Ge1 Linguistics: Language and Lexicography

Detailed Annotated Reading List

This reading list will be sufficient for your needs, but it is not an exhaustive listing, as there is a huge literature on these dictionaries and on issues connected with spelling. You should explore the library catalogues and internet searches thoroughly as well as skim-reading parts of each dictionary.

To get you started, two general works on dictionaries:


A. Deutsches Wörterbuch (DWB)

The entire text of the *DWB*, which occupies 33 volumes in print form, is available on-line at

http://www.dwb.uni-trier.de

Individual words can by looked up through the ‘Online-Wörterbuch aufschlagen’ link. Three tabs then lead to a historical overview of the dictionary (*Enstehungszeit des DWB*) and to the texts of all the introductions that were written for the different volumes (*Vorworte*). The introduction which is treated as a ‘set text’ for this course is the *Vorwort* to *Band 1*, formally referenced as:


The following two general works contain overviews of the history of the *DWB* as well as focussing on the text of the Vorrede:


The most readily-available detailed work on the dictionary is


The following websites also contain interesting information about the Grimms’ life and work, and the dictionary:

http://www.grimmnetz.de
http://150-grimm.bbaw.de

There is a huge bibliography to the *DWB* which you can follow further through the bibliographies of the recommended works. This reading list contains a mixture of material that is readily available (mostly on the internet) and some important works, even if they are available in Cambridge only in the UL.


**B. Deutsche Rechtschreibung (DR – ‘Duden’)**

A very useful resource is the Duden website at

http://www.duden.de

Of particular relevance is the link ‘Über Duden’ which has a lot of material on history and lexicographic practice. The site can also be used as an on-line dictionary, although it
should be noted that in this mode it assembles information from all the dictionaries in the Duden ‘family’, so that what you see on-line is not a reproduction of any one print dictionary entry.

There are some general articles on the DR and its perception in German life:


Konrad Duden wrote a good deal about his ideas on spelling, and those minor works are collected here:

Nerius, Dieter. Konrad Dudens Orthographische Schriften. (Olms: Hildesheim, etc. 2005)

A number of works have been written specifically about the DR, of which these are the main ones (Sauer unfortunately is hard to get hold of).

[Drosdowski, Günther. Der Duden. Geschichte und Aufgabe eines ungewöhnlichen Buches. (Mannheim: Dudenverlag 1996). This pamphlet is not available in the library and is listed here only because I use quotations from it]

Sauer, Wolfgang Werner. Der »Duden«. Geschichte und Aktualität eines »Volkswörterbuchs«. (Stuttgart: Metzler 1988)


There are also (many) works about spelling and its reform, of which only a few highlights can be listed here. There is a lot of anti-spelling reform material on-line, but here mainly academic works are listed.


Johnson, Sally. ‘Sonst kann jeder schreiben, wie er will’?: Orthography, legitimation and the construction of politics.’ In German Life and Letters 58(2005): 453–470. (this is a special issue on orthographic issues and is available on line from a Cambridge computer)

Nerius, Dieter (ed.), Deutsche Orthographie, 4th ed. (Hildesheim, etc.: Olms, 2007)


Sebba, Mark. Spelling and Society. (Cambridge: CUP 2007)

The official website on German spelling, with updates to the most recent reform, is to be found at

http://www.deutscher-sprachrat.de

The Goethe Institut also has information on the German language in general, for example here in an article on how words are selected for inclusion in the DR:

http://www.goethe.de/ges/spa/siw/de7250872.htm (‘Wie kommen Wörter in den Duden?’)