

Evaluation of the Research and Professional Activity of the Institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS) for the period 2010–2014

Final Report on the Evaluation of the Institute

Name of the Institute: Institute of the Czech Language of the CAS, v. v. i.

Fields, in which the Institute registered its teams:

Languages and literature

Observer representing the Academy Council of the CAS: Taťána Petrasová

Observer representing the Institute: Petr Kaderka, substitute observer Markéta Pytlíková

Commission No. 12: Languages and literature

Chair: Univ. Prof. Mag. Dr. Stefan Michael Newerkla

Date(s) of the visit of the Institute: October 19 – October 21, 2015

Programme of the visit of the Institute: see attached Minutes from the visit

Evaluated research teams:

No. 1 - Department of Language Cultivation; No. 2 - Department of Stylistics and Text Linguistics; No. 3 - Department of Language Development; No. 4 - Department of Contemporary Lexicology and Lexicography; No. 5 - Department of Grammar; No. 6 - Department of Etymology; No. 7 - Department of Dialectology; No. 8 - Department of Onomastics

A. Evaluation of the Institute as a whole

1. Introduction

The Institute for the Czech Language has the complex goal of being both a research institute leading its field on a national level and serving as the commissioner and producer of normative works of reference on the Czech language across the range of linguistics disciplines represented. It fulfils this ambitious remit admirably, with a slew of well-regarded reference works, both printed and electronic, produced in the five-year period studied; a high public profile thanks to media appearances and publications oriented at the lay public; and a fully articulated set of research agendas in its individual departments resulting in regular scholarly publications in a range of publications, both national and international. Its research is underpinned by programmatic, team-based data collection and analysis enabled by the Institute's tradition of team work. It enjoys economies of scale that can be achieved only by concentrating research activity in one location, and the Institute's success as a hybrid research and public-service institution confirms the strategy of this concentration.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The Institute has notable areas of strength and good practice that make it a model for other institutes in the Academy. In particular we would single out four areas:

1. Its large-scale, team-based data collection and the creation of significant resources to organise and mine these data, which is unparalleled in the areas of its activity;
2. Its subsequent successful production of numerous fundamental reference works, both electronic and print, which derive from and depend on these data, and especially the innovative quality of its digital outputs;
3. Its high visibility and strong engagement across a range of public activities, from news media to participation in decision-making commissions;
4. Its unique position in a number of fields (etymology, onomastics, language culture, dialectology, lexicology) where the Institute represents the only department of its sort nationally or internationally.

The opportunity for significant grant income has been widely used across the Institute and seems set to continue. While GAČR is a consistent source of income, other national and international sources have been tapped as well.

Some departments of the Institute have a strong and growing record for international publication, engagement in international projects, and visibility that can serve as a model for its other departments.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

We did not notice any uniformly weak research areas anywhere in the Institute. Any partial weaknesses in one team were localised and compensated for by other areas of activity on their part. We would focus on four areas that could pose threats to the Institute more generally:

- A. We noticed areas where departments or teams could benefit more from engagement with the wider international research community in their field through conference attendance and publication. Because the details of the Institute's research fields are closely tied to the national language, there is a tendency to publish predominantly locally and regionally. This strengthens the research culture domestically due to the pre-eminence of the Institute's departments in the national context, but can result in lack of attention to important international developments in the field.
- B. The Institute's physical setting could benefit from attention. We understand that its current Prague location, split between Letenská and Valentinská, is rented from other institutes, which carries some financial disadvantages and the space is not perceived to be as suitable as it could be in terms of convenience and usefulness. This puts some limitations on the Institute: lacking suitable staff quarters or meeting space, it cannot as easily serve as a host to meetings, workshops, conferences, etc., and there is less opportunity for staff to meet and exchange ideas.
- C. It is well-known in the field that there is widespread outside plagiarism of research work undertaken at the Institute, to the extent that some products by commercial publishers simply appropriate the Institute's research wholesale, without payment or attribution. The Institute alone by itself lacks the capacity to defend its intellectual property, which results in substantial and growing financial loss to the Academy and the devaluing of its research products.
- D. The lack of a home-grown team to deal with the Institute's numerous technically-oriented projects (databases and outputs) means that there is no institutional 'memory' as to how to implement solutions and develop existing resources further, as at each stage an outside firm must be brought in to create the technical underpinnings. This imposes a certain amount of instability and means that expensive projects can more quickly go out of date and become unsupported.

4. Recommendations

These refer to the points in section 3 above.

- **ad A:** Teams where international collaboration and publication are less common should look to other teams in the Institute for advice and guidance on how to increase activity in that area.
- **ad B:** We understand that some relocation alternatives are being considered and would advise that the Institute be fully involved in commissioning and approving these decisions. The case for more spacious and useful space could be made and its potential benefits weighed against its costs.
- **ad C:** Legal assistance to the Institute from the Academy must be a priority and could in fact be a quick win that recoups its costs. The Institute should be provided by the Academy with the means to defend its intellectual property and take action against outside firms who infringe it.
- **ad D:** Consideration should be given to creating an in-house software development team similar to that in existence at e.g. the Institute of the Czech

National Corpus, to provide continuity and a more stable source of programming expertise.

5. Detailed evaluations

Quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The Institute's results in Phase I were generally reflective of very high quality, with almost all publications receiving a rating in the top three categories (international excellence or better). There are clearly areas where the Institute is carrying out cutting-edge research and/or is at the forefront of the application of research. Most of the major projects in which the Institute is involved originate at the Institute and in publication format bear its name.

Individual examples where research fell short of the overall high standard are taken up in the discussions of departments below.

Involvement of students in research

The Institute's staff seem in general to be in demand for teaching activity in the country's universities, and over the past few years most areas have seen a continuing interest in Ph.D. study based in part at the Institute.

In some areas, teaching activity and Ph.D. supervision could be higher but this was sporadic rather than systematic and these are addressed in the sections on individual departments below.

Societal relevance

The continuous and sustained high visibility and relevance of the Institute is undoubtedly one of its trump cards. Its staff are constantly in the public eye, with a string of public appearances and external engagement activity (newspaper articles, radio and TV commentary, etc.). The reference works produced by the Institute are invaluable in the public context and cover a broad variety of fields. What is more, many of the electronic resources are made available free of charge, thus increasing the public value given by the Institute's activities.

The Institute's staff also undertake numerous public services, including expert opinions, courses for the public and specialists, authorised expertise in e.g. personal names; membership of its staff on terminological commissions; work on the national Czech Language for Foreigners exams.

It should be pointed out that most of the Institute's fields, but especially areas like etymology, onomastics, and lexicography would not exist as such in the Czech Republic without the activities of the Institute, and other departments, like Language Culture, have a specific public remit unique in the country that they fulfil with tremendous success.

Position in the international and national context

In the national context, the Institute occupies a critical position. Its research, the reference works and databases behind them form a key part of the nation's infrastructure in these fields and enable research to continue around the country by individual researchers who rely on them.

