



**FACLAR NA Gàidhlig**

Dictionary of the  
Scottish Gaelic Language

**2023-28**

**BUSINESS PLAN**

## CONTENT

---

1

Faclair na Gàidhlig

2

---

2

Context

3

---

3

Aim and objectives for 2023 - 2028

5

3.1 Lexicography

5

3.2 Systems development: Meanma

6

3.3 Sustainability and succession planning

6

3.4 Academic and public engagement

7

---

4

Funding Request

8

# 5

<b>Staffing, Management and Governance</b>	<b>9</b>
5.1 Governance	9
5.2 The Board of Management	9
5.3 The Editorial Committee	10
5.4 The Consultants	10
5.5 The Staff Team	11

---

# 6

<b>Our Approach: 2023 - 2028</b>	<b>13</b>
6.1 Centre Sustainability	13
6.2 Post COVID-19 Working Practices	13
6.3 Fair Work First	13
6.4 Using Gaelic in the Workplace	13

---

# 7

<b>Achievements and progress since 2018</b>	<b>14</b>
7.1 Lexicography	14
7.1.1 Lexicography Progress	14
7.1.2 Digital Archive of Scottish Gaelic (DASG)	14
7.1.3 Manuscripts Project	15
7.2 Systems	15
7.2.1 Systems Development: Meanma	15
7.3 Succession Planning and Sustainability	16
7.3.1 Team Recruitment	16
7.4 Academic and Public Engagement	16
7.4.1 The Centre for Faclair na Gàidhlig	16
7.4.2 Beairteas a Bharrachd	16
7.4.3 Other Activities	16
7.4.4 Public Engagement	17



# 1

## FACLAIR NA GÀIDHLIG

Faclair na Gàidhlig will provide an authoritative, comprehensive and accessible historical dictionary of Scottish Gaelic, facilitated by the development of ground-breaking dictionary technologies.

Faclair na Gàidhlig is being compiled using historical principles, similar to the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) and the Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue (DOST) and will take its place among these respected dictionaries, continuing a tradition of producing world-class lexicographical resources in Scotland.



*‘The Faclair na Gàidhlig team have in many ways been a crucial support for the Royal Irish Academy’s Dictionary of the Irish Language project. The spirit of innovation and collaboration between the respective teams has provided a fantastic forum for development and progress on our project, given the generosity and the willingness of the Scottish team to help and advise where possible. We have learnt from Scottish practice also in terms of project governance, technical platforms and lexicographical approaches in a digital format. The collaboration has been heartening and will continue to be of immense value to us’*

DR CHARLES DILLON  
Editor, Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge,  
Royal Irish Academy, Dublin



# 2

## CONTEXT

**Faclair na Gàidhlig is a partnership initiative, involving Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture, together with the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Strathclyde. This partnership is working to produce a historical dictionary of Scottish Gaelic which will be freely available online.**

The aims of Faclair na Gàidhlig are aligned to the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. This Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament with a view to securing the status of the Gaelic Language as an official language of Scotland, commanding equal respect with the English Language. Bòrd na Gàidhlig, which is the body created by the Act, is responsible for promoting Gaelic development and publishes the [National Gaelic Language Plan](#) and provides over £1.6m per annum in funding for organisations, including Faclair na Gàidhlig, which help promote use and learning of Gaelic, as well as the status of Gaelic.

Faclair na Gàidhlig is fully evidence-based, drawing citations from the University of Glasgow's British Academy-recognised project Digital Archive of Scottish Gaelic / *Dachaigh airson Stòras na Gàidhlig* (DASG) *Corpas na Gàidhlig*, a representative corpus of Gaelic texts produced from the twelfth century onwards and consisting of 30 million words. It takes in legal, historical, religious, scientific and literary material from the medieval and early modern periods; more recent sources include poetry and prose fiction, folklore, news media, official documentation, academic writing and children's books. Newly made transcriptions of oral recordings are also to be included to ensure that less formal language is represented, as well as written registers. As a result, users of Faclair na Gàidhlig will find not only some of the oldest words attested in Gaelic in a specifically Scottish context but also some of the newest additions to the living language. It is of interest to teachers, creative writers, journalists and the wider media, translators, terminologists, and onomasticians, amongst many others. Faclair na Gàidhlig will illustrate how Gaelic has borrowed from other languages over the centuries and how words have fallen out of use and changed their meanings in response to social, economic and political change. This will draw attention, particularly from linguists of Scottish Gaelic and Irish, but also from a wider body of international scholars across the world with interests in clarifying Scotland's past and present, including literary and cultural historians, archaeologists and folklorists. More broadly, Faclair na Gàidhlig has enormous potential to engage and inform the people of Scotland and beyond, challenging preconceptions about Gaelic culture and raising the profile of the language by enhancing our understanding of its richness and diversity and its place in a constellation of languages, which includes Irish, Pictish / Brittonic, Latin, Norse, Scots and English.

