Universal Terminology

Chapitre 17: Help System

This chapter is about the help system underlying the implementation and the presentation of the terminology, in particular on the website.
Basically, the help system must be present in any situation when the users of the terminology need it. Casual or expert users have quite a different knowledge of the terminology, being its content or its presentation. Therefore, there needs are variable. The best help system must be always present and subtly visible.
This document is the chapter 17 of the book Universal Terminology which presents a global documentation on the $\mathbf{T}_{logy}$.

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17.1 Overview

The help system of the terminology is made of 8 comprehensive levels, where the user can learn about the website, its content and the navigation to the desired targets. Each level is made available here and there, depending on the local context. However, they are some systematic guidelines applied, making the user certain of finding what is asked for. The goal of this chapter is to consider all levels of the help system and to document them.

The terminology is defined as independent of any language, but of course it is presented in several vernaculars. Any casual user is supposed to be a native speaker of one of them, or at least to be fluent with it. Because the website is covering the domain of anatomy, most users are supposed to have

a working knowledge of Latin. However, it is known that this knowledge may be partial with some users. Anyway, this should not be a limiting factor. In addition, several users master several languages and would be happy to compare the proposed translations. These arguments drive us to the conclusion that the help system cannot be exclusively in English.

This language aspect is twofold: it is present in the presentation and in the content of the website. A considerable effort has been consented about the publication of the terminology in 5 languages (and more to come). A parallel effort is necessary about the presentation. The authors of the terminology are convinced that an international terminology must be open to multiple languages. The best scientific papers are finally translated in these languages and the terminology must be present.

In the detailed description thereafter of the help system, the multi-language aspect will be documented. In particular, the way texts are translated and validated will be indicated.

17.2 Levels of help

The user is in permanence at risk of being on need of some help information when navigating the website of the terminology and interpreting its content. But such a request could be at completely different degrees of detail. *How to find the Spanish term?* or *what is an isa link?* are quite different questions: the first one is quite practical and the shorter would be the answer, the better; the second one is a global request of information about the science of ontology.

We distinguish 8 levels of help or documentation depending on the situation. They are shortly presented here and would be detailed in the subsequent sections of this chapter:

Level 1: Legends
Legends, as well as subtitles, are all texts appearing on a page of the website that are predefined texts with the immediate goal to introduce an information issued of the database representing the content of the terminology. They are one of the facets of the representation/content aspect.

Level 2: Bubbles
Bubbles are similar to legends, except that they are not visible unless the pointer is on the legend or the subtitle. The bubbles are complementary to the legends, generally more verbose and bringing partly new information.

Level 3: Notes
The notes are explanatory texts about the implementation of the website. Their goal is to explain why the presentation or the content is as it is actually displayed, when alternate solutions would have been possible. The authors of the website are justifying their choices.

Level 4: Instant help boxes
These boxes can be call from certain navigation pages of the website. Their goal is to provide an instant help about this page, how to navigate from there to the next page. The boxes are open or closed exclusively on user action. The boxes are part of the page where they are visible.

Level 5: Guided tours
Here and there the authors of the terminology propose some guided tour in the website. The user is invited to follow a predefined pedagogical path following selected aspects. The user will possibly see unexpected features, not immediately visible in a rapid overlook of the website. Usage of the guided tour is totally optional.

Level 6: Help files
These documents are detailed descriptions of certain content pages as largely spread through the website. The help files are carefully written, tend to exhaustively describe their dedicated topic, provide examples and didactic clues and are linked to the reality by numerous hyperlinks.

Level 7: General documentation
A set of documents is available as an introductory, descriptive, documenting, reference and illustrative medium about the website. These documents are scientific texts on justification of the actual terminology and much more in the domain of anatomy and ontology.

Level 8: Scientific publications
A corpus of peer-reviewed publications is the top level, on which the Universal terminology must be grounded. A bibliography of the domain lists the major publications related the terminology.

17.3 Legends

Legends are the visible texts present on a content page, typically a Unit Page. Legends accompany the content of the page, but they are not the content. On a specific type of page, the content will change with each new page, but the legends are constant, even if they can be modulated by the context.

A typical view on legends is presented in figure 17.1.

By definition, by legend we consider all fixed representation texts that could be visible on a page. This word includes all the titles, subtitles, headers and complements possibly displayed.

The language of the legends is call the representation language. It is usually left to the user. Whatever are the content languages, the representation language is chosen from the allowable options. As a general rule, when the user as selected his favorite languages, this choice remains permanent as long it is not changed again or the user starts a new top action.

