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avec la collaboration de Benjamin Bertho

Lire demain

Des manuscrits antiques
à l'ère digitale

Reading Tomorrow

*From Ancient Manuscripts
to the Digital Era*

**version
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The Impact of the Digital Era on Dictionaries and Encyclopaedias

LUIS PABLO NÚÑEZ – UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE MADRID

1. Dictionaries in the digital era

We are in a time of technological change. Such changes have occurred in audio, image and music – VOIP, digital terrestrial television, digital photography – but books have also been greatly affected by the consumer society: we can read a digital book on a computer screen, a smartphone or an ebook reader; the book has thus become the most recent object to be affected by this technological revolution. Books converted to text have been moved from paper to CD-ROMs and from there to data and bytes. This new technology has transformed books into data files.

We have reached the historic moment where computers are changing their form: keyboards are being replaced by touchscreens, software no longer needs to be installed: it is enough to access an online application. Small computing devices (smartphones, tablets) are also ubiquitous, they are everywhere, we can take them wherever we like and they perform many more functions than just a few years ago.

Books have become another element of this data society, as pointed out by Peter Mayer, Penguin's ex-president and current president of Overlook Press: "[...] culture based on business and books in their physical format was a tradition; technology is going to be more significant, not for culture, but for the transmission of culture." (Cruz 2011).

This transformation provokes, then, a series of questions: Is this new electronic medium changing the way that we read books? Are we experiencing a transition period where the book in its paper form becomes electronic? Will one complement the other? Is the new format advantageous when it comes to editing a text?

The answer to these questions may be different according to the type of text. Here, it will be specifically the dictionary which will be analysed.

When consulting a dictionary we read in a fragmentary way, we do not read from the first page to the last as would be the case with a novel. Might this fragmentary reading become the norm for digital books?

To demonstrate the changes that the arrival of the digital book has brought about for reference books, it is necessary to first provide a brief summary of the historical evolution of dictionaries. It must be stated then that this digital era is only the most recent of transformations that dictionaries have experienced.

Dictionaries, due to the fragmentary manner in which they are used, have been rapidly taken over by digital culture: first published on paper and then published electronically, they are now available on the Internet. Technological evolution has favoured the use of databases and the creation of corpora. It has also made possible a break with the physical limits imposed by paper. Image files can be added (photographs or animated gifs), as can audio (pronunciation). Consequently, paper dictionaries are now also found on CD-ROM.

Technical production has also been affected : professional writing once closed to all but a few (the lexicographical team) is now open and collaborative as seen on Wikipedia and translation forums. The Internet has made it possible to give more context to translations and make them more precise, but sometimes there is too much superfluous information and results that may not be accurate. A lack of writing technique means that many definitions or encyclopaedia entries offered by Internet users are incomplete, ideologically biased, imprecise, synonymical or badly structured.

A glance at different technological periods show how dictionaries have evolved: first there were glossaries defining difficult or unusual words used by an author or contained within a book, then there was the creation of author's word lists with a copy of a quote or passage from a text.

With the arrival of computerisation in the 1960s and 1970s, literary texts were codified, divided into segments with a maximum number of characters, words placed into sections and ordered alphabetically by means of automatic cataloguing, line editors and Fortran programming on magnetic devices. After this cataloguing, grammatical information was added. Literary concordance on perforated cards allowed quotes and examples to be included in dictionaries.

Since the 1990s, CD-ROM editions with concordance have been common: *Don Quixote*, *Le Conte du Graal* by Chrétien de Troyes or Pascal's works to name a few. Computerised text, which allows classification and the ability to search, forms the basis of databases and corpora. Labelled text permitted, for example, the creation of corpora like CORDE and CREA from the Royal Spanish Academy (RAE) or FRANTEXT for the French language. As a consequence, it is now possible to gather statistics

on how frequently a word, author or period is mentioned and then to establish what their most habitual syntactic constructions are.

The following points will be analysed in this study: how dictionaries have adapted to new portable devices (electronic pocket translators, mobile phones, tablets and e-readers) and the digitalisation of dictionaries on websites dedicated to lexicographical history. Finally, critical editions of classic dictionaries will be reflected upon, especially those from the Spanish Golden Age, when a text would, throughout the editions, be changing.

The presence of dictionaries in digital libraries, like Gallica or Google Books, and the history of encyclopaedias (Wikipedia, Encarta) will not be examined since the study of virtual libraries exceeds the limits imposed by the congress.

This study aims to offer an overview of the most recent and innovative projects that are being carried out in the field of lexicography as well as establishing parallels with other types of texts that are adapting to the digital era.