Faclair na Gàidhlig will become the definitive lexicographical resource for Scottish Gaelic, superseding other lexicographical resources which are limited in scope or not evidence based. It will take its place alongside historical dictionaries of other Celtic languages, such as [Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru](#), the [electronic Dictionary of the Irish Language \(eDIL\)](#) and [Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge](#) (currently also in early stages of preparation). Indeed, in combination, eDIL, Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge and Faclair na



# 2

Gàidhlig will eventually constitute an unparalleled record of the textual culture and changing linguistic landscape of Gaelic Scotland and Ireland across more than 1500 years. Faclair na Gàidhlig will be complemented by DASG (Digital Archive of Scottish Gaelic), which will provide the full textual context for all citations in the dictionary.

This Business Plan seeks continuation of core funding from the Scottish Funding Council for Faclair na Gàidhlig to undertake the following four areas of work:

- **Lexicography:** Continue the textual and lexicographical work and begin publication of entries at a pace and on a scale which would enable a significant amount of the dictionary to be made available online within the projected time-period (i.e., by 2045)
- **Systems Development (Meanma):** Bring the development of the in-house Meanma dictionary-writing system to a point where it can serve the needs of Faclair na Gàidhlig in extracting citations and editing, organising, creating, and displaying dictionary entries
- **Succession Planning and Sustainability:** Review our induction procedures and activities and training process to ensure they remain relevant and helpful in continuing to ‘grow our own’ lexicographers, and to seek potential new sources of funding
- **Academic and Public Engagement:** Raise the profile of Faclair na Gàidhlig and awareness of our work through for example social media and conferences to raise the profile of the dictionary and of the Gaelic language in general.

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<sup>1</sup> The number of entries published will depend on future recruitment of lexicographers. If we recruit a further 5 lexicographers in Year 1 of the next business planning period, then these 10 lexicographers will produce in the region of 10,000 entries by 2045.



# 3

## AIM AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2023 - 2028

Faclair na Gàidhlig will produce and publish entries online using our bespoke software system, Meanma. Publication of entries online will enable free access to the dictionary as well as user-friendly navigation of its content and features. We will review and improve our training materials for newly recruited lexicographers, and we will increase awareness of our work through social media, presentations and collaboration.

Now that we have established (and will launch in September 2023) Faclair na Gàidhlig as a Centre based at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, we can confidently set out our aim and objectives for our next five-year phase.

### 3.1 Lexicography

- By July 2025 we will have established a firm foundation for Faclair, which will ensure that full production of entries will start from 2026. This will:
  - Complete the remaining identified textual and lexicographical work, including,
    - Establishing a simple, coherent system of bibliographical reference by July 2024
    - Agreeing dates for the published and manuscript texts by July 2024
    - Agreeing the earliest or ‘preferred’ editions where multiple different versions of the same poem currently exist within the corpus by July 2024
    - Agreeing which post-2000 texts should be added to Corpas na Gàidhlig by July 2024
    - Editing manuscript transcriptions to produce clean, accurate text which is ready for use in dictionary citations by July 2025.
  - Establish clear editorial policy and guidelines to support the production process, including,
    - Creating 10 draft entries by July 2025, on a representative range of material for all main parts of speech
    - Create a comprehensive and easy-to-use document setting out editorial policy and guidelines that will be used to ensure consistency across entries and to train new staff
    - Agreeing when a proposed policy should be considered by the Editorial Committee for approval.
  - Define a realistic target number of entries per year, based on the number and nature of Faclair staff, and informed by production rates in other similar historical dictionary projects, including,
    - Selecting a list of entries to be compiled each year that will enable us to test the beta version of Meanma (See 4.2) and the editorial policy, amending it as necessary.



