User needs

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Skills analysis: Toma Tasovac, BCDH

Lexicographic Practices in Europe: A Survey of User Needs

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T1.1

Aim of the survey

To get a good overview of

- different tools and methods used by lexicographers around Europe,
- the needs that they have now or anticipate to have in the short-term and long-term future

Method

- Two surveys
  - Survey for lexicographers (44 questions)
  - Survey for institutions (86 questions)
- Questions:
  (1) General information;
  (2) Types of lexicographic resources, software and tools supporting the workflow;
  (3) Publication and access. Crowdsourcing and gamification;
  (4) Retrodigitised dictionaries;
  (5) Data formats. Metadata. Availability; (only in survey for institutions)
  (6) Past and Future.

- Get good coverage

- Online questionnaire (Google Forms)
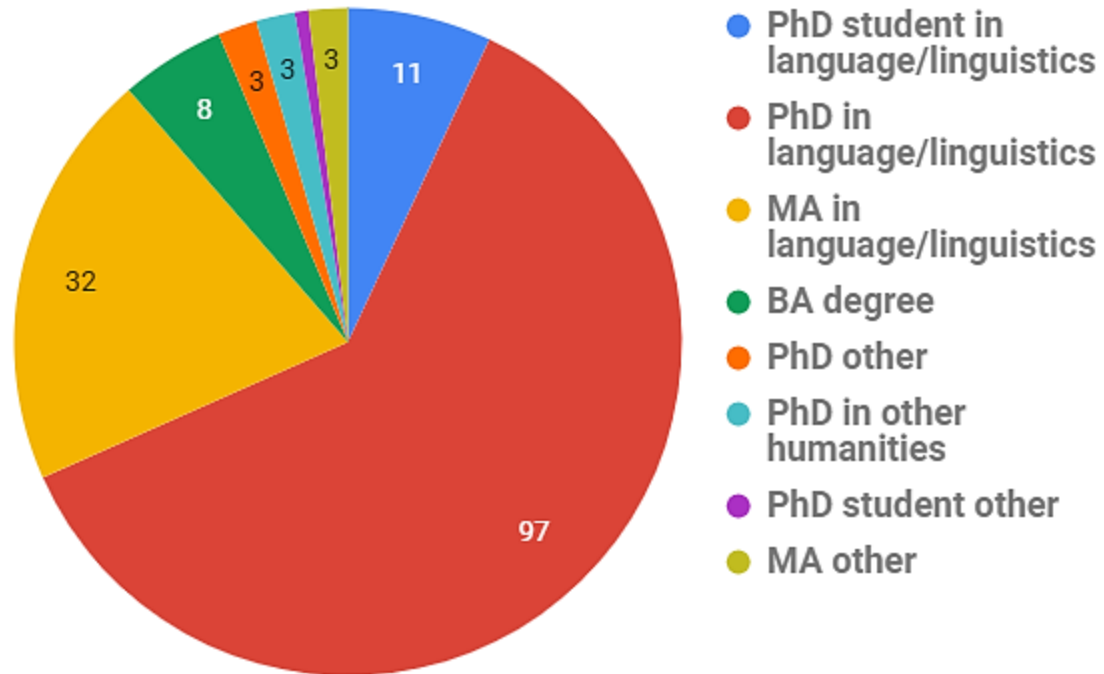
Results: survey for lexicographers (N=159)
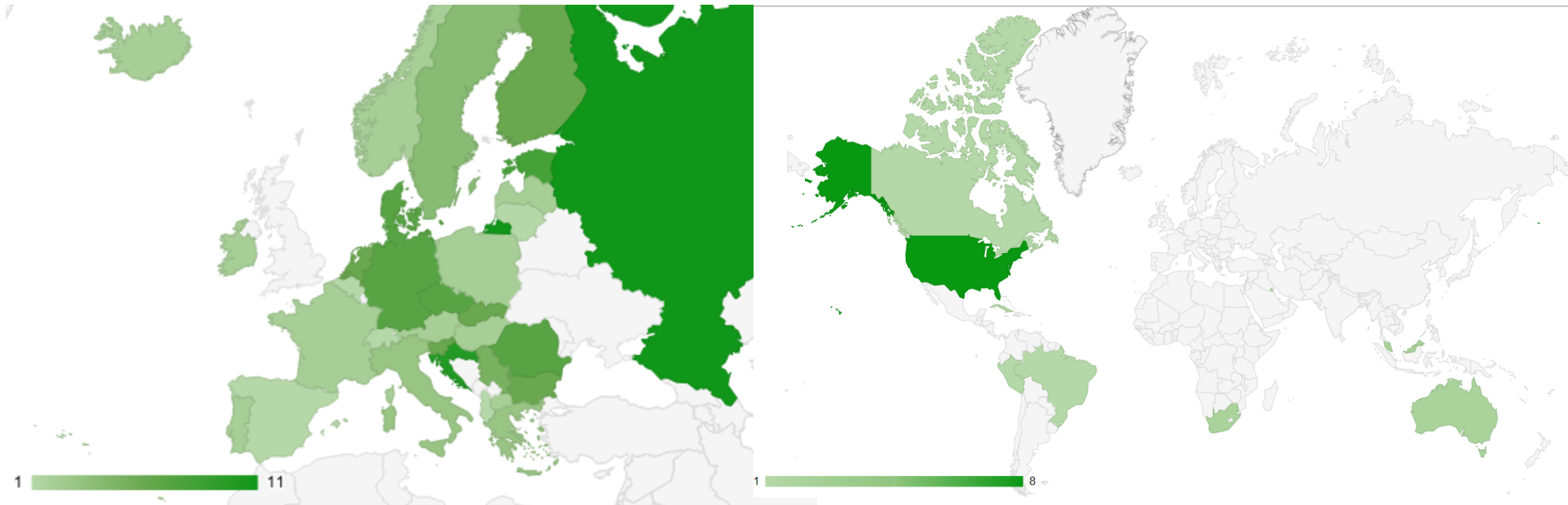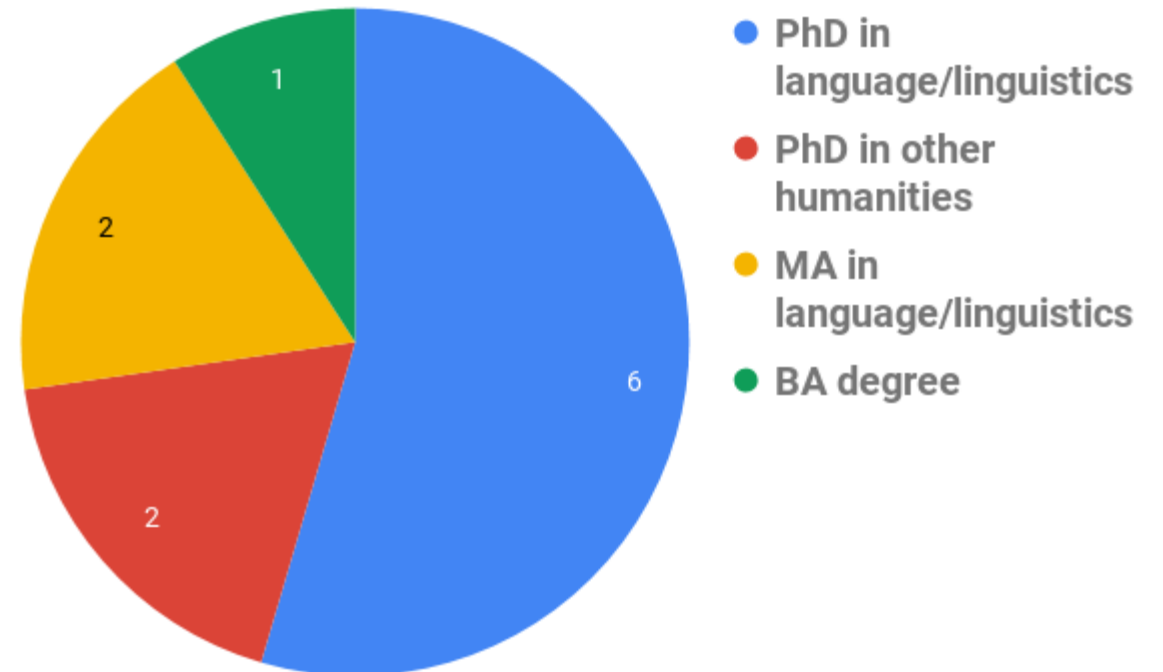
Results: survey for institutions

