

Orin K. Hargraves

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Terms of Engagement

I am a lecturer and professional research assistant at the University of Colorado, Boulder. I also work on contract for US, UK, and European research organizations, publishers, and other concerns. My chief areas of expertise are the English language, with expert knowledge of dialectal differences between British and American. Most projects I am involved in result in the publication of reference books and software (dictionaries and other lexical databases), ontologies, and in the production of successively refined inputs to natural language processing (NLP) systems.

Skills Summary

- lexicography
- annotation for NLP research and WSD
- editorial management for reference and dictionary projects
- software: XMetaL, PubMan, DPS
- expert testimony about word behavior
- lexical research
- language reference writing and editing
- expert in British and American English differences
- Moroccan Arabic, French, German
- corpora analysis

Selected Clients

- USA: BearingPoint, Berlitz, Butler Hill Group, Cambridge University Press, CL Research, Cengage Learning, Facts on File, Heinle Thomson, Idea.org, K12.com, Merriam-Webster, Microsoft Corporation, National Museum of Language, Oxford University Press, Potomac Global Media, Scholastic, TunedIn Software, University of Colorado, VisualThesaurus.com, Vocabulary.com, WordReference.com
- UK: Addison-Wesley-Longman, Bloomsbury, Chambers-Harrap, Continuum Books, HarperCollins, Macmillan Dictionaries, Oxford University Press, Toucan Books
- Other abroad: Langenscheidt KG (Munich), Linguistic Computing Laboratory (Rome), Marshall Cavendish International (Singapore), QBS Learning (New Delhi)

Selected Publications

- *It's Been Said Before: a guide to the use and abuse of verbal clichés* (forthcoming from Oxford, 2014)
- [Slang Rules!](#), an ESL self-study book (Merriam-Webster, 2008)
- [The Big Book of Spelling Tests](#) (Black Dog Leventhal, 2007)
- *Spell It!*, the study guide for the National Spelling Bee (Scripps Newspapers, 2006 – 2008)

- *Cucurbits* (article), *English Today*, October 2004
- *Long Distance Lexicography: a View from the Field* (article), *Dictionaries 2004*
- *Who Owns English?* (article), *Vocabula Review*, June 2003
- [Mighty Fine Words and Smashing Expressions](#), a reference book about British and American English differences (Oxford University Press, 2003)
- Various articles in *Verbatim*, the Language Quarterly, Spring 2002 – present (available via [Amazon](#)).

Presentations, Papers, Teaching

- Introduction to Computational Lexical Semantics, University of Colorado, 2013
- Instructor in Lexicography at the LSA Summer Institute, University of Colorado, 2011, and University of Michigan, 2013
- "Emerging American Language in 1812," National Museum of Language, College Park, MD, 2010
- "Lumping, Splitting, and Natural Language Processing" 2009, Dictionary Society of North America (DSNA), Indiana University
- "Americanization and its Mal-contents" DSNA, 2007, University of Chicago
- "Characterizing Prepositions for Natural Language Processing" 2005, DSNA, Boston University
- "Who Owns English?" 2005, Smithsonian Institution, Washington
- "Long-Distance Lexicography: a View from the Field" 2003, DSNA, Duke University

Lexicography and Lexicographic Research

- Ongoing expansion and improvement of VerbNet and PropBank (starting 2012)
- Sense clustering of the 800 most polysemous words in WordNet for Vocabulary.com (2011)
- Development of an ontology for real-time Q&A and product delivery in the hospitality industry (2011)
- American English consultant for [Collins CoBuild English Grammar](#) third edition, 2011
- Chief lexicographer for the *Scholastic Children's Dictionary* (starting 2011)
- Consultant lexicographer for the National Museum of Language exhibit "Emerging American Language in 1812" (2009-10)
- Defining for the Framework multilingual translation database, 2010
- Sense inventory mapping (WordNet → British National Corpus) on N-N, N-V, and V-N collocations for the [Linguistic Computing Laboratory](#) (2007)
- Sense inventory mapping (WordNet → Oxford Dictionary of English) for SemEval 2007 (2007)
- Lexical analysis of corpora, textual data, and word lists for Microsoft's NLP group (via their vendor [Butler Hill Group](#); 2003 – present)
- Principal lexicographic researcher for the [Preposition Project](#) (2005 – 2008)
- Briticization of the Berlitz [English Pronunciation Program](#) CD (2006)
- 2006 and 2011 updates of [Words to Rhyme With](#) by Willard Espy.

- US English consultant for [Collins-Cobuild English Usage](#) (HarperCollins UK, 2004)
- Editor of [New Words](#) (Oxford University Press, 2004)
- US English consultant for the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#) (2003) and the [Concise Oxford English Dictionary](#), 11th edition (2004)
- Editor for the [Cambridge Dictionary of American Idioms](#) (2003)
- American English editor for Langenscheidt's *Großwörterbuch Muret-Sanders Deutsch-Englisch* (2003)
- Editor for the *Oxford American College Dictionary* (2002)
- Editor for the *Macmillan English Dictionary* (2002)
- Contributing editor to the *New Oxford American Dictionary* (2001, 2004, 2010), the *Oxford Essential Dictionary of the US Military* (2001), and the *Oxford Dictionary of Difficult Words* (2001)
- Americanization and expansion of entries for the *Microsoft Encarta Thesaurus* (2001)
- Lexicographer for the *Encarta World English Dictionary* (1999)
- Contributing editor to the *Cambridge Dictionary of American English* (1997)

Research, Writing, and Editing

- Author of the monthly "Language Lounge" column of [VisualThesaurus.com](#) (ongoing)
- Book Review Editor of *Dictionaries*, journal of the Dictionary Society of North America (2006–11)
- Writing and editing of encyclopedia articles for the [Merriam-Webster Collegiate Encyclopedia](#) (2000) (subjects: botany, computers, food, languages, the Middle East , religion)
- Copyediting of several privately published texts on Theravada Buddhism (1986 – 1992)

Education

- BA with Honors, General Studies in the Humanities, the University of Chicago, 1977
- Various certificates in aspects of computing, lexicography, TEFL methodology, telecommunications

Associations and Memberships

- member (since 1993), the [Dictionary Society of North America](#); executive board member starting 2005-20013; president 2011– 2013
- singer (starting 2012), [Cantabile Singers](#); board member starting 2013
- Auditor and board member, [International Meditation Center USA](#) (since 1993)

Employment History

Self-employed 1990-2012 as a lexicographer, reference editor, teacher, and writer. Currently employed half-time at the Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Colorado, as a researcher and lecturer.