# 3

- By July 2025 we will have uploaded to the Faclair website sample entries to share our progress with the public, introduce Faclair na Gàidhlig to a variety of users and raise the project’s profile. This will include:
  - The 40 draft entries produced in 2019-2022
  - The 10 draft entries produced in 2023-2025
- From July 2025 we will be in full production and using the Meanma system for the whole lexicographical process, indicatively 100 entries each year based on a staff team with 2 experienced lexicographers, increasing to:

Year 3 (2025–26)	190 entries in year 3 (2 experienced lexicographers and 3 new members of staff in their 2nd year)
Year 4 (2026–27)	250 entries in year 4 (5 experienced lexicographers)
Year 5 (2027–28)	250 entries in year 5 (5 experienced lexicographers)

## 3.2 Systems development: Meanma

- By July 2025 we will have delivered a fully featured beta version (i.e. with all texts captured and tagged) of the Meanma corpus-excerpting, lexicographic analysis and dictionary-writing software system. This will:
  - expedite the lexicographical working process and allow us to establish measurable rates of progress for the production of Faclair na Gàidhlig entries.
  - form the basis for the next phase of Meanma development i.e from July 2025 onwards.
- By July 2028 we will have delivered a releasable, commercially viable version of the Meanma system. This will be achieved by:
  - Continued collaborative working with the lexicographers in the development of the system.
  - Undertaking preparatory systems work in 2026 and undertaking full testing of the system throughout 2027.
  - Presentation and demonstration of Meanma at the eLex conference 2027 to gauge feedback and assess commercial viability.

## 3.3 Sustainability and succession planning

- We will appoint 3 new lexicographers to begin training and work in August 2024, growing our lexicography team from 2 experienced lexicographers in 2023, to 5 experienced lexicographers by 2028. Indicatively this will enable us to produce 250 entries per year by 2027. In order to do this, we will:
  - By July 2024 complete a review and enhance our training materials for new Faclair lexicographers.

<sup>2</sup>A ‘draft’ entry is an entry created before editorial policy has been established and a fully featured beta version of Meanma has been delivered.

<sup>3</sup>Rate of progress estimated as follows: 5 entries a month for an experienced lexicographer, 1 entry a month for a new member of staff in their first year, and 3 entries a month for a new member of staff in their second year on the project (and assuming 10 working months a year).





# 3

- As a result of the review, we will revise our induction procedures and activities, including a comprehensive and easy to use document with editorial policy and guidelines that will be used to ensure consistency across entries (See 4.1).
- Work with our partners to ensure recruitment to the 3 new positions through development and agreement of recruitment documentation and establishment of the recruitment panel.
- Ensure sustainability for future recruitment (i.e. beyond 2028) through awareness raising exercises and presentations throughout the duration of the five-year period, specifically,
  - By July 2025, map out the competencies and capabilities required by Faclair lexicographers and identifying relevant existing qualifications.
  - Deliver presentations and provide materials at partner institutions (e.g. at careers fairs and/or open days) in AY 2024-25 to raise awareness of the work of Faclair na Gàidhlig, and the career potential in working with us.
  - Using feedback from the session in AY 2024-25, adapt the sessions and materials and deliver the sessions on an annual basis.
  - Analysis of the viability of hosting sessions in other institutions or organisations

## 3.4 Academic and public engagement

We will continue to increase awareness of Faclair through social media, presentations and collaboration, including by:

- By December 2024, we will have mapped and targeted relevant conferences, event, journals etc to submit papers etc to. These will include
  - Academic conferences, such as the [International Congress of Celtic Studies](#) (ICCS) held every four years, the biennial [eLex conference](#), the biennial [Euralex conference](#), and the Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig conference.
  - Events such as *Seachdain na Gàidhlig*, to share insights and experience and to establish relationships with other individuals and groups with an interest in Scottish Gaelic and related languages or in lexicography and electronic lexicography throughout the five-year period.
- Continuing to maintain our social media presence, including through our weekly Twitter feeds. We will:
  - Publicise our bi-monthly blog posts on Twitter, thus increasing traffic to the Faclair website from 2023 to 2028, which we will monitor through annual review of website analytics.



