

## OWID – A Dictionary Net for Corpus-Based Lexicography of Contemporary German

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*The Online-Wortschatz-Informationssystem Deutsch (OWID; Online German Lexical Information System) is a lexicographic Internet portal for various electronic dictionary resources that are being compiled at the Institute for the German Language (Institut für Deutsche Sprache, IDS). The main emphasis of OWID is on academic lexicographic resources of contemporary German. Presently, the following dictionaries are included in OWID: a dictionary of contemporary German called *elexiko*, a dictionary of neologisms, a small dictionary of collocations, and a discourse dictionary covering the lexemes that establish the discourse about “guilt” in the early post-war era 1945-1955. In the near future (2010/2011), several additional dictionaries will be published in OWID: a Textbook of German Communication Verbs, a Valency Dictionary of German Verbs, two further discourse dictionaries – one about the “democracy” discourse around 1968, the other covering the keywords of the German reunification 1989/1990. Moreover, 300 entries from a corpus-based project on proverbs will be integrated into OWID. Thereby, OWID is a constantly growing resource for academic lexicographic work of the German language.*

*Altogether, OWID is a special kind of dictionary portal owing to its content and its design, namely the integration of the various dictionaries, the access possibilities and the presentation features. With OWID, we try to establish a dictionary net where the different resources are jointly accessible not only by headwords, but also on the microstructural level. Prerequisite for these common access- and navigation-possibilities across the various dictionaries is the same concept for the lexicographic data model which we put into practice in OWID. Data from all dictionaries in OWID are structured according to a tailor-made, fine-granular, XML-based data model. In this data model, similar content is modelled similarly, dictionary related differences are preserved.*

*The main tasks for the future are to enhance OWID with further dictionary resources, to improve the inner access structures so that they exhaust the possibilities of the data model, and to customize the layout of the dictionaries as well as the search options according to the user’s needs.*

### 1. Resources in OWID

The *Online-Wortschatz-Informationssystem Deutsch* (OWID; Online German Lexical Information System) is a lexicographic Internet portal for various electronic dictionary resources that are being compiled at the Institute for German Language (Institut für Deutsche Sprache, IDS). The main emphasis of OWID is on academic lexicographic resources of contemporary German. Presently, the following dictionaries are included in OWID:

*elexiko* consists of an index of about 300,000 short entries with information on spelling, spelling variation, and word division. Furthermore, *elexiko* contains more than 1,000 fully elaborated entries of high-frequency headwords, focussing on extensive semantic-pragmatic descriptions of lexical items in actual language use. The dictionary is continuously extended by further elaborated entries.

The *Neologismenwörterbuch* (Dictionary of Neologisms) describes in detail about 900 new words and new meanings of established words, added to the German vocabulary since the 1990s. This dictionary is also constantly updated.

*Feste Wortverbindungen* (Collocations Online) (2007ff.) publishes the research results of the project *Usuelle Wortverbindungen* (Fixed Multiword Expressions).

The *Diskurswörterbuch 1945-55* (Discourse Dictionary 1945-55) (2007) is a reference work covering the lexemes that establish the discourse about “guilt” in the early post-war era 1945-1955.

In the near future (2010/2011), several additional dictionaries will be published in OWID: the *Handbuch deutscher Kommunikationsverben* (Textbook of German Communication Verbs), the *E-VALBU – Valenzwörterbuch deutscher Verben* (Valency Dictionary of German Verbs), two further discourse dictionaries – one about the “democracy” discourse around 1968, the other covering the keywords of the German reunification 1989/1990. Moreover, 300 entries from a corpus-based project on proverbs will be integrated into OWID. Thereby, OWID is a constantly growing resource for academic lexicographic work of the German language.

## 2. OWID as a dictionary net

In Engelberg/Müller-Spitzer (forthcoming), the term ‘dictionary portal’ is defined rather broadly: The only conditions are that the portal is accessed via a computer screen, that it provides access to more than one dictionary, and that the integrated dictionaries can still be accessed as stand-alone products. This includes everything from dictionary link lists to highly interlinked lexicographic nets. In Engelberg/Müller-Spitzer (forthcoming), we provide a number of criteria to distinguish between different types of dictionary portals. The main criteria for distinguishing the central types of dictionary portals pertain to (1) types of access provided, (2) the implemented cross-reference structures between dictionaries, (3) the ownership relation between the portal and the contributing dictionaries, and (4) the layout of the portal. With regard to distinctions in the implementation resulting from these criteria, dictionary portals are differentiated into dictionary nets, dictionary search engines, and dictionary collections (cf. Figure 1). OWID is a typical example of a dictionary net.

