

Developing the Cornish Dictionary using open source tools and data

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Keskusulyans Wikimedia Kolm Keltek - Wikimedia Celtic Knot
conference,
5th July 2019, Penryn Campus

Previous Online Dictionary

- Standard Written Form of Cornish online dictionary
cornishdictionary.org.uk (Internet Archive Wayback Machine)

cornish language partnership
maga cornish dictionary / gerlyver kernewek

Welcome / Dynnargh

Cornish words

[Apply](#)

English words (exact)

[Apply](#)

English words (include)

[Apply](#)

Search

[Apply](#)

Cornish / Kernewek A-Z

English / Sonesnek A-Z

Kampolla / Feedback

Abbreviations /
Berthearsow

'Middle and Late' Cornish
forms / Fomysa 'Kec' ha
'Gwedhes'

Pronunciation / Leveryans

Traditional graphs / Grafys
hengovek

The team / Kewobororyon

[login](#)

Welcome to the new online, searchable, dictionary of Cornish. The dictionary is written in the Standard Written Form of Cornish and the intention is that it will be constantly updated and extended. As well as adding new terminology and extending the range of the dictionary, over time information about each word and usage will also be made available as will audio files to allow the pronunciations to be heard.

A pdf version is available on the MAGA website and this will be updated on a 6 monthly basis to reflect additions to the online version.

Feedback on this resource is most welcome and a feedback form is included for your use.

MAGA hopes that this will be a useful addition to the wide range of resources now available to help both speakers and learners of Cornish. For further information about Cornish, resources and events, visit the website www.magakernow.org.uk

or contact the office on cornishlanguage@cornwall.gov.uk

Dynnargh dhe'n gerlyver heiladow warlinen nowyha a Gemewek. Skrifys yw an gerlyver y'n Fuvu Savonek Skrifys a Gemewek ha'n mynnas yw y fydh prest nowythes hag ystynrys. Keffrys ha newona temynologeth nowydh hag ystynna etander an gerlyver, dres temyn kedhow a-dro dhe bub ger ha'y usadow a vydh kavadow, yn heredyth restrnowek sonek dhe asa bos kweys an leveryans.

Vershyon pdf yw kavadow war waswa MAGA hag y fydh herma nowythes pub 6 mns dhe dhasowynysa kewonansow dhe'n versyon warlinen.

Dasle war an asnodh ma a vydh meur dhynerys ha furven dhasle yw komprehendys rag agas us.

MAGA a wylt y fydh herma kewonans dhe les dhe'n asnodhow a les kinda temyn kavadow dhe it gweres ha kewonoryon ha dyskoryon a Gemewek. Rag kedhow pella a-dro dhe Gemewek, asnodhow ha kewonans, vystrya an waswa www.magakernow.org.uk

po kewasa orth an sodhwa war cornishlanguage@cornwall.gov.uk

NEWS

[SWF Review](#)

This dictionary has now been updated following the SWF Review. The PDF version will be available shortly. We would be grateful if users would report any accidental errors using the feedback form.... [read more](#)

Features in an ideal online dictionary

- Improve usability on different platforms desktop/tablet/mobile
- Cater for the various users of the language, including users of different varieties of Cornish
- Show personal forms for verbs and prepositions
- Ability to add sound samples
- Disambiguation of translation equivalents

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Things to improve

- English to Cornish, and Cornish to English had been separately created in previous version
- Some errors and inconsistencies
- Updates according to 2013 review of the Standard Written Form
- Integration of work done by Terminology Panel of Akademi Kernewek
- Provide platform for further work by Akademi Kernewek

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Dictionary data

- Exported from the software used in the previous version as an XML file
- Each word or phrase in the dictionary is a <lemma> tag group
- Various information in sub-tags
- e.g. pronunciation, part of speech, plural, English glosses, example sentence, etymology, attestations in the traditional texts

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Tidying the XML

- Use Python [Beautiful Soup](#) to analyse the XML
- Allows any errors or inconsistencies to be spotted by looping through the <lemma>s in the dictionary
- Simplify some of the structure, move subentries to their own <lemma>s
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Variants within the language

- Cornish as a revived language derives from sources at different time epochs
- Broadly speaking, two time periods of Middle and Late Cornish
- Different groups within the revival have based the revived language primarily on Middle or Late sources
- Orthographic decisions have sometimes made these seem further apart than they really are

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Example of XML with Middle/Late distinction

aswa

```
<lemma>
<lemma.middlelemmasign>
<middlespelling>aswa</middlespelling>
</lemma.middlelemmasign>
<lemma.latelemmasign>
<latespelling>ajwa</latespelling>
</lemma.latelemmasign>
<lemma.middlepronunciation>['azwa]</lemma.middlepronunciation>
<lemma.latepronunciation>['æɟ(w)ɐ]</lemma.latepronunciation>
<lemma.partofspeech>n.f</lemma.partofspeech>
<lemma.middleplural>aswaow</lemma.middleplural>
<lemma.lateplural>ajwaow</lemma.lateplural>
<sense><te><te.te>breach</te.te></te></sense>
<sense><te><te.te>gap</te.te></te></sense>
</lemma>
```

Example of XML with no Middle/Late distinction

a-ugh

```
<lemma>
<lemma.lemmasign>
<spelling>a-ugh</spelling>
<homonymnumber>(1)</homonymnumber>
</lemma.lemmasign>
<lemma.middlepronunciation>[a'y:x]</lemma.middlepronunciation>
<lemma.latepronunciation>[ə'ɪʊʰ]</lemma.latepronunciation>
<lemma.partofspeech>adv</lemma.partofspeech>
<sense><te><te.te>above</te.te></te></sense>
</lemma>
```

