

**XVII^e Congrès International des Linguistes
XVII International Congress of Linguists**

**Prague, Czech Republic
July 24 – 29, 2003**

**RÉSUMÉS
ABSTRACTS**



Organized by
Faculty of Mathematics and Physics
Charles University in Prague
Center for Computational Linguistics
and
Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics

In cooperation with
Institute of Czech Language
Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic

Under the auspices of
Comité International Permanent des Linguistes

Qualitative Typological Databases: The Surrey Experience

Dunstan Brown, Greville Corbett

Surrey Morphology Group, University of Surrey
d.brown@surrey.ac.uk & g.corbett@surrey.ac.uk

By the term 'Qualitative typological databases' we mean databases which contain a small to medium range of genetically diverse languages, but cover a particular linguistic phenomenon in detail. The Surrey Morphology Group has made available over the web—at www.smg.surrey.ac.uk—three such databases. The Surrey Syncretisms Database covers every instance of syncretism in 30 diverse languages, and the Surrey Database of Agreement covers agreement constructions in 15 diverse languages. Both of these databases map out the typological space and provide a detailed description for each language with example paradigms and detailed language reports. The third Surrey database, created by Matthew Baerman, is much broader in coverage (over 100 diverse languages) and concentrates solely on Person Syncretism in subject marking on verbs. While it has a broader coverage, this database still incorporates links to relevant example paradigms.

In this talk we shall discuss our experience of creating these database and making them available. We shall look in particular at the

initial design, the testing of the design, and provision of supporting materials to facilitate use of the databases.

An Int

Databases
recent adva
But turning
and comp'
application
notions an
linguist wit
experience

The t
Although
database f