In the international context, the Institute's teams are engaged in collaboration and dialogue with colleagues and research teams abroad. The best developed contacts tend to be close by in the Slavic world, with e.g. Slovakia, Poland, Slovenia, Bulgaria and, to a lesser extent, Ukraine and Russia. Some areas participate more fully in a broad range of international activities, including internationally-known journals and conferences. For example, Stylistics and Text Linguistics have a well-developed and fully-elaborated international profile and could serve as a model for how to develop this sort of profile more widely.

Vitality and sustainability

The Institute has a good spread of employees at various ages. Its distribution is bimodal, with peaks in the 25–35 age group and the 55–65 age group. The departments of the Institute see their task as being to spark interest in their areas through university teaching, and then to provide the opportunity for some to continue on to Ph.D. studies combined with work at the Institute, leading to a clear career path at the Institute or elsewhere.

Recruiting for niche areas such as those represented by many departments in the Institute is thus a long-term activity dependent on significant initiative from within the Institute. Fortunately it seems that staff are by and large alert to this need and are working to meet it.

Strategy and plans for the future

The Institute has clearly formulated plans that focus on three areas: further digitisation and creation of digital resources; continuing printed reference works; and scholarly basic research across the Institute's eight departments. The priorities are clearly laid out and represent a strong and concerted effort to keep the state of Czech language culture at the forefront of those across Europe.

B. Evaluation of the individual teams

Evaluation of the Team No. 1: Department of Language Cultivation

1. Introduction

The work of the team headed by PhDr. Markéta Pravdová, Ph.D., MBA, is concentrated (1) on theory and practice of language cultivation, (2) on digitalisation of the department's consulting services and (3) on solving theoretical and practical problems connected with the cultivation of the Czech language as a symbol of Czech culture and as a means of functionally differentiated communication.

The department consists of 13 staff members, 3 of them graduates of Ph.D.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The multifaceted consulting and educational activities of the department represent one of the most important features of the Institute of the Czech Language of the Czech Academy of Sciences; many people often identify them as its main function in society. One of the most representative results and the team's newest publication – the Academic Vade Mecum of the Czech Language (*Akademická příručka českého jazyka*, Academia 2014, 511p.), contains 152 chapters, 82,000 entries, and provides its users with information concerning present-day Czech and its development. The book has received awards from the Ministry of Education, the Academia publishing house and has been recognised as the Czech bestseller of 2014 in the category of popular scholarly publications; the website of the Internet version of the book has 37,000 visits per day (the most frequently visited website of the Czech Academy of Sciences). Based on language material and questionnaires collected by the department, the material is regularly revised and the team is now preparing the 2nd edition. The complex character of the department's research presupposes systematic coordination of the team with other departments of the Institute as well as with other specialists and experts.

The department succeeded in gaining two grant projects from the Academy – Capital Letters in Czech Orthography (2011–2013) and Pronunciation of Loanwords in Czech (2013–2015) and two grant projects from the Ministry of Education.

The complex character of the tasks connected with the research and consulting activities of the department mean that high levels of scholarly qualification are a necessity for all staff on the team. Increasing this qualification and a higher share of Ph.D. graduates must be a fundamental challenge for all members of the department in the future.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

Only three members of the department hold the scholarly degree of Ph.D. The involvement of a majority of team members in Ph.D. programmes and consequent distribution of well-thought themes of the doctoral studies might help to address the announced focus of the department's research: the theoretical elaboration of a new concept of language culture.

4. Recommendations

- A. To increase the share of Ph.D. graduates in the department;
- B. To pay attention to the necessity of increasing the number of theoretically oriented publications, if possible published abroad or together with foreign collaborators;
- C. To use the data which can be collected within the language cultivation process in a project reflecting on this form of language management process with due reference to theoretical approaches explored in this field;
- D. The long-term experience of the department members in the field of language codification, consulting activities, language management, language behaviour etc. as well as the ideas of the representatives of the Prague School and their post-war followers would represent a convenient starting point for such publications.

5. Detailed evaluations

Quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The best side of the team's results is based on their rich consultative and educational activities as well as on publications addressed to the public at large. These results continue the long-standing traditions of the Institute of the Czech Language, and are highly appreciated by various institutions in many fields, by experts, teachers, translators, writers, lawmakers, authors of administrative documents etc., and by laymen. At the same time, the team is engaged in work on topical problems of language norms, on theory and practice of correct writing and speaking and on a further elaboration of the Prague language cultivation theory. In the years 2010-2014 its members published six monographs, four articles in impact journals and almost 90 articles and chapters in other journals, volumes and monographs.

Involvement of students in research

The members of the team participated in the organisation of two projects of the Ministry of Education and of universities – (1) An educational programme entitled Modern Czech grammar for the students in philological Mgr. and Ph.D. programmes (2010-2013), (2) Innovation of the Czech language studies in interdisciplinary contexts (2012-2013). The department is regularly visited by the students of the Faculty of Arts and of the Faculty of Education within the context of long-term agreements. The cooperation also includes writing external examiner's reports, participation in faculty seminars and examinations, student workshops and summer schools etc. The members of the department are co-authors of 12 school textbooks; they serve as consultants for the revision of secondary-school leaving examinations.

Societal relevance

Long-standing regular cooperation with daily press, television and broadcast is a relevant and highly appreciated characteristic of the department (TV and broadcasting cycles, lectures, regular reports and columns in the press etc). The department's internet presence (e.g. the Language Manual, etc.) has become an

equally widely known and heavily used public resource. The department collaborates with government departments, with various terminology commissions, publishing houses, with the Czech Press Agency, with the Czech deputies of the European Parliament etc.

The public engagement activities of the department have received the Ministry of Education's first-class award and the Crystal Magnifying Glass award. Markéta Pravdová holds the Vojtěch Náprstek award for popularisation of science. The Academic Vade Mecum of the Czech Language has been awarded a prize by the publishing house Academia.

Position in the international and national context

M. Prošek is a co-author (with P. Kaderka) of an article published in English in the journal *Sociolinguistica*. An example of long-standing cooperation with Bulgarian linguists is an article of L. Uhlířová published in *Sopostavitelno ezikoznanie*. In the national context the standing of the department is witnessed by its important codificatory role and activities in the field of language cultivation. The department is responsible for editing the journal *Naše řeč*, M. Pravdová is its editor-in-chief, she and other members of the department serve on the editorial boards of well-known Czech linguistic journals.

Vitality and sustainability

11 of 13 members of the team are younger than 45 years, 8 than 35. This fact underpins the possibility of increasing the share of Ph.D. graduates and strengthening the position of the department in the international context.

Strategy and plans for the future

In the near future the 2nd revised edition of the Academic Vade Mecum of the Czech language will be completed. The department plans to prepare a new framework for language culture and language codification. We thus regard the task of increasing scholarly publication activities as an extremely urgent one.

Evaluation of the Team No. 2: Department of Stylistics and Text Linguistics

1. Introduction

The main research activities of the department are concentrated (1) on the analysis of spoken and written language and (2) on the theory of dialogue, discourse, genre and style.

The work of this team is carried out in accordance with the latest research directions of this multidisciplinary field in the world, and it is based on a good knowledge of Czech and foreign bibliographical data. The members of the department work on problems of stylistics, text linguistics, multimedia communication, conversational analysis, sociolinguistics and discourse analysis.

