The southern Dutch dialect area consists of four dialect groups: (1) the Flemish dialects, spoken in French Flanders (France), West and East Flanders (Belgium) and Zeeland Flanders (The Netherlands); (2) the Brabantic dialects, spoken in Antwerp and Flemish Brabant (Belgium) and Northern Brabant (The Netherlands); (3) the Limburgian dialects (spoken in the Limburg provinces of Belgium and The Netherlands); (4) the Zeeland dialects, spoken in Zeeland and Goeree-Overflakkee (the Netherlands).

The dialect vocabulary of the Flemish, Brabantic and Limburgian dialects is collected in three regional dictionaries (WVD, WBD and WLD respectively), which are set up according to the same plan: they are onomasiologically arranged and published in thematical fascicles1. Contrary to their titles, these dictionaries are to be considered as geographically oriented inventories of word usage,

1 The Dictionary of the Zeeland Dialects (WZD), however, is alphabetically arranged.
and not as dictionaries proper, since it is impossible to describe meaning in an onomasiologically arranged dictionary. They are atlases, not dictionaries!

Figure 1: Research areas of the 4 regional dialect dictionaries of the southern Dutch area

The three dictionaries describe the vocabulary of the traditional dialects of the first half of the twentieth century in the southern part of the Dutch language area, in a joint international and interuniversity project. The WBD, the 'mother' of the two other projects, was finished in 2005; the WLD was completed in 2008. They were compiled at the University of Nijmegen and the University of Leuven. The WVD started 12 years later than its sister projects (in 1972 at the Ghent University, that is) and will continue till about 2016. Since the editorial board of the WVD is the last one which still exists, it will have the task to supervise the aggregation of the databases of the three dictionaries.

The presentation will focus on the structure of the WVD-database which is now being completed, and the accompanying website which will disclose the data for different types of users. The structure of both the database and the web application are developed by the firm Info Service Belgium (Ghent). The WVD-software can be considered as the result of a pilot project for a bigger project aiming at the aggregation of the three databases. The ultimate goal is to create a dynamic web application which allows users to browse/search the data and to enhance this with two cartographic tools, one in Google maps, and another one that is still to be developed (at the Geography department of the Ghent University). The first tool is an automated visualization of the lexicographic data; the second one will make it possible for the user to manipulate both the legend and the symbols on the map.
In short, the presentation will dwell on:

1. Data collection

The data are collected by way of onomasiologically organized questionnaires, filled in by hundreds of volunteers in a major ‘crowd sourcing’ project (1972-2014).

2. Data input / data processing

The data input consists essentially of source, question, answer (entry form / lexical variant / phonetic documentation), location, respondent, which are processed in order to create dictionary articles.

Figure 2: Flow chart of the data input
Figure 3: Flow chart of the data processing
3. Web application for the users

The web application will allow all users to search the database, using entry forms, concepts, lexical variants, location ... as search terms.

Figure 4: Screen shot of a page of the web application
4. Cartographic tools

There will be two cartographic tools: (a) a google cartographic application for an automated visualization and (b) a home-made tool which will enable every user to create its own maps.

Figure 5: Screen shot of the automatically generated word map ‘lizard’ in Google

Figure 6: Legend of the word map ‘lizard’ in Google
Figure 7: The words for ‘daisy’ in the Flemish dialects (home-made cartographic tool)

References