relevant printed and electronic materials. Despite these, the studies that have already been included on the ITRO/ ROHIST platform are worthy of attention not only because of their number (already quite high), but also because of their diversity - the natural consequence of the various perspectives taken (contacts via books - readings of the original vs. the translation, and direct and indirect contacts via other channels than the books themselves, which trigger divergences between the two corresponding histories: an internal one, that has been lived and recalled by those who have lived it, and an external one, written retrospectively by modern researchers).

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Translation Studies Bibliographies, Reading Lists and Databases

Translation Studies Bibliography: http://benjamins.com/online/tsb/
BITRA – Bibliography of Interpreting and Translation[https://dti.ua.es/en/bitra/introduction.html
Routledge Translation Studies Portal: http://cw.routledge.com/textbooks/translationstudies/resources.asp
Reading List by the Centre for Translation Studies, KU Leuven: https://www.arts.kuleuven.be/cetra/suggested_reading_list

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Annex

Figure 1. Database entry – translator Mihail Strajan(u)

ITRO Traducător Medalion Contact



Poză traducător:

Nume traducător: STRAJAN(U) Mihail (2.X.1841 Tiur, jud.Alba,România - 16.VII.1918 Râmnicu-Vâlcea, jud.Vâlcea,România)

Aspecte biografice:

Estetician. A urmat liceul la Blaj, după care a frecventat cursurile Academiei de Drept din Sibiu şi pe cele ale Facultăţii de Litere şi Filosofie a Universităţii din Bucureşti. A făcut apoi studii de filosofie la Paris şi Berlin, ca bursier al statului român şi a obţinut diploma de doctor în filosofie la Universitatea din Giessen.

Atribuţii/Contribuţii editorial, sociale:

A fost membru al societăţilor „Astra", „Junimea" şi „Ramuri"; colaborator la revistele „Convorbiri literare", „Familia", „Federaţiunea" şi „Românul"; redactor la „Vocea română" şi director al „Bibliotecii populare „Socec" din Bucureşti. A desfăşurat activitate didactică la Iaşi, Botoşani, Bucureşti şi Craiova. La Craiova, a contribuit la dezvoltarea vieţii culturale a localităţii, prin organizarea de numeroase conferinţe şi prin participarea la întemeierea Ligii culturale. A scris numeroase manuale şcolare, apreciate ca fiind printre cele mai bune în perioada în care au apărut ediţiile princeps. A contribuit la *Enciclopedia română* a lui C. Diaconovici, cu articole pe teme de istoria literaturii române.

Activitate traducator:

Deşi S. dovedeşte un cert simţ al limbii, traducerile sale din literatura latină (Vergiliu), italiană (Leopardi, Pellico), franceză (Hugo) şi germană (Goethe, Schiller, Freiligrath) nu se remarcă în mod deosebit decât prin exactitate.

Listă traduceri:

Ediţii moderne:

Uhland L. – *Blestemul poetului* 1866 „Reforma", VIII, 82
Millevoye Ch.H. – *Floarea suveranei* 1867 FAM, IV, nr. 31, p. 366
Gilbert N. – *Adio vieţii* 1869 „Familia", V, p. 31; Biblioteca Centrală Universitară „Eugen Todoran", Timişoara http://aleph.bcut.ro/F/-/?func=find-b&request=000108747&find_code=SYS&local_base=cut01; Biblioteca Naţională A României http://alephnew.bibnat.ro:8991/F/-/?func=find-b&request=001164085&find_code=SYS&local_base=nlr01; Biblioteca Metropolitană Bucureşti http://aleph20.bmms.ro:8991/F/-/?func=find-b&request=000063336&find_code=SYS&local_base=mlb01
Goethe J. W – *Din suferinţele lui Werther* 1870 „Familia", VI, p. 366; Biblioteca Centrală Universitară „Eugen Todoran", Timişoara http://aleph.bcut.ro/F/-/?func=find-b&request=000108747&find_code=SYS&local_base=cut01; Biblioteca Naţională A României http://alephnew.bibnat.ro:8991/F/-/?func=find-b&request=001164085&find_code=SYS&local_base=nlr01; Biblioteca Metropolitană Bucureşti http://aleph20.bmms.ro:8991/F/-/?func=find-b&request=000063336&find_code=SYS&local_base=mlb01
Vergiliu – *A X-a eclogă* 1871 „Convorbiri literare", V, p. 11; Biblioteca Academiei Române, Iaşi http://85.186.121.42:8991/F/-/?func=find-b&request=000026286&find_code=SYS&local_base=rai01;
Vergiliu – *Nis şi Eurial. Episod din cartea a IX-a a Eneidei* 1872 CL, VI, p. 7
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Freiligrath F. – *În căsătorie* 1891 „Convorbiri literare", XXV, p. 5; Biblioteca Academiei Române, Iaşi http://85.186.121.42:8991/F/-/?func=find-b&request=000026286&find_code=SYS&local_base=rai01;
Leopardi Giacomo – *Dialog între Frederic Ruysch şi mumiele sale* 1893 CL, XXVI, nr. 11, p. 954-966. Traducere cu o notă explicativă; CL, XXVI nr. 11, p. 966-975. Traducere cu o notă explicativă;
Leopardi Giacomo – *Din cugetările lui...* 1895 „Convorbiri literare", XXVI, p. 11, XXIX, 7; Biblioteca Academiei Române, Iaşi http://85.186.121.42:8991/F/-/?func=find-b&request=000026286&find_code=SYS&local_base=rai01;
Vergiliu – *Egloga I-X* 1904 T, XXXV, p. 77-82, 124-143
Krummacher Fr. Ad. – *Duşmanta* 1909 A, XX, 1909, p. 12
Pellico Silvio – *Moartea lui Dante Alighieri* 1911 Craiova, Tipografia Fulgerul
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3. Quintescu N. Ch. – *Raport asupra scrierilor didactice ale domnului M. Strajan* 1895 AAR, partea administrativă, t. XVII, 1894-1895.
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5. Smântânescu D. C. – *Un uitat: Mihail Străjanu* 1934 AO, XIII, p.71-73.

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