

Collaborative Approach to Translating Online Learning Content:

A Partnership Between the Research Data Management Librarian Academy and National Taiwan University Library

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PROJECT BACKGROUND:

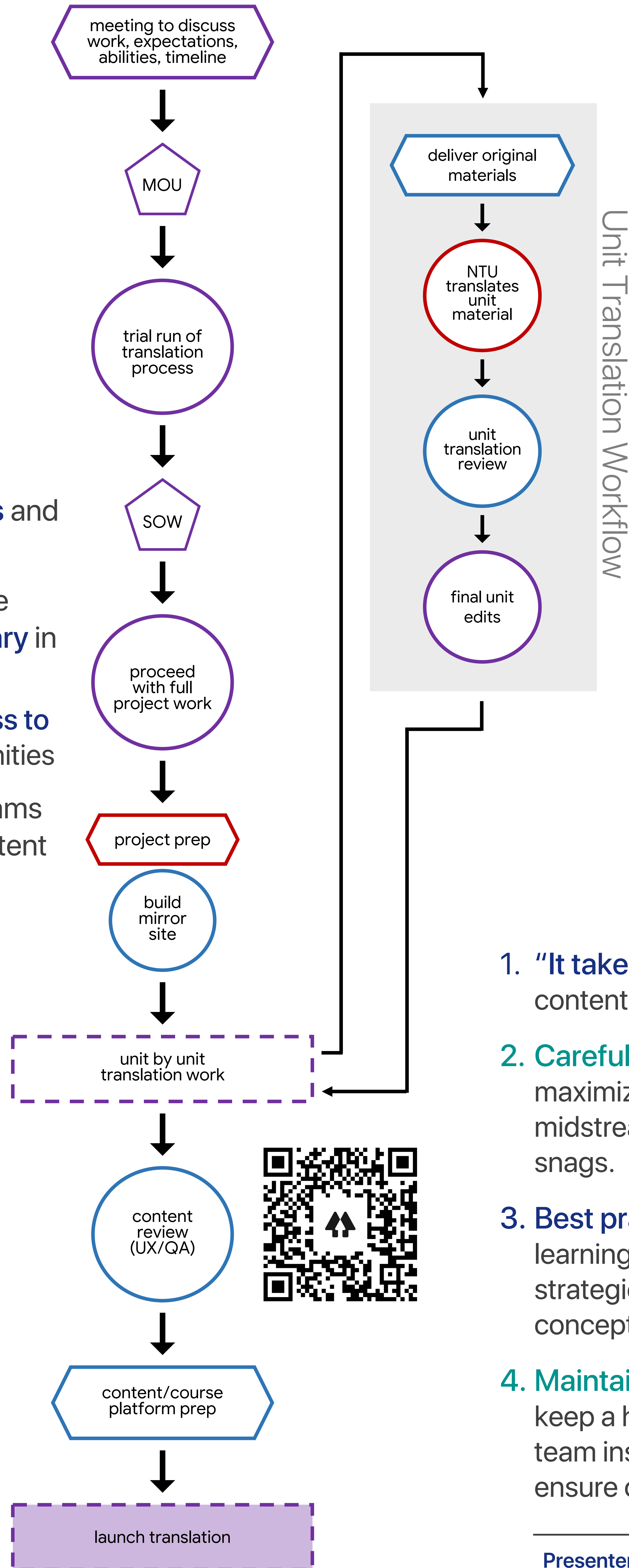
- The RDMLA is a **global professional development program for librarians** and other professionals working in research-intensive environments
- To reach a broader learner community, the RDMLA established a **Chinese translation partnership with the National Taiwan University (NTU) Library** in early 2020
 - The partnership is based on a **shared purpose of providing better access to quality, open access educational materials** to broader learning communities
- Through a **collaborative approach involving an iterative review**, both teams ensure the translation retains authenticity and integrity of the original content

EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The Statement of Work (SOW) signed in June 2020 **specified work expectations, capabilities, responsibilities, and timeline**
- NTU team assumes the financial commitment** of their translation work, while **RDMLA maintains the rights to the original materials**
 - Both teams have **equal access and use of the Chinese translation**

SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION:

- Emphasis placed upon valuing each group's contributions
- Mutual respect created an open and inclusive environment allowing for honest communication and collaborative attitudes
- Positive participation and recognizing each team's strengths
- Dedicated to equitable learning and growing a community of practice



CHALLENGE 1: Translating technological content, acronyms, and related tools.

- SOLUTION 1:**
- Acronyms are to always be spelled out and remain untranslated
 - Associations, programming languages, software, and platform tools, remain untranslated

CHALLENGE 2: Translating conceptual content and American expressions and idioms.

- SOLUTION 2:**
- Field-related theories and principals (ex: FAIR) are spelled out in English and background context in Chinese
 - Idioms and American expressions - teams work to find an equivalent Chinese expression
 - When a literal translation is not available, a semantically equivalent version is substituted

CHALLENGE 3: Terminology differences in Taiwan and Mainland China.

- SOLUTION 3:**
- A glossary table is included in each unit to list frequently used terms in both traditional and simplified Chinese

LESSONS LEARNED:

- "It takes a village":** A team needs more than just translators - content experts and coordinators are also essential.
- Careful planning and flexibility:** Planning helped minimize cost and maximize productivity; understand timelines may need to change midstream; technical difficulties were overcome by anticipating future snags.
- Best practices for the translation and review process:** Translating learning content is not a literal word-for-word translation, there are strategies and mindfulness associated with handling both conceptually and technology content.
- Maintain rigorousness in translation accuracy:** It was important to keep a high level of rigor and quality, which was achieved by each team inspecting the translation at different levels of granularity to ensure consistency and accuracy.