2. Dictionaries integrated into mobile telephones, tablets and e-readers

A union between dictionaries and mobile technology arose decades ago: in the 1980s, *Random House's Electronic Dictionary* was marketed on floppy disks and soon after, dictionaries and encyclopaedias appeared on CD-ROM: 1985 onwards in the case of the *Academic American Encyclopedia*, edited by Grolier (later *The New Grolier Electronic Encyclopedia*, 1990) and from 1989 for *The Compton's Multimedia Encyclopedia*. COBUILD, the first English dictionary to be based on a computerized corpus, was published in 1987. The first edition of Microsoft's encyclopaedia *Encarta* dates from 1993 and the *Encyclopédie Universelle Larousse* appeared on CD-ROM in 2001. In June 2001, [Wikipedia's collaborative encyclopaedia](#) emerged. Today, it boasts over 17 million articles in 278 languages and dialects.

A few years later, the expansion of the Internet forced another change: the last edition of the encyclopaedia *Encarta*, *Encarta Premium 2009*, was published on CD-ROM in August 2008. The encyclopaedia Britannica is [available online](#), but there is also a mobile edition [available for smartphones](#).

It was, however, bilingual dictionaries that offered most marketing possibilities through translating devices or electronic pocket dictionaries. Marketed with one or several integrated dictionaries, or with removable cart-

ridges, this type of device, a contemporary of electronic diaries, became popular because of its small size and because they also offered the advantages that CD-ROMs and online dictionaries would come to provide: speed when searching for results and showing them, as well as new search options. If these devices are not widely used in Europe, in the English speaking countries and Asia they are more commonly so.

Some companies such as Casio, Sharp, Franklin or [Ectaco](#) market these machines with Le Robert, Oxford or Merriam-Webster dictionaries integrated. The Casio EW-F2000V includes Le Robert & Collins French-English bilingual dictionary and another two monolingual dictionaries, two monolingual dictionaries of synonymous and the *Oxford Thesaurus*. The [EW-F4000C](#) includes all the monolingual and bilingual dictionaries by Le Robert and Oxford, as well as some guides to learning English. The Franklin electronic pocket dictionaries offer bilingual dictionaries like the *Merriam-Webster Spanish-English and Advanced Learner's English Dictionary* (Franklin BES-2150) or monolingual dictionaries like the *Compact Oxford English Dictionary with Thesaurus* (Franklin OEC-570).

The advantages are clear: these devices allow searches to be carried out in several dictionaries, the entry and definition text are searched directly and a word's pronunciation can be heard. Certain models from the brand Ectaco also incorporate a handheld scanning pen which recognises Latin, Chinese or Cyrillic symbols on paper and searches for the word in the dictionary.

Among the disadvantages are the following: the limited monochrome screen of only 5, 7 or 8 lines and the inability to add more dictionaries. However, more recent models have colour screens and removable cards allowing new dictionaries to be added, and most recent models include similar functions to those on smartphones, like calculators, MP3 players or GPS.

Personal digital assistants (PDA) were the next step but they have now been substituted by smartphones. Smartphones, depending on the installed operating system, have different characteristics. Nokia, for example, together with their Symbian software allow dictionary files to be downloaded for free from their website and they are then incorporated into the telephone. There are dictionaries in all European languages and many others, like Arabic, Turkish, Ukrainian, Chinese etc.

The conversion of dictionary text into software is done by intermediary technological companies like SlovoEd-Paragon Software Group or K dictionaries. There is therefore a new link in the lexicographic chain that did not previously exist.

Sometimes the operating system allows the dictionaries to be compatible with other smartphones as with Sony Ericsson, Motorola, Samsung

and LG. The contents usually come from the main lexicographic publishers like Langenscheidt, Pons or Vox.

Free downloads are not, however, available with all brands. Other telephones, like the Blackberry, have an online shop from which dictionary applications can be bought. There you can find the *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary* or the *Advanced Catalan Dictionary*, for example, by publishers like "Enciclopedia Catalana". They are mobile versions of those dictionaries found on paper, with functions adapted to touchscreen devices and hyperlinks implemented by the company Mobile Systems Inc.

Apple is in some points different: MacBook computers have an integrated English dictionary and thesaurus (Oxford American Dictionaries) but applications for the *iPhone* are largely provided by private developers or companies that use the *iTunes-Apple Store* platform to offer their products.

