The Committee for Endangered Languages & Their Preservation Panel: 
Utilization of Archives in Endangered Language Research, Revitalization, & Documentation

The Use of Archives in Endangered Language Preservation
The State of the Art

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Welcome

- Archival research coming into its own
- Preservation, conversation increasingly about enduring value and use for a broad audience
- Taking stock of where we are, how people using archives
- Language archives have the potential to transform the way we do linguistics
- Understanding how people use archives will help us to make better archives
What’s Ahead

- Linguistic archiving: History and state of the art
  - 1743–1991: *Early Archiving*
  - 1991–2006: *Documentation and Digitization*
  - 2000–2010: *How Should We Archive?*
  - 2010–Present: *Participatory Models*

- Preview: *This panel + poster session*
But First … What Is an Archive?

“a trusted repository created and maintained by an institution with a demonstrated commitment to permanence and the long-term preservation of archived resources” (Johnson 2004: 143)
Early Archiving: 1743–1991

- Boasian documentation: archiving essential
  - But archive access pretty restricted
- Significant technological developments
- Important archives
- But no systematic, sustainable approach

● Description vs. Documentation

● Rise of “documentation”: 3 factors
  ○ Language endangerment
  ○ Funds for documentary work
  ○ Digital developments

● Archiving = cornerstone of documentation
How Should We Archive?: 2000–2010

- Benefits of digital archiving
- Topics in “best practices”
  - Orgs/initiatives: E-MELD, DELAMAN, etc.
  - Archives old and new go digital
- Critical reactions
Participatory Models: 2010–Present

- “Participatory” catching on in linguistics
  - Community-oriented research
  - Indigenous empowerment
  - Social media
  - Archival sciences ahead of us

- Participatory models: benefits, proposals
The Future: Where Are We Going?

- More developments in best practices
  - More critical reactions
- Further exploration of participatory models
  - Critical reactions to those
Next: Panel + poster session

- Examine *utilization* of archives
  - Linguistic research, revitalization, documentation
- 5 talks, discussion + 11 posters, organized thematically
- Poster session: 9:00–10:30 AM on Sunday, Exhibit Hall
Theme 1: Integrating archived materials into linguistic (and other) research

- Presentation
  1. *Managing uncertainty in archival linguistic research* - Justin Spence (UC Davis)

- Posters
  1. *Grammar writing for Yuki and Chimariko based solely on archival material* - Carmen Jany (CSUSB) & Uldis Balodis (U Helsinki)
Theme 1: Integrating archived materials into linguistic (and other) research

- Posters (cont.)
  
  2. *Bringing archival materials together to expand the Karuk text corpus*  
     - Clare Sandy (UC Berkeley)
  
  3. *Relying on the past: Quests for knowledge using language archives*  
     - Lewis Lawyer, James Sarmento & Lajos Szoboszlai (UC Davis)
  
  4. *Thinking outside the (archival) box: Innovative uses of Jules Henry’s field notes*  
     - Miranda Rectenwald (Washington U in St. Louis)
Theme 2: Use of archives for sleeping languages

● Presentation
  1. *aapisaataweeyankwi mahsinaakanenkonci: Reviving our Language from Documentation* - Daryl Baldwin (Miami U)

● Posters
  1. *Using archival data to revitalize Wiyot* - Lynnika Butler (Wiyot Tribe)
  2. *From archives to adult and child language learning: Reconstructing and revitalizing Wendat (Iroquoian)* - Megan Lukaniec (UCSB)
Theme 3: How are language communities using archives?

● Presentation:


● Posters:

1. *Oregon Tribal Archives Institute: Assessing tribal communities through archival education* - Natalia Fernandez (Oregon State U)

2. *Breath of Life: Revitalizing California’s Native languages through archives* - Susan Gehr (Humboldt State U)
Theme 4: Archiving and accessibility

● Presentation:
  1. Archiving and Accessibility - Jennifer O’Neal (U Oregon)

● Poster:
  1. Endangered language resources at the National Anthropological Archives: Scope, use, and collaborations - Gina Rappaport (Smithsonian Institution)
Theme 5: How can researchers enhance and improve archival materials during their own research?

- Posters:
  - *Ethnography and metadata: Simple ways to capture the most* - Mary Linn (Smithsonian Institution)
  - *How language researchers can enhance and improve archival materials: Suggestions from the Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America* - Susan Smythe Kung (AILLA)
References


Bowden, John and John Hajek. 2006. When Best Practice Isn’t Necessarily the Best Thing to Do: Dealing with Capacity Limits in a Developing Country. Sustainable Data from Digital Fieldwork, ed. by Linda Barwick and Nicholas Thieberger, 45–56. Sydney: University of Sydney Press.


Gardiner, Gabrielle and Kirsten Thorpe. 2014. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Archive: Connecting Communities and Research Data. Language Documentation and Description Volume 12: Special Issue on Language Documentation and Archiving, ed. by David Nathan and Peter K. Austin, 103–119. London: SOAS.


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References


Thank you

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