

Challenges in designing a dictionary of mission

A contribution for the the Fourth International Lausanne Researchers Conference, 10-14 April 2005

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In this paper I am investigating the designs of missiological dictionaries and the experiences of their editors,

- because I want to discover generic features and processes and avoid common pitfalls,
- in order to improve the design and making of a new German dictionary of mission,
- by conducting structured interviews in written form with editors and by examining basic documentation of those dictionaries.

Issues to cover:

1. Purpose of the dictionary
2. Choice of name
3. Positioning in the market (incl. format, price, publication form)
4. Target group
5. Level
6. Emphases regarding language- and cultural groups and geographical areas
7. Approach: focus on agents and agencies, opinions on problems, observable events and forces?
8. Relation of depth and width (one or multi-volume?, number of articles: many short or few long articles?)
9. Quality of articles (what is expected? How is quality assured?)
10. Selection of entries
11. Categories of articles
12. Style manual
13. Dealing with controversial subjects
14. Choice of authors

Questions to editors:

1. **How** did you go about your task?
2. What was your **most unexpected** obstacle to completing the dictionary?
3. Which aspect of your design was **hardest** to implement?
4. What was your **schedule**? How long did it effectively take?
5. How much **manpower** was needed? How was it organised?
6. What were the pre-production **costs**? (before printing)
7. What advice would you give a new editorial team? What would you **do differently**?
8. What is the **feedback** from the users?
9. Is there any written **documentation** available?

Dictionaries and projects to examine

1	Evangelical Dictionary of World Mission	Scott A Moreau	2000
2	Lexikon zur Weltmission	Niels-Peter Moritzen	1975
3	Biographical Dictionary of Christian Mission	Anderson	199?
4	Dictionary of Mission Theology	Corr	2005
5	Dictionary of South Asian Christianity	Hedlund	in process
6	Dictionary of African Christian Biography	Bonk	ongoing
7	Dictionary of Mission	Bliese	1997

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A. Purpose Statement

In this paper I am investigating the designs of mission dictionaries and the experiences of their editors,

- because I want to discover generic features, processes and common pitfalls,
- in order to improve the design and making of a new dictionary of mission (in a non-English European language),
- by conducting structured interviews in written form with editors and by examining basic documentation of those dictionaries.

B. Outline

1. **Purpose & Market**

- 1.1 Purpose of the dictionary
- 1.2 Choice of name
- 1.3 Positioning in the market (incl. format, price, publication form)
- 1.4 Target group
- 1.5 Level

2. **Approach & Form**

- 1.1 Emphases regarding language- and cultural groups and geographical areas
- 1.2 Approach: focus on agents and agencies, opinions on problems, observable events and forces
- 1.3 Relation of depth and width (one or multi-volume?, number of articles: many short or few long articles?)

3. **Content & Delimitation**

- 2.1 Selection of entries
- 2.2 Categories of articles
- 2.3 Style manual (Liberty for authors or strict guidelines)
- 2.4 Quality of articles (what is expected? How is quality assured?)

4. **Process & Policy**

- 3.1 Choice of authors
- 3.2 Dealing with controversial subjects
- 3.3 Interaction with authors (use of internet?)
- 3.4 Schedule
- 3.5 Costs

5. **Challenges & Advice**

- 5.1 Unexpected obstacles
- 5.2 Hardest tasks
- 5.3 Advice from experienced editors

C. Questions to editors (beyond information in papers, the finished product and public domain)

1. **How** did you go about your task?
2. What was your **most unexpected** obstacle to completing the dictionary?

3. Which aspect of your design was **hardest** to implement?
4. What was your **schedule**? How long did it effectively take?
5. How much **manpower** was needed? How was it organised?
6. What were the pre-production **costs**? (before printing)
7. What advice would you give a new editorial team? What would you **do differently**?
8. What is the **feedback** from the users?
9. Is there any written **documentation** available?

F. Dictionaries and projects to examine

The focus is on dictionaries of mission and missiology. Some recent related dictionaries on the majority world are also included, because of the similarity of the generic challenges in designing a dictionary.