All these theoretical fields are distinguished by a rich array of practical applications in the sphere of media communication, modern information technologies, business and commerce communication, advertising etc.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

In 2010 – 2014 the members of department succeeded in obtaining three grants for complex projects – The style of media dialogues (S. Čmejrková), Stylistics of spoken and written Czech (S. Čmejrková, J. Hoffmannová) and The pronunciation of loanwords in Czech.

The outputs of the first and second project have appeared with Academia publishing house (*Mluvená čeština: hledání funkčního rozpětí*, Academia 2011, 492 p., *Styl mediálních dialogů*, Academia 2013, 316 p.) and with Olomouc University Press (S. Čmejrková – P. Kaderka, *Pragmatické aspekty češtiny*, 148 p). Looking towards the final output of the third grant, staff have collected and classified lexical data according to the source languages and their phonetic idiosyncrasies.

All books and articles in journals and volumes published by the members of the department have met with positive responses and established solid grounds for further research. These results are significant for the scientific reputation of a collective of relatively young authors, both in national and international comparisons.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The panel did not identify any significant weaknesses or threats, other than the obvious fact that due to their success at grant capture, their income is now closely tied to grants, and the short-term nature of these commitments can create problems when hiring staff.

4. Recommendations

- A. The ability to expand the team somewhat by the addition of 1-2 further members (at MA/Ph.D. level) to cope with proposed new projects seems desirable.
- B. The members of the department should look for extra-institutional grant support from various sources, e. g. the doctoral project of Helena Özörenciková Legitimacy of Language Management seems very topical, promising and interesting from the international point of view.
- C. Some topics (e. g. advertising, business communication, media readability) might be attractive for the commercial sphere or for the theory and practice of media studies.

5. Detailed evaluations

Quality of the results and share of their acquisition

The results of the projects of the department continue the best traditions of the Prague theory of functional stylistics. Together with the main outputs (5 monographs), ten members of the team published 12 articles in impact journals, 35

articles in other journals, 29 chapters in monographs and 28 contributions in linguistic and interdisciplinary volumes. 4 articles were published in English in prestigious journals and volumes abroad (Language Sciences, in publishing houses John Benjamins, De Gruyter). All these theoretical works are based on large-scale empirical data that the team has had to first collect and then process.

For the publishing house Lidové noviny the members of the team (in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in Prague) translated P. Auer's book *Jazyková interakce* (NLN 2014, 306 pages). 49 entries were prepared for the planned expanded edition of the Encyclopedic Dictionary. The quality of the results overall is thus judged to be excellent.

Involvement of students in research

All members of the team actively collaborate with universities in the Czech Republic (especially with the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in Prague) as well as with partners in Slovakia. Due to their high scientific quality the members of the team are often invited as lecturers and seminar leaders (PhDr. Jana Hoffmannová, DrSc., received the title of Professor from Charles University; seven members have the degree of Ph.D., two are preparing their Ph.D. theses).

Every year some members take part in the Prague Summer School of Slavic Studies. A new educational programme for MA and Ph.D. students called *Modern Czech Grammars* has been prepared and delivered for Palacký University (Olomouc).

These activities help to prepare young students and graduates for work in the department or for scientific work in the Institute or at the universities. Students of the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in Prague are engaged in the work of the department through their seminars.

Societal relevance

The members of the team frequently disseminate their results in the media (scientific journals, daily press, TV, broadcast). They regularly serve as reviewers for various scientific journals with expertise concerning the readability of texts and language correctness.

In 2014 they played an important role in preparing and organising the conference *English in Business and Commerce: Interactions and Policies*. Since 2008 they have been lecturing in the series *Essentials of Scientific Work*, organised by the Czech Academy of Sciences. We feel the department has capitalised well on the high societal relevance of its topics.

Position in the international and national context

The department has a strong position both nationally and internationally. This position is strengthened not only by the works published abroad but also by the editorial activities of the department. Petr Kaderka is Editor-in-Chief of *Slovo a slovesnost*, a prestigious journal for the theory of language and language cultivation, Jana Hoffmannová is a member of its editorial board. In collaboration with Charles University the team takes part in editing the series *Prague Papers on Language, Society and Interaction*.

Vitality and Sustainability

The members of the team are relatively young (7 of 10 are between 25 – 45 years old) and well qualified (1 professor DrSc., 6 Ph.D., 2 Ph.D. students). Their engagement in university lectures and seminars guarantees that students will take an interest in working at the Czech Language Institute. In the years 2015 – 2019 the department would like to be able to admit two new MA or Ph.D. students. Altogether the signs for vitality and sustainability are very good.

Strategy and plans for the future

The team is currently preparing the following publications: Syntax of Spoken Czech, Noncommercial advertising, How to Publish in Science: Fundamental Communicative Competences, Conversational Analysis. Within these projects, seminars and articles are planned. Younger students play a decisive role in the work of the team.

The team has plans to undertake a variety of other projects that build on the department's existing expertise in language management and multimodality. These are timely subjects and are currently at the centre of much international attention, which makes them a suitable part of its strategy.

Evaluation of Team No. 3: Department of Language Development

1. Introduction

The department headed by PhDr. Markéta Pytlíková, Ph.D., has a lexicological-lexicographic and a textological-editorial section. The area of study of the lexicological-lexicographic section is the history of Czech language up to the National Revival, which is complementary to the area of study in the Department of Contemporary Lexicology and Lexicography. The textological-editorial section closely cooperates with the Centre for Classical Studies at the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

According to the data presented, the department consists of 25 employees (18,45 positions).

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The department succeeded in obtaining many grants – five grants from the GAČR (both for textology and for lexicography as well as for the center of excellence with a wider interdisciplinary enquiry) and four other grants from e.g. the NAKI program of the Czech Ministry of Culture. It is an excellent result, not only with respect to the quantity of grants but also with respect to the quality of proposals and the outputs created.

The department is complementary to the Department of Contemporary Lexicology and Lexicography and to the Department of Etymology. The evaluated department has two strong long-range projects in the lexicological-lexicographic section which serve and will serve as referential works not only for diachronic Czech and Slavic linguistics worldwide, but also for the field of history more generally, esp. social history, the history of ideas etc.

In the evaluated time frame the department created an electronic dictionary with 15,000 lexical items for Old Czech up to the 15th century. This dictionary is open and available on the internet; new items are being added to it. It also includes modules with electronic editions, historical grammars and dictionaries. The team also created a digital database with 900,000 entries for the Humanist Czech of the 16th and 17th centuries.

The textological-editorial section has a long-standing project to create an Old Czech text database with 4.5 million tokens and 90 historic electronic editions within this time period. This database serves as a resource not only for diachronic linguists, but also for historians, anthropologists etc. Some of these editions are also made available by Academia publishing company for the wider public. The participation in the interdisciplinary center of excellence "Cultural codes and their development in the Hussite time" – relevant for humanities in the international context – could serve as a model for some other departments of the institute.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The number of projects is admirable, but it may prove demanding to manage them. The institute should find adequate financial and personnel support for the department; given their excellent results on the project and output level, they should be enabled to have the possibility to present them in international contexts at conferences and in English publications.