A large number of dictionaries have been adapted to the Android operating system. Examples of which include the following: the *Duden Deutsches Universalwörterbuch*, the 11th revised edition of the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, the *Vox Advanced English-Spanish Dictionary* and the *Van Dale French-Dutch Dictionary*. There is also an [online shop](#) from where it is possible to download versions of these dictionaries. Such versions are sometimes adapted by the same previously mentioned technological companies (Slovo-Ed, Paragon, Semantix).

The move to adapt dictionaries for use on these devices has, in other cases, been made by the publishers themselves. Larousse, for example, has developed Android compatible versions of their dictionaries. The appearance of tablets having a larger touchscreen has given way to encyclopaedic dictionaries with images. In the case of Larousse's illustrated encyclopedia, an encyclopaedic dictionary of proper nouns, thematic chapters, a biographical tab, a thesaurus and an atlas showing every country have been added to the language dictionary. This encyclopaedia can be bought for the iPad from iTunes (€ 6,99). Also, like those by Collins on "[Reverso](#)", the majority of Larousse's bilingual dictionaries are available for online consultation at [Larousse.fr](#).

Another archetypal example is that of Éditions [Le Robert](#). Le Robert offers, on its website a "digital space" or *espace numérique* where it is possible to buy their dictionaries on paper, pdf or ePub (see figure below). It is also possible to consult the dictionaries online (*en ligne*) if you pay a monthly fee. It is a subscription system similar to that used by Oxford dictionaries on [their website](#).



Like the Larousse encyclopaedia, the *Dixel* dictionary (great French language dictionary and encyclopaedic dictionary of proper nouns, thematic dossiers and maps, launched on paper in 2009) was adapted by Prolexis to the iPhone and the iPad. Named “*Dixel Mobile*”, it is sold on the AppStore.

Other devices on which electronic dictionaries have been included are e-readers. In these, dictionaries are a complement to the ebooks, an application that can be used to look up words that have not been understood. Kindle, the ebook reader from Amazon, includes the 2005 New Oxford American Dictionary on their 2.3 model (Oxford University Press ebook version). It is the same title installed on Apple’s MacBook computers. As in other cases mentioned, the conversion was done by a secondary company, Kreutzfeldt.

3. Lexicographic projects on the Internet

Some relevant lexicographic projects that use computing tools in their development will now be discussed. These projects concern: 1) the digitalisation of dictionaries; 2) the search and classification of classic digitalised dictionaries; 3) large institutional corpora.

Historical lexicography has greatly benefitted from the computerisation and digitalisation that has taken place over recent years. Various examples of this include the computerised versions of important historical dictionaries, such as those in English, German and Romanian.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED, 20 volume edition published in 1928, 2nd edition in 1989) saw its first electronic version in 1988. The *Deutsches Wörterbuch* der Grimm (DWB), published between 1838-1961 in 32 volumes, saw its first electronic version between 1997–2004. The *Dicționarul limbii române* (DLR) (two series : DA – 1907-1944 and DLR – 1965–2010, 13 tomes in 37 volumes), carried out by the Department of Lexicology-Lexicography in the Institute of Romanian Philology, was digitalised between 2007 and 2010. The *eDTLR* (*Dicționarul tezaur al limbii române in format electronic*) is the result: an electronic dictionary of the Romanian language (Danila 2010). An electronic dictionary for the old Italian is being done by the *Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche* - CNR, *Tesoro della Lingua Italiana delle Origini* (TLIO).

The dictionary of the French language of the 19th and 20th centuries (*Trésor de la Langue Française des XIX^e et XX^e siècles*, 1971-1994, 16 volumes, with 100 000 headwords and 430 000 quotations) was digitalised by ATILF (*Analyse et Traitement Informatique de la Langue Française*) between 1990-2004 (TLFi). This was also the case with the dictionary of French Academy, the *Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française* (the 1694 edition and those that followed : fourth [1762], fifth [1798], sixth [1835] and eighth [1932-5]).

Another concept, also developed in text format and offering the possibility of exporting definitions to a word processing programme, was the *Atelier* and the *Grand Atelier historique de la langue française*, a set of 14 historical French language dictionaries from the 17th to the 19th century.

The digitalised version of the Littré dictionary, *Dictionnaire de la langue française*, published on CD-ROM by Redon, can also be consulted for free on the Internet on the Collins dictionary website. This version allows users to search for a word, synonym or conjugation in the other integrated contemporary French dictionaries.

