

**Electronic lexicography in the 21st century:
New applications for new users**

Proceedings of eLex 2011

Edited by

Iztok Kosem and Karmen Kosem

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Edited by Iztok Kosem, Karmen Kosem

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FOREWORD

Continuous technological progress has had a considerable impact on dictionary-making, both on how dictionaries are made, and the format(s) in which they are presented to the user. There has been an ongoing discussion on whether electronic dictionaries will slowly replace paper dictionaries, and in many parts of the world, this has already taken place. It is now the time of online dictionaries and dictionary apps – the users want to click, tap, slide, etc. But dictionary users that use these new technologies are putting new demands on dictionary-makers. It is now often expected that dictionaries are free, offer quick access to all the types of information in them, contain every single word in existence, and include other types of features, e.g. grammar, games, blogs and forums. The question is thus no longer about electronic format competing with the paper format, but more about how to utilize the many advantages of electronic medium to make dictionaries as user friendly as possible.

There is another group of users that have been affected by technological progress, namely lexicographers themselves. As corpora get larger and larger, there is more and more data to analyse. Also, the existence of different dictionary formats means that the needs of different types of users have to be met. It is thus essential that the lexicographers are provided with tools that speed up their work, and automate the procedures that do require little human intervention.

The papers found in these proceedings from the eLex 2011 conference on electronic lexicography, which took place between November 10th and 12th in Bled, Slovenia, contain the reports on electronic dictionaries or ongoing lexicographic projects that seek to address some of these issues. The interest in the conference by both members of the academia and representatives of the industry is clear evidence that electronic lexicography needs an event where current projects are presented and topical issues are discussed.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the conference: the keynote speakers, the presenters, the sponsors, the programme committee, and the organising committee.

Iztok Kosem, editor

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