The project “digital databases and digital tools for WBD and WLD” (“D-square” in short) aims to digitise the enormous amounts of dialect data as published in the fascicles of two large Dutch dialect dictionaries for the Brabant and Limburg dialects of Flanders and the Netherlands: “Woordenboek van de Brabantse Dialecten” (WBD) and “Woordenboek van de Limburgse Dialecten” (WLD).

Besides making the data digitally accessible, the D-square project aims to add extra linguistic information to the existing data and to develop digital research tools, including contemporary cartographic tools.

This paper reports on our experiences in converting the dialect data to a new encoding (in XML-format). This conversion is performed semi-automatically and will ensure long term availability and powerful accessibility of the data.

Next we will discuss the tools that are being developed in D-square and which make innovative use and interpretation of the lexicographical dialect data possible. Especially the value of mapping as a research instrument will be further improved by tools that can combine different linguistic maps or dialect maps with other aerial information sources, like historical maps, maps on population density, religious borders, etc.