

Preface

Foreign language learners often use online information to solve language problems, but find it difficult to use dictionaries successfully. However, in today's digital, global and multilingual world, competence in using dictionaries and online lexicographic resources is an essential communicative strategy. This volume discusses how to promote appropriate dictionary skills and considers how modern lexical resources should be designed to support learners. It includes empirical studies on the use of online dictionaries, glossaries, translation tools, etc. in language teaching, studies on the background to teaching, and ideas on how to improve dictionary teaching in the classroom.

These topics were discussed in 2021 at the conference “New Challenges in Dictionary Teaching”, funded by the EMLex study program (European Master in Lexicography), at the Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Italy. In 2023 the symposium “Dictionaries and their use in foreign language classes. New challenges in a multilingual, digital, and global world” was held at the 20th AILA World Congress (“Diversity and social cohesion in a globalized world: moving towards more engaged language studies”) hosted by the Université de Lyon, France. The papers in this volume were written by some of the speakers at these events; we are grateful to all the authors for agreeing to include them here.

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On behalf of all the authors, we hope that the contributions in this volume will stimulate the development of research and practice in dictionary use and new methods of dictionary teaching in classrooms around the world.

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