

# Relational Lexicography Project Survey



Julia Schillo  
FNEL 382 Guest Lecture

# What is *Relational Lexicography*?

The logo for ReiLex features the word 'ReiLex' in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters 'Rei' are dark grey, and 'Lex' is red. Below the text is a horizontal line with a red arrow pointing left and a dark grey arrow pointing right, meeting at the center under the 'L'.

## Relational Lexicography

New Frameworks for Community-Informed  
Dictionary Work  
*a 3-year collaborative research project*

<https://dictionaries.arts.ubc.ca>

# Lexicography for Indigenous languages

Dictionaries and dictionary making for Indigenous and endangered languages differ from those for dominant, majority, colonial languages in a number of ways. **How so?**

# Lexicography for Indigenous languages

They differ in terms of:

- Funding
- Corpus
- Dictionary compilation process
- Who works on the project
- Goals of the dictionary

*Just to name a few...*

# Lexicography for Indigenous languages

The stakes are high for dictionaries for endangered languages. They are tasked with:

- Representing languages that are structurally very different from European languages
- Containing crucial historical, cultural and territorial information
- Becoming a primary language-learning tools for the language community

# Lexicography for Indigenous languages

Additionally, the creators of these dictionaries are normally not trained in lexicography and often reinvent solutions.



# RelLex goals

**Working together, speakers, learners, teachers and researchers of Indigenous languages need guidelines that address the specific requirements and goals of community-informed lexicography.**

This research project fills a resource gap for Indigenous languages in Canada by offering a framework and toolkit for collaborative, community-informed dictionary work with marginalized languages.



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RelLex

# RelLex project components

Knowledge base

•

Literature review

•

Technology scoping

•

Survey

## Survey:

[https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV\\_cSVbTMWDjacuXpr?Q\\_CHL=preview&Q\\_SurveyVersionID=current](https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV_cSVbTMWDjacuXpr?Q_CHL=preview&Q_SurveyVersionID=current)

# Survey results

# Overview

- Total # of responses: 223
  - Responses omitted: 73
  - Net responses: 150
- Responses representing dictionary projects for languages from all continents

# Q6: What was your role in this project?

- Researcher – 72%
- Learner – 20%
- User – 18.7%
- Teacher – 17.3%
- Consultant – 16%
- Other – 15.3%
- Research Assistant – 14%
- Community member – 13.3%
- Speaker – 10%
- Elder – 2%

**Q8:** Of the following types of dictionary, please check all that apply to this project:

- Bilingual – 80%
- Talking dictionary – 29.3%
- Pedagogical – 24.7%
- Dialectal – 22.7%



# Q9: Of the following dictionary formats, please check all that apply to this project:

- Print – 65.3%
- Online searchable – 52%
- Online downloadable – 30.7%
- App – 22%
- Other – 17.3%
- Pocket/mini – 1.3%

# Q11: Check all the features that are included in your app:

- Audio – 69.7%
- Images – 42.4%
- Dialect information – 36.4%
- Other – 24.2%
- Place-based information – 15.2%

# Q16: Of the following digital tools or software, please check all that you used to organize this dictionary:

- Database – 30%
- Other – 29.3%
- Microsoft Word – 27.3%
- FieldWorks – 25.3%
- Microsoft Excel – 20%
- Google Docs – 12.7%
- Lexique Pro – 7.3%
- None – 6.7%
- TLex – 4%
- FirstVoices – 3.3%

# Q17: What did you like or find useful about the digital tools or software?

- Familiarity
- Ease of use
- Best fit for project/  
customizable
- Best for community use
- Collaborative work
- Output/export options
- Formatting/structuring data
- Editing capabilities
- Searchability
- Links

# Q17: continued

- Interoperability/integration with other software
- Centralized data
- Comprehensive
- Fast
- Tech support
- Non-proprietary/open source
- Access
- Stability/sustainability/longevity
- Generally “good”

# Q18: Briefly tell us about any difficulties or frustrations you had using the digital tools or software.

- Typing/fonts
- Languages/dialects unequally represented
- Time consuming
- Not good for collaborative remote work
- Accessibility/useability for community members
- Hard to convert data for other platform/software
- Not available on Mac
- Costs

# Q18: continued

- Too rigid/not customizable
- Not searchable
- Aspect of data structure/formatting
- Program crashes/glitches
- Update issues
- Data syncing issues
- Output/export options
- Connectivity issues
- Not intuitive/difficult to use
- Not designed for this kind of work
- Did not meet needs of particular language/project
- No tech support
- No training
- Sustainability



# A quick aside

**How much time do you have?**

**Sorry this would be too long to answer, as it spans 25 years...**

**I plead the fifth! (But would be happy to lament about issues if this would actually be useful)**

**i am not a techie.**

**I think I may be biased here. ;)**

**RelLex**

# Q19: What resources did you use to learn about these digital tools and software, if any?

- Manual – 38.7%
- Training session – 35.5%
- Other – 35.5%
- None – 21.8%
- Course (in person) – 11.3%
- Video – 7.3%
- Course (online) – 5.6%

# Q22: What additional types of resources would you have found helpful?

- An assistant
- Improvements to existing resources
- Instructional video
- Written instructions
- Seminars/workshops/teaching sessions
- Online training
- Overview of resources
- Language specific assistance
- Updated resources
- Access to tech
- Font

# Q26: Of the following challenges, please check all that applied to this dictionary project:

- Funding – 46%
- Technology – 39.3%
- Personnel – 36%
- Dialect representation – 32%
- Access – 31.3%
- Politics – 24%
- Sustainability – 22.7%
- Training resources – 19.3%
- Other – 18%
- Permissions/Approval – 16.7%
- None – 4.7%

**What other questions  
could have been asked  
in the survey?**

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Thank you!