

Termania – Free On-Line Dictionary Portal

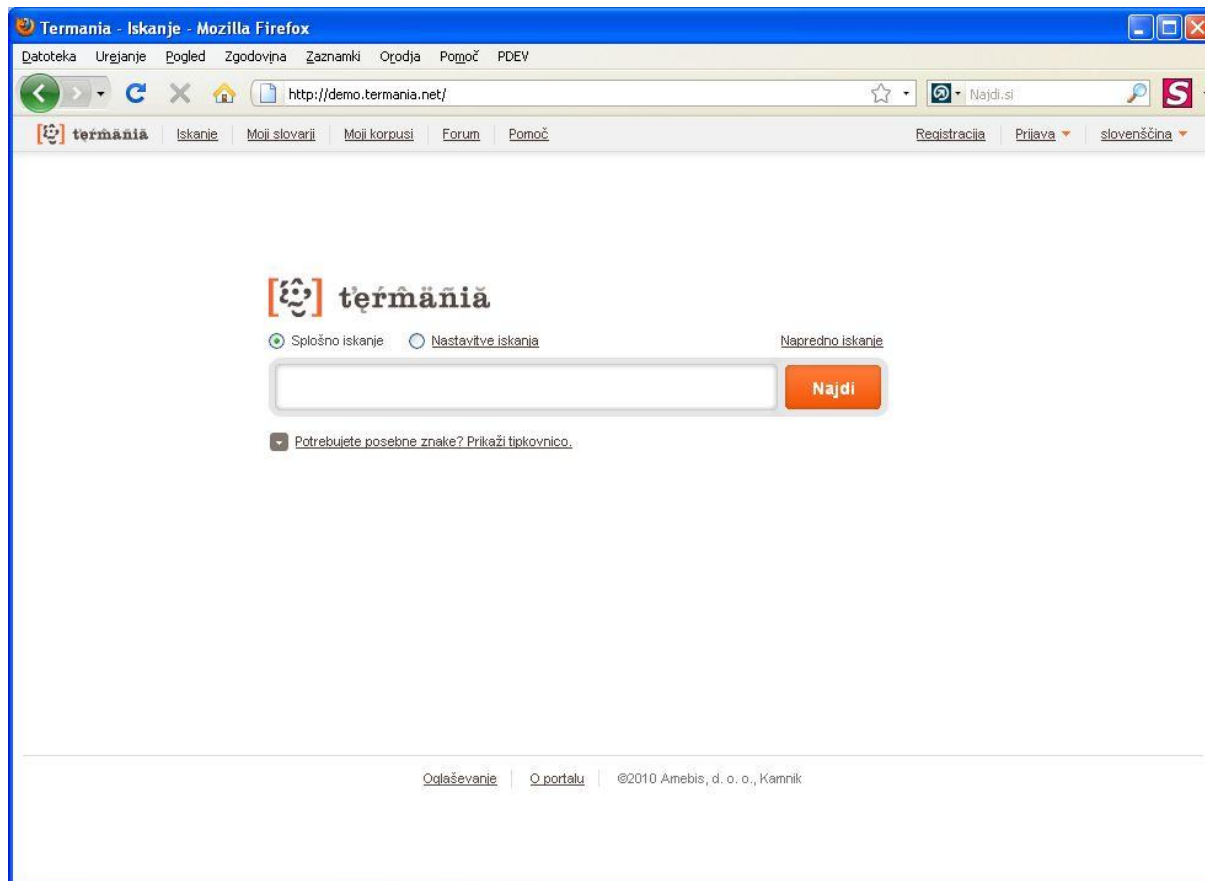
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Termania, a free on-line dictionary portal with integrated dictionary browsing and editing tools is being developed by Amebis software company from Kamnik, Slovenia, in cooperation with Trojina, Institute for Applied Slovene Studies. It provides an interface for dictionary browsing and a simple but reasonably versatile on-line dictionary editing tool. The portal is intended for general public users with no specialized computer or lexicographic knowledge, but with an interest to share terminological or general language knowledge, either by offering translations in a bilingual or multilingual environment or providing definitions in a monolingual context.

The portal is intended to serve as the central terminology data and opinion exchange node for Slovene terminology. Therefore, a discussion forum will be included in the portal and a possibility to comment on and evaluate each particular entry. Internationalization of the portal is foreseen by providing language-specific interface for all widely used languages. General policy for the use of dictionary data on and off the portal is determined by the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial Share Alike licence but also other licences can be used, according to users' preference.

