

María José Domínguez Vázquez / Lola Mosquera Sánchez /
Deborah Nebechukwu / U-Tong Sih

Women in Lexicography: a collaborative citizens project

Abstract: This paper presents the version 1.0 of the collaborative citizens project *Women in Lexicography* (WL), which aims to compile and to increase the visibility of female lexicographers' work in different countries and continents. It explains how this project came about and how the main structural and content characteristics of this collaborative tool were defined, focusing on the description of the Dictionary Platform where WL is hosted and the macro and microstructure of *Women in Lexicography*. In addition to the presentation of the dictionary from a lexicographical perspective, the role of the work as a cultural mediator is the guiding principle of the contribution. This open science, i. e. this citizen lexicography project, represents a model of sustainable and socially responsible lexicography.

Keywords: Open science, collaborative lexicography, women, cultural knowledge

1	Introduction	5	Some excerpts
2	Description of <i>Women in Lexicography</i>	6	Concluding remarks
3	The dictionary platform	7	Bibliography
4	Designing the lexicon		

Article note: This project is supported by the Institute of Galician Language (ILG) of the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC) and by the EMLex-Consortium.

María José Domínguez Vázquez, University of Santiago de Compostela, English and German Department and Institute of Galician Language (ILG), Faculty of Philology, Avenida Castelao, s/n, 15705 Santiago de Compostela, Spain, E-Mail: majo.dominguez@usc.es

Lola Mosquera Sánchez, University of Santiago de Compostela, English and German Department, Faculty of Philology, Avenida Castelao, s/n., 15705 Santiago de Compostela, Spain, E-Mail: lola.mosquera.sanchez@usc.es

Deborah Chidimma Nebechukwu, European Master in Lexicography (EMLex). Université de Lorraine, France, E-Mail: deborah-chidimma.nebechukwu3@etu.univ-lorraine.fr

U-Tong Sih, European Master in Lexicography (EMLex). University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, E-Mail: utong.sih@rai.usc.es

1 Introduction

Women in Lexicography (WL) is a lexicographic, as well as a didactic and collaborative project, which is defined by three core features:

- It portrays the contribution of women to lexicography from different continents and cultures, not only by providing information on lexicographical practices in several languages and countries, but also trying to give readers of the dictionary a glimpse of the cultural and social environment during the lifetime of those women featured in the dictionary. WL provides insights into women from remarkably diverse lexicographic traditions (plurality in terms of countries of origin, working languages or cultural backgrounds), breaking, at last, with Western centralism. While it is true that some information on the life and work of each of these women lexicographers is available online, this is often scattered on the Internet and has to be retrieved from individual webpages. In addition, some data may be accessible in local languages only and not in major world languages, thus unintentionally reducing the visibility of some women lexicographers. In response to these challenges, WL manages to integrate the data from various sources and present them in an organised structure with equal presence in two languages, all on the same platform for facilitated access. Apart from secondary data from the Web, several interviews have also been conducted with contemporary women lexicographers worldwide to broaden the scope of our coverage. This further layer of primary data can ensure higher authenticity and inclusiveness of the contents of WL, as we believe.
- This dictionary project is being developed on the collaborative crowdfunding portal *Lingua Viva* ('Living Language'; LV) of the Institute of Galician Language (ILG) of the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC), where a sub-platform dedicated to the edition of collaborative dictionaries for and with citizens has been created and is hosted.¹ It is a collaborative project both from the point of view of its conception and its development, and is open to users' participation and editing. *Women in Lexicography* is the first lexicographic work being developed in this portal.
- It initially started as a didactic proposal, being compiled by professors, students, and alumni of the *Master Erasmus Mundus in Lexicography* – EMLex.² The participation of the students and alumni was fundamental in its conception: by involving both of them, networks are created, and, in turn, their lexicographic, cultural and social knowledge are put in value. It is also intended to gradually engage other interested groups.

¹ The founder and leader of the platform *Lingua Viva* is Prof. Elisa Fernández Rey of the Institute for Galician Language (ILG) of the USC. Three professors of EMLex and members of the ILG have developed the dictionary module subplatform, where WL is hosted. With concerted efforts, students and alumni have designed the version 1.0 of *Women in Lexicography*.

² EMLex: <https://www.emlex.phil.fau.eu/>.

2 Description of Women in Lexicography

2.1 General framework

In the last decades, social, political and scientific awareness has also grown around the issue of a more inclusive language. Lexicography has not been excluded from this debate since it should play a role in the construction of society. For example, the Vice-president of Spanish government officially asked the Royal Spanish Academy, the editor of the *Diccionario de la Lengua Española* (DLE), to adapt “the DLE to inclusive language guidelines, for example, by including the feminine forms of profession nouns and avoiding the use of male generic terms” (Fuertes-Olivera/Tarp 2022: 107), among others. Another example of this movement for a more inclusive language are the different steps taken from the Duden editorial office to “avoid unnecessarily stereotypical example phrases and to systematically include female occupational designations when they are common” (Müller-Spitzer/Rüdiger 2022: 131).

