LSA Archiving Tutorial
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Archives, linguists, and language speakers
Credits

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www.hrelp.org
Overview

- What is archiving of language materials?
- What kinds of language archives are there?
- Who uses language archives?
- Why should you work together with a language archive?
- What can a language archive offer you?
- What can you archive and how do you archive your materials?
- Archives Networks and resources
What is archiving of language materials?

- Preparing materials in a structured form for long-term preservation
- Archiving is not backup
- Archiving is not publication
- Beware: “I’ll archive my data on the web”
- Archiving pays attention to intellectual property rights, and cultural, social, religious and individual restrictions - access and distribution are separate from preservation
What is a language archive?

- A trusted repository created and maintained by an institution with a commitment to permanence and the long-term preservation of archived resources.
- Will have clear policies for materials acquisition, cataloguing, dissemination, quality assurance, forward migration to new digital formats, disaster recovery.
Kinds of language archives

- Many cross-cutting classifications:
  - Indigenous vs outsider, eg. Squamish Nation
  - Regional vs international, eg. AILLA, Paradisec; DoBeS, ELAR
  - Associated with research institute, eg. AIATSIS, UCB California Survey, ANLC
  - Granter-funded, eg. DoBeS, ELAR, OTA
  - Physical vs digital vs mixed, eg. DoBeS vs Vienna Sound Archive, British Library
Who uses language archives?

- Speakers and their descendants - 95% of users of AIATSIS and UCB are community members
- Individual linguists or teams (depositors) - to create or renew materials
- Other researchers - comparative/historical linguists, typologists, theoreticians, anthropologists, historians, musicologists etc etc
- Journalists - wanting copy and images, sounds
- General public - interested in exotic languages
Why work with a language archive?

- To ensure long-term preservation of your work
- To ensure long-term accessibility to the data
- For the potential benefit of the language community now and in the future
- For safekeeping your own work and establishing your intellectual property rights
- To make your data available to other interested people
What can a language archive offer you?

- **Security** - keep your electronic materials safe
- **Preservation** - store your materials for the long term
- **Discovery** - help others to find out about your materials
- **Protocols** - respect and implement any sensitivities or restrictions
- **Sharing** - share the results of your work with others, if appropriate
- **Acknowledgement** - create citable acknowledgement of your research
- **Mobilisation** - help to create usable language materials for communities
- **Quality and standards** - advice for assuring your materials are of the highest quality and robust standards
What can you archive?

- Any linguistic materials, including:
  - Media - sound and video
  - Graphics - pictures and images
  - Documents, including fieldnotes, grammars, description and analysis
  - Structured data, eg. time-aligned annotated transcriptions, databases
  - Metadata, including structured data about your materials, typically in written text form
How can you archive?

- Contact a relevant archivist *before* you begin your project and ask for advice - if they can’t help you they will suggest someone who can.

- The archive will want you to prepare your materials in an appropriate informative and explicit format (encoded and stored in a particular way), record relevant metadata, and specify intellectual property and protocol issues including conditions on access and use.
Archives Networks

- Several networks of archives exist:
  - Digital Endangered Languages and Archives Network (DELAMAN) - see www.delaman.org
  - Open Language Archives Community (OLAC) - see Gary Simons presentation to follow
- Archivists are nice friendly people and working together with them from the beginning of your project can have all sorts of benefits
Any questions or comments?
DoBeS - Volkswagen Foundation
SOAS - ELAR