The legends are made available in all modern languages of the terminology, but not in Latin. Because they are fixed texts and limited in quantity, they can be easily validated by a native speaker of each language. The translation between languages, on the contrary of the content texts like the terms of anatomy, is not constrained to a similar syntax and similar selection of words. The authors of the terminology as well as the translators are free to adapt to local traditions if they want to do so.

At implementation point of view, the legends are instantiated as dedicated interface units made of a single entity. This entity has a distinct value in all vernaculars. Generally, it has no universal formula. The legends are classified by section type and page type.

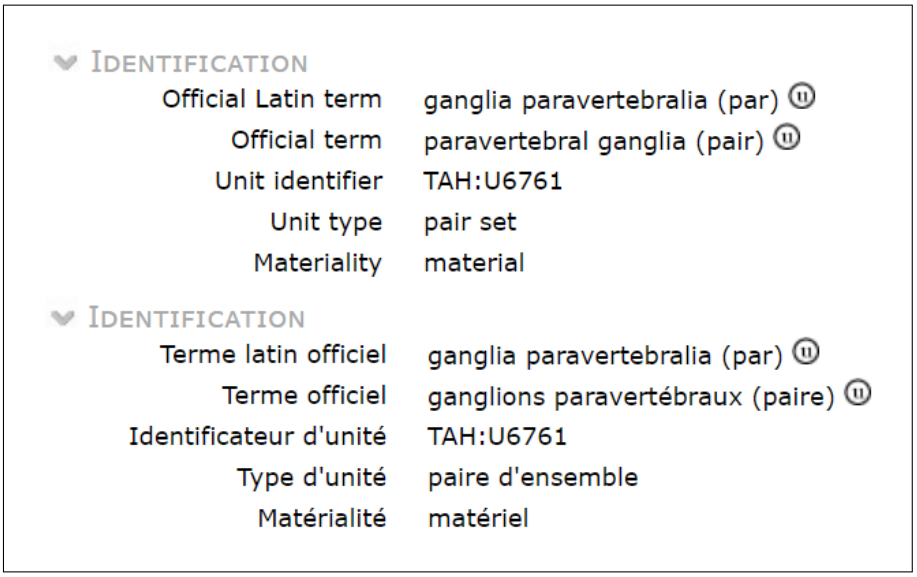

Figure 17.1: Two identification sections with Latin/English and Latin/French legends from the LA:*paravertebral ganglia*. The bubbles accompanying this section are visible on the Unit Page itself, that can be reached with the above link. They are also visible on the screen dump of figure 17.2

17.4 Bubble

Bubbles are legends with different conditions for their visibility. Bubbles are visible exclusively on user action, when moving the pointer to a legend or to some content values.

On figure 17.2, one can see a typical bubble in the presentation vernacular, French here. Moving the pointer to the title of any section will display the corresponding bubble.

When the pointer driven by the user moves on top of a legend, the bubble appears and when the pointer moves out, it disappears. Such an action can be repeated at will.

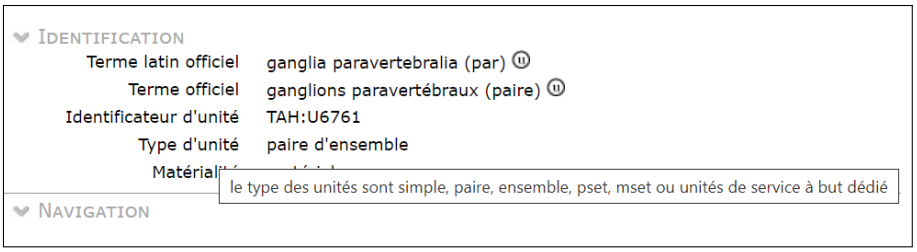

Figure 17.2: An identification section with French legends from the LA:*paravertebral ganglia*. A bubble accompanying the legend *Type d'unité* is visible. The pointer, not visible here, must be over the text *Type d'unité* for the bubble to appear.

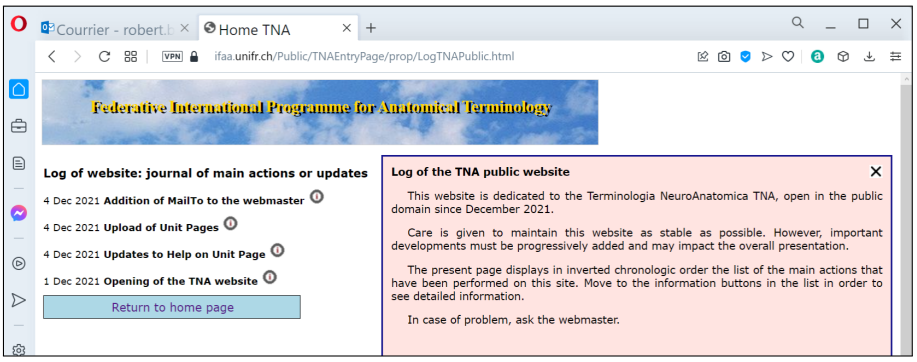

Figure 17.3: On the Log Page of the website, there is a typical help box that has been open. It overlaps on the page, but this can be adjusted by reframing the browser window.