This social transformation, i. e. this new social sensitivity also includes a review of the role that women have played or are playing in science. In the history of German lexicography, McLelland (2022) identifies three approaches that take women into account: women as users and dedicatees of dictionaries, women as contributors to and compilers of dictionaries, and how female sexuality is portrayed in German/English bilingual dictionaries of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In this third case, some studies analyse gender stereotypes in the dictionaries, for example, how females and males are described in the examples of dictionaries, such as the *Contemporary Chinese Dictionary* (Hu/Xu/Hao 2019)³, Spanish Dictionaries (Fuertes-Olivera/Tarp 2022)⁴ and corpus-based dictionaries of German (Müller-Spitzer/Rüdiger 2022).⁵ Russell (2018) highlights the roles women played in the history of English lexicography. The project *Women in Lexicography* however differs from the aforementioned works as it illustrates the contribution of female lexicographers with the purpose of making visible and recognizing their achievement as a role model for future generations. Therefore, it attempts to

3 Their research results suggested that females tend to be limited in their sphere of agency and in the sentences, they are predominantly depicted as child-caring or confined to domestic chores. Males, on the other hand, are presented as social beings, whose actions often lead to positive results in line with the collective interests of the society. Moreover, they also tend to engage in cognitive tasks and demonstrate their skills, thus cast in a more positive light.

4 Central issues are questions about the visibility or invisibility of feminine forms in general Spanish dictionaries. The authors address the question of how to increase the visibility of women and thus eliminate gender bias in general Spanish dictionaries.

5 Müller-Spitzer/Rüdiger (2022) analyse collocation sets for “woman” and “man” in corpora. They observe that gender stereotypes appear strongly in newspaper texts. How to deal with these results in the production of dictionaries is a task for lexicographers, but this is a clear example of the social responsibility of lexicography, which can either avoid stereotypes or perpetuate them.

fulfil one of the purposes of a socially responsible Lexicography, as defined by Calañas/Domínguez (2023; forthcoming):

“Developing a socially responsible Lexicography compels lexicographers to reflect on the role played by dictionaries, portals or information systems (Villa Vigoni-Theses 2018) at inducing change in the values of society (Müller-Spitzer 2022)”.

Therefore, the purpose is to highlight the contribution that these women have made to lexicography and to local and global culture, thus filling a gap in cultural and lexicographical research and dissemination. WL is not a stand-alone product, as the compilations about women’s works has gradually increased in recent decades. From our point of view, this situation is a mirror image of social changes, as well as different sensibilities. Some examples are *Mujeres del 27: antología poética* (Ferris 2022),⁶ *Prehistoria de mujeres* (Sánchez 2022),⁷ *Women in Science: 50 female pioneers who changed the world* (Ignatofsky 2016),⁸ or *Astronauts: Women of the Final Frontier* (Ottaviani 2020).⁹ In summary, we agree with Ferris (2022) that there is a need to make visible and review the space given to women in science:

“There are books that should not exist; this one, for example. To publish an anthology of women who write, create, compose or conquer worlds, beyond a whim or a statistical curiosity, should never be an act of reparation [...]. To put a book like this in the hands of the reading public is the obvious proof that something has gone wrong [...]; something as elementary and unjustifiable as recognising that fate - and those who design and manipulate it - had prepared for them an ignominious oblivion or, much worse, the invisible and corrosive legacy of ignorance: what is not known, simply does not exist” (Ferris 2022: 13).

2.2 Main features of *Women in Lexicography*

An overview of the central features of the project are detailed below:

The didactic starting point: This resource was designed in 2022 as a didactic project for collaborative learning within the framework of the *Master Erasmus Mundus in Lexicography* (EMLex), which aimed to familiarise students of EMLex with central lexicographic issues, especially with dictionary planning using a collaborative platform. In this way, students should apply already learnt concepts, observe difficulties in the

⁶ Ferris, José Luis (2022): *Mujeres del 27: antología poética*. Barcelona: Austral translated by the authors.

⁷ Sánchez, Margarita (2022): *Prehistoria de Mujeres*. Barcelona: Ediciones Destino.

⁸ Ignatofsky, Rachel (2016): *Women in Science: 50 female pioneers who changed the world*. Berkeley: Ten Speed Press.

⁹ Ottaviani, Jim (2020): *Astronauts: Women of the Final Frontier*. New York: First Second.

development of resources, and propose solutions. According to this didactic perspective, different work stages were taken into account:

- Selecting the subject of lexicographical study
- Defining the macro and microstructure of the dictionary
- Determining the information type and format for each content module
- Approaching in a critical way to the collaborative platform, making a proposals catalogue for improving the platform and finding solutions for several problems
- Reflecting on several work phases and on the workflow: data input, data correction, work promotion, etc.
- Studying new resources and practising collaborative working methods
- Selecting the main bibliographical studies for developing the lexicon
- Developing a strategy for the collaborative work and for gaining new projects members
- Reflecting on the whole lexicographical work and on their difficulties and restrictions regarding financial matters, human resources, among others
- Exploring new visualisation software for promotion (collaboration with the Faculty of Communication) and designing a promotion strategy for the project.