Name of Institution	Short name	Country
Austrian Academy of Sciences: Centre for Digital Humanities	OEAW	Austria
Institute for Bulgarian Language	IBL	Bulgaria
Society for Danish Language and Literature	DSL	Denmark
Institute of the Estonian Language	EKI	Estonia
Trier University, Trier Center for Digital Humanities	TCDH	Germany
Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Research Institute for Linguistics	RILMTA	Hungary
K Dictionaries	KD	Israel
Instituut voor de Nederlandse Taal	INT	Netherlands
Belgrade Center for Digital Humanities	BCDH	Serbia
"Jožef Stefan" Institute	JSI	Slovenia
Real Academia Española	RAE	Spain

Insights: Education

survey for lexicographers (N=159)

- PhD student in language/linguistics — 11
- PhD in language/linguistics — 97
- MA in language/linguistics — 32
- BA degree — 8
- PhD other — 3
- PhD in other humanities — 3
- PhD student other — 3
- MA other — 3

survey for institutions (N=11)

- PhD in language/linguistics — 6
- PhD in other humanities — 2
- MA in language/linguistics — 2
- BA degree — 1

Insights: Training
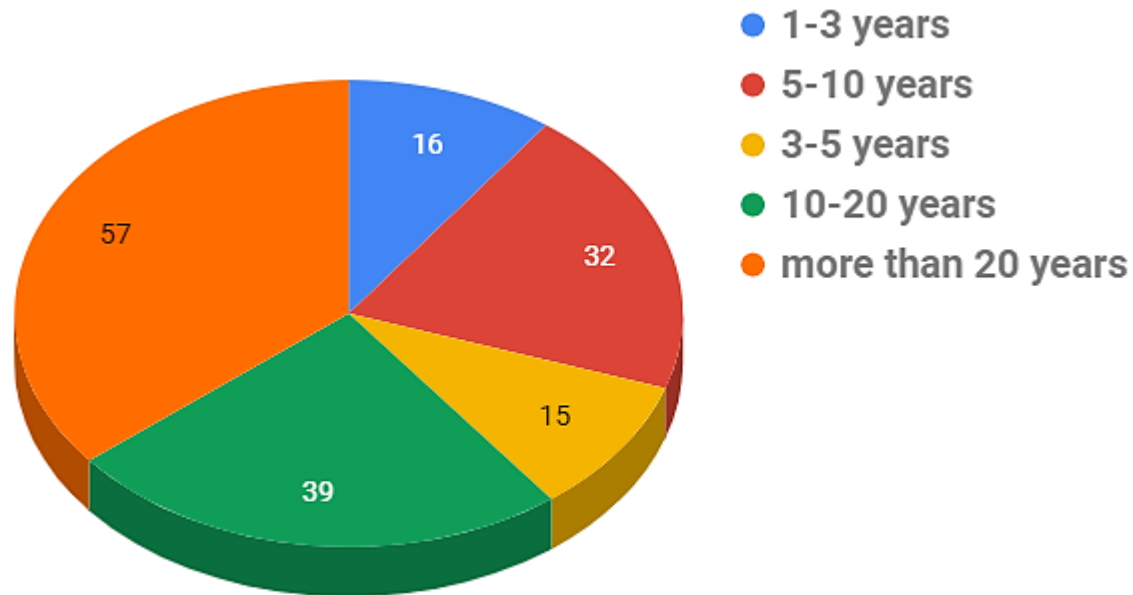
Specialised lexicographic training:

- In house training, courses
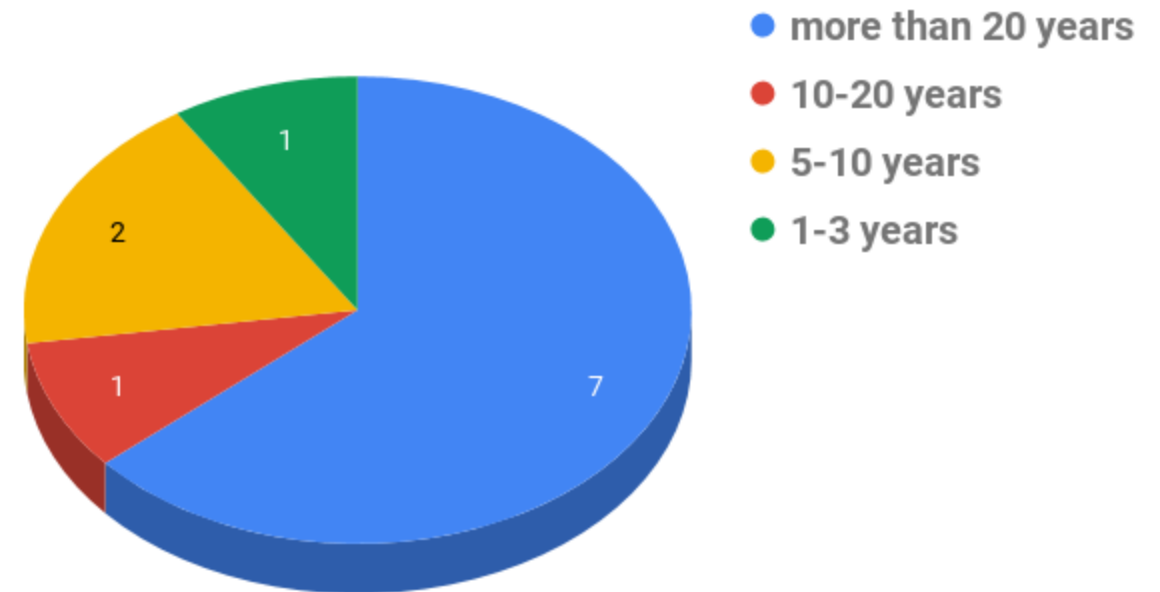- External courses, workshops, summer schools
- University course

Insights: Working years as a lexicographer

survey for lexicographers (N=159)
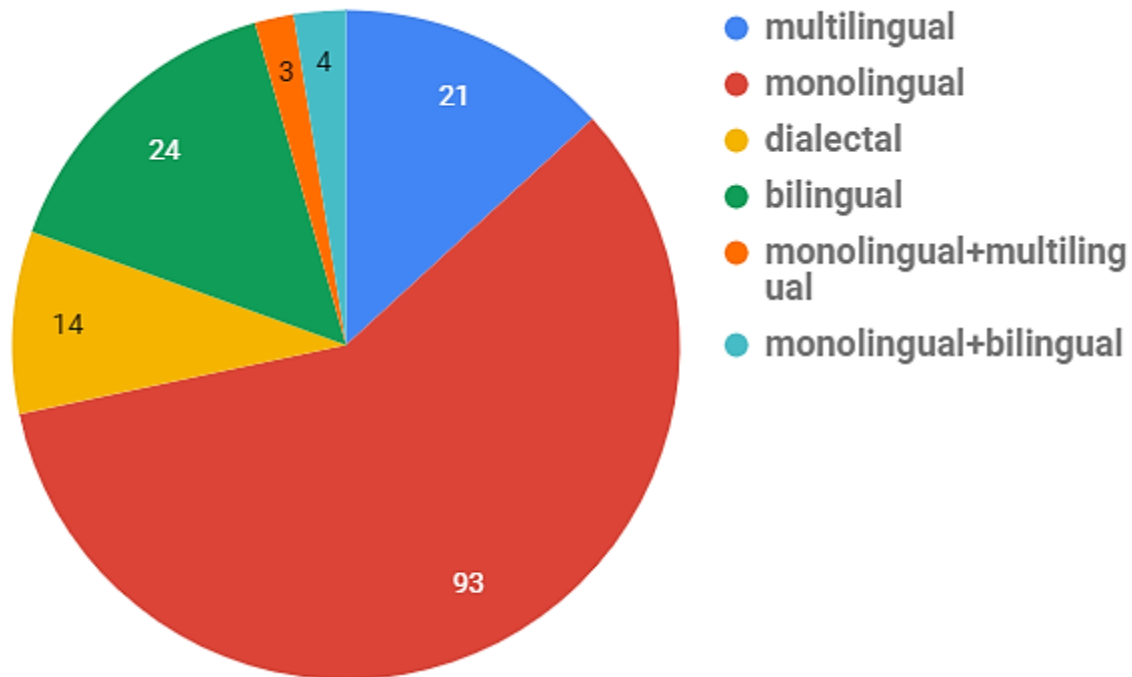
survey for institutions (N=11)

