Two dictionaries are currently included in the histdict system – the digitalized Old Bulgarian dictionary and a historical dictionary of the Bulgarian language.

As it was already said yesterday the Old Bulgarian dictionary is a digitized version of the two-volume Old Bulgarian dictionary of the Institute for Bulgarian Language at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The dictionary includes words extracted from texts from the classic Old Bulgarian (Old Church Slavonic) corpus, such as Codex Marianus, Codex Zographensis, Codex Assemanius, Sava’s book, Codex Suprasliensis, etc. All these manuscripts have been lexicographically processed and their material included (with contexts) in Old Bulgarian dictionary of the Institute for Bulgarian Language. Therefore this is a dictionary of synchronic type, dictionary of the classical period 9th/eleventh century.

A historical dictionary is a different type of dictionary. Its idea is that languages change and words and their meanings also change. That’s why a historical dictionary traces the history of words and their meanings from the time of their first attestation in medieval manuscripts until the present day. A historical dictionary should be regarded as a lexicographical manual which follows the changes in the meaning of words. The dictionary in question is not interested in all contextual variations, nor does it claim to be exhaustive in terms of manuscript attestations. The historical dictionary of the histdict system is based on four principles:

1) the history of words is reviewed in a wide chronological perspective - starting from the beginning of the Slavonic writing in the 9th cent. up to modern times.
2) meanings are retrieved from a language corpus unlimited from the thematic point of view, including literary texts”; non-literary texts (geographic and personal names, dialects, vernacular language, inscriptions, graffiti);
3) it has an open glossary – you can add new words at any point
4) the meanings are ordered according to their occurrence, and according to the genetic connections among them, for instance the examples from 11th century are added before the examples from 14th century.

To cut a long story short we are aiming at designing a Historical Dictionary of Diachronic Type that should present the history of the Bulgarian words.

As you might have already guessed the concept of the histdict system is to create a historical dictionary of the Bulgarian language through editing and supplementing the digitalized Old
Bulgarian dictionary. The logical way would be to take an already existing dictionary, to digitalize it and to start enriching and editing it.

At this point I believe that it’s impossible to write big dictionary entries that include all possible meanings of the words. What is realistic however is to constantly create smaller, separate dictionaries which can then be integrated in the historical dictionary. One way to do so is to create a dictionary of a specific group of words – for example Christian terminology, judicial terminology, plant or animal names etcetera. This way the historical dictionary of the Bulgarian language will be constructed according to a thematically-oriented principle. After the separate lexical fields have been processed, such a thematic approach to the lexicon of the Bulgarian language in a diachronic perspective allows to reach certain conclusions regarding the pathways of the intellectualization of the language during the Middle Ages as well as regarding the development of the literary vocabulary. At the present stage, the section on the Christian terminology has been developed, including approximately 800 new and revised dictionary entries. The selection of this particular lexical field was dictated by the fact that Old Bulgarian (Old Church Slavic) was the sacred and literary language of the Orthodox Slavs.

The second possibility is to create a dictionary of a single author, manuscript or period. This is the case with the dictionary of the language of Patriarch Euthymius, which we talked about yesterday. Actually part of this dictionary is already included in the historical dictionary, that is words and their meanings from one dictionary are included in the other. For example the word агњѧ, which means lamb, was included in the Old Bulgarian dictionary; that’s why we added only one example from the works of Patriarch Euthymius, you can see it here. But the word агњица, which means small sheep or is used to name Virgin Mary, was never part of the Old Bulgarian dictionary. That’s why a new dictionary entry with examples from the works of Patriarch Euthymius was written.

To make all this happen specialized software has been developed, namely two separate programs for creating and editing dictionary entries. In order to accommodate our users, new words and words edited on the basis of their appearance in the Old Bulgarian dictionary have been marked in blue and green, respectively, in the historical dictionary.

