



The DSL building in Copenhagen

*Deutsches Wörterbuch* of the Brothers Grimm in Germany. Digitized dictionaries of this kind include the *Holberg-Ordbog* (*Holberg Dictionary*), a dictionary of the complete works by the Danish-Norwegian author Ludvig Holberg (1684-1754) published in 5 volumes in 1981-1988, and *Meyer's Fremmedordbog* (*Meyer's Dictionary of Loan Words*), based on the 8th edition from 1924. Most recently, the *Ordbog til det ældre danske Sprog* (*Dictionary of Older Danish*), edited and published by Otto Kalkar in 1881-1918, is being digitized as part of an ongoing project examining the Danish language and literature in the Middle Ages.

## References

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## Towards Peoplex

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I was thrilled to take part in the Dictionaries in Asia conference and the inauguration of Asialex. The need for a forum of this kind has long been felt, and the event lived up to expectations.

It might seem strange no such framework existed so far, since Asia was the cradle for dictionary-making thousands of years ago, and its lexicographic tradition has flourished through the ages to modern times. The 20th century's prominent milestones in pedagogical lexicography stem from the work of Michael West in India and A.S. Hornby in Japan. Some of the world's finest dictionaries are made in Japan and its neighbors, as well as valuable research carried out, but these are little known of elsewhere.

In addition to economic-political factors, this lack may be mainly due to Asia's inherent diversity, not being a homogenous entity of any sort. Linguistically, unlike most European tongues that pertain to the Indo-European family, Asian languages share no common background, apart from being human.

That natural human link is true just as well for the entire world. Asia can project a microcosm of it and, thus, establishing Asialex is a significant step toward forming a global lexicographical constellation.

A future GLOBALEX (or Unilex, in the words of Tom McArthur) concerns globalization and co-existence in multilingual societies, English as the international lingua franca,

localized Englishes, effects on the mother tongues, etc, as well as repercussions from hi-tech and tele-communication, online interactivity and automatic translations, *Dictionizers* and *Quicktionaries*, and so on.

This forthcoming forum should not replace national or regional LEX's, but accommodate the varied issues. As such, geography is no sound base for its foundation, nor for the soon-to-come dictionaries that will hardly be what we imagine now.

Beyond countries and behind computers there are people. First of all, and after all. People are the most common denominator for lexicography all over the world. (Reprinted with slight amendments from KDN 5, 1997.)