Reverso **Dictionnaire de français "Littré"**
définitions, citations, synonymes, usage... d'après l'ouvrage d'Émile Littré (1863-1877)

Dictionnaire de la langue française "Littré" Auteurs | Conjugaison | Définition | Synonymes

Bienvenue dans « **Le dictionnaire de la langue française** », dictionnaire en ligne inspiré du fameux ouvrage d'**Émile Littré**. Ce site offre pour la première fois une consultation agréable et gratuite de la référence des écrivains et des amoureux de la langue. Son contenu très riche en fait un guide parfait pour découvrir, comprendre et approfondir la maîtrise du français dans son usage jusqu'à la fin du XIXe siècle.

« *Un dictionnaire, une légende, un trésor. Le Littré est un roman, le roman de la langue française* », dit Jean d'Ormesson.

Une grande partie du contenu du dictionnaire est encore parfaitement valable aujourd'hui. Cependant, certains mots ont gagné ou perdu des sens, certains sont devenus obsolètes. Ne vous étonnez pas si certains termes d'usage fréquent aujourd'hui n'y figurent pas. Ils n'existaient pas à l'époque. Pour plus de détails voir ci-dessous.

Quelques adaptations ont été faites pour améliorer le confort de lecture :

- les **indications grammaticales** ont été modernisées : **nm** pour nom masculin, **vt** pour verbe transitif
- les **indications de domaine ou d'usage** ont été séparées : en termes de médecine, familièrement...
- les **sens** sont clairement séparés par des numéros
- lorsque cela est possible les **mots composés** ou les **locutions** figées sont repérés par une mise en valeur
- le **supplément** (entrées ajoutées au cours de la fin des années 1860) a été intégré dans les entrées
- chaque mot peut être utilisé comme un **lien hypertexte** ou copié dans une autre application.
- les citations sont indiquées en italique, avec le nom de l'auteur et l'ouvrage concerné. Vous pouvez choisir d'en afficher une ou plusieurs, et de limiter l'affichage aux extraits courts.
- Les **proverbes** et les **synonymes** sont indiqués dans des sections à part.
- Les principaux **auteurs** et leurs **oeuvres** sont recensés sur la page [Auteurs et oeuvres du Littré](#).

Voici un extrait des principaux auteurs cités dans le Littré : [La Boétie](#), [De Laborde](#), [La Bruyère](#), [La Fayette](#), [La Fontaine](#), [Lamartine](#), [Lanoue](#), [La Rochefoucauld](#), [Latini](#), [Léopoldant](#).

Figure 1 *Littré* dictionary at Collins website.

Finally, it is necessary to mention the important French dictionaries dating from the 17th to the 20th century accessible on the Chicago ARTFL portal called “Dictionnaires d’autrefois” (Project for *American and French Research on the Treasury of the French Language*): le *Thresor de la langue françoise* by Jean Nicot, the *Dictionnaire critique de la langue française* (1787-1788) by Jean-François Féraud and the *Dictionnaire de la langue française* (1872-1877) by Émile Littré. Other dictionaries have also been considered, such as Robert Estienne’s *Dictionarium Latinogallicum*, Pierre Bayle’s *Dictionnaire historique et critique* (5th edition, 1740) or Louis Moréri’s *Grand dictionnaire historique* (1759).

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- Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago

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Dictionnaires d'autrefois

French dictionaries of the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries

Use the search box below to simultaneously query Jean Nicot's *Thresor de la langue française* (1606), Jean-François Féraud's *Dictionnaire critique de la langue française* (1787-1788), Émile Littré's *Dictionnaire de la langue française* (1872-1877) and the *Dictionnaire de L'Académie française* 1st (1694), 4th (1762), 5th (1798), 6th (1835), and 8th (1932-5) editions. Enter one word, accents optional (eg., parlement or humanité).

[Advanced Search Form](#) [Full-Text Search Form](#)