During the development of the program for creating and editing dictionary entries, we have encountered a number of problems. The first software we developed operates according to a form-based principle. It displays a sequence of boxes featuring a dropdown menu, or typing boxes. It is possible to complete and/or modify their content. The development of this program was the result
of a prolonged and meticulous effort spanning many years. From the very beginning, we were aware of the fact that we needed a piece of software which would allow changing a single letter in the longest and most complex dictionary entry, and saving it without any other changes. This meant that forms had to be structured in such a manner that they could cover all entries from the digitalized Old Bulgarian dictionary, which we intended to edit and supplement in order to create our historical dictionary. This idea, which at first glance appeared simple and appropriate, proved to be challenging to implement, because the authors of the Old Bulgarian dictionary had allowed for certain ambiguities and inconsistencies in their entries. However, even in dictionaries created with the finest level of precision certain entries will most likely have an ambiguous structure, and this group is prone to be exceedingly difficult to digitalize using the model of the remaining entries. I would like to show you how does the sequence of boxes looks for one of the most complex dictionary entries – the verb быти, meaning to be. You can see yourself the number of boxes we’re talking about. However, we still make use of this program anyway: our experience has shown that it is quite convenient for making small changes, such as correcting printing errors. The software is also highly useful for editing the information contained in the dropdown menus – in our case, this corresponds to grammatical information. For example, there was a group of words in the Old Bulgarian dictionary which were inadequately marked as participles in their ‘part of speech’ field (гласанинъ, повелѣнъ, востъванъ, богословивъ, невѣдомъ etc.). It became evident that, using the above-described form-based software, it was possible to change the grammatical category quickly and easily, marking these words as adjectives or verbs, which they indeed are. As a quick aside: The changes we introduce are only saved in our historical dictionary. The digitalized Old Bulgarian dictionary does not use this software, and it remains a precise copy of the printed version of the Old Bulgarian dictionary.

This software for composing and editing dictionary entries proved to be far less convenient for implementing major changes (for example, for merging meanings, adding new ones, interchanging them, etc.), as well as for creating wholly new entries. We only realized this as we started working on a dictionary of the language of Patriarch Euthymius, which requires writing entirely new dictionary entries. The form-based software makes it necessary to compose the text in Word files and subsequently to distribute the information across the relevant boxes by copying and pasting. Just imagine having to manually fill in all boxes for a word like быти – to be. This is overly labor-intensive, and therefore we created new software specifically designed for dictionary entries, which
is of the convertor type. The text has to be composed in a Word file nevertheless, but in accordance with special conventions – there are requirements regarding the formatting of the headline, grammatical information, meanings, examples, etc. Afterwards, the authors copy and paste their entries into a special box in histdict. When converting, the software automatically arranges the words in alphabetical order. If we copy and paste an already existing headword into the dictionary of Patriarch Euthymius, the new content is automatically substituted in place of the pre-existing one. It is possible to copy a word from the electronic dictionary into a Word file, edit it there, and then replace it in the dictionary by copy-pasting. This new convertor can be used to input an unlimited number of words. Although this software has been created for the dictionary of Patriarch Euthymius, it is suitable for creating new dictionaries. Histdict now incorporates both the legacy software and the new software for dictionary entries; users can choose the one they consider easier and more comfortable to work with.

Now I’ll show you how to use both types of software. First we’ll insert an entry with the software based on forms. We’ll use an article from the dictionary of the language of Patriarch Euthymius. You can see the article itself here, it’s the verb чодити, which was used only 22 times, but can have multiple meanings and forms different phrases. We’ll work entirely with copy/paste. First we add the grammatical information – infinitive, first and second person singular and from the drop-down menu we choose imperfect. Next we start adding meanings – first we write definition after that we add an example and then insert the manuscript together with the page number we took the example from. The first meaning of the word is “to walk, to move”. We add two more examples in the same way. Now, however, we have a participle which was used as “those that set off towards someone or something”. That’s why we’ll add an additional meaning with examples. We repeat the same steps twice more to insert the second and third meaning – let’s do so now. The second meaning is “to reside, to stay somewhere for some time”, and the third meaning is “to live in a certain way”. We have one more additional meaning to the third definition – “Those that live in a certain way”. In the end we have a few phrases marked with a plus sign – for them we add new boxes and follow the steps – definition, example, name of the manuscript and page number. The first phrase ходити въ means “to wear clothes”. The second phrase means “to obey”, we’ll insert it as well but to not waste time let’s insert only those two phrases and save our new dictionary entry. We can edit it at any point by pressing the pencil icon. You can see the sequence of boxes again. Now we’ll delete one of the examples and save the entry again. You see for yourself how much time this dictionary
entry took. Now let’s try to load not only the same entry but two more using the converter. All we have to do is copy and insert them in an empty box and press save.

