

2012-01-06 A16/SKA

Recommendation for Jakob Halskov

Jakob Halskov was employed by the Danish Language Council on a part time basis (30 hours a week) as a post doc researcher from February 1st 2007, and on a full time basis (37 hours a week) as a researcher from September 1st 2010 till August 31st 2011 when he left the council because he wanted a change of career.

With his solid background as a computational linguist, Jakob quickly became the key figure in the digitalisation of the council's activities. Since 2007 all core activities of the council have been reviewed and digitalised, and new important functions and business areas have been developed, first and foremost, with Jakob as the technical supervisor. Jakobs main contributions were:

- Information structuring and transformation (XML, XSD, XSLT and databases). Jakob designed and implemented the schemata for several dictionary databases and led the digitalisation process of the large word collections at the council, including scanning, OCR-recognition and the handling of pictures and text, server solutions, software and hardware issues; and he then developed the current workflow for the continuous updating process of our dictionaries in the databases and on the web.
- Text and web mining (perl, unix tools). Jakob developed the workflow and designed the software for the important specialised text and web mining tools of the council with special focus on collecting large amounts of text data from the web and to mine them for neologisms - new words and expressions.
- Web editing tools (PLONE, MODx) and other tools. Jakob has continuously monitored relevant IT tools in order to optimise the workflow in various areas of the council and to manage tasks more efficiently. He has been in charge of many of the Language Council's websites, as well as the websites of the Nordic Language Coordination - a project run for the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Jakob has been involved in every IT-related activity at the council. He has represented the council in several it-projects; for instance, the CLARIN-DK research infrastructure (financed by the Danish Ministry of Research) where he was in charge of collecting, mining and transforming Danish texts to various formats in accordance with international standards such as TEI, and NORDBASER (financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers) where he developed and designed the specifications for a multilingual database and monitored the implementation process in close cooperation with the developers. He has presented and published quite a large number of scientific papers about his work.

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Jakob instantly understands the needs of the non-expert users and constantly monitors the latest applications in order to find the best and most up to date solution. At the same time he has a good feeling for the integration of the new tools in the workflow and management processes.

When Jakob decided to change his career, he immediately agreed to stay on as a consultant a few hours a week in order to introduce his successor to his work, and to make the transference as smooth as possible.

He is a hard-working team player who eagerly pursues the optimal solution to a problem but always with possible time or resource constraints in mind. He is supportive and helpful towards his colleagues, great company and a very stable and loyal employee.

We would really have liked Jakob to stay on at the council, and we wish him the very best.

Yours faithfully



Sabine Kirchmeier-Andersen
Director

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About the Danish Language Council

The Danish Language Council is a government research institute under the Ministry of Culture <http://www.kum.dk/>. The council was established in 1955.

Mission

By collecting and disseminating knowledge about the contemporary Danish language, we help and inspire everyone to share information, thoughts and ideas in clear and suitable Danish.

The Danish Language Council works on a scientific basis to follow the development of the Danish language. On the basis of this knowledge, we provide advice and information about the Danish language and its status, and define the Danish orthography. The language council collaborates with Danish public institutions, organisations and leading language research communities, both nationally and internationally. Furthermore, the language council has an obligation to collaborate with language councils and corresponding institutions in Scandinavia and in Europe. Our objectives are provided by Act No. 320 of 14.5.97 on the Danish Language Council.

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