Insights: lexicographic landscape

- Most respondents came from public institutions and non-profit organisations.
- Suggests that lexicographic work in Europe is mainly done in public institutions and non-profit organisations.
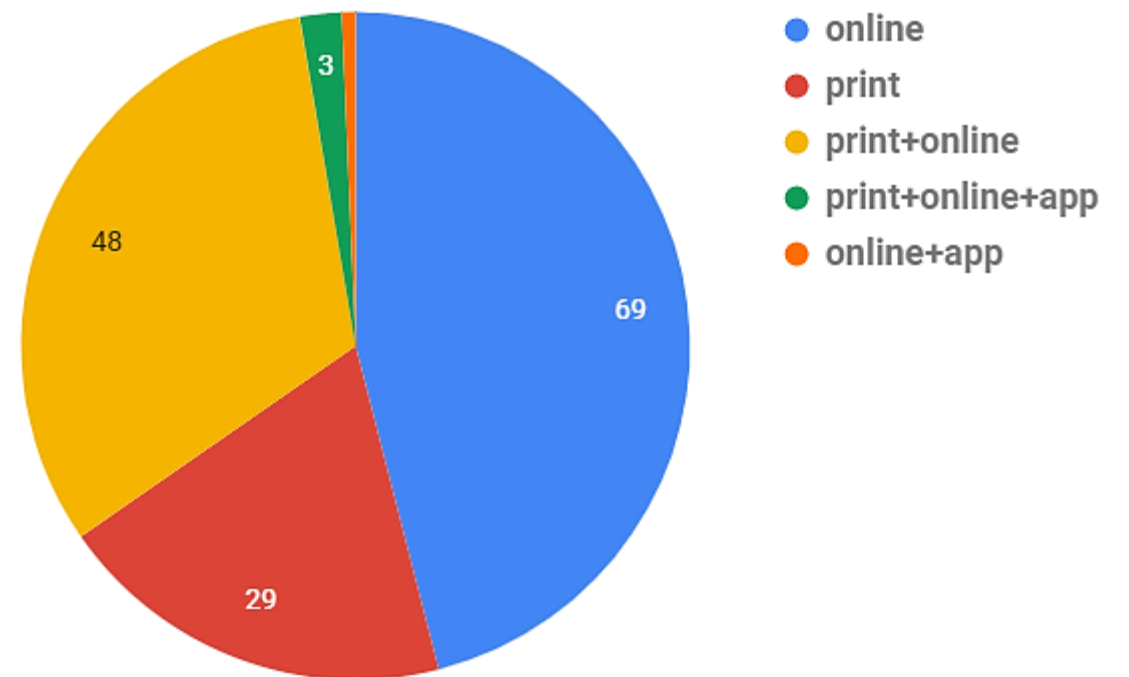
Insights: Type of projects and publication medium

survey for lexicographers (N=159)