Dictionnaires d'autrefois

- **Jean Nicot, *Thresor de la langue françoise, tant ancienne que moderne***
 Jean Nicot's *Thresor de la langue françoise* is the key to the development of French lexicography. The sum of four editions of Robert Estienne's bilingual Dictionnaire françois-latin, the **Thresor** assumed, through the contributions of Nicot, the nature of a monolingual French dictionary.
- **Jean-François Féraud, *Dictionnaire critique de la langue française***
 Jean-François Féraud's *Dictionnaire critique de la langue française* (1787-1788) is far from a mere general dictionary. Féraud's major concern in this wide and comprehensive release of his *Dictionnaire grammatical* is to provide foreigners or people from the remote regions of France with a comprehensive and easy guide to authorized, proper usage of French. Not only does he mention and criticize the major sources of good usage, such as the *Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française*, Trévoux's or Richelet's dictionaries, he also adds a wide range of his own grammatical remarks, proving in doing so to be one of the most penetrating observers of post-classical French language. As such, it will help many students and scholars towards a better understanding of Rousseau, Diderot, and Beaumarchais' fascinating works. [Féraud homepage](#) and [full-text search form](#).
- ***Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française***
 The Académie française was founded by Cardinal Richelieu in 1635 with the primary goal of creating a French dictionary. A total of eight editions have been published in the years since its foundation, from the first edition in 1694 up until the eighth edition in 1935. The ninth edition is currently in progress. The ARTFL Project, in collaboration with the *Projet d'informatisation du Dictionnaire de l'Académie française*, is pleased to offer electronic versions of the first (1694), 4th (1762), 5th (1798), 6th (1835), and 8th (1932-5) editions.
- **Émile Littré, *Dictionnaire de la langue française***
 Thanks to data provided by François Gannaz at XMLittré, we have incorporated Émile Littré's literary dictionary of classical French (1872-1877) into our *Dictionnaires d'autrefois* Collection.

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[Version française](#) [up](#) [Advanced Search](#)

Searches allow the recovery of headword definitions and their comparison with the word in the other editions. This permits a panoramic vision of the lexicography as well as the verification of the evolution of definitions and methods. The advanced search “Advanced Headword” permits the retrieval of these words from entries (headwords) and from introductions, title pages, etc.

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Dictionnaire de l'Académie française, 1st Edition (1694)

dictionnaire

Dictionnaire. s. m. Vocabulaire, recueil par ordre de tous les mots d'une langue. *Dictionnaire Français. dictionnaire Latin. dictionnaire Français- Latin. dictionnaire par ordre alphabétique. dictionnaire par ordre des racines, par racines. bon dictionnaire. ample dictionnaire.*

On dit aussi, *Dictionnaire Poétique-historique, historique-Geographique &c.*

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Dictionnaire de l'Académie française, 4th Edition (1762)

dictionnaire

DICTIONNAIRE. s.m. Vocabulaire. Recueil de tous les mots d'une Langue, mis par ordre. *Dictionnaire Français. Dictionnaire Latin. Dictionnaire Italien. Dictionnaire Espagnol. Dictionnaire par ordre alphabétique. Dictionnaire par l'ordre des racines, par racines.*

dictionnaire

DICTIONNAIRE se dit aussi de divers autres recueils faits par ordre alphabétique sur des matières de Poésie, de Géographie, d'Histoire, &c. *Dictionnaire Poétique. Dictionnaire Historique. Dictionnaire Géographique. Un Dictionnaire de Marine. Dictionnaire de rimes.*

[Top](#)

Dictionnaire de l'Académie française, 5th Edition (1798)

dictionnaire

DICTIONNAIRE. s. m. (On ne prononce qu'un N.) Vocabulaire. Recueil de tous les mots d'une Langue, mis par ordre. *Dictionnaire Français. Dictionnaire Latin. Dictionnaire Italien. Dictionnaire Espagnol. Dictionnaire par ordre alphabétique. Dictionnaire par l'ordre des racines, par racines.*

On dit d'Un mauvais Traducteur, qu'il fait sa traduction à coups de Dictionnaire.

dictionnaire

Dictionnaire, se dit aussi De divers autres recueils faits par ordre alphabétique sur des matières de Poésie, de Géographie, d'Histoire, etc. *Dictionnaire Poétique. Dictionnaire Historique. Dictionnaire Géographique. Un Dictionnaire de Marine. Dictionnaire de rimes.*

On dit figurément d'Un homme qui a des connoissances très-étendues, et qu'il communique aisément, que C'est un Dictionnaire vivant.

[Top](#)

Dictionnaire de l'Académie française, 6th Edition (1835)

dictionnaire

DICTIONNAIRE. s. m. Vocabulaire, recueil de tous les mots d'une langue, rangés dans un certain ordre, et expliqués dans la même langue, ou traduits

Figure 2 Chicago ARTFL “*Dictionnaires d'autrefois*” website.

The most significant Spanish language dictionaries were digitalised twenty years ago by the Fundación Tavera in the volumes : “Spanish Mainland Lexicography : classic dictionaries” (“Lexicografía española peninsular: diccionarios clásicos”) (Álvarez 1998) and “Lexicography of American Spanish” (“Lexicografía del español en América”) (Haensch 2000). They were pages scanned directly from the dictionaries without the possibility of searching through the text.