The bubbles are given in the representation language, necessarily the same for legends and bubbles.

Bubbles are implemented on the legend entities. These entities present a legend value and a bubble value in all vernaculars. In general, each legend has a corresponding bubble, but this value can be left empty.

Bubbles are not limited to legends and titles. In hierarchical lists on Unit Pages or Entity Pages, bubbles are available to display the terms in the subsidiary language.

17.5 Notes

Notes are some free text about the implementation of the website. They may be about the presentation or the content.

Notes are attached to the units and indirectly to entities. Therefore, they are naturally displayed on Unit Pages, Entity Pages or other entity-related pages.

Notes are intended to be translated by some automatic translating tool in all vernaculars. If a translation is not available in a specific vernacular, an existing English version may be used in place.

17.6 Help boxes

Help boxes have been created in order to help on the navigation in and from the current page. They are valid for the present page, not necessarily in external pages. They may act on the present page by actions driven by interspersed icons or buttons within the text of the box. Of course, they disappear when the page is closed.

On figure 17.3 is presented a typical helpbox, open and overlapping the page itself.

The help boxes concern uniquely the navigation pages, and not the content pages. They are open by user click on the small bulb icon and closed by user click on its close button or the small bulb icon.

Instant help icon

Close help box icon

The help box is anchored to the right margin of the page. If the help box overlaps too much on the content of the page, it suffices to enlarge the web-browser window to diminish or exclude such an overlap. The current implementation is designed for a large screen, not for a tablet or a cell phone.

The help box has a title on its top line, with a close icon to the right. The rest of the help box is a text with possibly multiple paragraphs. The text may be interspersed with icons, buttons or hyperlinks, allowing direct actions of the user in control of the actually open page.

Help boxes are intended to be translated by some automatic translating tool in all vernaculars. If a translation is not available in a specific vernacular, an existing English version may be used in place.

17.7 Guided tours

The guided tours are pedagogical tools offered to those users who prefer an initial teaching before exploring the website by themselves. They are totally optional.

A guided tour is a sequence of visits to a batch of significant pages related to a specific topic. The pages are preselected by the guide, commented about their content and significance, and accessed by a direct link by user click. After visiting a selected page, the user can come back to its initial point and continue with other pages. The tour can be interrupted at will.

Guided tours are intended to be translated by some automatic translating tool in all vernaculars. If a translation is not available in a specific vernacular, an existing English version may be used in place.

17.8 Help files

Help files have been designed in order to carefully document all the significant Content Pages as present on the website, like typically a Published List or a Unit Page. They act as the ultimate help to the user and therefore they are supposed to exhaustively describe their dedicated topic. On the contrary of the instant help box, the help files are intended to be read at large and eventually to receive a concentrate reading on some relevant aspect.

Help file icon

For the above purpose, the help files have been written with care using a professional editing tool. The text is completed with numerous examples from the website, which can be directly reached from the file when necessary, allowing a direct user interaction. Figures and tables are designed when necessary, and they are commented. Validation of these files is necessary by a user independent of the author of the file.

The help files have been written in English. Translations are possible, but dependent on elusive manpower resources.

17.9 General documentation

A general documentation is underway about the terminology and ontology domain. This is an long task dependent on very few persons. No release date can be actually formulated.

The structure of the general documentation is actually made of 24 chapters. The present document on help files is the chapter 17.

17.10 Scientific publications

References to the scientific literature is a preponderant service to make available to the readers of the general documentation. A rather complete bibliography is in preparation, see *chapter 50*. Links to PDF copies of articles will be provided.

17.11 Log of updates

15 Aug 2025 Revised chapter. From now on, the source reference version is the French version.

30 Mar 2022 Standardisation of the file as a chapter.

6 Dec 2021 Creation of the file.

17.12 Credentials

This document is part of the book "Universal Terminology" accompanying the website on Terminologia Anatomica. It expresses the vision of the authors of the terminology about its content and its form of presentation. Despite it is as exact as possible, close to the reality of the database of the terminology and the surrounding software, approximations, errors and ambiguities are possible and should be considered as independent of their willingness and intents.

Identified comments about the content of the website and its presentation are welcome. An appropriate answer will be given when pertinent.

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