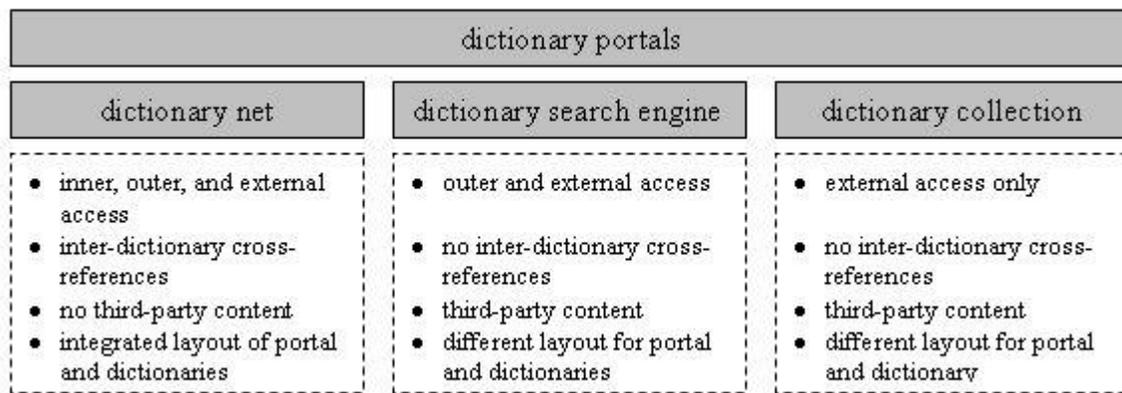


Figure 1. Typology of dictionary portals (cf. Engelberg/Müller-Spitzer forthcoming)

All resources in OWID are entirely compiled at the IDS and are integrated in a common layout; OWID does not contain any third-party content. Inter-dictionary cross-references exist, for example, from single word units from *elexiko* to corresponding multi word units from the *Feste Wortverbindungen*, i.e. from entry *blind* (‘blind’) to *Liebe macht blind* (‘love is blind’). This interconnection is also visible by using the search option: if a user types in the word “blind”, s/he gets a search result with the *elexiko* entry *blind* as well as all

corresponding entries from *Feste Wortverbindungen* with the explanation: “*blind*: base element of *Liebe macht blind*” etc.

Prerequisite for these common access- and navigation-possibilities across the different dictionaries is the same concept for the lexicographic data model. Data from all dictionaries in OWID are structured according to a tailor-made, fine-granular, XML-based data model. In this data model, similar content is modelled similarly, dictionary related differences are preserved.

### 3. Outer and Inner Access structures in OWID

Generally, OWID provides two main outer access possibilities: the main search box and an alphabetic register. Both outer access possibilities combine with a search option for including or excluding the individual dictionaries. The main search box works as follows: if a user types “frei” (‘free’) in the search box of OWID, he/she gets the results displayed in Figure 2.

The screenshot shows the OWID search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "frei" and a "Suchen" button. Below the search bar, there are options for "Spezialisierte & erweiterte Suchen" and a list of dictionaries to choose from. The search results are displayed in a list format, with each result indicating the source dictionary. A preview of the "Hitzefrei" entry is shown in a larger box, including the title "Hitzefrei", the source "elexiko", and a text snippet: "CDU-Landratskandidat Wilkes hat ebenfalls mit den Pennälern im Bus gegessen; er sprach davon, dass die Kinder bereits am frühen Morgen - im Bus stehend - durchgeschaukelt werden. Ihr Eindruck? HOFMANN: Die Schülerbeförderung läuft im Großen und Ganzen gut. Engpässe sind manchmal nicht vermeidbar, beispielsweise bei Hitzefrei oder den so genannten Brückentagen. Die eine oder andere Unzufriedenheit kann nie ganz ausgeschlossen".

Figure 2. Results for the search term “frei” in OWID with a preview of the elexiko entry *hitzefrei* (‘school’s out today because of the heat’).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The relaunch of OWID is in progress and is going to be online at the end of June 2010.

