

Nathan Weatherdon
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PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND OBJECTIVES

In 2008, I started translating research papers for the PEP Research Network. This work required significant knowledge of economic theory, an in-depth understanding of real world challenges in development, and strong attention to detail in grammar in order to communicate key methodological details. More recently, I have proven myself through successful completion of a UNECA commissioned study on development planning since 1960. This led to my authorship of final project outputs under the guidance of CESS Institute. These two projects effectively prove my ability to synthesize vast volumes of information and to provide constructive feedback which is valued by key players operating in complex and continuously changing environments.

Since transfer of capacity is a central objective in most of the work I do, I wish to bring my skills into a more structured organization where I can acclimatize myself to working in a more traditional workplace setting. My own professional development is always important to me, and this is most likely to happen if I can prove my ability to reapply my skills towards specific project outcomes and capacity building at the level of teams, always with a view to broader organizational objectives.

EDUCATION

Université Laval Sept 2008 – Aug 2011
• MA, Economics
• Certificate of distinction for master's thesis, awarded when the jury is unanimous that a thesis is of the highest quality that one might expect at the master's level

University of Toronto May 2004 – Aug 2008
• HBA, Political Science Specialist

SKILLS

Project management and team play (and related real project which demonstrates the skill):

- Strong capacity to assimilate large volumes of information and provide relevant feedback in continuously changing and uncertain environments (UNECA-funded project summarizing lessons learned from development over the last 50 years)
- Strong capacity to understand the needs, interests and capacities of diverse players and balance them in moving forward on a project (I translate and edit despite research skills)
- Strong capacity to use images, graphs, tables and the written word to summarize baselines, progress, objectives, in addition to provision of constructive feedback
- Awareness of strengths and weakness of team members, and a strong desire to play complementary roles in order to maximize organizational efficiency
- Able to stay focused on rapidly performing repetitive tasks, particularly when this is consistent with efficient achievement of organizational objectives

Computers (proof):

- Advanced skills with all Microsoft Office applications, including data manipulation, document formatting, macros, and programming interactions between and within documents (refer to [IknowMSOffice.pdf](#) for documentation and evidence).
- Data and information management
 - I can produce standard statistical outputs using SPSS, Stata or Excel (test me)
 - I can clean data according to programmed sorting methods (test me)
 - I can rearrange and sort data for the purpose of producing reports or to serve as inputs to produce routine statistical outputs or for more advanced modelling techniques including all conventional types of regressions (test me)
 - Basic knowledge of SQL. More than enough to convey realistic requests (give me a tough request, then send me to talk to IT)
 - Highly trainable due to exposure to many programming languages and techniques.
- Translation (proof)
 - Trados and Wordfast (that's my bread and butter, but I don't even need these tools)
 - Use the GUI to ensure that no text is lost in the process
 - Produce a translation memory to standardize terminology
- Internet (proof)
 - HTML: basic coding and design skills. (See [nathanweatherdon.com](#), [inandoutofthebox.net](#), or [parc-msms.org](#) for samples.)
 - Wordfast: can update a blog and back up files. Tailoring programming skills towards file management is a priority for skills development. (See previous)
 - Ebay, Taobao et al.: experience using outlets to try out suppliers. (I said it)
 - Facebook, Twitter, forums, etc. I know how to use these platforms. I tend to engage users in subject-relevant forums, not via these classical tools. Content, content, content. Responsive. If he/she who signs the paycheque says those are the tools he/she wants to use, then I will use them. (I said it)
 - Interested in learning PHP, CSS, and Photoshop for design and development.

Language:

- Translation
 - I can translate from French and Spanish into English without additional resources in areas where I have strong subject knowledge
- English
 - On paper: The pedigree of clientele who count on me to proofread the culmination of many years of research, whether in academics or in commissioned public policy analysis at national and international levels, stands testament to the highest quality of writing and my ability to provide direction in continuous improvement
 - In person: With two years of experience as a teacher, I can surely plan and deliver a presentation. In the office, often I will speak quickly to get an idea across. When giving a presentation, rest assured that I am clear and concise
- French
 - Writing: I can communicate with clients and produce drafts of documents. For a polished veneer on final project outputs, a proofreader will be useful.
 - In person: If you don't mind my accent, then we're good to go.

- Spanish
 - On paper: I can read Spanish. If you want me to write, I can work on it.
 - In person: Probably the client speaks better English than my Spanish. If need be and they really want to, we will understand each other well enough.
- Mandarin
 - On paper: If it's important enough for the workplace, I will not pick up on every level of nuance.
 - In person: I am comfortable meeting people and discussing common matters of interest. Probably the client speaks better English than my Mandarin. But they may enjoy that I can speak some Mandarin, and I could be useful to have at the table. Also, if many Mandarin speakers are in the office, my knowledge of the language may help them to easily improve in written and oral English.

Other cliché things to say in a CV but which are actually very true:

- Adaptable and easily learn new processes
- Strong critical thinking and analytical skills

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Nathan Translates – Translator, Copyeditor, and Development Consultant Oct 2008 – present

Nathan Translates provides technical support services as a translator from French and Spanish and as a copyeditor. This enables research teams to recruit on the basis of technical ability, which can still be sure to reach target audiences, often in peer-review journals or commissioned policy research. Offerings now include consultancy services to prepare complex reports.

Thematic areas of specialization include:

Economic policy analysis, social policy analysis, trade policy analysis, development planning, monitoring and evaluation, auditing and accounting, agriculture, poverty, education, health, public infrastructure, investment markets, and international financial and accounting standards.

General objectives achieved:

- Transfer of capacity by sensitizing researchers of the need for strong written communication
- Transfer of capacity by informing researchers of broader problematics and perspectives
- Transfer of capacity by sharing best practices and cutting edge forays between researchers in diverse political and economic environments
- In the capacity of consultant, synthesize vast amounts of information to provide meaningful feedback for organizational development and process innovation

Wenzhou Experimental Middle School – Wenzhou, China – Teacher Sept 2006 – June 2007

- Designed and implemented an entertaining ESL curriculum using texts and original material
- Carried out continuous evaluation of my own performance and students' progress

References available upon request.