A collaborative online open tool: According to the classification of Klosa (2013) *Women in Lexicography* is an online dictionary, which has been designed as such from the beginning. Therefore, its contributors and users have access worldwide and via different devices. It is constantly updated¹⁰ and enables collaborative interaction according to different member roles. The resource is collaborative from different approaches:

- **Interdisciplinarity:** Lexicographers and computer scientists have designed the dictionary module at language portal *Lingua Viva*. Colleagues from the Faculty of Communication and Information Sciences of the USC have recorded promotional videos together with our students.
- **Networking:** It is also collaborative because students, alumni and professors, and not only from EMLex, were involved. It is therefore not only about networking, but also about valuing the lexicographic and cultural knowledge of the participants.
- **A predefined collaborative hyperstructure:** The portal *Lingua Viva* is an open science project. Its dictionary module sets the type of collaboration for each of the resources hosted there (cf. Abel/Meyer 2013: 259–260; Melchior 2014). It means that the developers of a new tool can predefine the participation roles and the collaborative structure (or not) of their resource.

Concerning the participation roles, the dictionary platform in LV distinguishes between two types of administrators and two types of participation members. In the case of the administrators, the one who has access to all the dictionaries

¹⁰ Not all profiles elaborated are currently available online as the resource is in the process of transition from version 1.0 to 2.0.

created in the application is the super administrator. In addition, each dictionary has its own administrator (administrator of dictionary 1, of dictionary 2 etc.), who establishes the accesses, the members and their roles and the dictionary structure. As far as the members are concerned, the non-registered members or readers can consult the dictionary free of charge, since the dictionaries are available online. Register members can collaborate directly by editing and submitting entries as well as editing and deleting entries and contents in the dictionary. They can also make public comments and they can become followers. Only the main administrator of WL can change their dictionary structure. The dictionary platform of LV includes the following predefined roles of participation (Figure 1):

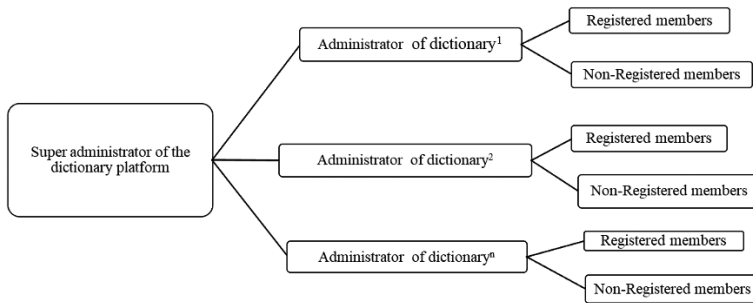


Figure 1: Predefined roles in the dictionary platform.

WL has been specifically designed with a collaborative structure both in terms of editing, correction and compilation of data and external participation through comments and likes (see Figure 2).

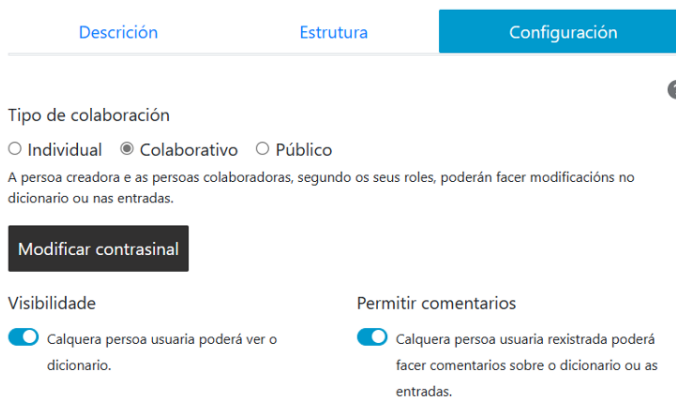


Figure 2: Dictionary platform interface for setting up the collaborative structure.

Citizens science: Women in lexicography, as part of the *Lingua Viva* platform, has been designed as a citizen project with linguistic, lexicographic, cultural and social value. It is developed for citizens and with citizen participation.

A bilingual structure: In the outer texts (see Table 1) the metalanguage is Galician. In order to facilitate participation, however, Galician and English are proposed as metalanguages for the microstructure. Two languages are currently used in the female lexicographers' profiles, Galician and English. The first one, Galician, is one of the official languages of the Spanish territory and it is considered a minoritized language. The inclusion of the English language enables a wider audience to be reached and therefore contributes to the dissemination of the dictionary.

A model for socially responsible lexicography: *Women in Lexicography* can also be described as a socially responsible project. Following Calañas/Domínguez (2023; forthcoming) a socially responsible Lexicography

“requires resources which can account for a complete, pluralistic description of reality, as well as make visible topics such as new gender roles, new and old ideologies, both cultural differences and similarities, etc. In turn, a socially responsible Lexicography requires users, that is, citizens, to participate in the design of the resources. It is also sustainable. It is, therefore, a social lexicography from two different but complementary perspectives: on one hand, the social responsibility of Lexicography regarding the transmission of contents, on the other hand, a civic Lexicography developed, too, by those which are deemed as users of the resources”.

From our point of view, *WL* meets the requirements to be considered as such, since a socially responsible lexicography is not only concerned with the content transmitted, but also with other key issues, such as sustainability, citizen participation, the social value of considering minoritized languages and the transmission of cultural background.

