Dictionaries, Text Corpora and Lexicographical Evidence Collections on Older German: on their Consolidation and Combined Application

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By now, nearly all historical dictionaries on older German offer online services: this holds true for the Old High German Dictionary (Althochdeutsches Wörterbuch, AWB), the Middle High German Dictionary (Mittelhochdeutsches Wörterbuch, MWB), the Early New High German Dictionary (Frühneuhochdeutsches Wörterbuch, FWB), the German Dictionary of the Brothers Grimm (Deutsches Wörterbuch der Brüder Grimm, DWB; unfortunately not yet for the revised edition of the letters A to F, 2DWB), the Swiss Idiotikon (Schweizerisches Idiotikon) and the Dictionary on the German Legal Language (Wörterbuch zur deutschen Rechtssprache, DRW).

In the case of the MWB, as the youngest of these dictionaries already born digital, a large part of its sources and its digital evidence collection are part of its online services. In the case of the AWB, the textual basis has been completely digitised and published online within the framework of the “Reference Corpus” initiative on the epochs and varieties of older German, specifically, of the Old German Reference Corpus (Referenzkorpus Altdeutsch, ReA, = Old High German and Old Saxon). The sources of the MWB show a large overlap with those of the FWB, and the Old High German and Middle High German source texts of the AWB and the MWB are also extensively quoted within the dictionaries referring to the entire period of (older) German (DWB and DRW).

The talk presents initiatives that are targeted at the joint utilisation of the digital dictionaries and their resources that have already been partly realised within the framework of the project on the preparation of an eHumanities Centre for Historical Lexicography (eHumanities-Zentrum für historische Lexikographie, ZHistLex, 2016–2019). Special interest focuses on establishing web services for the bi-directional linking of dictionaries and source texts and for querying the lists of references of the dictionaries, not least in relation to the mark-up concerning their local, temporal and genre characteristics.