# 4

## FACLAIR NA GÀIDHLIG PROJECT BUDGET FOR 2023-28

Project Year	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	TOTAL
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	
	£	£	£	£	£	
<b>TOTAL STAFFING</b>	<b>405,681</b>	<b>569,208</b>	<b>580,403</b>	<b>604,742</b>	<b>631,559</b>	<b>2,791,592</b>
	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	TOTAL
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	
OTHER COSTS	£	£	£	£	£	£
Office and Equipment	3,086	8,325	10,491	6,658	9,841	38,401
Professional Services	51,725	54,061	50,043	51,043	52,064	258,937
Travel, Accommodation and Room Hire	8,296	12,620	10,936	15,426	15,583	62,861
Training and Development	8,000	8,570	12,109	11,806	21,886	62,372
SMO Admin and Rent	12,950	13,598	14,277	14,991	15,741	71,557
<b>TOTAL OTHER COSTS</b>	<b>84,057</b>	<b>97,174</b>	<b>97,856</b>	<b>99,925</b>	<b>115,115</b>	<b>494,127</b>
						494,127
<b>TOTAL OVERALL COSTS</b>	<b>489,738</b>	<b>666,382</b>	<b>678,259</b>	<b>704,667</b>	<b>746,674</b>	<b>3,285,720</b>



*We are committed to developing and supporting our staff, promoting a good work/life balance, and making the “workplace”, which can include homeworking, an attractive and enjoyable place to be. Our focus is on growing the skills of our staff, ensuring that training and development opportunities are available to those who need them.*



# 5

## STAFFING, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

### 5.1 Governance

The governing body of The Centre for Faclair na Gàidhlig is the **Board of Management**, which:

- Is responsible for all strategic direction and business management
- Is Chaired by the Principal (or designate) of SMO (as the lead institution)
- Is Constituted by all Faclair Centre partners
- Has:
  - One Committee: the Editorial Committee (see below)
  - Ad hoc Working Groups as required - all reporting to the Board of Management for decision.
  - Meets at least 3 times a year.

The **academic/editorial body**, responsible for editorial policy making, is the **Editorial Committee** of the Board of Management of The Centre for Faclair na Gàidhlig. The Editorial Committee:

- Is responsible for considering and proposing editorial policy (for ratification by the Board of Management i.e. so that all Partners are involved)
- Is Convened by the Academic Director of the Faclair Centre
- Is constituted by international experts in the fields of lexicography and Celtic languages, approved by the Faclair Board of Management
- Has ad hoc Working Groups, as required - all reporting to the Editorial Committee
- Meets at least 3 times a year, and reports, including on the proposed editorial policy decisions for ratification, to every meeting of the Board of Management.

### 5.2 The Board of Management

- Remit:
  - Overall responsibility for the strategic, management and business direction of Faclair
  - Appointment of Faclair staff
- Constitution:
  - Chaired by SMO Principal, who is also the Principal Director of Faclair (Faclair has a contractual relationship with SMO).
  - Members include representatives of all Faclair partners (i.e. the five Institutional representatives)
  - Secretariat: Faclair Centre Manager
  - In attendance: Director of Lexicography, Academic Director, Chair of the Editorial Committee, representatives from funding bodies (The Scottish Funding Council and Bòrd na Gàidhlig), and Principal investigators/co-holders of grants.



# 5

## 5.3 The Editorial Committee

- Remit: Editorial policy determination and academic expert advice.
- Constitution:
  - Members:
    - Chaired by the Academic Director
    - At least 3 expert lexicographers (who are not contractors or staff), appointed by the Board of Management
  - Secretariat: Faclair Centre Manager
  - In attendance:
    - The Chair of the Board of Management
    - The Lexicographical Peer Consultants
    - The Faclair lexicography team and systems team

## 5.4 The Consultants

Four part-time consultants provide Faclair na Gàidhlig with Language and Lexicographical Consultancy services, such as reviewing entries, as well as guidance on additions to the corpus, editorial principles and help with specific textual problems. They also take part in, and contribute to, Editorial Committee meetings.