A cultural project: Culture could be the broadest framework for this project. From the foundations on which it is based to the *modus operandi* or the final result of the project, each element, each stage of the process and each criterion used stems from the enhancement of culture in all its aspects and aims to contribute to the diversification of culture as far as possible.

The term culture is a term with an immensely broad meaning. After consulting some online dictionaries (*Diccionario de la Real Academia Española*,¹¹ *Diccionario da Real Academia Galega*,¹² *Oxford English Dictionary*¹³), the definitions of culture could be

11 *Diccionario de la lengua española*. Real Academia Española, 23rd edn., [online version 23.6]. [<https://dle.rae.es>]; last access: March 21, 2023].

12 *Diccionario da Real Academia Galega*. Ed. by González González, Manuel. A Coruña: Real Academia Galega. [<https://academia.gal/diccionario>]; last access: March 21, 2023].

13 *OED Online*. Oxford University Press [<https://www.oed.com/>]; last access: March 21, 2023].

summarised as follows: a) set of ways of life and habits, knowledge, degree of artistic, scientific, industrial development in an epoch, social group and b) general knowledge possessed by a person, acquired through instruction or experience.

According to the proposed definitions, it can now be stated that culture is present in all phases of the development of *Women in Lexicography*. On the one hand, the main objective is to give visibility to people, in this case women, whose contribution to a specific discipline deserves to be recognised. In other words, in this case, culture, understood as the knowledge that a person possesses and acquired through both experience and training, is highlighted. On the other hand, these female lexicographers have dedicated themselves to the elaboration of dictionaries, i. e., to the documentation of languages, which contain the knowledge and identity of a social group, of a culture understood as the result of the development of a group. Moreover, their works are all products of a place and a time, i. e. they come from different cultural contexts and with them they also contributed to the development and enrichment of these contexts.

Throughout *WL*, the aim is to respect these cultural contexts at all times. It is intended to avoid Eurocentrism or Occidentalocentrism, as well as to represent minority languages, and not to give visibility only to the most widely spoken and best-known ones. In order to measure whether this diversity is being taken into account and to try to increase the number of profiles while maintaining a balanced geographical and linguistic distribution, two illustrative images (Figures 3 and 4) have been generated. Figure 3 is a world map in which the coloured countries correspond to the nationalities of the lexicographers included in the project. As can be seen in the map legend, the colours depend on the number of women born in those places. Figure 4 provides infor-

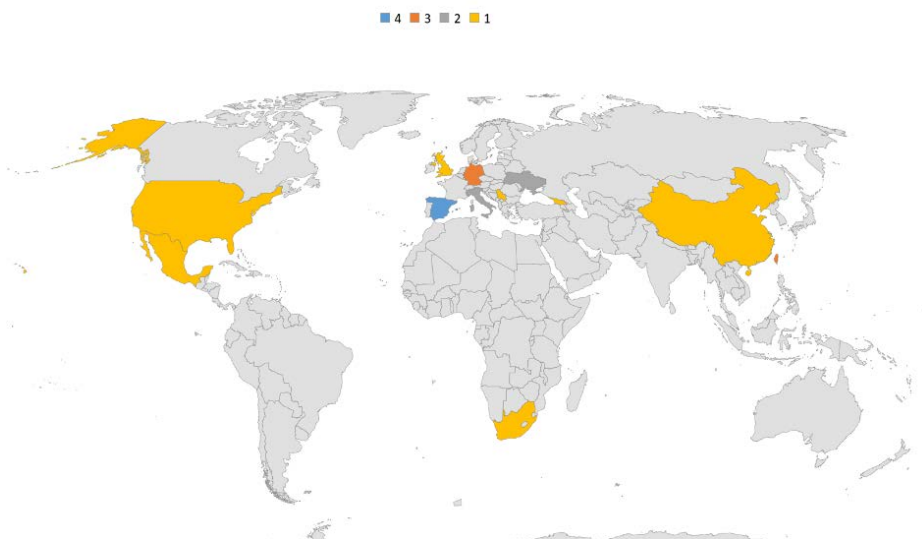


Figure 3: Representation of the birth countries of the lexicographers.

mation about the languages studied by the lexicographers and included in the dictionary so far: Some languages such as Spanish or English¹⁴ have currently more weight or representation than others, and besides, languages with a smaller number of speakers (Ukrainian or Yami) have a very notable representation. This is mainly due to the initial stage of the project and due to the native languages and countries of origin of many of the authors, especially EMLex professors and students.



Figure 4: Sample of the target languages included in the project.

In any case, at this early stage of the project, there are already notable differences compared to other collaborative resources such as *Wikipedia*. In the English version of *Wikipedia*, the names of forty-four women are listed under the “female lexicographers” tag. Of these 44 women, 12 are British and 12 are American, but two of them also have Australian and Canadian nationalities, so that more than fifty percent of them are from English-speaking countries. Although the data currently on WL are not statistically representative, as it consists of 25 profiles,¹⁵ the distribution of the birth countries in Figure 3 shows our purpose to diversify. The inclusiveness of the resource is even more evident if we look at Figure 3 with the different languages researched by the female lexicographers.