4. Recommendations

- A. To source adequate personnel support for the department in recognition of its excellent results on the project and its high level of outputs
- B. To increase the department's presence in international scholarly communication (conferences and English publications), which should be supported by the institute financially and through investment in personnel.
- C. To develop a strategy – perhaps together with the Department of Contemporary Lexicology and Lexicography and the Department of Text Linguistics and Stylistics and/or with the Institute for Czech Literature – to fill the gap in the study of Czech in the long 19th century (the National Revival), which has an international impact e.g. in the area of standardisation and language planning and is open also to questions framed in an interdisciplinary fashion.

5. Detailed evaluations

Quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The high quality of the results is attested by the high number of core projects, the participation in the center of excellence and the phase A of this evaluation. In the years 2010-2014 the members of the evaluated department published 11 books, 3 articles in impact journals and 54 articles in other journals, 35 chapters in monographs and 85 contributions to proceedings.

Involvement of the students in research

The members of the department supervised 2 bachelor's, 1 master's and 2 doctoral theses and were very active as lecturers at universities. These activities are very important to attract student collaborators for projects and to raise the next generation of diachronically oriented linguists and editors.

Societal impact of the research / relevance

The societal impact of the department is demonstrated by the reference work *Vokabulář webový* and the reference database of humanist Czech available worldwide via the internet.

The textological editions of Old Czech are relevant for other disciplines such as history, anthropology, history of literature etc. Some of them are published and available also for the wider public.

The department has taken part in the center of excellence "Cultural codes and their change in the Hussite time" with a national and international impact. It is also active in exhibitions, media, education etc. The members of the evaluated department have received awards in a variety of contexts.

Position in the international and national context

The department is the natural centre of the study of Old Czech. The area of study is complementary to the Department of Contemporary Lexicology and Lexicography of the Institute of the Czech Language and to the Editorial and Textological Department of the Institute of Czech Literature.

The outputs of the research are relevant also for other disciplines: diachronic linguistics of Slavic languages, history, anthropology, history of literature. The participation in the center of excellence with national and international impact shows the position of the area of study worked on in this department. More intensive participation in the international communication (conferences and publications in English) would increase this impact.

Vitality and sustainability

During recent years the team has been rejuvenated. 23 of 25 members of the team are younger than 45 years; 12 are younger than 35. The age of employees is very well balanced. The department has 6 researchers and 17 other employees. It could increase the number of Ph.D. graduates.

Strategy and plans for the future

The continuation of the present practice can in this case form a good vision for the future in both the lexicological-lexicographic and the textological-editorial section. There are some suggestions as to how to increase the impact of the research. It would be advantageous to develop a strategy for the time after the center of excellence "Cultural codes and their change in the Hussite time".

Evaluation of Team No. 4: Department of Contemporary Lexicology and Lexicography

1. Introduction

The department headed by PhDr. Pavla Kochová has three sections dealing with (1) monolingual lexicography, (2) lexicographical excerption and (3) multilingual lexicography; it is also in charge of looking after and modernising the lexical archive of the Institute. The first two sections cover the whole area of lexical and lexicographical study, the third section is focused on Czech-Slovak bilingual lexicography. In the Academy of Sciences, bilingual lexicography is also practiced in the Centre for Classical Studies at the Institute of Philosophy and at the Institute of Slavonic Studies of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

According to the data presented, the department consists of 28 employees (18,25 positions).

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The department has the longest tradition within the institute as well as within the Academy of Sciences (cf. the anniversary conference in 2011). In this sense it could be a core department of the institute, also because it actively reflects and integrates results of other departments in lexicographical tools and outputs.

This concerns especially the findings of the Department of Grammar (morphological doublets, valence, reflexivity etc.) and the Department of Language Cultivation (variety, register etc.), which adopt results of the lexicographic department especially in the study of word formation as well as in the context of consultation services.

The greatest strength of the evaluated department is in its digital lexical databases – the lexicographic database *Pralex* with 210,000 lexical units, the excerption database of neologisms *Neomat* with c. 300,000 units and the bilingual Czech-Slovak contrastive database with 30,000 units – as well as in developing new software tools for collecting, analyzing and describing lexicographic data.

The dictionary writing system *ALEXIS* was developed for the long-term project of the Academic Dictionary of Contemporary Czech with c. 120,000-150,000 lexical units.

The original software is result of collaboration with the Faculty of Informatics of the Masaryk University in Brno. In this sense the department occupies a unique position worldwide not only with respect to the archive and new collections of Czech lexicographic data and their description, but also in lexicographic technology.

The department collaborates especially with the Institute of the Czech National Corpus (Charles University) as well as with the Institute for Slovak Language (Slovak Academy of Sciences); their area of study, databases, linguistic expertise and outputs can be characterised as complementary.

The department succeeded in gaining two grants – “A New Path to a Modern Monolingual Dictionary of Contemporary Czech” (2013-2016) granted by the NAKI-program of the of Czech Ministry of Culture and “Contrastive Description of Current Slovak and Czech Lexica” granted by GAČR.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

There is an unclear balance between researchers and other workers in the relatively young team; the head of department does not have a research contract. The plans for the future are oriented very strongly towards continuing and finishing data collection. Data collection for dictionaries is still heavily reliant on excerption, with an entire team responsible for this. With the general shift towards corpus data and the strong tradition of research in the field into corpus semantics and corpus phraseology, this might result in a threat to the department's traditional methods (see 4d below).

4. Recommendations

- A. To increase the share of Ph.D. graduates with respect to the balance between researchers and other workers, including the head of department. Progress towards Ph.D. qualifications for members of the lexicographic team could be combined with the ongoing conceptualisation of lexicographic description of collected data.
- B. To increase the number of publications as well as the number of the theoretically and/or technologically oriented publications, if possible published also abroad or with foreign collaborators.
- C. To increase presence in international scholarly communication (conferences). The international contacts of the team should be extended beyond Bulgarian, Slovak and Polish lexicography.
- D. More theoretical investigation confronting excerption data vs. corpus data would be desirable to establish a firm basis for the continued need for excerption.

5. Detailed evaluations

Quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The high quality of the results is attested by the phase A of this evaluation. Collaboration with the Faculty of Informatics of the Masaryk University in Brno, with its extensive experience with linguistic tools, guarantees the high quality of technological solutions for databases as well as for the digital system of lexicographic authoring. In the years 2010-2014 the members of the evaluated department published 3 books, 1 article in an impact journal and almost 58 articles or chapters in journals, edited volumes and monographs. There are also 12 applied outputs.

Involvement of the students in research

The members of the department supervised 2 bachelors, 2 masters and 2 doctoral theses and gave courses at universities. These activities could be intensified in correlation with the Ph.D. qualification in the department.

Societal impact of the research / relevance

Because they form the base for a reference work in the form of a monolingual Academic Dictionary of Contemporary Czech the innovative databases Pralex and

Neomat are relevant for the public at large. The archive, the databases and the expertise are used also by other departments of the institute, especially by the Department of Language Cultivation with its consultation services and its widespread presence in the public media. The evaluated department participates in the media presence of the institute and has public engagement activities for students, writers and public.

