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**EDUCATION AND TRAINING
IN CONSERVATION**

Valuing the quality of mutual understanding among heritage professionals in a global network

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This poster addresses a recurring issue in the international field of conservation: the need to use and share a common professional language as accurately as possible, not only to learn and transmit knowledge and information but also to work and collaborate in a global but highly specialized network. Three key areas are identified: the educational context, conservation research, and professional practice. As a training institute that is part of an international network, the Institut national du patrimoine (INP) is concerned with the quality and precision of translations and with effective communication within the professional conservation world. In the courses offered by INP, student conservators spend a period of time abroad during which they are encouraged to improve their foreign language skills and specialized vocabulary (in conservation materials, techniques, and treatments). These occasions are also opportunities for INP to engage foreign students or organize training courses abroad, for which the Institute develops support tools such as the multilingual glossary produced by its Paper Conservation studio (<http://www.inp.fr/en/Resources/EUROPAP-Vocabulary-on-conditions-assessment-in-graphic-arts>). Conservation training also involves teaching in monuments and other institutions. In 2019, for instance, INP and the Shaanxi Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (China) developed a joint training program focused on the Gongshutang temple conservation project that enabled reflection on the role of translation and mutual understanding among peers. INP has also organized training programs for Chinese- and Arabic-speaking professionals, which have been accompanied by careful translation work. These experiences have shown that greater linguistic precision, from training to practice, generates more fruitful professional and human exchanges. In their professional life, conservators often deal with non-standardized terminology, fluctuating definitions, and their lack of knowledge in foreign languages. Condition reporting during international loans, for example, in which conservators are responsible for describing a given object using technical terminology and for indicating the conditions of handling, packaging, and installation, is prone to communication barriers. English as the common language does not entirely solve this problem, and conservators, collection managers, curators, and other professionals need to deal with vocabulary challenges. Developed by conservation professionals, the Horus Condition Report (Horus CR) application (<https://horus-conditionreport.com/en/>) is a multilingual digital tool for condition reporting that allows users to translate standardized inventory-related terms (accession number, title, dimensions, etc.) and produce a standard document. Terms related to materials, techniques, and damages can be translated and mapped on photographs of the artworks. Relevant information can be translated into eight languages, and the list of around 150 damage-related terms is available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Swedish, Dutch, and Modern Standard Arabic. A conservation specialist who is professionally fluent in at least two languages is in charge of translating specific terms, particularly those related to damages, and consults with conservators from other specialties to find the most accepted terms in each field. User feedback can be sent to the Horus CR team to fine-tune the translation. The authors believe that specialized terminology glossaries, collaborative databases, and other specific tools, as well as awareness of the accuracy required for effective communication among conservators, must be integrated into the education of future professionals to avoid misinterpretation and to value the quality of global exchanges in conservation.