- multilingual — 21
- monolingual — 93
- dialectal — 14
- bilingual — 24
- monolingual+multilingual — 3
- monolingual+bilingual — 4

survey for lexicographers (N=150) (124 projects)
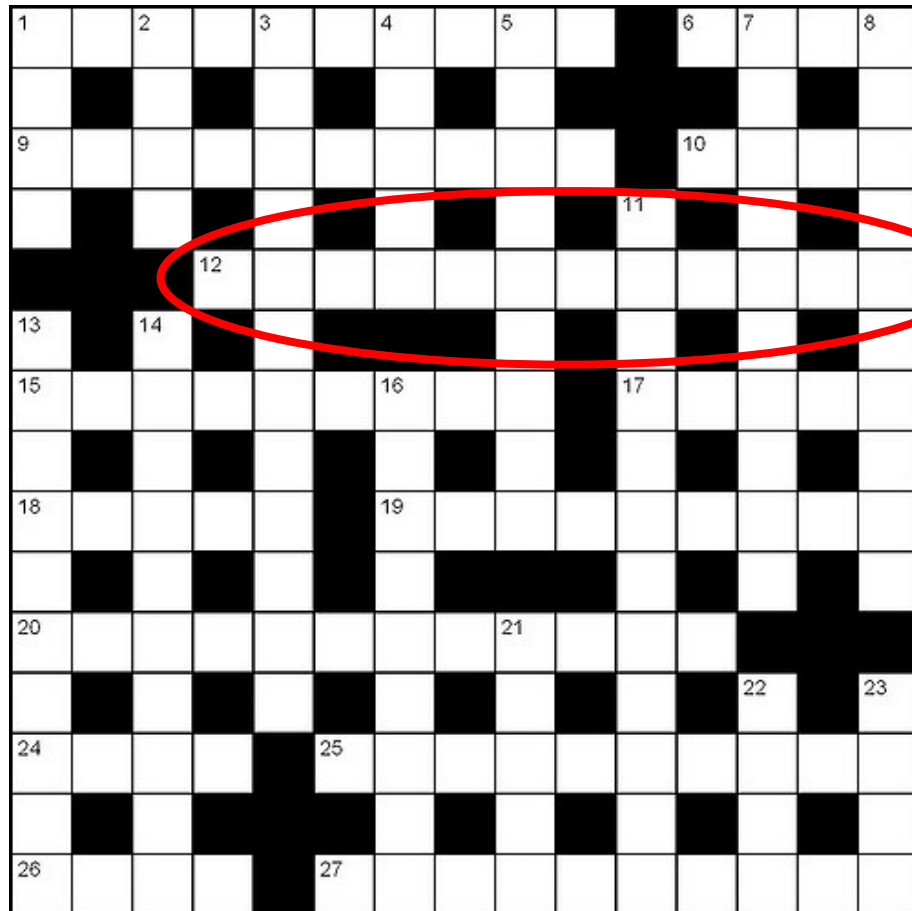
- online — 69
- print — 29
- print+online — 48
- print+online+app — 3
- online+app

Is this definition clear?

ACROSS

10. ...

