

# British Council Seminar Series | Who needs dictionaries?

Michael Rundell | Tuesday 09 October 2012 | 1830 – 2030

## Outline and References

The joy of books	<i>American Heritage</i> review <a href="http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/news/mcintyre/blog/2011/09/infatuated_with_a_book.html">http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/news/mcintyre/blog/2011/09/infatuated_with_a_book.html</a>
The world we live in now	'Search' displaces 'look it up': Gilles-Maurice de Schryver, 'Lexicography in the crystal ball', EURALEX 2012 Proceedings, available at <a href="http://www.euralex.org/publications/">http://www.euralex.org/publications/</a> Nesi, H. (forthcoming) 'The demands of users and the publishing world: printed or online, free or paid for?' in Durkin. P. (ed) <i>The Oxford Handbook of Lexicography</i> . OUP
Two revolutions in dictionaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Corpus Revolution: Sinclair, COBUILD and Corpora 1981 →</li><li>▪ The Digital Revolution: 1990s →</li></ul>
What do we lose?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Publishers, dictionary-producers<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ existing business model, 'gatekeeper' role, slow publishing cycle</li></ul></li><li>▪ Dictionary as 'authority': <a href="http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/old-duffers">http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/old-duffers</a></li></ul>
How words get in the dictionary	OUP's flowchart <a href="http://oxforddictionaries.com/page/newwordinfographic/how-a-new-word-enters-an-oxford-dictionary">http://oxforddictionaries.com/page/newwordinfographic/how-a-new-word-enters-an-oxford-dictionary</a> Merriam-Webster video <a href="http://www.merriam-webster.com/video/0032-howaword.htm?&amp;t=1326227263">http://www.merriam-webster.com/video/0032-howaword.htm?&amp;t=1326227263</a> Blog posts on the subject <a href="http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/how-words-get-into-the-dictionary-part-1-the-past">http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/how-words-get-into-the-dictionary-part-1-the-past</a>
What do we gain?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Space</li><li>▪ Multimedia</li><li>▪ Currency (up-to-date-ness)</li></ul> 'Proud to be a Pleb' <a href="http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/proud-to-be-a-pleb">http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/proud-to-be-a-pleb</a> <i>Higgs Boson</i> <a href="http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/higgs-boson.html">http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/higgs-boson.html</a> <a href="http://www.macmillandictionary.com/open-dictionary/entries/Higgs-boson.htm">http://www.macmillandictionary.com/open-dictionary/entries/Higgs-boson.htm</a>
Crowd-sourcing, User-generated content	Jonathan Green in the <i>Guardian</i> <a href="http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/booksblog/2012/sep/13/dictionaries-democratic-crowdsourcing">http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/booksblog/2012/sep/13/dictionaries-democratic-crowdsourcing</a>

Crowd-sourcing (contd)	<p>Stan Carey  <a href="http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/dictionary-signals-vs-noise">http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/dictionary-signals-vs-noise</a>  Kerry Maxwell  <a href="http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/crowdsourcing.html">http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/crowdsourcing.html</a></p> <p>Crowd-sourced dictionaries  <i>Wiktionary</i>  Meyer, C. M. &amp; Gurevych, I. in press. 'Wiktionary: a New Rival for Expert-built Lexicons? Exploring the Possibilities of Collaborative Lexicography'. In Granger, S. and Paquot, M. (eds.). <i>Electronic Lexicography</i>. Oxford: OUP..  <i>Wordnik</i> : <a href="http://www.wordnik.com">www.wordnik.com</a>  The Open Dictionary  <a href="http://www.macmillandictionary.com/open-dictionary/latestEntries.htm">http://www.macmillandictionary.com/open-dictionary/latestEntries.htm</a></p>
The self-updating dictionary	<p>Paul Cook on finding needles in haystacks  'Using social media to find English lexical blends'  <a href="http://people.eng.unimelb.edu.au/paulcook/pp486-854Cook.pdf">http://people.eng.unimelb.edu.au/paulcook/pp486-854Cook.pdf</a>  Summarised at  <a href="http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/hunting-for-lexical-blends-the-computational-way">http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/hunting-for-lexical-blends-the-computational-way</a></p>
The 'adaptive' dictionary	<p>Kwary, D. A. 2012. 'Adaptive Hypermedia and User-Oriented Data for Online Dictionaries : A Case Study on an English Dictionary of Finance for Indonesian Students'. <i>International Journal of Lexicography</i>. 25.1.: 30-49.</p>
The 'disappearing' dictionary	<p>Alternatives to dictionaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ user forums, e.g.  <a href="http://forum.wordreference.com">http://forum.wordreference.com</a> (multilingual)  <a href="http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/">http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/</a> (British Council: for English)</li> <li>▪ translation resources, e.g.  Google Translate  Eijiro Pro (English/Japanese): <a href="http://www.alc.co.jp">www.alc.co.jp</a></li> <li>▪ vocabulary learning, virtual flashcards, adaptive systems  <a href="http://www.vocabulary.com">www.vocabulary.com</a>  <a href="http://www.keewords.com/en/">www.keewords.com/en/</a></li> <li>▪ text remediation tools (difficult!)  Base lexicale du français: <a href="http://ilt.kuleuven.be/blf/">http://ilt.kuleuven.be/blf/</a> (so far, only for French)</li> </ul>
Conclusions opportunities, trends...	<p>Automating dictionary creation  Rundell, M. and Kilgarriff, A. 2011. 'Automating the creation of dictionaries: where will it all end?' In Meunier F., De Cock S., Gilquin G. and Paquot M. (Eds), <i>A Taste for Corpora. A tribute to Sylviane Granger</i>. Benjamins: 257-281.</p>