Finally, although not directly related to the women represented in *Women in Lexicography*, one of the two languages used throughout the project is Galician, a minor-

¹⁴ Nor will it be surprising that these are among the most represented languages at a more advanced stage of the project, as they are some of the most widely spoken languages in the world.

¹⁵ This is the number of profiles at the time of writing the current article.

itized language. This, once again, is an example of culture as a product and representation of a social group, with its associated knowledge, degree of development, customs, etc., and as a vindication of cultural minorities. All these characteristics fulfil the task of developing a socially responsible lexicographic tool (see section 2.1).

In short, this project, which takes the form of an organising, descriptive, binding instrument of an already existing culture (the lexicographical works of these linguists), at the same time becomes a new generator of culture: it presents a new way of accessing all the information collected and proposes, by the very nature of its conception, a historical review and a critical look. *Women in Lexicography* makes visible lexicographical contributions and works that are the product of their time and circumstances (a reflection of a collective, of a society), but are also, of course, the result of the knowledge of individuals: women.¹⁶

3 The dictionary platform

At the beginning the project was conceived in order to test the collaborative platform *Lingua Viva*, a platform created for the purpose of storing linguistic data and which has, among its portals, a sub-platform dedicated to the creation, storage and visualisation of collaborative dictionaries (Domínguez 2019). This means that WL is part of a broader platform that should accommodate all types of dictionaries. This is why the dictionary is flexible to fit into such a portal.

In order to access the dictionary in the *Lingua Viva* home page, the user has to go to the bar titled “recursos” (resources in English) and click on the option “diccionarios” (dictionaries) which will lead to the dictionaries available on the platform. Users can access free of charge all the dictionaries available on the platform (*Women in lexicography* among them are offered) (Figure 5). In order to consult the dictionary platform, the procedure is through a search bar in the top panel where you can locate the dictionary you are looking for, as well as directly find the necessary information in any of the stored dictionaries. In other words, you would not have to open each of the dictionaries to search for content, but could do this search from the home portal, which speeds up the process enormously.

¹⁶ Excerpts from actual entries, that can be found on the platform, are given as an example in section 5.

Dicionarios ¹

Sección destacado



Figure 5: Main home page of the dictionary platform in *Lingua viva*.

If someone intends to create a dictionary or actively participate in the development of an existing resource on the platform, the first step is to sign up. Then click on *crear dicionario* (“create dictionary”) (see Figure 6). Any user registered in *Lingua Viva* can carry out a lexicographic proposal by designing their own dictionary, as it is, in effect, a collaborative platform (see 2.2).

Dicionarios ¹

Sección destacado

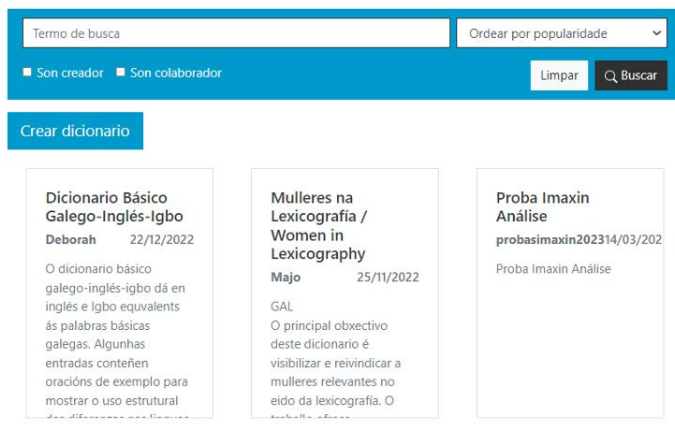


Figure 6: Interface for creating a new dictionary.

The outer features of all the dictionaries (Klosa/Gouws 2015) are predefined by the *Lingua viva* platform. This part is accessible only to the creators of the dictionary, who can describe their lexicographic project here. Figure 7 shows such an interface in the case of WL.

Figure 7: Screenshot of outer features in WL.

The outer features contained in *Lingua Viva* can be differentiated according to whether they are mandatory or optional (see Table 1). This part of the platform is a sample of its collaborative structure and its evolutionary potential: at the beginning it was rigid and all its parts were mandatory for all projects, but by observing and studying the needs that arose each time a new lexicographic proposal was created, it gradually adapted to them and finally offered this new, more flexible and adaptable structure.

Table 1: Predefined outer features on the dictionary platform.

Name in Galician	Name in English	Obligatory fields
Nome do dicionario	Dictionary Title	+
Descrición	Description	+
Fontes	Sources	+
Finalidade	Aim	–
Público principal	Target group	–
Autor(es)	Author(s)	+
Institución	Institution	–
Contacto	Contact	–

The interface to which a registered user has access is shown in Figure 8. It includes the title of the dictionary, its access mode and collaborative nature, the date it was created and who created it, a drop-down tab that allows you to see the description containing information on the outer features mentioned earlier and finally, symbols that encourage user participation and seek user feedback. These symbols include, for example, a heart, which allows the user to give positive feedback without having to write. The speech bubble allows the user to comment on the publication, thus enabling the user to make suggestions or ask questions directly. There is also the possibility to download the tool (an arrow pointing downwards represents this action) and, in case you want to cite the tool, another button already offers a citation template that can be copied and pasted in order to make the task quicker and easier. Finally, the flag indicates the language in which the tool is available.

