

# OBELEX – the ‘Online Bibliography of Electronic Lexicography’

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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.

OBELEX includes articles, monographs, anthologies and reviews published since 2000 that relate to electronic lexicography, as well as some relevant older works. Our particular focus is on works about online lexicography. Systematically evaluated sources are relevant journals like *International Journal of Lexicography*, *Lexicographica*, *Dictionaries*, *Lexikos*; furthermore *Euralex-Proceedings*, proceedings of the *International Symposium on Lexicography in Copenhagen* as well as relevant monographs and anthologies. 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.

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 possible. The subject language is also noted. 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 (Wiegand 2006/2007), the ‘*Bibliography of Lexicography*’ by R. R. K. Hartmann (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.

## 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.

### Online Bibliography of Electronic Lexicography (OBELEX)

Title:	<input type="text"/>
Year:	from <input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/> (4-digit, e.g. 2008)
Person:	<input type="text"/>
Analysed Languages:	any <input type="button" value="v"/> and any <input type="button" value="v"/>
Keyword(s):	any <input type="button" value="v"/>
	and <input type="button" value="v"/>
	any <input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="button" value="Search"/>	<input type="button" value="Clear"/>

Figure 1. Start page of the Online Bibliography of Electronic Lexicography

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. the start page of OBELEX in Figure 1).

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 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 possible. The subject language is also noted. For example, it is possible to search for all metalexicographic works from the field of ‘bilingual/multilingual lexicography’ that deal with ‘English’ and ‘German’ (from a metalexicographic 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 (Wiegand 2006/2007), the ‘Bibliography of Lexicography’ by R. R. K. Hartmann (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; any completions are made 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 referred 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 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 metalexicographic 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.

Included literature (only contributions to electronic lexicography) in OBELEX is at a glance:

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)  
Volumes 5.1-5.3

## **3. Search options**

### **3.1. Search by title**

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. 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 listed in OBELEX. Searching for reviews may also be limited to

certain publication years, such as ‘reviews’ concerning electronic lexicography published in the years ‘2000’ and ‘2001’ (cf. Figure 2 and Figure 3).

### Online Bibliography of Electronic Lexicography (OBELEX)

**Title:**

**Year:** from  to  (4-digit, e.g. 2008)

**Person:**

**Analysed Languages:**  and

**Keyword(s):**  and

All fields are optional. Though **at least one search criterion** (e.g. *Title* or *Keyword*) has to be indicated. Any combinations are permitted.

The search field *Person* offers a **list which enables an incremental search**.

At the information *Title* and *Person* the following wildcards may be used:

? one single optional mark

\* optional marks with a sequence of any length.

Figure 2. Searching for reviews published in 2000 or 2001

### Search Results

The listed order can be changed by clicking on "Person" or "Year".

	Person	Year ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Körkel	2001	<a href="#">Makrostrukturelle Defizite eines Wörterbuchs. Zum Lexikon Microsoft Encarta Enzyklopädie 99. Microsoft Corporation 1998 (Review)</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kleinedler	2000	<a href="#">Computing Dictionary (Review)</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Landau	2000	<a href="#">Encarta World English Dictionary / Microsoft Encarta World English Dictionary (Review)</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kammerer	2000	<a href="#">Zwei elektronische Offline-Corpora: Digitale Bibliothek, Band 1: Deutsche Literatur von Lessing bis Kafka [...] und Digitale Bibliothek, Band 2: Philosophie von Platon bis Nietzsche. Berlin: Directmedia Publishing 1998 (Review)</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kammerer	2000	<a href="#">Digitale Bibliothek, Band 13: Gero von Wilpert: Lexikon der Weltliteratur. Autoren und Werke [...]. Berlin: Directmedia Publishing 1998 (Review)</a>

Mark: [all](#) - [none](#)

**5 search result(s).** Each search is cancelled after a maximum of 200 results. Please restrict your search if necessary providing more precise search criteria (e.g. using the year field).

Figure 3. Corresponding search results (reviews published in 2000 or 2001)

### 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 ‘be’, all appropriate people included in OBELEX appear and can be selected from a list.

## Online Bibliography of Electronic Lexicography (OBELEX)

Title:	<input type="text"/>
Year:	from <input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/> (4-digit, e.g. 2008)
Person:	be
Analysed Languages:	
Keyword(s):	

Bernard, Pascale

Beijk, Egbert

Beißwenger, Michael

Belleil, Claude

Beltrami, Pietro G.

Bental, Diana

Berg, Sture

Bergenholtz, Henning

Bernal, Elisenda

Search

All fields are optional. The combinations are permitted.

The search field *Person* of *Person* has to be indicated. Any

At the information *Title* and *Person* has to be indicated. Any

? one single optional mark  
\* optional marks with a sequence of any length.

Figure 4. Search for authors

### 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. 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 Dutch electronic lexicography, only 'Dutch' is recorded as a language in the database. Therefore, these fields allow searches such as all titles concerning the 'Dutch' language and the topic 'online lexicography' (cf. Figure 5 and Figure 6).

### Online Bibliography of Electronic Lexicography (OBELEX)

<b>Title:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Year:</b>	from <input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/> (4-digit, e.g. 2008)
<b>Person:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Analysed Languages:</b>	Dutch <input type="button" value="v"/> and any <input type="button" value="v"/>
<b>Keyword(s):</b>	<input type="text" value="internet lexicography/online lexicography"/> <input type="button" value="v"/> foreign/second language acquisition form of publication grammar in dictionaries historical lexicography HTML hypermedia/hypertext illustration/figure inflection in dictionaries information system internet lexicography/online lexicography layout learner's lexicography lemmatisation lexicographic editor lexicographic process lexicography of contemporary language lexicography of critical discourses machine readability macrostructure marketing

All fields are optional. Those combinations are permitted.  
 The search field *Person* of  
 At the information *Title* and  
 ? one single optional mark  
 \* optional marks with a se

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word) has to be indicated. Any

Figure 5. Search for Analysed Language and Keyword

## Search Results

The listed order can be changed by clicking on "Person" or "Year".

	Person	Year ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Depuydt/de Does	2008	<a href="#">United in Diversity: Dutch Historical Dictionaries Online</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moerdijk	2008	<a href="#">Das "Algemeen Nederlandse Woordenboek" (ANW) und elexiko - ein Vergleich</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moerdijk/Tiberius/ Niestadt	2008	<a href="#">Accessing the ANW dictionary</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kruijssen/Swanenberg	2004	<a href="#">Les Dictionnaires du Brabançon (WBD) et du Limbourgeois (WLD) sur l'internet</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oppentocht/Schutz	2003	<a href="#">Developments in electronic dictionary design</a>

Save selected entries to My Bibliography

Mark: [all](#) - [none](#)

**5 search result(s).** Each search is cancelled after a maximum of 200 results. Please restrict your search if necessary providing more precise search criteria (e.g. using the year field).

New Search

Figure 6. Corresponding search results (Publications concerning 'Dutch' and 'internet lexicography')

## 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, that is, 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.

## References

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- Wiegand, H. E. (2006/2007). *Internationale Bibliographie zur germanistischen Lexikographie und Wörterbuchforschung: mit Berücksichtigung anglistischer, nordistischer, romanistischer, slavistischer und weiterer metalexikographischer Forschungen*. Berlin / New York: de Gruyter.