Position in the international and national context

The department is the natural centre for lexicography nationally and collaborates intensively with the Institute of the Czech National Corpus. Their areas of study are complementary. Their collaboration with Bulgarian lexicography has a long tradition; collaboration with the Slovak Academy of Sciences is essential especially for the Czech-Slovak bilingual dictionary project. It also has an impact on monolingual lexicography. The expansion of collaboration to Polish monolingual lexicography could be extended into other centers of monolingual lexicography in Germany, U.K. or France e.g. in the form of a more active presence in international lexicographic discourse.

Vitality and sustainability

23 of 28 members of the team are under 45 years old; 16 are under 35. This distribution is a good indicator of vitality and sustainability for the next generation of lexicographers (data provided post-presentation). The team has 8 researchers and 11 other workers, including the head of department (submitted data). The department could increase the share of Ph.D. graduates in order to strengthen the position of the department in the international context.

Strategy and plans for the future

The department plans to continue work on established databases and finish the bilingual Czech-Slovak contrastive dictionary. It also plans to start elaborating its plans for the new Academic Dictionary of Contemporary Czech.

Evaluation of Team No. 5: Department of Grammar

1. Introduction

The Department of Grammar is a relatively new department of the Institute and has had notable academic successes. The appearance of two major publications of Czech grammar in the period is a significant achievement for a team of this size. The team has clear plans for a future grammar and there is evidence of participation in various national projects and initiatives.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The team is currently nicely balanced, with a range of interests across morphology, word formation, syntax and hard-to-place features like aspect. They have a proven capacity for production of large collaborative manuals that include staff and authors

from outside the Department and the Institute. The focus on corpus data as a source for grammar means the team is a key user of a national infrastructure project, the Czech National Corpus, that is in the forefront of its field. They can capitalise on a renewed interest in grammar in the Czech Republic, as has been shown by department head Štícha's productive collaboration with publishers Argo and Academia. The age structure of the team is balanced, with staff at a range of ages from 30 to 65.

In addition to producing large synoptic works, the team is producing a range of publications focusing on the detailed analysis of particular grammatical features, such as Šimandl's Ph.D. monograph on *kámen* and *břímě*, Veselý's collected articles on aspect and the planned dictionary of affixes. A new journal, *Korpus - Gramatika - Axiologie*, has been founded in the department. Conferences have also been co-sponsored with other academic institutions in the Czech Republic and abroad.

The team's stated focus on description has been a strength in bringing organisation and structure to a series of descriptive grammars.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The team is a small one, and the retirement of staff in the upper bracket (2 at age 60-65) could pose a threat to continuity in the department (see recommendation 4.A)

Cited in the department head's presentation was a perceived lack of interest in grammar at Czech universities, with few of them inviting him and his team to offer courses to students. This inevitably has an impact on postgraduate student recruitment, which he also described as difficult (see recommendations 4.B and 4.D)

The panel expressed some concern about the lack of external collaboration; according to the department head's description this was limited to the Faculty of Education of Masaryk University (PedF MU) and to the Faculty of Arts as well as the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the Charles University (FF UK and MFF UK). In fact the team has more extensive collaborations and connections that are referenced in various other sections of the reports. There is perhaps a perceptual issue within the Department concerning what constitutes "true" collaboration (see below under 5.4). It further seems that publishing outside of the Department's own new journal (see above) could bring new ideas and suggestions, as the reviewers are not part of the same collective. It also applies to participation in external conferences and workshops (see E below).

While the team's descriptive focus has been an asset in many respects, it may throw up difficulties as the large grammar project comes to completion, in terms of finding a focus for further activities (see recommendations 4.C and 4.D).

4. Recommendations

- A. Given the age profile of the team, with two staff nearing customary retirement age, it would be wise to consider proleptic appointments, to allow for a suitable training period.
- B. To ensure the continued viability of the department and the maintenance of its place as a centre for research into grammar, its staff should make efforts

to extend teaching at universities and to secure the funding for Ph.D. student places at the Institute.

- C. The Department does have a workable plan for the next decade, but would benefit from developing a narrative about why it is important to carry out this work and this research. Staff presumably have various theoretical orientations and their individually published research provides insight not just into the rules of Czech grammar, but also into what we learn about language through our interrogation of these specific questions in Czech: e.g. the nature and limits of “corpus” linguistics, views of aspectology, etc. Having “big questions” alongside “big goals” might help raise the profile of “grammar” as a field among potential students and staff.
- D. In view of the above concerns, an appointment that ties research in grammar into linguistic theory would give the Department a dimension that, with Friedová’s departure, it currently lacks, and that might also assist with the recruitment issues mentioned by the team.
- E. Department staff are recommended to increase the visibility of the department’s scientific work by attending more external conferences and ensuring that they choose higher visibility external outlets for scientific publication.

5. Detailed evaluations

Quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The Department has produced two major synoptic publications in the period: *Kapitoly z české gramatiky* and *Akademická mluvnice současné spisovné češtiny*. The major part of the conceptualisation of these works and a significant portion of their content was contributed by Department staff.

Two detailed monographic studies were published in the period. J. Šimandl’s *Dnešní stav skloňování substantiv typů kámen a břímě* was published in the prestigious NLN corpus linguistics series, and incorporates significant corpus data into its findings.

L. Veselý’s *Příspěvky k české aspektologii* takes a more traditional introspective approach to aspect. Notable in the period are Friedová’s publications in a variety of international journals and edited volumes.

The quality profile presented shows four outputs graded 1 or 2, which corresponds to the high quality of some of the research being conducted. A further four outputs were graded 3 or 4. This may be a reflection of the focus on large-scale grammars (each of which counts only once but takes up significant amounts of staff time and energy), or perhaps the works were not all strategically chosen. In any event the result is somewhere in the middle of the Institute’s departments.

The new journal *Korpus – Gramatika – Axiologie* was founded to address a perceived gap in the market for corpus-based studies of grammar. It has been successful to date in maintaining a high-quality production of articles authored by both Czech and international scholars.

There is currently one large grant held in the Department, which will lead to the production of a dictionary of Czech affixes. Given success rates, this seems consistent with a unit of this size.

In summary, the team has had very satisfactory results for its research publications and activities.

Involvement of students in research

The department head currently supervises 2 Ph.D. students; other staff participated in BA and MA teaching and thesis supervision. One team member also participated in a large grant project, *Vzdělávací cyklus Moderní mluvnice češtiny pro studenty magisterských a doktorských programů filologických oborů* that has a strong training element to it. Three staff members obtained their Ph.D.s in the time period (but were supervised elsewhere).

The department head pointed to the current absence of interest in research degrees in his department as a notable problem. It may be that, as he suggested, interest in the area is low as it is not a fashionable topic and students are more attracted by corpus linguistics, text linguistics, discourse, etc.

There is thus significant evidence of student involvement in research, although perhaps also some warning signs that the field is not as popular as it might be.

Societal relevance

While we have already noted that “grammar” as a topic struggles to attract postgraduate research students, there does seem to be substantial public interest in it. The Department’s societal relevance is found mostly in its publications, which are scholarly but also aim at capturing a portion of the public market.