= Hoditi,ホダジ,ホダし

несв. (22)
1. Ходя, вървя, движа се.

Ходящу въ емо съ конн’ствѣ по нѣколю полю, и въ Ѳом’ призивающою на помошь, вѣтногъ толою таки се знамеинѣ въ полоудѣйнѣсѧ уасѣ Конст. 426г.21.

вѧнѣ, такоже не възможно џет(ѫ) Ѳом’ не иллашомолю право ходити, сище не възможно џет(ѫ) вѣгоцстѣ въ хранашиолю по воли божиѧ жити Филот. 89.26

призыванѣмъ въ распетаго, елкпин прозираютъ. вѣтнин Ѳодит. прокажениѧ сонирют съ. мрѣкѣин къстаютъ Нед. 607г.35.

Същото значеніе и въ ИМ 168г.12, Филот. 86.20.

Ходаши

Като съц. м. мн.

Тези, които са се запътили към някого или нещо.

Тѣлаѧ и Ѳ мѣшкѣй оукарае вѣмѣ Ѳ иже къ боу нирвѣ ходащѫхъ. иже, къ вѣгѣсстѣпкахъ оуко шдраозѣмъ накладаху сѣ, дѣлы же искѣсстѣпкиѧ житѣостоѣваху Конст. 437г.37.

2. Пребивам; намирам се, оставам някѣде за определено време.

донѣ вѣ пѣстнини вѣхдуха,v тѣсъ посѣкиныкѣ нѣкѣ. пѣкъ же иако въ мирѣ вѣзратахъ сѣ, котчѣрѣ аѣгѣк помошь аѣгѣк тѣсъ трѣкѣѢ Петк. 78г.11.

іадѣй могъ пѣкѣ и пѣкѣ могъ крѣб кѣ вѣ пѣкъ прѣкѣваетъ и дѣѣ вѣ нѣлъ, иако да живѣѣ кѣ нѣсъ и ходащѣ словоу ткодѣ, господи, вѣдѣмъ храмъ прѣкѣатомѣ и покланѣнолѣ ткодѣ дохѣ CBB 399.14.

3. Живѣѧ по определен начин.
прѣбывааше проуче добръ отроковица дѣвство чисто хранщи и въ чистотѣ и цѣломудрѣ ходяти

Нед. 605г.20.
Сътвори въ нами знаменіе въ благо, настави насъ на путь твой, еже ходити въ истинѣ твой
СВВ 392.29.

χοδιщн

Kato сьщ. мн.
Тези, коио живеят по определен начин.
Какоказе накы иже не по истинѣ χοδищѣ они ожидают ждаа • какова обувиа • каковъ страхъ •
каковъ(ъ) стоядѣ. какова въ какомъ истинанѣ Конст. 438г.13.

χοδѣн

Kato прил.
Който живее по определен начин.
притишати же къ сьщѣсіѣ цркви, и сьсқнии се въ каковъ убѣвѣ визуино χοδищаго. вкрокати же
въ уѣдѣ и ейда и стѣго ἠκα, въ трицы нераздѣлно ИМ 164г.8.

+χοδити въ лилолочѣ
Нося някакъ тип облекло; облечен съм въ нешо.
оствлаш, конччомоу съеу оумръкѣннѣ пѣдѣся, пчалоюоѣ и сѣтоюоѣ, оцовлѣннѣ вѣкѣшъ
tрѣпчее. χοдѣи въ лилолгѣ и въ конѣахъ кожахъ Кипр. 235.26.

+χοδити въ волѣахъ
Подчинявам се.
И въсѣхъ въ единомысли съклади, въ благочестїи, въ братолюбїи, въ любви, въ всѣхъ волѣах
твоихъ χοдити, иако да и въ семъ прославит са имя твои прѣсвлѣто МИнд.1.2 347.28.
Следвам идеите, делата, примера на някого.
Зане къмически нашия ходихомь лъкавыих и свѧтвыя твоѫ заповѣди и законѡположенїа прѣстѫпихѡмь

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