Mulleres na Lexicografía / Women in Lexicography



Figure 8: Interface for registered user in WL.

4 Designing the lexicon

4.1 The macrostructure

There are two outer access routes (Gouws 2018): There is first a search box (rapid access route) that can be used to directly look up a specific lexicographer available in the dictionary, which is efficient and fast when the number of lemmas is high and one knows how to spell the name or surname of the lexicographer. In addition, there is an alphabet bar just above the search box which also grants access to the different articles (Figure 9).

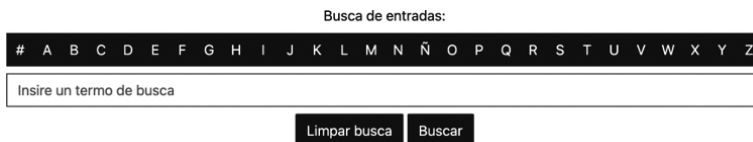


Figure 9: Search box in *Women in Lexicography*.

The lemmas are presented in semasiological and alphabetical order (Figure 10). The lemmas in this case are the surnames and first names of female lexicographers. The generated list is visually user-friendly and intuitive as the letters of the alphabet are clearly differentiated and in a larger font size.



Figure 10: Partial lemma list stretch.

Women in Lexicography uses a straight alphabetical macrostructure. It can therefore be said that each lemma in the dictionary is multi-lexical, since all the lemmas are the surnames and first names of lexicographers. The surname always appears first, followed by a comma and then the name(s) of the lexicographer of the article in question. The cultural diversity is already evident in the list of lemmas, as it can be seen, for example, that some lexicographers have one surname, while others have two.¹⁷

¹⁷ Some lexicographers having two surnames is due to their culture and country of origin.

4.2 The microstructure

Reflecting the collaborative nature of the project, the microstructure of the proposed dictionary results from joint discussions among our pioneer collaborators. Items chosen for the dictionary were selected to meet the goal and type of the dictionary. In the subsequent stage, it was also jointly decided whether each item is obligatory or based on their relevance to the information provided. During our pilot entry editing, it came to light that certain information may not always be available. Whilst photos of the female lexicographers can well be an optional item if none could be found or authorization cannot be granted, “relevant publications” is considered an important item as it is central to the information we aim to present. This was thus made an obligatory item since even in the scenario that no hard copies of the works cited are accessible, it is necessary to pinpoint it instead of conveniently skipping the item. This led to a total of 13 lexicographical items in our microstructure, amongst which 7 are obligatory. These are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Microstructure items.

Item name in Galician	Item name in English	Obligatory item
1. Nome	Name	+
2. Foto	Photo	–
3. Linguas de traballo	Work Languages	+
4. Información biográfica	Biographical information	+
5. Traxectoria profesional	Career description	+
6. Publicacións relevantes e contexto sociocultural	Relevant publications and socio-cultural background	+
7. Ligazóns	Links	–
8. Extractos de obras	Excerpts from work(s)	–
9. Presenza nos medios	Media presence	–
10. Datos de interese	Interesting facts	–
11. Fontes	Sources	+
12. Aut@r da entrada	Author of the entry	+
13. Tradución da entrada	Translation of the entry	–

Before we elaborate on some of these items, which are of particular interest in our dictionary, two other issues concerning our microstructure need to be addressed in preface:

- **Ordering of items:** As a project of specialised lexicography providing encyclopaedic information, the present dictionary – unlike reference works of language lexicography – can be consulted both in a linear or a non-linear direction. In other words, users can read the whole article as a single unit or access directly to the item of their interest, e. g. “relevant publications”. In view of this inherent nature of our work,

the items cannot follow an alphabetical ordering and are instead arranged in the following manner: the article begins with the most general item – the lexicographer’s name given in traditional Western order, with the lexicographer’s given name preceding her surname. The item on the lexicographer’s name is then followed by more items on biographical information and paved the way to an in-depth discussion of the lexicographer’s contribution to lexicography, including their important works. The whole dictionary article then concludes with references as well as information of the author and translator. This ordering is dictated by the genuine purpose of this work as an article that can be read in its entirety and can, in our opinion, provide the possibility of alternative inner access structures for target users.

- **Bilingual presentation:** As mentioned in section 2.2, the user-generated content can be written in either Galician or English, which will then be translated to the other language by the administrator team, if necessary. For items with the same contents in both languages, this step is skipped. In most other cases that a translation is warranted, however, the Galician part always precedes its English counterpart. To some extent, this bears some resemblance to two language editions – as is called on *Wiktionary* (Meyer/Gurevych 2012: 259–260) – of the same entry presented alongside each other. However, unlike *Wiktionary*, the translating process ensures that both languages have the same weight of information provided. In the case of further edits or corrections, both languages also need to be updated. Despite the translating stage, however, *Women in Lexicography* remains a “collective free multiple-language internet reference work” (Fuertes-Olivera 2009: 106–107) since the hosting platform only plays a supporting role for equivalent information in both languages. In other words, the entries are still incumbent on direct user participation with little editorial control (Abel/Meyer 2013: 181).

