# British Council Seminar Series | Who needs dictionaries?
Michael Rundell | Tuesday 09 October 2012 | 1830 – 2030

## Outline and References

| The joy of books | *American Heritage* review  
|---|---|
| Two revolutions in dictionaries | - The Corpus Revolution: Sinclair, COBUILD and Corpora 1981 →
- The Digital Revolution: 1990s → |
| What do we lose? | - Publishers, dictionary-producers
  - existing business model, ‘gatekeeper’ role, slow publishing cycle
- Dictionary as ‘authority’:
  [http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/old-duffers](http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/old-duffers) |
| How words get in the dictionary | OUP’s flowchart  
Merriam-Webster video  
Blog posts on the subject  
| What do we gain? | - Space
- Multimedia
- Currency (up-to-date-ness)
- ‘Proud to be a Pleb’  
*Higgs Boson*  
| Crowd-sourcing, User-generated content | Jonathan Green in the *Guardian*  
[http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/booksblog/2012/sep/13/dictionaries-democratic-crowdsourcing](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/booksblog/2012/sep/13/dictionaries-democratic-crowdsourcing) |
| Crowd-sourcing (contd) | Stan Carey  
http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/dictionary-signals-vs-noise  
Kerry Maxwell  
http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/crowdsourcing.html  
Crowd-sourced dictionaries  
Wiktionary  
Wordnik : **www.wordnik.com**  
The Open Dictionary  
http://www.macmillandictionary.com/open-dictionary/latestEntries.htm |
|---|---|
| The self-updating dictionary | Paul Cook on finding needles in haystacks  
‘Using social media to find English lexical blends’  
Summarised at  
http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/hunting-for-lexical-blends-the-computational-way |
| The ‘disappearing’ dictionary | Alternatives to dictionaries  
- user forums, e.g.  
http://forum.wordreference.com (multilingual)  
http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/ (British Council: for English)  
- translation resources, e.g.  
Google Translate  
Ejirro Pro (English/Japanese): **www.alc.co.jp**  
- vocabulary learning, virtual flashcards, adaptive systems  
**www.vocabulary.com**  
**www.keewords.com/en/**  
- text remediation tools (difficult!)  
Base lexicale du français: **http://ilt.kuleuven.be/blf/** (so far, only for French) |
| Conclusions opportunities, trends… | Automating dictionary creation  