*Faclair na Gàidhlig* is an important and long-awaited resource, not only for the study of Scottish Gaelic language, but also for those interested the languages, literatures, and history of other areas of Britain (and indeed the world). The *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED) already values the Scottish Gaelic text corpus (compiled by *Faclair na Gàidhlig*) as a research tool for Scots and English etymologies. A structured historical dictionary of Scottish Gaelic, however, will be infinitely more helpful, providing context and analysis of the data, and we are excited that we will soon be able to see the first published entries.

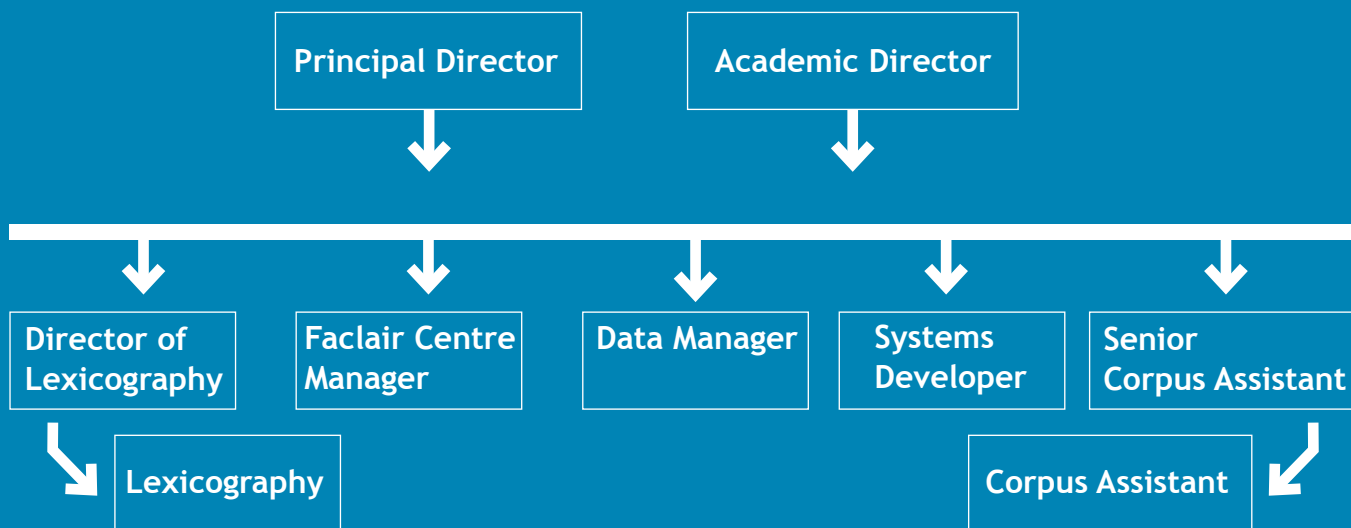
KATRIN THIER

Executive Editor (Lexicography): Etymology, Oxford English Dictionary



# 5

## 5.5 The Staff Team



The above diagram illustrates a change to the staff team, in the new terms of Principal Director and Academic Director.

The role of Principal Director formalises the role of the Principal of SMO in overseeing the strategic, management and business direction of Faclair, including directing and supervising/line managing the Faclair Director of Lexicography and the Faclair Centre Manager. These staff are directly employed by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

The role of Academic Director formalises the role of the Convenor of the Editorial Committee in providing expert academic and lexicographical support, including management of the DASG Corpus Assistants, Systems Developer and Data Manager. These staff are directly employed by the University of Glasgow.

The Director of Lexicography is the academic lead for the lexicographical work of Faclair na Gàidhlig, leading a team of lexicographers, taking responsibility for delivering the agreed lexicographical outputs, ensuring timely progress, establishing lexicographical routines, editorial policies and processes; compiling, reviewing, revising and signing off dictionary entries for Faclair na Gàidhlig; and representing Faclair na Gàidhlig in academe and with funders.

The lexicographers' role is to compile Faclair na Gàidhlig entries under supervision of the Director of Lexicography, contribute to the development of editorial policies and processes and assist in systems development for the dictionary.



