

Dictionary Software Initial Cost Analysis

By Matt Black, SAA Web and Information Systems Administrator | January 2015

Summary

Dictionary Working Group Chair Rosemary Pleva Flynn's initial research yielded three prospective vendors of Dictionary Management software. I have attempted to explore them from a technical angle and determine cost and viability. All three offer multi-user functionality and most are viable from a technical perspective, though they are far from equal. Here's a brief analysis:

1. [IDM Innovates.com](http://IDMInnovates.com)

IDM seems to be the industry leader. Their software is generally designed for much larger projects than SAA's dictionary, but they do serve clients on a similar scale.

Pros: Cloud-based, reliable and well-supported. Little staff-time required for maintenance. Web publishing. Probably the most user-friendly, powerful, and flexible product.

Cons: Cost.

Cost: \$3,600/year; \$2,000 set-up fee.

2. TLex

Company based in South Africa. Tool is installed on individual machines, not in cloud, but advertised that it can be deployed in a server/client scenario. The company has not responded to repeated inquiries, so I have many unanswered questions and great doubts about the customer service we might expect. I feel like this is an expensive product for its quality. It's designed more as a single-user tool (though probably a very good one), despite it's supposed ability to handle multi-user cases.

Pros: few. Web publishing.

Cons: Not cloud. Might not be viable for remote clients.

Cost: Est. \$2,200

3. Léacslann

A small project developed by a programmer with deep interest in lexicography in Ireland. Recently moved to well-supported servers at a University. This solution would need to be explored a bit further before we commit to it.

Pros: Free. Would meet our needs.

Cons: Does not include web publishing. Periodic exports would be done manually at our request, but "not too often," by the sole programmer of the tool. Online publication would require more development and management from staff (i.e., Matt). Also, "free" can raise concerns about long-term viability and accountability.

Cost: Free.