

## **Accessing large dialect databases on RADAR**

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RADAR, Routledge Access to Dialect and Region, is a website arising from the *Voices* 2005 initiative, which saw the British Broadcasting Corporation team up with dialectologists to build a picture of speech varieties around the British Isles. Material arising from the questioning of speakers by BBC journalists and an online questionnaire resulted in a website, [www.bbc.co.uk/voices](http://www.bbc.co.uk/voices), containing some of the information gathered, with related commentary.

Lexical information input to the BBC's website was deposited in electronic form at the University of Leeds. There, the Whose Voices? project (AHRC grant AH/E509002) processed these data, discussed in Upton and Davies (2013) in chapters by Holliday, Thompson, and Wieling: Thompson sets out the procedure by which the data were ordered for analysis; Holliday and Wieling engage in different types of dialectometric analysis.

To support these chapters especially, publishers Routledge have created a website, available at [www.routledge.com/cw/upton](http://www.routledge.com/cw/upton). It provides access to the lexis input to *Voices* by the public, as assembled by Thompson, together with access to sites maintained by Holliday and Wieling which demonstrate the dialectometric use which they have made of Thompson's data. Beyond this *Voices* core, RADAR proper has started to provide links to further dialect sites: two British Library databases; the Innsbruck SPEED corpus of the *EDD*; and the North American Dialects Surveys assembled at the University of Georgia. RADAR thus acts as a hub giving direct access to a varied bank of information, which it is hoped will grow over time as more holdings are added. This paper explains the RADAR concept, demonstrates some of its content and potential, and invites others to link up their holdings to the ultimate benefit of the wider academic community.