12. A dictionary conceptualized for the electronic medium, offering radically different options for organisation and presentation of lexical information
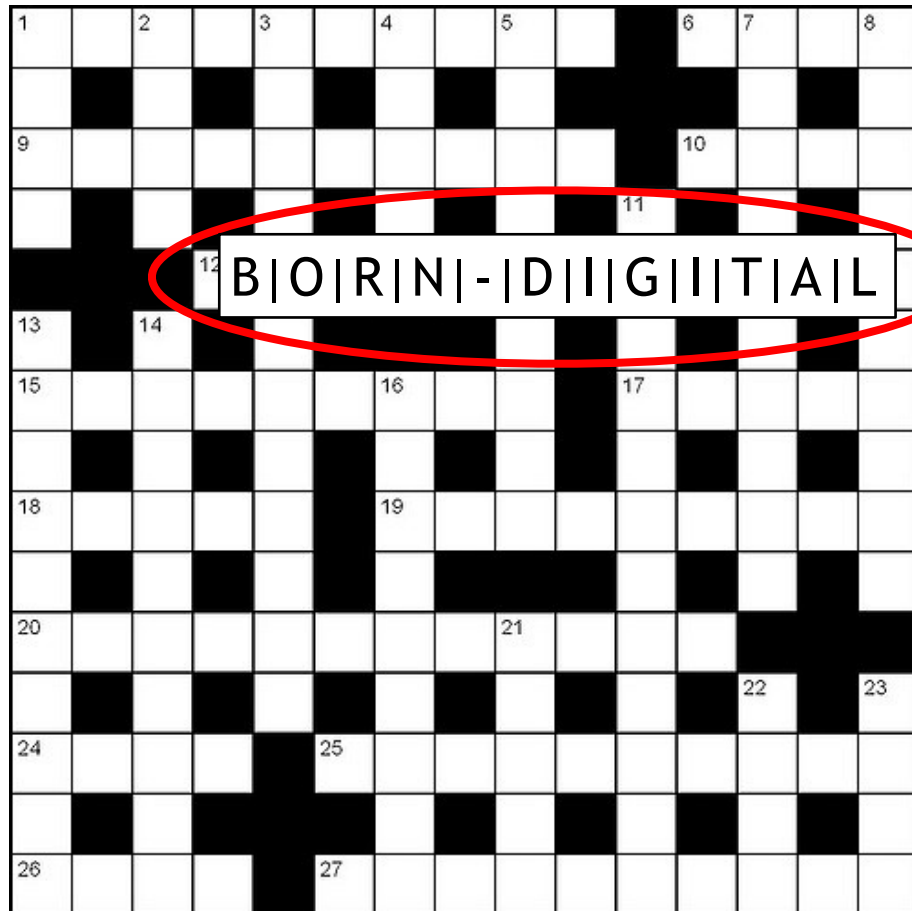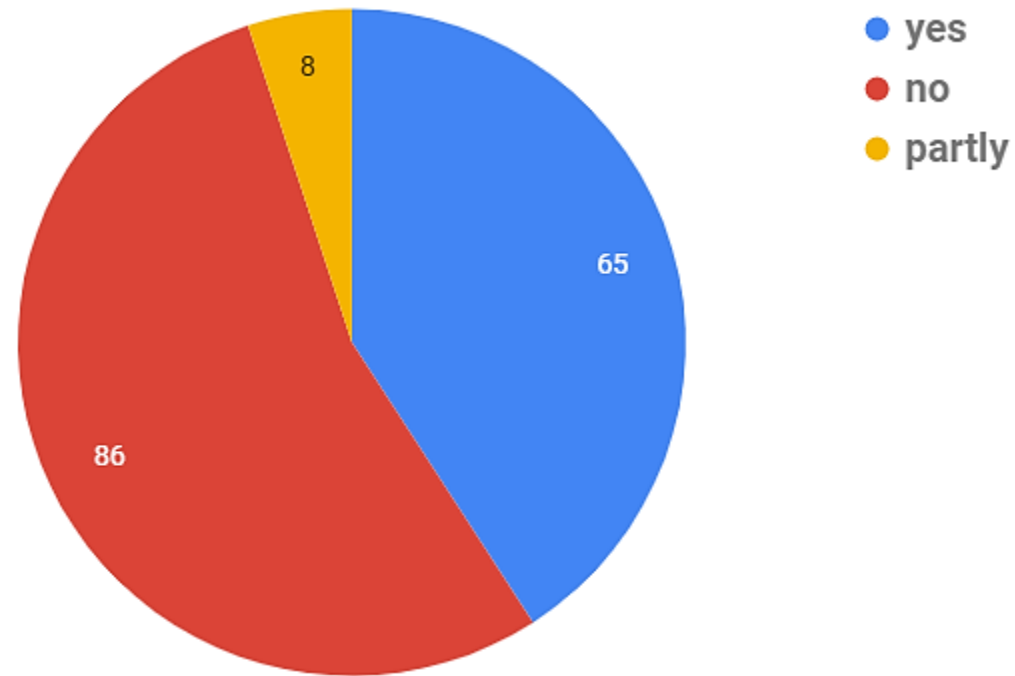
Is this definition clear?