Confidential information by editors is respected as such. The paper will seek to generalise and to point out issues without naming names. Before any potential publication of the paper, the editors will be asked for permission and will have opportunity to view the paper.

Indications of further recent dictionaries of mission and missiology are welcome (in any language).

	Dictionary	Editor(s)	Email / Website	Year
A	Comprehensive Mission Dictionaries			
	World Mission Encyclopedia	Long, Justin	justinlong@strategicnetwork.org	2004 Internet only; ongoing
	Diccionario de misionología y animación misionera (Spanish)	Bueno, Eloy & Calvo, Roberto	Editorial Monte Carmelo	2003
	Dizionario storico e teologico delle missioni (Italian)	Mondin; Battista		2001
	Evangelical Dictionary of World Mission	Moreau , Scott A	A.S.Moreau@Wheaton.edu	2000 CD 2004
	Dizionario di missiologia (Italian)	[Urbaniana]		1993
	Lexikon der Mission (German) (+ Italian Translation)	Rzepakowski, Horst	SVD	1992
	Lexikon zur Weltmission (German)	Neill / Moritzen/ Schrupp	-	1975
	Concise Dictionary of the Christian World Mission	Neill / Anderson / Goodwin	anderson_gh@hotmail.com	1970/71

B Encyclopedias				
	Philosophy, Science and Theology of Mission in the 19 th and 20 th Centuries: A Missiological Encyclopedia (2 Vols)	Jongeneel, Jan A B	jan.jongeneel@inter.nl.ne	1995, 1997, 2002
	Operation World	Johnstone, Patrick & Mandryk, Jason		2001
	World Christian Trends	Barrett, Johnson	Tjohnson@gcts.edu	2001
	World Christian Encyclopedia (2 Vols)	Barrett, Kurian, Johnson	Tjohnson@gcts.edu	2000
C Dictionaries of Mission Theology				
	Dictionary of Mission Theology	John Corrie	Jem.corrie@btopenworld.com www.ivpbooks.com/ivp/dictionary.htm	2005
	Dictionnaire oecumenique de missiologie (French) (+ English version planned)	Bria, Chanson, Gadille, Spindler	marc.spindler@wanadoo.fr	2001
	Dictionary of Missiological Terms	VanRhenen, Gailyn	Rheenen@Bible.acu.edu	2000 ? ongoing
	Diccionario Hispano-americano de la Misión (Spanish)	Deiros, Pablo Alberto	[Terminology only?]	1997
	Dictionary of Mission	Müller/Sundermeier/Bevans/Bliese	rbliese@luthersem.edu	1997
	Lexikon Missionstheologischer Grundbegriffe (German)	Müller/Sundermeier		1987
D Dictionaries of (Mission) Biography				
	Biographical Dictionary of the Missionaries of the Russian Orthodox church (Russian)	Shirokov, Sergei	www.missioncenter.nm.ru missioncenter@nm.ru , shirokov@atom.ru	2004
	Dictionary of Indian Christian Biography		www.dicb.org feedback@dicb.org (does not work)	2004 ongoing
	Dictionary of African Christian Biography	Bonk, Jonathan	Bonk@omsc.org	2000 ? ongoing
	Biographical Dictionary of Christian Mission	Anderson, Gerald	anderson_gh@hotmail.com	1998/99
Some Related Dictionaries				
	Dictionary of South Asian Christianity	Roger Hedlund	rogerhedlund@earthlink.net	in process
	Encyclopedia of Christianity in India	Kavunkal, Jacob		2006
	Dictionary of the Ecumenical Movement	Lossky, Nicholas		2002, 1991
	A Dictionary of Asian Christianity	Sunquist, Scott W	sunquist@pts.edu	2001
	Dictionary of Third World Theologies	Fabella, Virginia / ...		2000
	Diccionario de pastoral y evangelización (Spanish)	Pedrosa, Vicente M.		2000
	Diccionario de la Evangelización (Spanish)	Bifet, Juan Esquerda		1998 partly Internet

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Burgense 44 (2003) 585-594 [Introductory article by the editors].

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