The search results in OWID are always divided into four groups: firstly, exactly fitting search results for the search string are presented; secondly, search results which begin with the search string such as *freiheitlich* ('liberal') or the neologism *Freisprechanlage* ('hands-free kit'); thirdly, search results which end in the search string like *bleifrei* ('unleaded') or *abgasfrei* ('zero-emission'), and lastly, search results which contain the search string such as *Befreiung* ('liberation'). In the online presentation, information from different dictionaries is rendered in different colours. Each dictionary is associated with a particular colour. The layout of the different dictionaries is embedded in the entire OWID layout.

If a user clicks on a search result, the entry is displayed in the context of the joined lemma-list of all OWID dictionaries (a rather special feature for dictionary portals). On the other hand, if a user chooses one individual dictionary via the option "choose dictionaries", only the headword list from the individual dictionary is displayed in the way as it is specified by the dictionary writers. In the discourse dictionary, for example, the dictionary-own headword list contains main headwords as well as sublemmas. The coloured little boxes on the right which stand for the different dictionaries signal to the user whether s/he had chosen a specific dictionary or whether s/he moves on the OWID level. If, for example, only one dictionary is chosen (like here the discourse dictionary), the corresponding box is displayed bigger than the other ones. With this differentiation – level of OWID in contrast to the level of a specific dictionary – we hope to meet two different user needs: firstly, searching for one word in no particular dictionary, or secondly, searching within one specific dictionary only and use this individual dictionary like a stand-alone product (cf. Figure 3).

The screenshot shows the OWID search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'frei' and a 'Suchen' button. To the right of the search bar, there are links for 'Start | Über OWID | Aktuelles | Kontakt | Impressum'. Below the search bar, there is a section for 'Wörterbücher hinzufügen' with colored squares. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column contains a 'Gesamtlemmaliste' with various words and their sublemmas. The middle column displays the search results for 'frei', including sublemmas and a detailed text block. The right column contains a legend with colored squares and labels for different dictionaries.

**OWID** [Online-Wortschatz-Informationssystem, Deutsch]

Start | Über OWID | Aktuelles | Kontakt | Impressum

Wortsuche frei  Spezialisierte & erweiterte Suchen ▶

Wörterbücher hinzufügen ■ ■ ■ ■

**Gesamtlemmaliste**

[Abendland](#)  
abendländisch

[Angst](#)

[Antifaschist](#)  
antifaschistisch

[Apathie](#)

[apokalyptisch](#)  
eschatologisch

[Appellplatz](#)

[Aufgabe](#)

[Auschwitz](#)

[auserwählt](#)

[Baracke](#)

[Befehl](#)  
befehlen

[Block](#)

[Bunker](#)

[Christentum](#)  
christlich

[Dämon](#)  
Dämonie  
dämonisch

**Diskurswörterbuch 1945-1955**

Einleitung | Wortartikel | Projekt  
Benutzungshinweise

**frei**

Freiheit · Befreiung · Selbstbefreiung

Opferdiskurs

*Frei* und *Freiheit* sind gegenwartsbezogene Schlüsselwörter der Opfer zur Bezeichnung ihres Zustands nach ihrer Rettung durch die Alliierten. Sie sprechen vom Ende des Krieges und des Nationalsozialismus, vom Tag ihrer Befreiung als vom *Tag der Freiheit*, vom wiedererlangten Freisein. Dieses Augenblicks- und Momentbewusstsein ist eines im persönlichen Sinn von 'Ich bin frei, habe überlebt'. Die befreiten Opfer haben entsprechend ihrer unterschiedlichen Wahrnehmungen des Augenblicks der Befreiung unterschiedliche Sichtweisen ihrer selbst. Zwar eint sie das Bewusstsein, befreit zu sein, aber die Bewertungen dieses Befreitseins sind auf der Folie je verschiedener Selbstbilder disparat und hängen von der Wirklichkeit ab, die bis zu ihrer Befreiung bestimmend war, sowie von ihrem biographischen Hintergrund. Außerdem lassen sich Wahrnehmungsphasen unterscheiden.

Nicht-politische (vor allem jüdische) Opfer referieren selten auf *frei* und *Freiheit*, indem sie euphorisch gesteigerte Freude des Befreitseins als Ende ihrer Gefangenschaft ausdrücken (s. [Tagebucheintrag vom 15. April 1945](#) Steinwender 1946 Vermehren 1946 ). Dominant ist dagegen der Ausdruck von Ungläubigkeit und

Legend:

- OWID
- Diskurswörterbuch 1945-55
- elexiko
- Feste Wortverbindungen
- Neologismenwörterbuch
- OBELEX Bibliografie

Figure 3. Results for the search term *frei* in OWID (only discourse dictionary 1945-55).

