

# The “Online Bibliography of Electronic Lexicography” (OBELEX)

Carolin Müller-Spitzer<sup>1</sup>, Christine Möhrs<sup>1</sup>  
Institut für Deutsche Sprache, Mannheim

## Abstract

In this paper, we present the “Online Bibliography of Electronic Lexicography” (OBELEX). In addition to making general conceptual remarks, we evaluate the sources and describe the search options of OBELEX.

**Keywords:** bibliography, electronic lexicography, online.

## 1. Conceptual remarks

Digital or electronic lexicography has gained in importance in the last few years. This can be seen in the growing list of publications focusing on this field. In the OBELEX bibliography (<http://www.owid.de/obelex/engl>), the research contributions in this field are consolidated and are searchable by different criteria. The idea for OBELEX originated in the context of the dictionary portal OWID, which incorporates several dictionaries from the Institute for German Language ([www.owid.de](http://www.owid.de)). OBELEX has been available online free of charge since December 2008 (*cf.* Figure 1).

### Online Bibliography of Electronic Lexicography (OBELEX)

The screenshot shows the search interface for the Online Bibliography of Electronic Lexicography (OBELEX). It features several search criteria with corresponding input fields and buttons:

- Title:** A single-line text input field.
- Year:** A range selection with 'from' and 'to' boxes, followed by '(4-digit, e.g. 2008)'. Below it is a single-line text input field.
- Person:** A single-line text input field.
- Analysed Languages:** A dropdown menu with 'any' selected, followed by an 'and' button and another dropdown menu with 'any' selected.
- Keyword(s):** A dropdown menu with 'any' selected, followed by an 'and' button and another dropdown menu with 'any' selected.

At the bottom of the search area, there are two buttons: 'Search' and 'Clear'.

Figure 1. Online Bibliography of Electronic Lexicography.

OBELEX includes articles, monographs, anthologies and reviews published since 2000 which relate to electronic lexicography, as well as some relevant older works. Our particular focus is on works about online lexicography. Information on dictionaries is currently not included in OBELEX. However, we are working on a

<sup>1</sup> {mueller-spitzer,moehrs}@ids-mannheim.de

database which contains information on online dictionaries as a supplement to OBELEX. All entries of OBELEX are stored in a database. Thus, all parts of the bibliographic entry (such as person, title, publication or year) are searchable. Furthermore, all publications are associated with our keyword list; therefore, a thematic search is also possible. The subject language is also noted. For example, it is possible to search for all metalexigraphic works from the field of “bilingual/multilingual lexicography” that deal with “English” and “German” (from a metalexigraphic point of view).

With this type of content, the OBELEX bibliography supplements in a useful way other bibliographic projects such as the printed “Internationale Bibliographie zur germanistischen Lexikographie und Wörterbuchforschung” by H.E. Wiegand (2006/2007), the “Bibliography of Lexicography” by R.R.K. Hartmann (2007), and the “International Bibliography of Lexicography” of Euralex (*cf.* also DeCesaris and Bernal 2006). OBELEX differs from all these bibliographic projects by its strong focus on electronic lexicography and its ability to retrieve bibliographic information:

- The Wiegand bibliography is surely the most extensive, but it does not focus on electronic lexicography and it is to be discontinued. Furthermore, searching for a specific publication is not easy, since the forthcoming register volume has not yet been published (*cf.* Dziemianko 2008). In addition to this, the main focus is on dictionary research within the field of German Studies. In contrast, OBELEX includes all international research (but only with respect to digital lexicography).
- The Euralex bibliography is an “International Bibliography of Lexicography” made “for lexicographers, by lexicographers”) (*cf.* the website <http://euralex.pbworks.com/>). It comprises a great amount of bibliographic information about articles and books; new references are added by means of a Wiki system. There are plans in place for the Euralex bibliography to include all publications from the Euralex conference proceedings in the future. (The current online version does not include all articles from Euralex conference proceedings.) However, other periodicals or journals are not systematically included. By contrast, OBELEX systematically lists all relevant publications, such as contributions from the *International Journal of Lexicography*, the journal *Dictionaries* or the Euralex proceedings, but only the contributions related to electronic lexicography. Therefore, if a researcher is interested in *all* publications in the Euralex proceedings, the Euralex bibliography is the right choice. If s/he wishes to search in the field of electronic lexicography, the use of OBELEX is advisable.
- The Hartmann bibliography is extensive and international. However, for anthologies, only the title of the book is listed, not the individual articles. Therefore, it is not possible to search for specific articles or reviews in this bibliography.

## 2. Evaluation of sources

As mentioned above, in OBELEX, sources have been evaluated systematically since 2000. This limit was set for pragmatic reasons. However, there is very relevant literature about electronic lexicography from before 2000 which a user of OBELEX might miss. Therefore, often cited articles or books from the 1980s or 1990s are also included in OBELEX, for instance, the relevant volumes of the *Handbooks of Linguistics and Communications Science* (“*Handbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft*”). However, the evaluation of sources before 2000 is not comprehensive.

In addition to the systematically evaluated sources, further relevant literature is included in OBELEX. These are mainly monographs from the field of electronic lexicography and articles from journals besides the ones named above. Reviews are also integrated because they often include interesting metalexigraphic elements relating to critical evaluation of electronic dictionaries and are quite often not easily accessible. As far as possible, abstracts are included in OBELEX, especially for articles from conference proceedings. These serve as a first insight into the article and may help the user to find appropriate literature. In the future, current issues of the sources will be examined systematically in order to continuously enlarge OBELEX.