Royal Spanish Academy dictionaries (*DRAE*) were digitalised, together with many other 19th and 20th century dictionaries, in the “*New Lexicographic Thesaurus*” (*Nuevo Tesoro Lexicográfico*) (RAE 2000). This is a virtual library with the 66 most important dictionaries in Hispanic lexicography, digitalised in a facsimile way. This does permit the search and comparison of different entries from different editions. A [reduced free on-line version](#) allows Spanish Academy dictionaries to be consulted.

The screenshot shows the NTLLE website interface. On the left, there is a table with columns 'Sel', 'Lema', and 'Diccion'. The table lists various dictionaries from 1732 to 1899. The main content area displays the entry for 'RAE A 1732', which is a detailed description of a dictionary. The entry text is as follows:

con transformos peregrinos.
DICCIONARIO. s. m. El Libro que en forma de catálogo contiene por orden Alfabético todas las dicciones de una ò mas Léguas , ò las pertenecientes à alguna facultad ò matéria determinada , explicadas regularmente en el mismo Idioma : como el Dicciónario de Treboux, que lo es de la Léngua Francesa, el de Moreri , que es histórico, y el de Thomás Cornelio geographico. Distinguese el Dicciónario del Vocabulário, en que este contiene solo las voces traducidas en otra Léngua ò explicadas mui simplemente por algun sinónimo : como el Tesoro de las Léguas Española y Franccsa de César Oudin, y el Vocabulario de la Germania de Juan Hidalgo, aunque regularmente en los Autores se hallan equivocadas estas dos voces por la analogía que tienen entre sí sus raíces Dicción y Vocablo. Lat. *Lexicum, i. Vocabulorum index, etc.* MARIAN. Hist. Esp. lib. 26. cap.5. A este

Figure 3 DRAE Spanish dictionaries website.

The “New Lexicographic Spanish Thesaurus (14th century-1726)”, or *Nuevo Tesoro Lexicográfico del español (siglo XIV-1726)* (NTLE), had a similar purpose although it was published in a paper format and not electronically in 2007. This work of 11 volumes brings together alphabetically ordered transcripts of the information contained within 145 collections, dictionaries, word lists or glossaries previous to the “Authoritative” dictionary (*Diccionario de Autoridades*, 1726-1739). It is a complement to the Spanish Academy’s *New Lexicographic Thesaurus* and, as in other cases, has the objective of helping to develop the future historical dictionary of the Spanish language.

The last similar noteworthy project to be discussed is one that is being carried out for the Portuguese language: the *Dictionary of Portuguese Dictionaries*, a compilation of monolingual and bilingual Portuguese dictionaries from the 16th to 19th century, from the Galician-Castilian vocabulary of 1536 to the Moraes dictionary of 1858 (Messner 2008).

Some institutional lexicographic projects related to historical lexicography will now be mentioned. The objective of these projects is to outline the dictionaries published over a long period of time in French, Italian and Spanish.

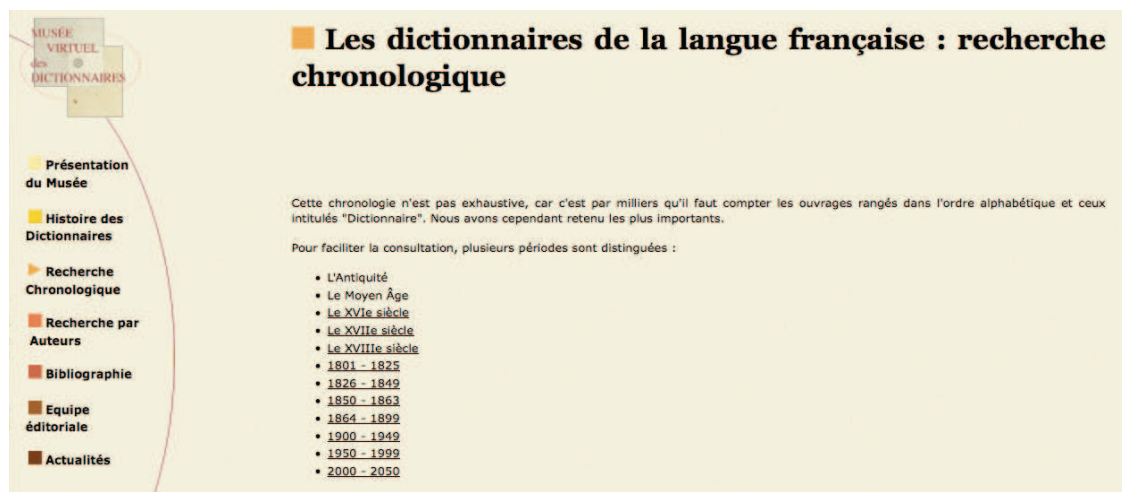
The Virtual Dictionary Museum website was created in 2002 by Prof. Pruvost and Jacquet-Pfau from the University of Cergy-Pontoise (Paris). Hosted by Laboratory LDI (Lexiques, Dictionnaires, Informatique), previously named **MÉTADIF**, its purpose is to present a bibliography of dictionaries as well as the studies that occurred as a result.