The second outer access structure besides the search box is the alphabetic register and the corresponding “go to”-box. Via this box, a user has a kind of fast outer access like leafing through a book and stopping at a certain place in the alphabet. In contrast to the search option explained above, entering “frei” in this search box, leads not to a search result, but starts a look-up in the OWID headword list and immediately displays the best matching entry with the corresponding part of the headword list (cf. Figure 4). Accordingly, if a user types only the first two letters of a word in this “go to”-box, the first matching headword with the entry is displayed, for example, typing in “fr” leads to the entry *Fracht* (‘cargo’). Again, this alphabetic register combines with the search option for including or excluding the individual dictionaries. Therefore, it is possible to use the alphabetic register for navigating in one specific dictionary in OWID.

The screenshot shows the OWID interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links. Below the search bar, there is an alphabetic register for the letter 'F'. The entry 'frei' is selected, and its details are displayed. The details include orthographic information (Normgerechte Schreibung: frei, Worttrennung: Dieses Wort ist nicht trennbar.) and etymological information (Etymologische Angaben: mehr, Wandel 1700 bis 1945: -, Wandel seit 1945: -). There are also links for 'Lesartenübergreifende Angaben' and 'Lesartenbezogene Angaben'.

Figure 4. Accessing the entry *frei* via the alphabetic register

Inner access is provided through extended search options. To illustrate the granularity of the search options consider the following example: In the domain of word formation, it is possible to search for all explicit derivatives where the basis is the category “adjective”. The search may be further limited to these lexemes which in the process of word formation changed their vowels, like *kürzlich* (‘recently’) derived from *kurz* (‘short’). These search options in the field of word formation are provided across the *ellexiko* and the neologism dictionary due to the consistent concept of data modelling (cf. Figure 5). Other extended search options are provided across other OWID dictionaries. However, extended search

options in this granularity are currently offered to lexicographers only and not to OWID users. It is one of the main tasks for the future in OWID, to bring the search options for OWID users into line with the internal ones for lexicographers (as far as it corresponds to user's needs) and therefore make full use of the potential which the granular data modelling offers.

Figure 5. Extended search options for lexicographers

To intensify the character of OWID as a dictionary net, new ways of grouping the different dictionaries together (especially the different discourse dictionaries) as well as new forms of visualisations will be realised in OWID in the near future. For example, we want to develop a synopsis of the different discourse dictionaries where one is able to see which words occur in the relevant discourses at various times.

#### 4. Non-dictionary resources in OWID

Besides the main function as a lexicographic portal, OWID provides another service for researchers in the context of online lexicography, the “Online-Bibliography of Electronic Lexicography (OBELEX)” (cf. the poster of Müller-Spitzer/Möhrs in these proceedings). All publications recorded in OBELEX are labelled by keyword and language. Information on dictionaries is currently not included in OBELEX; the main focus is on metalexicography. However, we are working on a database with information on online dictionaries as a supplement to OBELEX. Another supplement to the dictionaries in OWID which will be presented online till summer 2010 is the “OWID-Korpussuche”, a corpus query site to look up the IDS-corpora of written German which cover 3,75 billion of words (cf. <http://www.ids-mannheim.de/kl/projekte/korpora/>). In contrast to the corpus query system Cosmas 2 (<http://www.ids-mannheim.de/cosmas2/>) which provides a lot of extended search options and possibilities to analyse corpus data, e.g. in form of a cooccurrence analysis, but is otherwise not always easy to use, the corpus search via OWID has the intention to offer a simplified access to the IDS corpora which may be used without any previous experience or tutorial. With all these resources and functionalities, OWID serves as the first address for all resources concerning Internet lexicography at the IDS.

## 5. Closing remark

Altogether, OWID is a special kind of dictionary portal not only owing to its content but also because of the way in which it brings together the different dictionaries and by virtue of its access possibilities as well as some special features of its mode of representation.

As said before, the main tasks for the future are to enhance OWID with further dictionary resources, to improve the inner access structures so that they exhaust the possibilities of the data model, and to customize the presentations of the dictionaries as well as the search options according to the user's needs. Therefore, we are currently running a project of user research on online dictionaries with the aim to learn more about the preferences of users in certain using situations and how a user-adapted view may be developed (cf. [www.benutzungsforschung.de](http://www.benutzungsforschung.de)).

## References

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