

## **Janet Carter-Sigglow, Head of the Language Services of Forschungszentrum Jülich**

### **The Language of Science – the Language Services of Forschungszentrum Jülich**

The work of the Language Services reflects the environment of Forschungszentrum Jülich as one of the largest national research centres in Europe concerned with energy, supercomputing, and the human brain. Jülich has more than 5800 employees, while we are a small team of three translators and a team assistant accommodated in the Central Library.

The majority of our work concerns translations from German to English or revising the language of texts written in English by non-native speakers. Accordingly, two of the translators are English native speakers and one German. The texts communicate Jülich's research findings whether as publications in specialist journals for scientists, reports for committees, or popular science for the general public.

On this international campus, internal communication in English is also important for the increasing number of visiting scientists and international staff. We thus translate the fortnightly staff newsletter and quarterly magazine, laboratory safety instructions, circulars, intranet postings, contracts, and the canteen menu.

For all our translation work we use SDL Trados Studio and MultiTerm. Additionally, we have a selection of licensed specialist electronic dictionaries. We also have a project management system developed in house by the Central Library.

New colleagues are integrated rapidly and take on responsibility at an early stage, for example as part of our cross-checking policy. The paramount demand made on new colleagues is an outstanding command of their native language and first foreign language. Obviously, an active interest in scientific issues is required. We assume familiarity with at least one translator's software product and good Internet research skills. Awareness of the cultural context of the working languages and experience abroad is indispensable. Last but by no means least, interpersonal skills are vital for working in a small team and for liaising with authors.