# 5

The Faclair Centre Manager is a senior administrative post, to develop, implement and manage all non-academic work related to Faclair na Gàidhlig and to facilitate the success of the project in its academic aims.

The Data Manager's role is firstly, to effectively manage Faclair na Gàidhlig's digital data assets (in particular, the corpus, metadata, citations and dictionary entries); secondly, to ensure data integrity, security, and compliance; thirdly, to support data-driven decision-making processes.

The Systems Developer's role is to build the technical resources required by the lexicographers to enable them to create a historical dictionary as efficiently and robustly as possible. The primary application in the System Developer's remit is Meanma, a bespoke system defined by the requirements of historical lexicographers, developed from the ground-up by the Faclair Systems Team. The Systems Developer is line managed by the Academic Director with support and input from the Data Manager.

The Senior Corpus Assistant's role is to manage the process of scanning, transcribing and double-proofing selected texts for inclusion with the corpus, including supervising the work of the Corpus Assistant.

The Corpus Assistant's role is to scan, transcribe and proof selected texts for inclusion with the corpus.

All of the above posts are funded through Faclair na Gàidhlig.

## Our Team

We are committed to developing and supporting our staff, promoting a good work/life balance, and making the "workplace", which can include homeworking, an attractive and enjoyable place to be. Our focus is on growing the skills of our staff, ensuring that training and development opportunities are available to those who need them. We allow staff up to two hours per week for CPD in recognition of their development requirements for taking on such innovative work and encourage staff to identify and avail of training opportunities that may be helpful for them. For example, non-native speakers of Gaelic use their CPD time to improve their Gaelic skills through having weekly discussions with a *caraid cànan* or through personal study. We are in regular communication with each other and have weekly team meetings to discuss work progress as well as having a little time for informal discussion.



## OUR APPROACH: 2023 - 2028

# 6

### 6.1 Centre Sustainability

The team are keenly aware of the financial situation in Scotland and the UK and will be exploring funding opportunities for the future with a view to diversifying the funding base. Meanma could be a significant part of this, but we intend to explore further opportunities to create a dynamic and realistic funding plan giving better job security and Centre sustainability fitting with its long-term ambitions.

### 6.2 Post COVID-19 Working Practices

The practice of working at home is already well-established in Scottish Lexicography with due respect given to family commitments. With some team members already working from home prior to the pandemic, the impact on Faclair na Gàidhlig was minimised. The Systems Team was able to further improve on already established work from home patterns, including developing the ability to perform remote corpus uploads error-free, as well as conducting all meetings online successfully. Faclair na Gàidhlig wish to continue to offer such options to staff and will continue to actively seek better ways of working for all colleagues.

### 6.3 Fair Work First

The Centre for Faclair na Gàidhlig is committed to the principles of Fair Work First. Staff are encouraged to develop their skills through training or self-study, and two hours per week are allowed each week solely for this purpose. All staff are paid above the real living wage and no zero-hours contracts will be offered. All staff are paid at the appropriate point on the National HE pay spine, ensuring no discrimination in any aspect as outlined by the Equality Act 2010. The Fair Work First approach will be monitored by the Centre Manager to ensure the criteria are continually met.

### 6.4 Using Gaelic in the Workplace

We are committed to using Gaelic more in the workplace. The lexicographical team use Gaelic on a day-to-day basis, while the Centre Manager is still a learner and is communicating more frequently in Gaelic by email.



# 7

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS SINCE 2018

The project has undergone significant change over the past five years. Since 2018, not only have lexicographical processes been reviewed, but also, the decision was made to bring systems development in-house. We have collaborated successfully with Tobar an Dualchais and have begun steps to raise our profile and share the work of Faclair na Gàidhlig with a wider audience.

A summary of our achievements over the past five years is outlined below and have been categorised under the four identified areas of work for 2023-2028.

