

ELEXIS UCPH Research Project Ømålsordbogen (ØMO/DID) description

Ømålsordbogen (ØMO, the Dictionary of Danish Insular Dialects, henceforth DID) is an historical dictionary giving thorough descriptions of the dialects on the Danish isles Seeland, Funen and surrounding islands. It covers the period from 1750 to 1950, the core period being 1850 to 1920. Publishing began in 1992 and the latest volume (11, *kurv-lindorm*) appeared in 2013 but the project was initiated in 1909 and data collection dates back to the 1920s and 1930s.

The DID project and the underlying collections of data are an important part of Danish cultural heritage and cultural preservation. First, the collections and DID contain unique information about Danish language, not only the spoken vernaculars but also Danish language in an historical context. Second, DID gives thorough descriptions of the culture and life world of the dialect-speaking peasants and fishermen along with the detailed linguistic information about pronunciation, morphology, syntax and semantics. When the first specific plan for DID was outlined in the 1920s, the project was inspired by the German Wörter und Sachen tradition. Thus, the collections and DID contain systematic information about folklore, traditions, feasts, etc. (*fastelavn* 'Shrovetide') as well as descriptions of (parts of) tools (*le* 'skythe', *kærne* 'churn', etc.), work processes (*høst* 'harvest', *bagning* 'baking', etc.), central crops (*hør* 'flax', *kartoffel* 'potato', etc.) and artifacts (*træsko* 'clogs', etc.). In DID, this is reflected not only in the general selection of lemmas but also in separate encyclopedic parts of relevant articles, sometimes as lengthy as 3 to 4 columns (cf. the entries *høst* 'harvest' or *bage* 'bake'). The users of DID have traditionally been specialists (researchers and historians) but DID and the collections contain a large amount of information with appeal to a larger public, for instance about the traditional peasant culture (work processes or feasts, games or folklore) and vocabulary (for instance nicknames).

The DID project is currently undergoing an extensive process of digitization: old, outdated editing tools have been replaced with modern (database, xml, Unicode), and the old, printed volumes have been extracted to xml as well and are now searchable as a single xml file. Furthermore, the underlying physical data collections are being digitized. The project hopes to be able to publish online in a near future and make the previously edited volumes available online as well. The new publication perspectives are promising but they also give rise to a number of considerations and challenges. The number and nature of external users are expected to be larger than before, which has implications for the solutions to choose and the priorities to make. We welcome input from and cooperation with other projects with similar challenges or experiences.

Cf. H. Hovmark & A. Gudiksen: Digitization of the Collections at Ømålsordbogen – the Dictionary of Danish Insular Dialects: Challenges and Opportunities. Proc. of Digital Humanities in the Nordic Countries 3rd Conference, Helsinki, Finland, March 7-9, 2018, CEUR-WS.org, online <http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-2084/short9.pdf>.

Website (in Danish): http://nors.ku.dk/publikationer/trykte_serier/oemaalsordbogen/