LE MUSÉE VIRTUEL des DICTIONNAIRES

L'École nationale des chartes offre les *Nuances* de Littré, tirées du *Dictionnaire de la langue française* (1863), à la consultation intégrale sur le Musée.

There, it is possible to find biographies of lexicographers as well as extracts from the main French dictionaries (photographs or scanned pages). It is also possible to search by author, title or chronological period.



Les dictionnaires de la langue française : recherche chronologique

Cette chronologie n'est pas exhaustive, car c'est par milliers qu'il faut compter les ouvrages rangés dans l'ordre alphabétique et ceux intitulés "Dictionnaire". Nous avons cependant retenu les plus importants.

Pour faciliter la consultation, plusieurs périodes sont distinguées :

- L'Antiquité
- Le Moyen Âge
- [Le XVIIe siècle](#)
- [Le XVIIIe siècle](#)
- [Le XVIIIe siècle](#)
- [1801 - 1825](#)
- [1826 - 1849](#)
- [1850 - 1863](#)
- [1864 - 1899](#)
- [1900 - 1949](#)
- [1950 - 1999](#)
- [2000 - 2050](#)

Figure 4 Virtual dictionary museum, at University of Cergy website.

The *Hesperia* project from the University of Bologna is similar but more complete. Directed by Prof. F. San Vicente, it is a compilation of the history of Spanish-Italian bilingual dictionaries from their origins to modern days (16th to 20th centuries). It consists of a website and a database with bibliographic in-

formation on different editions of every title (457 titles in total), photographs of title pages scanned and bibliography of related studies.



Figure 5 Website for bilingual Italian-Hispanic dictionaries at CLIRO website (Univ. of Bologna).

The third relevant project is that of the “Virtual Library of Spanish Philology” by Prof. Alvar Ezquerro at the Complutense University in Madrid. This library groups all links for Spanish dictionaries digitalised by any library in the world. It is possible to search by author, editor and year and to click to see the entire text from the dictionary selected. It also brings together grammar and linguistic texts on orthography. It currently contains 1750 references.



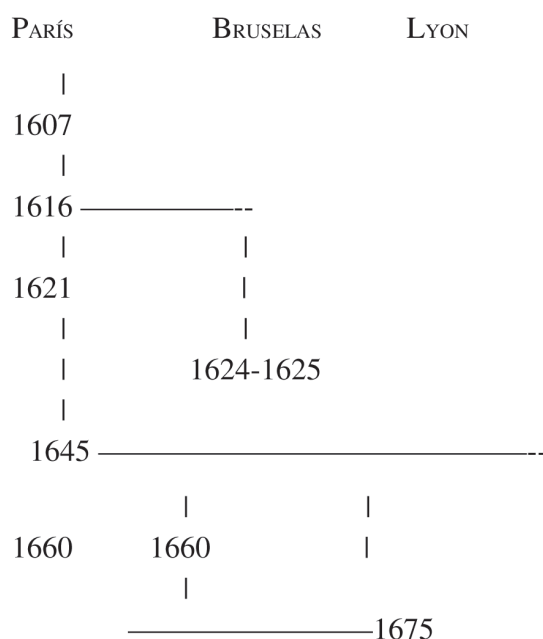
Figure 6 The Virtual Library of Spanish Philology at Complutense University website.

It could be said that this project is attempting to organise the huge quantity of dispersed information available on the Internet. It must also be noted that the virtual library of the National Library of France (“Gallica”, BnF) offers more than a million and a half digitalised documents, among which there are dictionaries; Google Books is also a very important source of digitalised dictionaries, but there is still no *hub* capable of classifying all these digitalised documents from universities, research centres or private institutions.

4. Towards a critical edition of dictionaries: conclusion

It can be seen therefore that computerisation has given rise to a large quantity of works and information about them. The systematic ordering of all this accumulated information is the philologist’s next task. Unlike literary works, when a dictionary is published various times, its content can increase or decrease (due to changes made by the author, editors or publishers). From a historical point of view, a philologist must register such changes.