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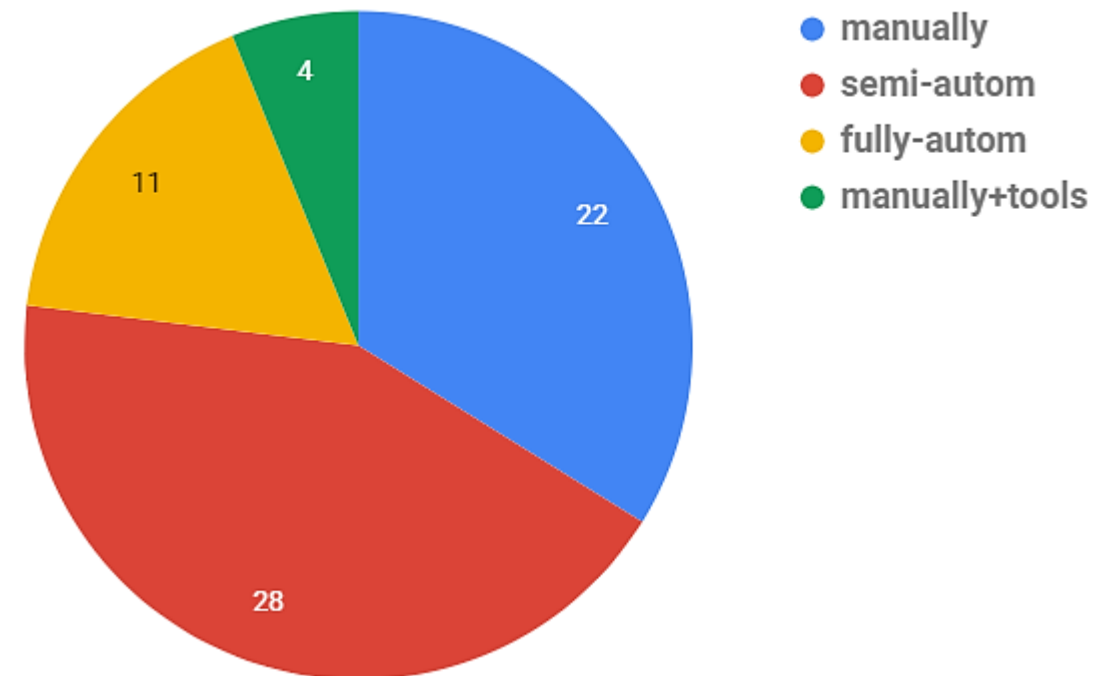
12. A dictionary conceptualized for the electronic medium, offering radically different options for organisation and presentation of lexical information

Insights: Born-digital dictionaries and their compilation methods

survey for lexicographers (N=159)

- yes
- no
- partly

65

86

8

among N=159: 65 born-digital

- manually
- semi-autom
- fully-autom
- manually+tools

22

28

11

4

Implications for ELEXIS

- WP1 T1.3 "Best Practices for Lexicography",
- WP2 T2.1: "Common models and protocols for lexicon access",
- WP4: "NLP for lexicography"
- WP5: "Training and Education"

Implications for ELEXIS

ELEXIS Objective: establish **common standards** and **solutions** for the development of lexicographic resources (WP1,WP2,WP4,WP6)

Survey Results: a clear need for common standards and solutions

Implications for ELEXIS

ELEXIS Objective: establish **common standards** and **solutions** for the development of lexicographic resources

Two complementary sets of tools will be provided: lexicographic workflow tools and crowdsourcing and gamification tools (WP4)

Survey Results: wishes and needs for software and tools, e.g. integrated DWS/CQS, interoperability, user-friendly, online, open-source, support for collaborative work, tools for crowdsourcing, API access, fast

Implications for ELEXIS

ELEXIS Objective: promote an **open access culture** in lexicography, in line with the European Commission Recommendation on access to and preservation of scientific information.

Survey Results: free online availability is preferred by the academic partner institutions

Implications for ELEXIS

ELEXIS Objective: foster cooperation and **knowledge exchange** between different research communities in lexicography in order to bridge the gap between lesser-resourced languages and those with advanced e-lexicographic experience (WP5)

Survey Results: specific lexicographic training is often received on the job. In-house training is most common, usually given by a tutor or a senior lexicographer, but external courses, workshops or summer schools are also a popular means of training lexicographers.

The e-lexicographer?

- The role of lexicographers and the tasks they do are changing rapidly.

- These days, lexicographers have to be technically skilled.

- In sum, the needs of a modern lexicographer extend beyond linguistic knowledge, meaning that **continuous training and development** in various areas should become a regular part of a lexicographer's job.