The systematically evaluated literature (only contributions to electronic lexicography) in OBELEX includes the following sources:

- Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America
- Hermes
- International Journal of Lexicography
- Lexikos: Annual Journal of the AFRILEX
- Proceedings of the EURALEX conferences
- Proceedings of the "International Symposium on Lexicography"
- Lexicographica (International Annual and series maior)
- Handbooks of Linguistics and Communications Science (*Handbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft – HSK*) vol. 5.1-5.3

## 3. Search options

There are different fields for searching in OBELEX. Firstly, there is the title box. By entering a word, a full-text search is carried out on all titles listed in OBELEX. “Title” always means the title of the articles or monographs, not of the series, journals, or anthologies.

### 3.1. Search by title

If a search is conducted for titles that include the word “vision”, the result illustrated in Figure 2 is given. This demonstrates that the search is a real full-text search because all results except the title Hahn/Klosa/Müller-Spitzer/Schnörch/Storjohann (2008) would have been expected. In case of reviews, after the title the word “(Review)” is always inserted. Thus, it is possible to search by title in order to find all the reviews which are stored in OBELEX.

#### Search Results

The listed order can be changed by clicking on “Person” or “Year”

<input type="checkbox"/> Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Year ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tarp	2009	<a href="#">Beyond Lexicography. New Visions and Challenges in the Information Age</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Meijssen	2009	<a href="#">The Philosophy behind OmegaWiki and the Visions for the Future</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Smit	2008	<a href="#">Henrik Gottlieb and Jens Erik Mogensen (Editors) Dictionary Visions. Research and Practice. Selected Papers from the 12th International Symposium on Lexicography, Copenhagen 2004 (Review)</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Fuentes-Olivera	2008	<a href="#">Henrik Gottlieb, Jens Erik Mogensen (Editors) Dictionary Visions. Research and Practice. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Co. 2007 (Terminology and Lexicography Research and Practice 10) (Review)</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hahn/Klosa/Müller-Spitzer/Schnörch/Storjohann	2008	<a href="#">lexikon - das elektronische lexikonarchiv-lexikonologische vortextbasierte Wortschatzinformationssystem. Zur Neukonzeption, Erweiterung und Revision einzelner Angabebereiche</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Gottlieb/Mogensen	2007	<a href="#">Dictionary Visions. Research and Practice. Selected Papers from the 12th International Symposium on Lexicography, University of Copenhagen, April 29th - May 1st, 2004</a>

Figure 2. Search Results

### 3.2. My bibliography

For every search result, it is possible to include selected titles in “My bibliography”. This personal bibliography is accessible for 365 days from the user’s computer (over cookies) and can also be presented in a view customized for printing. An export of “My bibliography” in BibTex format is also provided.

### 3.3. Search by person

The search in the search field “Person” is an incremental search. Thus, by typing in the first letters of an author’s name such as “de”, all appropriate people included in OBELEX appear and can be selected from a list.

### 3.4. Search by publication year

The search for publications in OBELEX can also be delimited by publication year. For instance, it is possible to search for all titles on the subject of electronic lexicography published before 2000. For this particular search, the “from”-field should be left empty and “1999” should be entered in the “to”-field.

### 3.5. Search by keyword or analysed language

Two of the most important functions of OBELEX are the options to search by keyword and by analysed language (cf. Figure 3). These fields allow a thematic search

for publications. The keyword list integrated in OBELEX originated from a comparison of different glossaries, registers, indices, or subject catalogues. From a pragmatic point of view, it was important to configure the keyword list in a not too complex and relatively general way because the tagging is made only by reading the abstracts. The whole article is consulted in just a few cases (where there is uncertainty about which keyword to assign). The language field does not apply to the language the article is written in but to the topics discussed. For example, if an article is published in English about Spanish electronic lexicography, only “Spanish” is recorded as a language in the database. Therefore, these fields allow searches such as all titles concerning the “Italian” language and the topic “online lexicography”.

### Online Bibliography of Electronic Lexicography (OBELEX)

The screenshot shows the search interface for the Online Bibliography of Electronic Lexicography (OBELEX). The search criteria are as follows:

- Title:** (empty field)
- Year:** from (empty) to (empty) (4-digit, e.g. 2008)
- Person:** (empty field)
- Analysed Languages:** Italian and any
- Keyword(s):** A list of keywords is displayed, with "Internet lexicography/online lexicography" selected. The list includes: any, document-type-definition (DTD), etymology in dictionaries, example, foreign/second language acquisition, form of publication, grammar in dictionaries, historical lexicography, HTML, hypermedia/hypertext, illustration/figure, infection in dictionaries, information system, Internet lexicography/online lexicography, layout, learner's lexicography, lemmatization, lexicographic editor, lexicographic process, lexicography of contemporary language, and lexicography of critical discourses.

Buttons for "Search" and "Clear" are visible. Below the search fields, there is explanatory text: "All fields are optional. The combinations are permitted. The search field Person of information Title and Keyword has to be indicated. Any" and a copyright notice: "© IDS Mannheim".

Figure 3. Search for 'Analysed Language' + 'Keyword'

## 4. Perspectives

With OBELEX, we hope to provide an extensive service for all researchers working in digital lexicography and dictionary research. For the future, the main task in OBELEX is to enlarge the bibliography. Therefore, we appreciate any suggestions for publications which may be included in OBELEX. As said before, besides this, we work on a supplement to OBELEX, *i.e.* a database of online dictionaries. In this database, currently about 800 online dictionaries are labelled by more than 40 properties, such as “including an online tutorial: yes/no”, “pronunciation as audio files: yes/no” etc. We plan to publish this database on the OBELEX site during 2010.

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