Example of XML - a-ugh (2)

a-ugh

```
<lemma>
<lemma.lemmasign>
<spelling>a-ugh</spelling>
<homonymnumber>(2)</homonymnumber>
</lemma.lemmasign>
<lemma.partofspeech>prp</lemma.partofspeech>
<sense><te><te.te>above</te.te></te></sense>
<sense><te><te.te>over</te.te></te></sense>
<lemma.personal.forms>
<sg1p>a-ughov</sg1p>
<sg2p>a-ughos</sg2p>
<sg3pm>a-ughto</sg3pm>
<sg3pf>a-ughti</sg3pf>
<pl1p>a-ughon</pl1p>
<pl2p>a-ughowgh</pl2p>
<pl3p>a-ughta</pl3p>
</lemma.personal.forms>
<lemma.late.personal.forms>...</lemma.late.personal.forms>
</lemma>
```

Maes T software

- Software that is used for terminology dictionaries in Welsh online at <http://termau.cymru>
- Developed by [Language Technologies Unit](#), Canolfan Bedwyr, Bangor University [1] [2]
- Deployable via an API to the web or apps [4]
- Maes T has also been used for geiriadur.bangor.ac.uk and www.termiaduraddysg.org where sound samples are also presented

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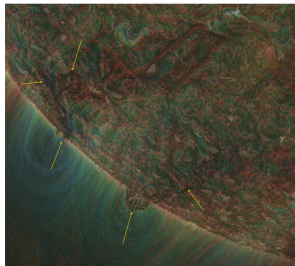
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Termau.cymru

filament (astronomy) ffilament **eg** ffilamentau (seryddiaeth)

Tafod o nwy dwys cymharol oer wedi ei ioneiddio (~10,000K), yn gaeth mewn bwndeli cymhleth o faes magnetig yn atmosffer isel yr Haul. Mae ffilamentau'n ymddangos yn dywyll yn erbyn cryfder yr Haul y tu ôl iddynt.



A tongue of dense relatively cool ionized gas (~10,000K), held in place by complex bundles of magnetic field in the Sun's low atmosphere. Filaments appear dark against the brightness of the Sun behind them.

Geiriadur Termau'r Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol - Mathemateg a Ffiseg

[termau.cymru/#filament](#) [3]

Termau.cymru

five-spot ladybird *Coccinella quinquepunctata* buwch gota bum smotyn eb buchod cwta pum smotyn



Buchod Cwta. Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd 2014

termau.cymru/#ladybird

Termau.cymru

herring gull *Larus argentatus* gwylan penwaig **eb** gwylanod penwaig

[gwylan penwaig ar Wikipedia](#)



Adar y Byd. Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd a Chymdeithas Ted Breeze-Jones 2015

[termau.cymru/#gull](#)

Adapting Maes T to better serve Cornish

- Collaboration with Dewi Bryn Jones to adapt the Maes T software for Cornish
- Some relevant grammatical differences between Welsh and Cornish
- Other changes come from using it for a general dictionary website rather than terminology dictionaries that usually have a 1:1 correspondence between Welsh-English in a given context

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Transition to editing within Maes T

- Once the structure is stable, move away from manually editing XML to editing within Maes T
- More practical for a wider range of people e.g. Dictionary Panel members of the Akademi Kernewek to edit
- Manually editing an XML file can be error prone, which was mitigated by the Python scripts validating / analysing it

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Terminology Panel

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- A number of subject areas have been considered so far:
plants, insects, mining, minerals, architecture, grammar

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Using open source data from Wikimedia

sunflower (2)

entries that correspond to '**sunflower**'

sunflower bleujen an howl *n.f*

LAT Helianthus annuus

cy blodyn y haul, heulfodyn



Terminology: Flowers

sunflower howlvleujen *n.f* howlvleujennow, *m* howlvleujednow *f*

www.cornishdictionary.org.uk/#sunflower

New dictionary website

- Demonstrate the new dictionary website (demo of cornishdictionary.org.uk)

Conclusions and future ideas

- We already have some example sentences, but could have many more of these, and audio of them by speakers
- Method of handling Middle and Late variants allows multiple variants to be supported while keeping them semantically as one `<lemma>` item

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References



Tegau Andrews and Gruffudd Prys. "Terminology Standardization in Education and the Construction of Resources: The Welsh Experience". In: *Education Sciences* 6.1 (2016), p. 2.



Tegau Andrews, Gruffudd Prys, and Dewi Bryn Jones. "The Maes T System and its use in the Welsh-Medium Higher Education Terminology Project". In: *Creation, Harmonization and Application of Terminology Resources* (2011), p. 49.



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Gruffudd Prys et al. "Distributing Terminology Resources Online: Multiple Outlet and Centralized Outlet Distribution Models in Wales". In: *The 2nd Workshop on the Creation; Harmonization and Application of Terminology Resources*. 72. Linköping University Electronic Press. 2012, pp. 37–40.

Possible things to talk about in unconference sessions

- Another way of doing things would be to generate static HTML pages programatically from the XML, which I also did
- As a side project of this, I programatically matched the English glosses to Unicode character names

Cornish Emojis

kasek 	mare
kasorek  	militant, military
kastel   	castle, hill fort
kath  	cat
kav 	cave
kavas  	tin

Cat Emoji (circa 1500BC) from the Phaistos Disc

Cornish Emoji Dictionary taklowkernewek.neocities.org/emojiskernewek