

**Better Dictionaries through
Natural Language Processing**

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Word-level knowledge stored in lexicons is essential to high-quality systems for a variety of natural language processing tasks. Similarly, dictionaries are important tools for language learners and translators, as well as valuable cultural artefacts. One problem, however, is that language is constantly changing. New words are coined every day, and new meanings of established words commonly emerge. Lexicons and dictionaries therefore need to be constantly updated, but doing so manually is very expensive. Techniques for automatically keeping them up to date are therefore required. In this talk I will present recent research on three topics related to this theme: 1. automatically identifying the various meanings of words from text; 2. finding new meanings of words; and 3. automatically identifying correspondences between non-standard word forms (e.g., "tmrw") and their standard forms (e.g., "tomorrow") in social media text to render it more tractable for natural language processing. I will conclude with my vision for future research in this area.

**Wednesday, December 4 @ 2:30pm
Information Technology Centre, ITC317**