Some final remarks on certain obligatory items:

- **Item 1 (Name):** As previously mentioned, this is given in Latin alphabet and corresponds to the lemma sign with the difference in the prescribed presentation of this item in major European order of given name preceding the surname. Aliases or maiden names are also given whenever possible. For non-Western names, the original spelling as well as a phonetic transcription is also indicated.
- **Item 3 (Work languages):** This item was considered an important field to include because it was noticed that occasionally, these female lexicographers work on a language(s) different to their native language. It is therefore crucial to include the item and distinguish it with an explicit naming of the item. As regards ordering, the languages are arranged alphabetically according to their names in Galician. This was decided against the concept ‘command of the language’ on the following grounds: Firstly, language proficiency, in our case, does not lend itself well to be compared with the relevance of these languages to their lexicographical works. Secondly, for bilingual or multilingual women lexicographers, it would turn out to be a taxing task to compare their working languages in terms of ‘proficiency’.

- **Item 4 (Biographical information):** Date and place of birth and, in the case of deceased lexicographers, date and place of their death too, are provided to readers for a historical background. These are then followed by a brief biographical sketch, which in some cases offers a better understanding of the socio-cultural importance of their works, which is discussed in more detail below in item 6.
- **Item 5 (Career description):** Academics and self-taught lexicographers often provide intriguing insights into how they became involved in the world of dictionary making despite marked differences in terms of their previous backgrounds.
- **Item 6 (Relevant publications and socio-cultural background):** Here selected dictionaries are presented to illustrate the lexicographers' most significant contributions. A socio-cultural explanation related to those works is also provided for the sake of a deeper understanding of their importance. For instance, in the entry of "Linda Chen", her background as an immigrant to Singapore, a British colony back then, highlights the significance of her Malay-Chinese dictionary by bridging the cultural gaps and thus potentially improving interethnic relations (see section 5).
- **Item 11 (Sources):** Three subtypes can be identified, including bibliography, lexicographic works, as well as source of the photo (item 2).

5 Some excerpts

During the process of developing the tool, both in compiling the information and in translating it, we have gathered data that we consider to add value to the work presented here. Although the resource was created, as mentioned above, with the aim of compiling and giving visibility to women lexicographers, we have found that the importance of these women went beyond their role as lexicographers or that their own life stories were worthy of being given a voice and preserved.

Clearly, there is no objective way to measure what is worth mentioning and what is not, but this section offers a small, heterogeneous sample of some of the particularities, curiosities and information that we have found particularly noteworthy. The following examples are a good illustration of this:

- **Linda Chen (China):** As a Chinese immigrant in Singapore, she learned Malay of her own free will, even though at that point English, the colonial language of Singapore at that time, was more dominant than Chinese (her native language) and Malay. A bilingual in Chinese and English, she later compiled a Chinese-Malay dictionary, which proved to be of great significance in the teaching of Malay in the 1950s and 1960s. She used her language skills to bridge the linguistic gaps between different ethnic groups and her political commitment led her to spend 20 months in prison. Knowing the cultural context, her life and her work at the same time allows us to understand the enormous value of her work.

- Maa-Neu Dong¹⁸ (Taiwan): native speaker of an endangered language (Yami/ Tao), who works with two linguists (Victoria Rau and Ann Hui-Huan Chang) in a collaborative effort to preserve her language. Together with Victoria Rau, she compiled the Yami (Tao) Dictionary. This dictionary contains 6084 words and can be accessed through Yami, Chinese and their semantic equivalents in English. Yami is a language spoken by a community of about 4000 speakers in Taiwan. To this day, the younger generations of the Yami people do not have a good command of their native language. The efforts and initiatives of lexicographers like Maa-Neu Dong are getting some of these young people to return to their place of origin and improve their language skills through interaction with the elders.
- Adeline Smith (United States of America): One of the last native speakers of her language and an elder of her tribe (Elwha Klallam). She contributed around 12,000 words to the lexicon of her native language. The first dictionary of the Klallam language was published owing to her contributions. She also was involved in training teachers in Klallam language and was an activist that fought for the preservation of a cultural sight important and sacred to her tribe.

The examples presented in this section are illustrative and very representative of the role and dimension that culture has in the conception of the project: culture as the author's context, culture as a product signed by a lexicographer, culture as a heritage preserved through lexicography and documentation work, etc. It is therefore a transversal element in all the phases and levels of *Women in lexicography*.

6 Concluding remarks

Born with a didactic intention and with the aim of testing a new collaborative platform for compiling linguistic data, the project has evolved and has taken on much larger dimensions than could have been expected.

The ultimate goal of this work was none other than to collect and make visible the role of women in lexicography. On compiling the necessary information, the team found that the number of women lexicographers was much higher than expected, as was the relevance of their works for their linguistic or national contexts, to the extent that some of them were the only people to have documented languages that no longer exist today or are in serious danger of disappearing.

Women in Lexicography is an ongoing project: on the one hand, we are evolving the resource to a 2.0 version that enables a fully bilingual and bilateral consultation; on the

¹⁸ The information related to this lexicographer has been obtained through primary sources: online interview.

other hand, there are significantly more profiles that could be included in this platform. However, we believe that it has already had a positive impact, having managed to bring together all the information on a single portal (easier and more transparent accessibility), having collected data and profiles that were not even online (direct contacts have been established with some contemporary female lexicographers thanks to the possibilities offered by new technologies), and having contextualised the works and thus being able to assess their contributions and importance.

