

- MT on the web started with SYSTRAN Offering free translation of small texts (1996), followed by AltaVista Babelfish, which racked up 500,000 requests a day (1997). Franz-Josef Och (the future head of Translation Development AT Google) won DARPA's speed MT competition (2003). More innovations during this time included MOSES, the open-source statistical MT engine (2007), a text/SMS translation service for mobiles in Japan (2008), and a mobile phone with built-in speech-to-speech translation functionality for English, Japanese and Chinese (2009). Recently, Google announced that [Google Translate](#) translates roughly enough text to fill 1 million books in one day (2012).
- The idea of using digital computers for translation of natural languages was proposed as early as 1946 by [A. D. Booth](#) and possibly others. [Warren Weaver](#) wrote an important memorandum "[Translation](#)" in 1949. The Georgetown experiment was by no means the first such application, and a demonstration was made in 1954 on the [APEXC](#) machine at [Birkbeck College \(University of London\)](#) of a rudimentary translation of English into French. Several papers on the topic were published at the time, and even articles in popular journals (see for example [Wireless World](#), Sept. 1955, Cleave and Zacharov). A similar application, also pioneered at Birkbeck College at the time, was reading and composing [Braille](#) texts by computer.