The fact that prestigious houses like Academia are willing to publish large and expensive volumes of this sort speaks both to their quality and to the fact that they believe these books will sell beyond a small circle of academic readers.

One member of staff has developed ideas for Česká televize’s program “O češtině”. Other than that the public engagement of the team seems modest and is largely centred on *Týdeník rozhlas* and *Zpravodaj pražské arcidiecéze*.

Overall, there is high relevance in this area which could perhaps be further exploited.

Position in the international and national context

The panel’s concern about national and international collaboration was noted above. Having said that, we can find substantial evidence of international standing in several areas:

- Ongoing collaboration with IDS Mannheim, the analogous institute in Germany, in co-organising conferences and co-editing the volumes resulting from them;
- Collaboration with the University of Warsaw in co-organising a conference;
- An international editorial board for the Department’s journal *Korpus – Gramatika – Axiologie*.

When asked about collaborations, the department head mentioned two other staff who have contributed to the current grammar project. There is a predilection to view “collaboration” in terms of “non-Institute staff who contribute to the major outputs of

this Department”. A broader and more inclusive view of the collaborative activities of the Department might lead to a more positive self-evaluation.

Staff also sit on the editorial board of two further national journals, showing evidence of national esteem.

Publication venues were mentioned above as an indicator of standing. With books, the Department has good access to quality national publishers of the highest rank. For at least one former staff member there is also evidence of extensive international publication in journals and edited volumes.

While recognising that national and international collaboration could be broader and deeper, there are clear signs of engagement and standing in this area and further evidence of it could almost certainly be found.

Vitality and sustainability

In terms of practical issues, the age profile of the Department has been mentioned above both as a strength and a threat. Some staff members will almost certainly retire within the next decade, possibly sooner, and it would be wise to have a succession plan in place to cope with this. In the short term, the experience and training capabilities of more senior staff should be well utilised to train the newcomers.

The department head raised the question of why the Department’s staff are not in more demand for university teaching and research supervision. If this is true, then there is a potential sustainability problem.

Future staff should come from the ranks of Ph.D. students, who should in turn be inspired to join the field by their experiences at BA and MA level. If this through-put is lacking, then there is a potential issue.

However, there are two ongoing Ph.D.s in the Department and some staff members teach on a variety of courses in Prague, Hradec Králové, Olomouc and elsewhere, so signs of activity are not absent.

We find that the Department faces some challenges in this area, but has the potential to be a vital and sustainable entity.

Strategy and plans for the future

The Department has a clear plan for the next decade in terms of producing further volumes in the *Velká akademická gramatika češtiny* (VAGČ). Whether this also constitutes a “mission” or “strategy” is open to question.

For this reason the mission statement looks a bit lopsided: it references “research into all areas of contemporary Czech grammar; creation of the Large Academic Grammar of Standard Czech; research into verbal aspect”.

The singling out of verbal aspect struck us as odd and perhaps too closely tied to one person’s research interest, while the reference to “all areas” of contemporary Czech grammar lacked focus. We also felt unsure whether the creation of a specific work, i.e. the VAGČ, could be felt to be part of a mission in the same way as research into a particular area.

The plans for the next decade thus look clearly structured, although we felt the strategic aspect (what areas, why, for what purpose) could use further consideration.

Evaluation of the Team No. 6: Department of Etymology

1. Introduction

The Department of Etymology of the Institute of the Czech Language of the Czech Academy of Sciences deals with the research and description of the Slavic lexicon from the oldest periods after the breakup of the Indo-European linguistic community through the formation of the individual Slavic languages up till the present day. Thereby, special attention is given to Old Church Slavonic as the oldest documented Slavic language and to Czech during all its stages of development.

As far as certain areas of research into the Czech language are concerned, the Department of Etymology is the only research group in the Czech Republic and worldwide which concentrates fully and exclusively on this particular domain. Understandably, this fact makes the department the leading authority in the field as regards the quality of research results.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

Among several obvious strengths of the Department of Etymology, we can mention the successful teamwork on the renowned *Etymological Dictionary of the Old Church Slavonic Language* (EDOCSL, since 1989), the only dictionary of its kind that not only provides an etymological analysis of the Old Church Slavonic lexicon, but at the same time shapes our understanding of the oldest history of other Slavic languages, most of all also Czech (especially because of its analysis of Moravisms in younger Church Slavonic copies of protographs from the Great Moravia period). A particular strength of the *Etymological Dictionary of the Old Church Slavonic Language* is in our eyes also the collaboration established between the Department of Etymology and the team of Paleoslavists working at the Institute for Slavonic Studies in Prague.

Similar to other units of the Institute of the Czech Language, the Department of Etymology benefits from the rich tradition of research in the field as well as the utilisation of the most advanced current approaches in the field. This becomes manifest also in the publication and the thematic richness of the series *Studia etymologica Brunensia* (SEB) – 9 volumes during the last four years – and the regular organisation of the international conference *Etymological Symposium Brno* every three years (since 1999). During the period under evaluation two conferences took place (in 2011 and in 2014), and the proceedings have been both already published.

Another strength to be mentioned is the long-term cooperation of the etymological team with Masaryk University, which is reflected in the impressive and numerous pedagogical activities of the team members and the involvement of students in the research. Among other positive consequences is a relatively balanced age structure of the otherwise small scientific team. Two members of the etymological team were awarded the Otto Wichterle Award, given to outstanding promising young scientists. We consider also as a very positive element the fact that the Department is located in

Brno, thus taking advantage – like the Department of Dialectology – of a different cultural and scientific milieu.

Moreover, the team members participate widely in the activities of the international scientific community. Apart from being members of the leading scientific committees in the field, they are also actively involved in national as well as international peer-review activities. Above that, the team members also make use of opportunities to popularise the department's activities and research results in the media as well as in lectures for schools and the general public.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

There are no real weaknesses with regard to the quality of scientific output of the team members. Publication venues are national and international in scope. However, the department could perhaps make more efforts to bring its outputs and research to the attention of the wider world by the utilisation of advanced software for data digitising and data dissemination, which, incidentally, several other departments of the Institute of the Czech Language have ample experience in.

While the presentation of research results on the internet could be another great asset of the department, this also raises questions as to how attested copyright violations could be penalised when the institute as a whole lacks the necessary resources (human, financial) to analyze such violations and take legal action against such offenders. Nevertheless, more emphasis on open access publishing could be given.

4. Recommendations

- A. The Department of Etymology should finalise the long-term research program related to the etymological analysis and description of Old Church Slavonic lexis and the valuable lexicographic work on the EDOCSL.
- B. The plan to simultaneously start working on a new scientifically conceived etymological dictionary of Czech is highly applauded. The results could provide the scientific community with an overall view of the history and stages of development of the Czech vocabulary. In this context, it would also be desirable – if possible – to also include the data in the electronic lexicographical processing initiatives of the institute's other departments and to support open access publishing initiatives in the field.
- C. In addition, the Department of Etymology should pursue the remaining plans mentioned in the documents. They are well considered and of indubitable scientific relevance. Moreover, the department should continue its very fruitful cooperation with Masaryk University.

