

# Colin Brace

freelance writer/editor/translator

cb@lim.nl

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## Summary

As a native speaker of English, I have carved out a comfortable niche in the Netherlands doing various kinds of writing for hire, including translation, copywriting, and journalism. Much of my work has been in the IT industry, but I also write frequently for non-technical audiences.

Over the years, my activities have encompassed not only editorial activities but also technical tasks, such as localizing software and building web sites, as well as taking on organizational responsibilities, such as administration and project management.

Companies and organizations I have done work for include Ahold, Canon Europe, Dow Chemical, Draka, the European Commission, the European Association for Machine Translation, Gemeente Amsterdam, KLM (Holland Herald), Koninklijke PTT Nederland (KPN), Nederlands Omroep Stichting, Shell Upstream International, the University of Pisa, among others.

Although I work in English, I am a fluent speaker of Dutch and an intermediate Spanish speaker. In 2001-2002, I spent some eighteen months on work/study in South America, mostly in the Andean region, where I gathered material for a writing project.

As a Linux and BSD user, I have a great interest in all things related to open-source software. I contribute to the community by editing documentation wikis, sharing the odd shell script, and filing bug reports. For several years, I contributed heavily to the open-source encyclopedia Wikipedia, creating and editing articles on technology, journalism, music, and Latin America, among other topics.

Samples of my writing can be found on my website.

## Specialties

Linguistic software, telecoms, environmental technology, current affairs, Dutch history and culture, Latin America; also basic competency in website technology (HTML, CSS, CMS) and project management.

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## Experience

**editorial consultant at TAUS Data Association**

March 2010 - Present (2 months)

**freelance writer/editor/translator at (self-employed)**

1987 - Present (23 years)

I began working as a freelance translator (Dutch into English) in 1987, doing mostly technical and business texts. Subsequently, I took on various technical writing jobs (writing and translating manuals and localizing software). In the course of the 1990s, my focus shifted to journalism, by way of copywriting, largely in the IT world. In more recent years, my professional interests have turned more towards environmental issues and current affairs.

**webeditor at iamsterdam.com**

November 2009 - March 2010 (5 months)

On behalf of the City of Amsterdam, Department of Communications, I served as a web editor for iamsterdam.com, the international English-language portal maintained by the municipality and partners.

**member of executive committee and webmaster at European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT)**

1993 - 2003 (10 years)

Participated in planning the annual workshops and other events and contributed to Machine Translation News International, the association's newsletter. As webmaster, I saw to it that the EAMT obtained an early and prominent presence on the Net.

**project coordinator at DicoPro**

1998 - 2000 (2 years)

Responsible for project administration, documentation, and outreach for the European Union-funded DicoPro project, which developed a prototype multilingual dictionary server for intranet environments. The participants in DicoPro were a research institute (ISSCO), two reference work publishers (Hachette, HarperCollins), and three translation/documentation companies (Multilingual Technology, L&H Mendez, Xynos).

**writing and editing at URL Manager**

1999 - 1999

Documentation for URL-Manager, a shareware bookmark manager for the Mac developed by Alco Blom.

*1 recommendation available upon request*

**writing and editing at Web Confidential**

1998 - 1998

Documentation for Web Confidential, a shareware password manager for Mac and Windows developed by Alco Blom.

"Although Web Confidential is easy to use, Alco deserves credit for working with writer Colin Brace to create an excellent manual.[...] one of the best shareware manuals I've seen." --Adam C. Engst.

TidBITS

### **copyeditor at "State of the Art in Human Language Technology"**

1996 - 1996

Copyedited the LaTeX manuscript of the EU- and NSF-funded study "State of the Art in Human Language Technology" on behalf of the editorial board.

### **editor/publisher at Language Industry Monitor**

1990 - 1996 (6 years)

The Monitor was a bimonthly newsletter for the language engineering field. It acquired a small but influential readership; subscribers came from industry, academia, and government. The material which appeared in the Monitor is archived at my website.

### **consultant at TMA Associates**

1994 - 1995 (1 year)

Gathered data on the European speech recognition market TMA Associates; contributed to TMA's newsletter, "Speech Recognition Update"

### **consultant at RELATOR**

1993 - 1995 (2 years)

Subcontractor for the EU-funded RELATOR project, which laid the groundwork for the establishment of the European Language Resources Association (ELRA) in Paris. Prepared the RELATOR Industrial Steering Committee briefing and the ELRA membership drive materials; assisted with related publicity activities.

### **consultant at Glossasoft**

1993 - 1994 (1 year)

External reviewer for the EU-funded Glossasoft project. Prepared mid-term and final reviews for the European Commission.

### **consultant at Localization Industry Standards Association**

1992 - 1994 (2 years)

Editorial contributions to the Localization Industry Standards Association (LISA) newsletter; program planning for the annual meeting

*1 recommendation available upon request*

### **contributing writer at Language International**

1991 - 1994 (3 years)

### **contributor at EAGLES**

1992 - 1993 (1 year)

Wrote several sections on translation technology for the EU-funded EAGLES study.

### **freelance copywriter at HakuHodo**

1990 - 1993 (3 years)

Worked nearly exclusively on advertising campaigns for Canon Europe (re. corporate image, photo

and office equipment).

**freelance copywriter at Nederlands Omroep Stichting**

1990 - 1990

Copywriting for marketing materials used to sell Dutch-made television programs in foreign markets.

**contributing editor at Electric Word**

1988 - 1990 (2 years)

Electric Word was a bimonthly, English-language magazine published in Amsterdam between 1987 and 1990 that offered eclectic reporting on the translation industry, linguistic technology, and computer culture. Its editor was Louis Rossetto. I served as software editor; wrote reviews, feature articles, news reports, as well as commissioning and copyediting texts written by others.

**subcontractor at Language Industries Survey '89**

1989 - 1989

Participated in the EU-funded Language Industries Survey '89 project . Responsibilities included preparing a monthly news release and a regular column in Electric Word highlighting new language technology products and innovation.

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**Education**

**Boston University**

Classical Studies, 1978 - 1982

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## 2 people have recommended Colin

"In LISA's early days Colin managed the editorial for the LISA Newsletters. While publishing his own tech-review magazine he helped position LISA as an industry voice for localization technology. Colin has a rare combination of techno-savvy, analysis and wit. In my opinion he is simply one of the best writers in the industry."

— **Michael Anobile**, *Director, LISA*, was with another company when working with Colin at Localization Industry Standards Association

"As a technical writer, Colin Brace quickly makes a subject his own, then writes intelligently and understandably about it. In my case, the assignment was documenting a shareware program I had written; he brought structure to an early draft and then delivered an excellent user manual."

— **Alco Blom**, was Colin's client

[Contact Colin on LinkedIn](#)