We define *Women in Lexicography* as an open science and inclusive project both in terms of its subject matter and objectives, as well as its authorship: it is a citizens' project. The project fulfils the requirements of a responsible lexicography and also the objective of preserving and generating culture by giving value to the lexicographical work of numerous authors and trying to offer cultural, geographical and linguistic diversity; a clear priority in its design and development.

7 Bibliography

7.1 Monographs, edited volumes and articles in edited volumes or journals

- Abel, Andrea/Meyer, Christian M. (2013): The Dynamics Outside the Paper: user contributions to online dictionaries. In: Kosem, Iztok, et al. (eds.): *Electronic lexicography in the 21st century: thinking outside the paper: proceedings of the eLex 2013 conference, 17–19 October 2013, Tallinn, Estonia*. Ljubljana/Tallinn: Trojina, Institute for Applied Slovene Studies/Eesti Keele Instituut, 179–194.
- Calañas, José Antonio/Domínguez, María José (2023) (eds.): Sustainable and Socially Responsible Lexicography. In: *Quaderns – Estudis lingüístics* 28 (forthcoming, 2023).
- Domínguez, María José (2019): Recursos lexicográficos electrónicos multilingües y plurilingües: definición y clasificación tipológico-descriptiva. In: *International Journal of Foreign Languages* 10, 49–74.
- Fuertes-Olivera, Pedro A. (2009): The Function Theory of Lexicography and Electronic Dictionaries: Wiktionary as a Prototype of Collective Free Multiple-Language Internet Dictionary. In: Bergenholtz, Henning/Nielsen, Sandro/Tarp, Sven (eds.): *Lexicography at a Crossroads: Dictionaries and Encyclopedias Today, Lexicographical Tools Tomorrow*. Bern: Peter Lang, 99–134.
- Fuertes-Olivera, Pedro A./Tarp, Sven (2022): Critical Lexicography at Work: Reflections and Proposals for Eliminating Gender Bias in General Dictionaries of Spanish In: *Lexikos* 32:2, 105–132.
- Gouws, Rufus H. (2018): Dictionaries and access. In: Fuertes-Olivera, Pedro A. (ed.): *The Routledge Handbook of Lexicography*. London/New York: Routledge, 43–58.
- Hu, Huilian/Xu, Hai/Hao, Junjie (2019): An SFL approach to gender ideology in the sentence examples in the Contemporary Chinese Dictionary. In: *Lingua* 220, 17–30.
- Klosa, Annette (2013): The lexicographical process (with special focus on online dictionaries). In: Gouws, Rufus H., et al. (eds.): *Dictionaries. An International Encyclopedia of Lexicography. Supplementary Volume: Recent Developments with Focus on Electronic and Computational Lexicography*. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 517–524.
- Klosa, Annette/Gouws, Rufus H. (2015): Outer features in e-dictionaries / Außentexte in Online-Wörterbüchern / Caractéristiques extérieures dans les dictionnaires en ligne. In: *Lexicographica* 31, 142–172.

- McLelland, Nicola (2022): Women in the History of Lexicography. An overview, and the case of German. In: Klosa-Kückelhaus, Annette, et al. (eds.): *Dictionaries and Society. Proceedings of the XX EURALEX International Congress*. Mannheim: IDS-Verlag, 53–70.
- Melchior, Luca (2014): Ansätze zu einer halbkollaborativen Lexikographie. In: *Online publizierte Arbeiten zur Linguistik* 4, 27–48.
- Meyer, Christian M./Gurevych, Iryna (2012): Wiktionary: A new rival for expert-built lexicons? Exploring the possibilities of collaborative lexicography. In: Granger, Sylviane/Paquot, Magali (eds.): *Electronic Lexicography*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 259–291.
- Müller-Spitzer, Carolin/Rüdiger, Jan Oliver (2022): The influence of the corpus-based on the representation of gender stereotypes in the dictionary. A case study for corpus-based dictionaries of German. In: Klosa-Kückelhaus, Annette, et al. (eds.): *Dictionaries and Society. Proceedings of the XX EURALEX International Congress*. Mannheim: IDS-Verlag, 129–141.
- Russell, Lindsay Rose (2018): *Women and Dictionary Making: Gender, Genre, and English Language Lexicography*. Cambridge/New York: Cambridge University Press.

7.2 Online resources

- Wikipedia. [<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page>; last access: March 26, 2023].
- Lingua Viva. [<<https://ilg.usc.es/linguaviva>>; last access: March 26, 2023].
- Lingua Viva – Dictionaries platform. [<<https://ilg.usc.es/linguaviva/diccionarios>>; last access: March 26, 2023].
- Villa Vigoni-Theses 2018. [<<https://www.emlex.phil.fau.eu/about-us/publications/other/>>; last access: March 26, 2023].
- Women in Lexicography. [<<https://ilg.usc.es/linguaviva/diccionarios/d79f7823-b2fa-491f-bcbe-d8bbe0760460>>; last access: March 26, 2023].