
A Few Words from AFRILEX

It is a great honour for me, as the newly elected President of AFRILEX, to address the readers of *Lexikos*. Considering the complete dedication with which my three predecessors — Rufus Gouws, Danie Prinsloo and Mariëtta Alberts — performed the job, I will have a hard time matching their extraordinary leadership. When one reads through their introductory words that have appeared in *Lexikos* since Volume 6 (1996), it is pleasing to recognize the pet subjects of each: Rufus has never shied away from raising lexicographic theory, Danie took a more practical and organizational angle, while Mariëtta focused on the sub-discipline of terminology. Every scholar has a hobby-horse; mine is to turn our endeavours into publications that will stand up to the ravages of time. In that, we are particularly fortunate to have *Lexikos*.

Lexikos is not the journal of AFRILEX — as it attracts contributions from all over the world, with the best only being published following, for each, a rigorous blind adjudication process by at least two referees — but it is the favoured outlet and as such mouthpiece of the members of AFRILEX. *Lexikos* would not be *Lexikos* without the devotion by its editor, Dr J.C.M.D. du Plessis, and his right hand, Ms Riette Ruthven. They turn quality manuscripts into articles that are often very nearly perfect. Such aspects do not go unnoticed, and it is no doubt thanks to the high-quality submissions, combined to a timely editorial process, that *Lexikos* was selected, as of Volume 15 (2005), for inclusion in the following two databases of the Thomson Reuters Web of Science Citation Index:

- Arts & Humanities Citation Index
- Current Contents/Arts & Humanities

Starting with last year's volume, Volume 18 (2008), the Web of Science further includes *Lexikos* in:

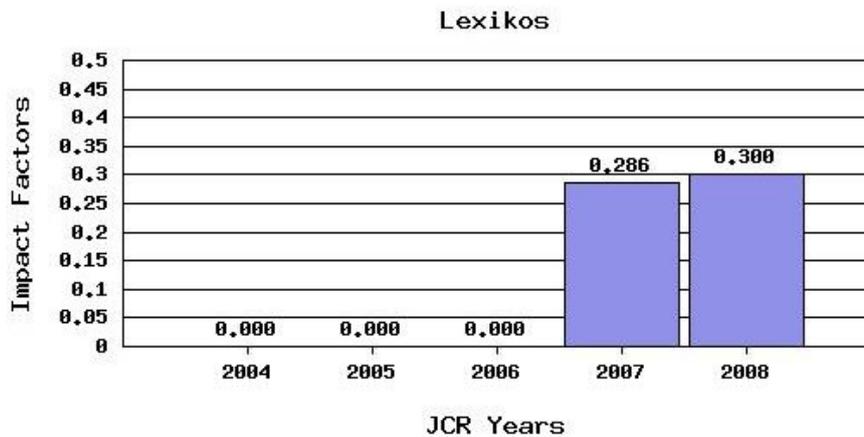
- Social Sciences Citation Index
- Social SciSearch
- Current Contents/Social & Behavioral Sciences
- Journal Citation Reports/Social Sciences Edition

The latter, inclusion in the Journal Citation Reports, is especially valuable, as it means Impact Factors are now being calculated for *Lexikos*. The calculation of Impact factors is child's mathematics: For any particular year, one divides the number of citations to material published in the two previous years, by the total number of articles published in those two years. In the 2008 Journal Citation Reports, this gives the following for *Lexikos*:

Citations in 2008 to items published	Number of items published
in: 2007 = 11	in: 2007 = 30
2006 = 4	2006 = 20
Sum: 15	Sum: 50

Calculation: $\frac{\text{Citations to recent items}}{\text{Number of recent items}} = \frac{15}{50} = 0.300$

The current (2008) Impact Factor for *Lexikos* is thus 0.300. With the data stored in the Web of Science databases, one can also look back, which shows that the Impact Factor for *Lexikos* is stable (and slightly rising) at present:



Impact Factors must always be viewed in context, and it is thus important to consider the position a journal takes in the category/-ies to which it belongs. *Lexikos* belongs to the Linguistics category, where it is ranked 56th (out of 68 journals), in the last (fourth) quartile.

Given that academic staff members at institutes of higher education are increasingly being 'rated', and that their publications in high-impact journals tend to have more weight than any other considerations for that rating, the value of the fact that *Lexikos* is now an indexed journal — with an Impact Factor — cannot be stressed enough. In the discipline of lexicography, this honour comes to only two journals: the *International Journal of Lexicography*, and now *Lexikos*. Looking at how Impact Factors are calculated, I would therefore like to urge all of us to make sure we always include the relevant references, in all our manuscripts, to material published during the preceding two years in both the *International Journal of Lexicography* and *Lexikos*. May *Lexikos's* Impact Factor, and with it the liveliness of our discipline, rise as a result!

Gilles-Maurice de Schryver
President: AFRILEX