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Book Review

The Illustrated Glossary of Paper Conservation: a tool for interacting cultures

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Book Review Information

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In 2021, the "Illustrated Glossary of Paper Conservation: Damages and Treatments" was published digitally in Portuguese, Spanish, English, and Greek. The authors, Márcia Almada and Silvana Bojanoski, are university professors of professional training courses in paper conservation at Brazilian universities.

The idea of publishing an illustrated glossary arose from the need to create a guide that could standardise discourse in a field that still lacks systematic terminology. The four languages were chosen due to academic and professional partnerships established between the authors and collaborators, which aim to expand and strengthen interactions among diverse cultures and facilitate technical communication. The Portuguese version is based on the Brazilian experience; the English version was developed following the terminology used by the American Institute of Conservation and served as a point of convergence for resolving conflicts during translation; the Spanish version was constructed by professionals at the National Library of Mexico, and the Greek version draws on the experience of the Department of Archival, Library & Information Studies, University of West Attica.

The Illustrated Glossary was based on Silvana Bojanoski's PhD thesis, which focused on creating a terminological product for undergraduate students in the field of paper conservation in Brazil. Bojanoski's research began with identifying the characteristics of this professional field, organising a structure of technical knowledge (preventive conservation, damage diagnosis, and treatments), collecting terms from professionals in the area, crafting definitions, and finally, organising and presenting the glossary aimed at professionals in training.

For the multilingual edition of the work, terms were

selected and reviewed, and equivalents were translated into the four languages. The foreign language versions started from the original Portuguese spoken in Brazil and aimed to respect each language's linguistic and cultural peculiarities. As the translation process is complex and relates to the specificities of professional experiences, the collaborators and translators were experts in the field and translated to meet international communication needs without disregarding local nuances.

Subsequently, the laborious editorial process of the e-book involved collecting, selecting, and producing representative images for each entry, with generous contributions from colleagues in the profession. The organisation followed the process, strict control of terms in the four languages in spreadsheets, and the development of alphabetical indexes. The editorial project development included a team of designers and editorial producers under the direct supervision of the authors. The concept developed focused on easy navigation among entries in the same language and among the four languages, with a design allowing viewing on different devices.

As a result, the glossary was published in a digital format and is freely available on the publisher's website (see link below). The digital format allows for linear reading of the entire glossary or the consultation of terms in any of the four languages through hyperlinks indicated with distinct colours for each language. Term consultation can be done in three ways: with a numerically ordered hierarchical diagram (the tree diagram), alphabetically, or through a table of equivalence of the terms in the four languages, also organised alphabetically.

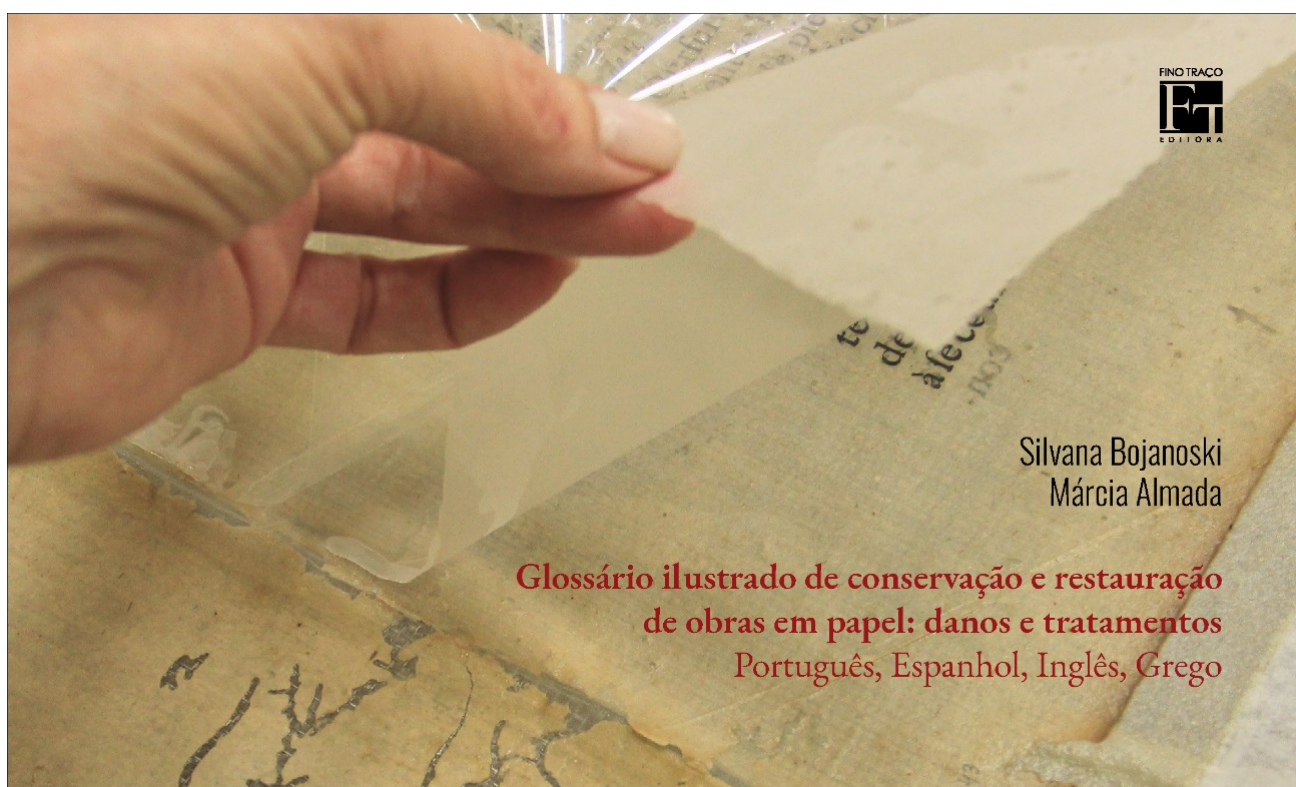
It is understood that terminology studies facilitate communication and are essential for the revision, development, and transmission of technical and scientific knowledge in specialised areas. Producing tools such as glossaries, dictionaries, and terminological databases is fundamental to building a repertoire of technical and scientific language, reducing ambiguity in word meanings, and enabling greater transparency and clarity, all required in the scientific field. In this sense, terminological studies are

essential in communication processes among professionals in the specialised field and with related areas. Besides, it is crucial to strengthen communication of specialised knowledge with the general public.

In this regard, the publication of the "Illustrated Glossary of Paper Conservation: Damages and Treatments. Portuguese, Spanish, English, Greek" plays an essential role in disseminating the field of paper conservation, not only because it is a multilingual glossary but also because it serves

as a tool for interaction among people, cultures, and nations.

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