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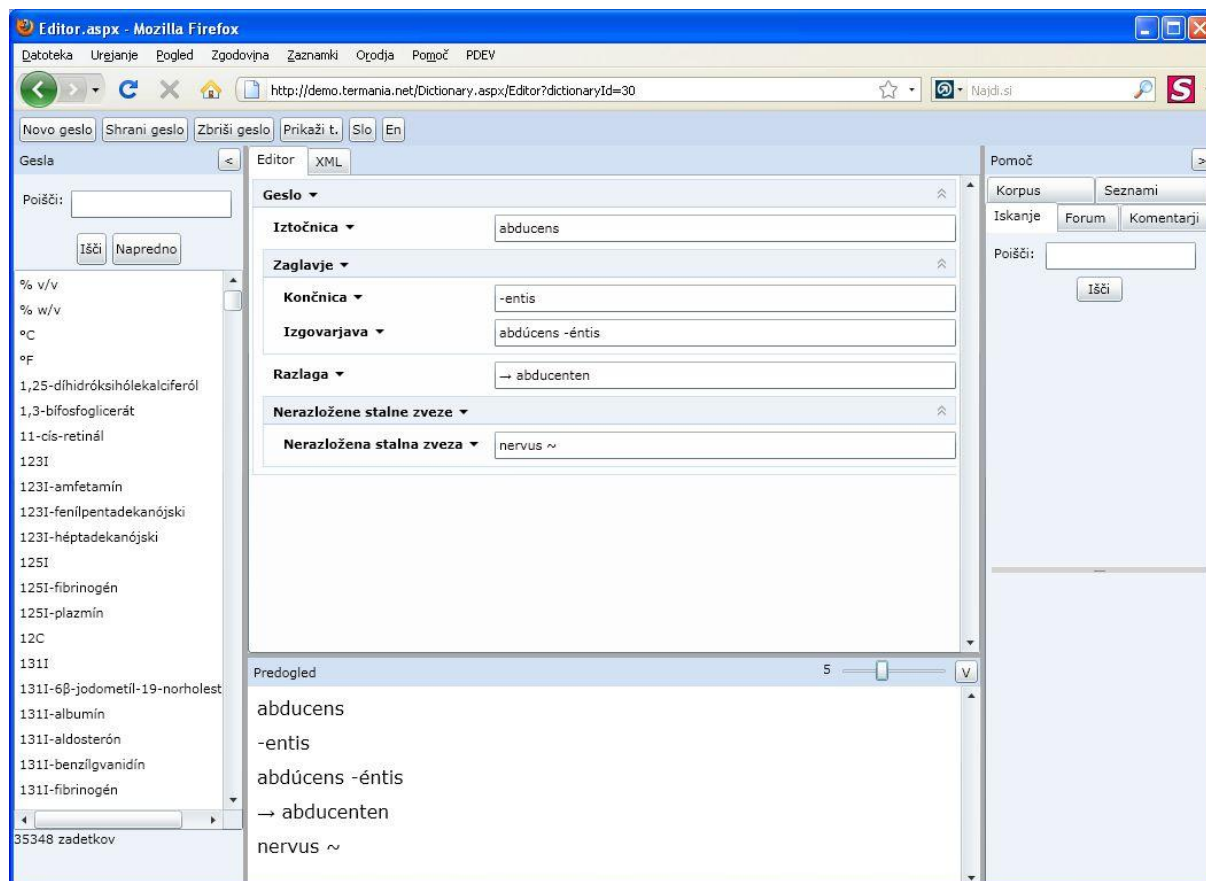
The opening search page is simplistic in a now classical web search engine manner, with a central search box and additional possibilities: a link to special characters window, a link to advanced search page and two radio buttons for choosing between performing the search with default search parameters or with customized personal settings. The opening page also contains links to pages for user dictionary management, user forums, as well as public or personal corpora which can be either web-crawled or uploaded. The corpus creating functionality is planned to be added in the second stage of the Termania project.

Advanced search option provides the possibility to limit queries to particular entry segments, specific languages, to domains as defined by user tags or to particular dictionaries already existing within the portal.

If a user chooses to compile a new dictionary, a wizard is provided to guide him/her through some basic options. They include:

- deciding on the type of data: a monolingual, bilingual dictionary or a catalogue
- tagging the dictionary with domain labels
- choosing the basic design of the entry (which can be later re-arranged)
- deciding on editorial policy about who can edit or browse the dictionary etc.

After the initial procedure the user is given access to the on-line editing tool which essentially provides a set of text boxes based on the Document Type Definition (DTD/schema) available for a particular dictionary. The user can add or edit entries and entry microstructure in accordance with the chosen DTD and the results are published on the web portal in compliance to the access policy set by the user.



The editor window is divided into four parts. The central part of the editor contains a set of text boxes arranged according to the DTD/schema with descriptive names on the left side. There are two editing modes available – text box and XML, in case an advanced user wishes to work with XML structure. The left side window contains the headword list which can be searched using a simple and an advanced search. Below the editor window, an entry data visualisation window is provided. A default visualisation of the entry is provided but users can change its design according to their preference. On the right, an additional window is provided to link the editor to the data available on the Termania portal. Users can access dictionary data on the portal, browse user forums or publicly available corpora. Furthermore, this window provides access to possible specialized data made available to particular users by the portal owners or browse comments linked to the dictionary which is currently open in the editor.

Dictionary data can be downloaded from the portal in various formats – as PDF, Word/OpenOffice document, Calc/Excel file, and in XML format. XML export also includes a Term Base eXchange (TBX) compatible format if dictionary structure allows for such a transformation.

The portal is intended to serve as the central terminology data and opinion exchange node for Slovene terminology and for this reason a discussion forum is included in the portal and a possibility to comment on and evaluate each particular entry. Also, internationalization of the portal is foreseen in the next stage, by providing language-specific interface for all widely used languages. General policy for the use of dictionary data on and off the portal is determined by the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial Share Alike licence but also other licences can be used, according to users' preference.

Termania Dictionary Portal will be available at the web address <http://www.termania.net/> from July 2010.