### 7.1 Lexicography

#### 7.1.1 Lexicography Progress

After working through materials compiled in earlier stages of the project, 40 draft entries were produced by the lexicographers and peer-reviewed among the team, and subsequently circulated amongst a group of lexicographical peer consultants. Using feedback from the consultants and their own reflective learning, the lexicographical team began to further develop policies specific to Faclair na Gàidhlig. This articulates the lexicography needed to underpin a historical dictionary of Scottish Gaelic and the process has inevitably involved intense discussion and decision-making, aided by various members of the Advisory Board. The lexicographers have worked through a selection of nouns, noun phrases and adjectives, deriving evidence from long-established native terms, neologisms and loanwords, to ensure that editorial policies are in place to deal with the different types of issues which will be encountered again and again as the dictionary progresses. A selection of the 40 draft entries is available on the new [Faclair na Gàidhlig website](#).

#### 7.1.2 Digital Archive of Scottish Gaelic (DASG)

In addition to the development of Meanma (see below), the lexicographical system, the major achievements of DASG since 2018, which provide Faclair na Gàidhlig with rich and varied evidence to be drawn upon when compiling dictionary entries, are as follows;

- The number of double-proofed words/tokens in the online Corpas na Gàidhlig has increased from 28 million to 33 million. 500k of these have been manually tokenised, tagged and lemmatised and used to train automatic systems for the entire corpus.
- Work was completed on producing a full digital transcription of both the Book of the Dean of Lismore (315 pp, early 16<sup>th</sup> century) and the Fernaig Manuscript (2 vols, 89 pp, late 17<sup>th</sup> century), two hugely significant but challenging Gaelic manuscripts written in non-orthodox Scots-based orthography and of central importance to Faclair na Gàidhlig.
- The online Gairm Index - a full digital index of all 200 issues of the leading Gaelic periodical Gairm (1952-2004) - was published with an introduction and background essay as a printed volume in 2021: Tòmas MacAilpein & Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh, Gairm: Ùghdar is Dealbh, Rosg is Rann 1952-2002. In September 2022, we published the first ten issues of Gairm in full on the DASG website (both page scans and transcriptions), and plan to continue this over the next few years.





# 7

- Two British Academy-funded pilot projects have also been completed over this period - digitisation and partial transcription of the 38 notebooks containing the sermons of Reverend Eachann Meek of Tìree; cataloguing of the notebooks and associated recordings of the renowned Gaelic poet and scholar Norman MacLeod ('Am Bàrd Bochd', 1904-68).
- The first partnership project between DASG and Cape Breton University (Nova Scotia, Canada), funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, resulted in the successful launch of the 'Language in Lyrics' Nova Scotia Gaelic Song Index in March 2022. Further funding has been awarded to continue the partnership through 2025, with the aim of relaunching the digitised Nova Scotia Gaelic Folklore Project, currently held at St Francis Xavier University Library, as part of the DASG website.

### 7.1.3 Manuscripts Project

To provide Faclair with a corpus of previously unpublished material from the medieval and early modern periods (c. 1200–c. 1650), a short-term manuscripts project was established. Between 2017 and 2022, two transcribers worked under the supervision of a Manuscripts Consultant, transcribing more than 200,000 words of continuous text which has widened the core text-base for the dictionary and provided vital evidence for the early history of the language. The work of this project also provided detailed metadata and a sophisticated webtool, which has uses beyond the Faclair na Gàidhlig project, especially in university courses on palaeography and text-editing.

## 7.2 Systems

### 7.2.1 Systems Development: Meanma

We recognise that the decision to bring systems development in house was bold and ambitious. However, as the creation of tools and systems is a critical component in the development of Faclair na Gàidhlig we wished to ensure that users (i.e. the lexicographers) will have access to a resource that is futureproof and responsive. The system, now known as Meanma and produced by DASG staff, will fully serve the needs of Faclair na Gàidhlig. To date, texts totalling around 10 million words have been part-of-speech tagged and lemmatised. In addition, functionality has been added to allow, e.g.:

- citations to be automatically extracted, complete with bibliographical references.
- citations to be edited after extraction.
- citations to be organised into structured senses.
- forms to be categorised for some parts-of-speech.

The development of Meanma has ensured that all updates and developments can be quickly expedited in-house and tailored to the specific requirements of the lexicographical team and the dictionary. Thorough documentation for all stages of construction and programming is being created concurrently with the review of Faclair training materials and editorial policy.