5. Detailed evaluations

Quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The Department of Etymology is the leading authority in the Czech Republic in the field of etymology with regard to the quality of research results. The outputs as such are thoroughly convincing and internationally excellent in terms of originality,

significance and rigour: 9 out of 11 outputs were evaluated as world-leading, the other two as internationally excellent.

The long-term project of preparing and publishing the EDOCSL is outstanding and unique.

Involvement of students in research

The long-term cooperation of the etymological team with Masaryk University is one of the department's strengths, which is reflected in the impressive and numerous pedagogical activities of the team members and the involvement of students in the research work of the etymological team in various areas. During the period evaluated, team members supervised 18 BA theses, 40 MA theses and 5 Ph.D. theses. Moreover, the department organised also a series of lectures and excursions for students from other scientific fields, such as students of Computational Linguistics from Masaryk University.

Societal relevance

The etymological analysis of the Old Church Slavonic lexicon shapes the understanding of the oldest history of other Slavic languages, but most of all also Czech in all its developmental stages. Numerous popularising activities show the interest of the wider public in such activities. Thus, the members of the etymological team regularly have to answer queries of individuals, institutions and mass media on the origin of words. In combination with the team activities of the Department of Dialectology, this kind of full-fledged language counseling is of societal relevance.

Position in the international and national context

The Department of Etymology is the only research group in the Czech Republic and worldwide which concentrates fully and exclusively on the etymology of the Old Church Slavonic lexicon and the Czech lexicon. Understandably, this fact makes the department the worldwide leading authority in the field with regard to the quality of research results. Moreover, the team members participate in the activities of the scientific community throughout the Slavic world.

Apart from being members of some of the leading scientific committees in Slavic linguistics, they are also actively involved in national as well as international peer-review activities and regularly organise international conferences. Some of the department's research tasks are internationally unique.

The department's international collaboration is extensive as regards joint projects, scholarly publications appear primarily nationally as well as occasionally in international peer-reviewed journals and publishing houses.

However, the lack of the presentation of research results on the internet or at least in open access media might represent a missed opportunity to bring their findings and outputs to international attention even more broadly.

Vitality and sustainability

The long-term cooperation of the etymological team with Masaryk University and the involvement of 63 students in the research work during the evaluated period not only

bear witness to the vitality and sustainability of the department's research. Among other positive consequences is the balanced age structure of the scientific team.

Two members of the etymological team were awarded the Otto Wichterle Award, given to outstanding promising young scientists.

Strategy and plans for the future

As already mentioned above in the recommendations, the department is encouraged to pursue all the planned tasks mentioned in the documents. They are well considered and of indubitable scientific relevance, especially the work on the EDOCSL and the planned scientifically conceived Czech etymological dictionary. The department's work is supported by the commission not only for its valuable contents, but also its innovative and internationally unique specialist contribution. However, it could be even more improved from a technical point of view (digital humanities, open access publishing, etc.).

Evaluation of Team No. 7: Department of Dialectology

1. Introduction

Within the research framework of the Institute of the Czech Language of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Department of Dialectology deals with the description of dialects of the Czech language, i. e. the non-standard varieties of the Czech national language, currently with particular emphasis on lexis (appellatives, proper names). Apart from the examination of traditional territorial dialects and arising interdialects, the department also takes interest in the research of common speech in areas with varying migration of the population (e. g. in towns and border areas).

As far as certain areas of research into the Czech language are concerned, the Department of Dialectology is the only coherent research group in the Czech Republic and worldwide which concentrates fully and exclusively on that particular domain. Understandably, this fact makes the department the leading authority in the field with regard to the quality of research results.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

Among several obvious strengths of the Department of Dialectology, we can mention the successful teamwork on world-renowned and exclusive large-scale projects such as the *Czech Linguistic Atlas (CLA)*, the *Dictionary of Anoikonyms in Moravia and Silesia (DAMS)* and in the upcoming years the *Dictionary of Czech Dialects (DCD)*. Similar to other units of the Institute of the Czech Language, the Department of Dialectology benefits from the rich tradition of research in the field as well as the utilisation of advanced software for data digitising and makes use of all possible kinds of data sources with the most advanced current approaches.

Thus, the department can not only build on the value of the classical excerption slip and other archives with a vast number of records of often irreplaceable cultural and historical value (e. g. the *Phonetic Dialect Archive of Sound Recordings*), but can also exploit the contents of these archives with the help of sophisticated software developed mainly for lexicographic purposes in order to build up specialised

dictionaries and present the resources in an appealing way to the scientific community as well as to the interested public.

Another strength to be mentioned is the long-term cooperation of the dialectological team with Masaryk University, which is reflected in the impressive and manifold pedagogical activities of the team members and the involvement of students in the research. Among other positive consequences, a balanced age structure of the scientific team is the result.

Moreover, the team members participate widely in the activities of the international scientific community. Apart from being members of the leading scientific committees in the field, they also continued their work on the *Linguistic Atlas of Europe* (ALE) and the *Slavic Linguistic Atlas* (OLA). Above that, the team members also make use of manifold opportunities to popularise the department's activities and research results in the media as well as in lectures for schools and the general public.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

There are no real weaknesses with regard to the quality of scientific output of the team members. Publication venues are primarily national in scope, with international publications appearing mainly in Slovakia, Poland and Russia. The department could perhaps make more efforts to bring its outputs and research to the attention of the wider world in the form of attendance at international conferences and publication in international journals.

However, possible weaknesses and threats can be identified in accordance with the problems of the Institute of the Czech Language as a whole. On the one hand, while the presentation of research results on the internet is one of the great assets of the department, this also raises questions with regard to how attested copyright violations can be penalised when the department as well as the institute lack the necessary resources (human, financial) to analyze such violations and take legal action against such offenders.

Moreover, the lack of a homogeneous presentation policy, due to the absence of an internal group of software and presentation specialists, might lead to differing quality in the presentation of linguistic results on the internet, because some software has to be created ad hoc and in-house, while other tasks get outsourced. This possible threat has been averted by the department at least for the three current electronic projects (CLA, DAMS and DCD), because they are all built on the same basic programming structure.

4. Recommendations

- A. The Department of Dialectology should continue the long-term research program related to the description of dialect lexis (appellatives, proper names) of the Czech national language and the valuable research work on the electronic DCD and DAMS.
- B. The plan to create a unique and extensive interactive medium by linking CLA, DCD and DAMS is highly applauded. The results could provide the scientific community with an all-around view of Czech dialect lexis, both in appellatives and proper names, which would be an innovation not only in Europe, but

worldwide. In this context, it would also be desirable – if possible – to include also the data from the electronical lexicographical processing of the Dictionary of Minor Place-Names in Bohemia (*Slovník pomístních jmen v Čechách*) in this interactive medium.

- C. The Department of Dialectology should also pursue its other planned tasks mentioned in the documents. They are well considered and of indubitable scientific relevance. Moreover, the department should continue its very fruitful cooperation with Masaryk University.