The different editions of César Oudin’s bilingual dictionary *Thrésor des deux langues espagnolle et françoise* are an example of this : published for the first time in 1607, it was revised and extended over a period of 70 years by his son Antoine Oudin and by the printers in the different cities in which it was published (Paris, Brussels and Lyon). The following diagram was created after having analysed changes found in the content of all the editions :



As can be seen in the table below, the changes made between one edition and another were sometimes substantial :

1621, second part	1645 / 1660, second part
<i>La, article feminin, la</i>	<i>La, la</i>
<i>Là, en ce lieu-là, alla, aculla, ay, alli</i>	<i>La faire longue, i. Estar mucho en un lugar.</i>
<i>Labeur, obra, labor, trabajo</i>	<i>Là, ay, alla, aculla.</i>
<i>Labeur & trauail, industria</i>	<i>à La, a la.</i>
<i>Continuel labeur, trabajo continuo</i>	<i>* La sus, alla arriba, en el cielo</i>
<i>Fuir labeur, huyr del trabajo</i>	<i>Là, or sus, ea</i>
<i>Labeur vain, trabajo en balde</i>	<i>Là où, de manera que</i>
<i>Beste de labeur, jumento, bestia de trabajo</i>	<i>De là, de alla : pues, allende</i>
<i>Vn labeur extreme, trabajo grandissimo</i>	<i>ne le prenez pas Là, i. no la creays assi.</i>
<i>Defaillir au labeur, faltar, desmayar en el trabajo</i>	<i>n'en demeurez pas Là, i. yd mas adelante.</i>
<i>Laborieux, trabajoso, hazendoso</i>	<i>j'en suis Là, i. assi lo quiero</i>
<i>Laborieusement, trabajadamente</i>	<i>ils en passeront par Là, i. tendranpaciencia, ha de ser alli.</i>
<i>Labour ou labourage, labrança de tierra, arada</i>	<i>Labdane, ledo, xara.</i>
<i>Labourer, trabajar, obrar,</i>	<i>Labeche, lebeche.</i>
<i>Labourer la terre, arar, labrar la tierra</i>	<i>Labeur, obra, labor, trabajo</i>
<i>Laboureur, arador, labrador</i>	<i>* Laboureur, labrar</i>
<i>Labyrinthe, laberinto.</i>	<i>* Labie, labio</i>
	<i>* Labier, de labio</i>
	<i>Labile, labil</i>
	<i>Labirinthe, laberinto</i>
	<i>* Laboration, labor</i>
	<i>Laborieusement, trabajadamente</i>
	<i>Laborieux, trabajoso, hazendozo [sic]</i>
	<i>Labour, aradura, arada, labrança de tierra</i>
	<i>Labourable, arable</i>
	<i>Labourage, Labrança, aradura, terres Labourées, labrados</i>
	<i>Labourer, trabajar, labrar la tierra, obrar</i>
	<i>l'ancre Laboure, ara el hierro o ancla</i>
	<i>Labouret, cierta yerva</i>
	<i>Labourerur de nature, i. miembro viril</i>
	<i>Labrusque, labrusca</i>
	<i>Labyrinthe, laberinto</i>

Today there is no sense in publishing an edition or another separately : thanks to digital libraries, we can consult copies of many of them. For a lexicographer it is much more interesting to see several editions and note the evolution of the book and its language over time. The most recent edition is not always the most complete one, as is the case above (the 1675 Lyon edition does not include information added to the 1660's Oudin Paris edition). This is why it is justifiable, when a dictionary was published on various occasions and its text changed throughout the editions, to combine together all published editions : the edition must place in one single text all the words from every edition. This is the decision adopted by M. Zuili, and by ourselves, in his proposed edition of Oudin's dictionary: « Embrasser en une seule lecture tous les états existants de cette œuvre » (Zuili 2008:130).

Another studied example is that of “vocabulary in six languages” from the *Book of Agricultural secrets* by Miguel Agustín (editions from 1626 to the 19th century) (Pablo 2007 and 2011). The edition must acknowledge all variations before choosing that which corresponds to the period or to subsequent changes. It must also be useful for studying a language's history.

In conclusion, dictionaries are adapting well to technology (computers, *smartphones* and *e-readers*) and the digital world is increasingly making more information and knowledge available about dictionaries and original editions. A philologist's work, however, can not only be accumulative : distinguishing the correct word from the incorrect is still necessary.

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