# 7

## 7.3 Succession Planning and Sustainability

### 7.3.1 Team Recruitment

Due to staff turnover, the Director of Lexicography will shortly be recruiting a second lexicographer to the lexicography team; and further recruitment of three trainee lexicographers is planned for 2024. The lexicography team will continue to work with the systems team based at the University of Glasgow who are developing the Meanma software, and with the Project Manager, who was appointed in 2019 to take over the operational non-academic management of the project. In addition, Faclair na Gàidhlig funds two FTE Corpus Assistants at the University of Glasgow who help to ensure the corpus on which Faclair is built is populated with rich material for use by the lexicographical team.

## 7.4 Academic and Public Engagement

### 7.4.1 The Centre for Faclair na Gàidhlig

The establishment of the Centre for Faclair na Gàidhlig/Ionad Faclair na Gàidhlig (The Centre) within Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) will formalise our existing relationship with SMO as our lead institution and enable Faclair to become a larger and more focused hub for research on the language and on the textual and cultural history of Gaelic Scotland. The Centre will be a focal point for researchers to engage with the work of Faclair and be a base for linking in with other related initiatives. The Centre will also direct, manage and coordinate all strategic and operational activities. The establishment of The Centre is underpinned by extensive consultation with partners and stakeholders during 2019-2020 resulting in an agreed, reviewed constitution in late 2020.

The Centre will be launched in the late summer of 2023.

### 7.4.2 Beairteas a Bharrachd

Beairteas a Bharrachd is a collaborative project with colleagues at Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o Riches. A scoping exercise and pilot study, conducted in 2018 by both organisations, paved the way for a series of transcriptions of audio recordings held by Tobar an Dualchais, which will provide Faclair na Gàidhlig with a greater range of evidence from vernacular Scottish Gaelic, particularly in terms of evidence of Gaelic dialects, idiom, registers of speech, cultural material and subject matter which rarely appears in the written record. The transcriptions are now freely available on the [Tobar an Dualchais website](#). To July 2023, this project has completed 338 transcriptions, totalling 739,000 words and 63.5 hours of audio.

### 7.4.3 Other Activities

In 2020-21, Faclair na Gàidhlig was invited to participate in the joint UK-Ireland initiative '[Developing a Digital Framework for the Medieval Gaelic World](#)'. This network of academics, IT specialists, library representatives and cultural heritage professionals explored issues such as the impact of digitisation on research, interlinking of resources and sustainability.



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Faclair na Gàidhlig has established a productive relationship with Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge, the Historical Dictionary of Irish, which is based at the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin and is at a similar stage of development. Both initiatives continue to have a constructive relationship and provide helpful knowledge exchange to each other.

Since 2019, members of the Faclair na Gàidhlig lexicographical, manuscripts and systems teams have presented on their work at the following events and institutions: XVIth International Congress of Celtic Studies, Bangor, Wales; Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, Cambridge; Centre for Research Collections, Edinburgh; Department of Celtic and Scottish Studies, Edinburgh; Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies; Maynooth University, Ireland; University of St Andrews and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

#### 7.4.4 Public Engagement

Between 2019 and July 2022, the manuscripts team posted weekly on [Twitter](#). During [Seachdain na Gàidhlig](#) in February 2023, Faclair na Gàidhlig relaunched on Twitter, this time focussing on different Gaelic dictionaries and will continue to tweet about lexicographical and editorial matters of interest. Members of the lexicographical team also have been involved in public engagement events, including at talks at the Surgeons Halls' Museums, Edinburgh, at Princeton University and at the Adam Mickiewicz University, in Poland. Recent interviews with Faclair staff have been broadcast, in Gàidhlig and English, on Radio nan Gàidheal, Radio Scotland and Radio Ulster.



‘As a team which has been responsible for producing Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru (a scholarly historical dictionary of Welsh) for over a hundred years, we have been highly impressed by the progress made by the Faclair na Gàidhlig team. The professionalism of the planning and direction of the project has been an inspiration, and we have adopted a number of the team’s methods in our own work. The spirit of cooperation and collaboration with related external projects such as ours has been most encouraging, enabling us to share our experience with the Faclair team and benefitting from their insights and suggestions. The level of technical and lexicographical expertise available within the team bodes well for the future.’

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