5. Detailed evaluations

Quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The Department of Dialectology is the leading authority in the field of Czech dialects with regard to the quality of research results. The outputs as such are thoroughly convincing and internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour. Some of the long-term projects and the presentation of their results (CLA, DAMS, DCD) are world-leading and further plans (such as the creation of an extensive interactive medium comprising an overall view of the Czech dialect lexis, both in appellatives and proper names) are highly innovative and so far internationally unique.

Involvement of students in research

The long-term cooperation of the dialectological team with Masaryk University is one of the department's strengths, which is reflected in the impressive and manifold pedagogical activities of the team members and the involvement of students in the research work of the dialectological team in various areas. Some of the students' tasks included for example excerpting the dialect material for the DCD, the OLA, the digitisation of the material for the electronic DAMS, the collecting of dialect recordings, the transcription of dialect texts, the assistance in organising meetings and workshops etc. All in all, 40 students were involved during the evaluated period.

Societal relevance

The linguistic material on the Czech language in the department's archives represents a national treasure of irreplaceable cultural and historical value. These archives comprise not only written, but also spoken material (e. g. the *Phonetic Dialect Archive of Sound Recordings*). The preservation, processing and analysis of this material and the publicisation of the results not only in scientific publications, but also through numerous popularising activities, is of invaluable societal importance.

Among the team activities, language counseling for the public (established in the department in 1956) continued.

Position in the international and national context

The Department of Dialectology is the only coherent research group in the Czech Republic and worldwide which concentrates fully and exclusively on that particular domain. Understandably, this fact makes the department the worldwide leading authority in the field with regard to the quality of research results. Moreover, the team

members participate widely in the activities of the international scientific community. Apart from being members of the leading scientific committees in the field, they also continued their work on the *Linguistic Atlas of Europe* (ALE) and the *Slavic Linguistic Atlas* (OLA). Some of the department's research plans are highly innovative and so far internationally unique.

The department's international collaboration is extensive as regards joint projects, but scholarly publications abroad seem to appear – with exceptions – mainly in Slovakia, Poland and Russia (in order of frequency). This might represent a missed opportunity to bring their findings and outputs to international attention more broadly.

Vitality and sustainability

The long-term cooperation of the dialectological team with Masaryk University and the involvement of about 40 students in the research work during the evaluated period not only bear witness to the vitality and sustainability of the department's research. Among other positive consequences, a balanced age structure of the scientific team is the result.

Strategy and plans for the future

As already mentioned above in the recommendations, the department is encouraged to pursue all the planned tasks mentioned in the documents. They are well considered and of indubitable scientific relevance, especially the work on the electronic DCD and DAMS.

Moreover, the plan to create a unique and extensive interactive medium by linking CLA, DCD and DAMS is highly supported by the commission not only for its valuable contents, but also its innovative and internationally unique specialist contribution and technical design.

Evaluation of Team No. 8: Department of Onomastics

1. Introduction

The department's main focus is research in the field of proper names, esp. of toponyms, personal names and names of products and enterprises. Its tasks consist of research into (1) the theoretical aspects of the origins and functions of proper names in social communication, (2) the methodology of onomastics in interdisciplinary contexts and (3) the relations between proper names and appellatives. The team's current work continues in the best traditions and reputation of Czech onomastics (with its long history).

The department databases and collections represent an important resource for researchers from many countries.

The department has five members, two with a Ph.D. degree. All of them are comparatively young (between 25 and 45 years).

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The outputs of the department have appeared both in Czech and foreign journals, volumes and dictionaries, several of them in English. A great many of the publications have met with positive responses from the part of onomastic specialists at home as well as abroad and provide solid grounds for strengthening the involvement of the team in the international context.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The team has only five members and only two of them have Ph.D.s. The income of the members is tied mostly to institutional financial sources; this fact can create problems with hiring new staff in future.

Some staff have been active in publishing in visible international venues, although the work of the team is largely published in national and regional venues. These areas of activity could be strengthened and distributed more widely through the team (this ties in with our recommendations below).

Scholarly collaborative activity and links with other public bodies are not evenly distributed throughout the team and it would be desirable to see more evidence of this activity across the team members.

4. Recommendations

- A. It is necessary to increase the proportion of staff members with the degree of Ph.D.
- B. The team should be expanded by the addition of 1 – 2 further members who are doctoral students.
- C. Efforts should be made to increase the participation of staff in international publications and external activities. There is evidence of good practice within the department that could be used as a model.

5. Detailed evaluations

Quality of the results and share of their acquisition

In the period in question, the members of the team published 3 monographs, 7 chapters in monographs, 1 article in an impact journal, 23 articles in other journals and 27 contributions in various volumes. In the years 2010-2014 the department succeeded in obtaining a grant on aspects of word-formation in Czech toponyms. The quality profile shows no items in the top group, but all evaluated items are at international level or better.

The head of the team is a member of the board of the ICOS (International Council of Onomastic Sciences) responsible for onomastic bibliography, onomastic terminology and a member of the International Committee for Slavic Onomastics. The team is active in organising international conferences, some of them abroad (Baia Mare, Gniezdno, Prešov) and on editorial boards of journals and volumes such as *Acta onomastica*, *Onoma* (Uppsala), *Onomastica* (Cracovia), *Onomastic* (Barcelona),

Rivista Italiana di Onomastica (Rome), *Studia Wschodnosłowiańskie* (Białystok), *Voprosy onomastiki* (Ekaterinburg), *Zunamen* (Hamburg).

Involvement of students in research

The team collaborates mostly with the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University, but also with the University in Banská Bystrica. Its members supervised ten dissertations. They are often invited as lecturers and seminar leaders. In total they taught 334 lessons (on Toponomastics, Anthroponomastics, Word formation aspects of proper names).

Societal relevance

The public outreach of the team is well-known and extremely popular thanks to regular cycles of lectures in media (mainly in television, broadcast) and in the articles published in daily press. The collaboration of the team (whose decisions are often recognised as a codification authority) with various terminological commissions is a very important and often unique aspect of their activity. Among the commissions they sit on are those of the Czech land registry, geographical institutions, the editorial boards of atlases, calendars etc.

Position in the international and national context

The team has a good position both nationally and internationally. The position is strengthened thanks to its publications and to the membership of the head of the department M. Harvalík on many editorial boards and committees. In many fields the outputs of the team are recognised as those of a norm-creating, codificatory authority.

Some members of staff have a good publications record abroad, with articles and chapters appearing in edited volumes in the UK, Austria, etc. Publication is primarily domestically oriented (not surprisingly given the focus on Czech names) and also in publications in the region, e.g. Slovakia, Poland, Romania.

Vitality and Sustainability

The future existence of the team may be threatened by the very restricted number of its members. Nevertheless, its extensive activity gives cause for hope.

Strategy and plans for the future

The department plans to expand in the universities and to involve students in its activities and grants. The team members started to prepare the editions of some key publications, e. g. *Toponymic Guidelines of the Czech Republic* (in English), *Geographical names in the Czech Republic*, 3rd edition of the *Index of Czech Exonyms*, 2nd edition of the publication *The Names of Seas and Oceans*, etc.

Date: December 31, 2015

Commission Chair: Univ. Prof. Mag. Dr. Stefan Michael Newerkla