

The digitization of *Íslensk orðsifjabók*

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Íslensk orðsifjabók (Icelandic Etymological Dictionary) by Ásgeir Blöndal Magnússon has been a cornerstone of historical linguistics in Iceland since its publication in 1989. This paper discusses a work in progress and describes the process of digitizing this important work, the methods used and the challenges met along the way.

Each lemma in *Íslensk orðsifjabók* contains an abundance of information regarding the etymology of Icelandic vocabulary. This includes the words' meaning, theoretical reconstructions of their earlier stages in language, corresponding words in related languages, kinship to more distant languages, synonyms and much more. In the digitized version of *Íslensk orðsifjabók* the goal is to tag all this information and code it separately, allowing the user to openly access the book's contents in various ways.

The previous digital version of *Íslensk orðsifjabók* only allows for a simple lemmatic search through the web portal *Málið.is*. This new version vastly expands its research possibilities. For example, it will be possible to search for all instances of a certain language and all reconstructed roots and words. Moreover, synonyms will be easily accessible. To this end the work done at the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies in digitizing *Íslensk-dönsk orðabók* (Icelandic-Danish Dictionary) by Sigfús Blöndal from 1924, in which lemmas were abundantly tagged, serves as a model.

Taken together this new digital version of Magnússon's *Íslensk orðsifjabók* will be of use not only in the field of etymology and historical linguistics but also in lexicography, language technology and semantics.