

Name and institutional affiliation of the assessor

Dr. R.R.K. Hartmann (University of Exeter)

Title of the book:

Principles and Practice of South African Lexicography

Authors:

**R.H. Gouws
D.J. Prinsloo**

1. A brief assessment of the book and its contribution as a research output.

This is one of the best introductions to the field of Lexicography that I have seen. It covers every important aspect of the field, both in theory (dictionary research) and in practice (dictionary making), is well written, clear, and up-to-date.

(I could go into detail on specific points, including critical comments on individual formulations, typos, punctuation and minor inconsistencies, but these would not detract substantially from the positive features of the book.)

2. An indication that the book disseminates original research and new developments in lexicography and metalexigraphy around the world, with unique concentration of the languages of South Africa.

The text is full of evidence of taking into account recent international work in metalexigraphy, the result of meticulous research for which both authors are in any case known and respected within and outside South Africa. Examples:

- the detailed treatment of South African languages,**
- clear guidance on how to plan and organise lexicographic projects,**
- innovative ideas on the structural components of dictionaries,**
- deep awareness of the needs of users, and**
- impressive competence in information technology.**

I am particularly impressed by the coverage of interlingual aspects, which are usually neglected in the literature, and the competence of the authors in communicating through the medium of English.

3. An indication that the target audience of the book is specialists / peers in the relevant field and that it is not merely a textbook or a popular book intended for the general public.

The book should prove useful both for trainee lexicographers and fellow metalexigraphers. I shall certainly recommend it to colleagues and other experts.