Introducing JDTL: Journal of Digital Terminology and Lexicography

Federica Vezzani

Department of Linguistic and Literary Studies, University of Padua, Via E. Vendramini 13, Padova, 35137, Italy.

Contributing authors: federica.vezzani@unipd.it

It is with great enthusiasm that we present the inaugural issue of the Journal of Digital Terminology and Lexicography (JDTL). This new diamond open-access, peer-reviewed journal was conceived out of a clear conviction: that the rapidly evolving landscape of specialized knowledge and its linguistic and conceptual representation deserves a dedicated platform where scholars, practitioners, and technology experts can come together under one interdisciplinary and truly international roof. In an age when knowledge is increasingly digital, multilingual, and domain-specific, terminology and lexicography stand as critical pillars for accessing, organizing, and disseminating information. The digital turn has transformed how specialized language is collected, structured, shared, and updated – unlocking unprecedented opportunities while posing new methodological, technical, and ethical challenges. These changes require critical discussion, exchange of best practices, and experimentation with new tools and approaches.

A Space for Emerging Trends and New Ideas

JDTL seeks to respond to these needs by providing a space to examine, document, and critically reflect on emerging trends in digital terminology and lexicographic resource management. Our scope extends well beyond traditional boundaries: we aim to welcome contributions that explore innovative design principles for terminology resources and formats, original approaches to data-driven specialized lexicography, and creative solutions to enduring challenges such as multilingualism, cultural contextualization, and user-centred design. By bridging digital terminology with digital lexicography, the journal fosters a deeper understanding of the dynamic interactions between general-language words, domain-specific terms, extralinguistic concepts, and technologies. This intersection is fertile ground for addressing the evolving needs of specialized domains – medicine, law, engineering, and many others – where precise, up-to-date language resources are essential for effective communication and knowledge transfer.

Interdisciplinary, Inclusive, and Open by Design

At the heart of JDTL lies an unwavering belief in the power of interdisciplinarity and openness. We strongly encourage contributions that break disciplinary silos and build bridges across linguistics, translation studies, computer science, information science, and beyond. Equally vital is our commitment to an inclusive dialogue that welcomes diverse perspectives, methods, and cultural contexts. We are proud to place Open Science at the core of our mission. For us, openness is not simply a publishing choice – it is a way of working and thinking. We believe that the free, responsible sharing of knowledge, data, methods, and resources is essential to advance our understanding of digital terminology and lexicography. By embracing open access and encouraging transparency and collaboration at every stage of research, we

aim to empower scholars and practitioners worldwide to learn from one another, reproduce findings, and build on each other's work. In this way, we hope to cultivate a lively community where knowledge can circulate freely.

Rooted in Padua, Open to the World

It is no coincidence that this editorial project took shape within the vibrant academic context of the University of Padua, one of Europe's oldest and most prestigious universities. Since its foundation in 1222, the University has stood as a beacon of freedom of thought, intellectual curiosity, and cultural exchange. Its historic motto, *Universa Universis Patavina Libertas* – "Whole and universal freedom for all at Padua" – beautifully captures the enduring spirit of academic freedom and openness that has drawn generations of students and scholars from all corners of the world. In this same spirit, JDTL began as a local initiative but aspires, from its inception, to be a genuinely international platform. We are proud to embody the values of *Patavina Libertas* by fostering an editorial space where freedom of inquiry, intellectual rigor, and open dialogue can flourish and extend far beyond local or national borders. This journal also arises at a crucial historical moment in which digital terminology is increasingly establishing itself as an important area of research – one that seeks to study how specialized terminological and lexicographic data are modelled, structured, and managed in digital environments. JDTL follows in the footsteps of other initiatives developed at the University of Padua in recent years, such as the international conference "Multilingual Digital Terminology Today: Design, Representation Formats and Management Systems" (MDTT), which first took place in Padua in 2022 and is now hosted annually by other countries including Portugal, Spain, Greece, and beyond. By building on these efforts, the journal aims to strengthen a growing community dedicated to exploring the challenges and opportunities that digital tools and multilingual, cross-cultural approaches bring to the management and dissemination of specialized knowledge.

Part of a Broader Vision of Excellence: The TransText Project

This journal is also deeply rooted in the broader vision of excellence that guides the Department of Linguistic and Literary Studies (DiSLL) at the University of Padua. JDTL was conceived within the framework of the "Digital and Cross-Cultural TRANsmission of TEXTs" (TransText) project,[1] which was awarded the prestigious status of *Dipartimento di Eccellenza* for 2023 - 2027 by Italy's National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR). This recognition places DiSLL among the top university departments in Italy for the quality of its research and its ambitious development plan. TransText aims to position the Department as a leading centre for the digital and cross-cultural transmission of texts. It promotes a dynamic and innovative approach to studying texts – examining their formation, transmission, and circulation across languages and cultures – through the lens of digital humanities and comparative, transcultural methodologies. Through an integrated plan combining research, advanced training, and a strong third-mission focus on internationalization and digital innovation, TransText strives to elevate DiSLL from national excellence to a point of international reference in comparative and cross-cultural studies. It is within this stimulating and forward-looking context that JDTL has found fertile ground to grow and to serve as a concrete example of how digital tools, open collaboration, and intercultural dialogue can transform the study and practice of terminology and lexicography. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Department of Linguistic and Literary Studies for its vision, trust, and support in making this journal possible.

A Truly International Community

No scholarly project of this nature could succeed without the dedication and expertise of a vibrant global network. We are deeply grateful to our exceptional Scientific Committee, whose members represent diverse research traditions and institutions from across Europe, North America, Africa, and beyond. This international community – including esteemed colleagues from Italy, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Belgium, Spain, France, Canada, South Africa, Germany, Greece, Georgia, Croatia, and more – stands as a testament to the journal's commitment to building bridges across languages, cultures, and disciplines. Their

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[1] https://dipartimento.disll.unipd.it/eccellenza/

endorsement, critical insight, and generous support will help ensure the highest academic standards and a welcoming environment for both established and emerging researchers.

An Open Invitation

As Editor-in-Chief, I am honoured to extend an open invitation to all researchers, professionals, and students engaged with the evolving worlds of digital terminology and lexicography. We welcome original research articles, case studies, project reports, and critical reflections that challenge assumptions, share best practices, and chart new paths forward. Together, we hope to create not just a journal, but a thriving community of practice – one that embraces the opportunities of the digital age and remains true to the ideals of freedom, openness, and collaboration that lie at the heart of Universa Universis Patavina Libertas. We look forward to your ideas, your questions, and your contributions. Let the adventure begin.

Federica Vezzani,
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Digital Terminology and Lexicography
Department of Linguistic and Literary Studies, University of Padua