Digitizing the Audio Archive of Linguistic Fieldwork at the Berkeley Language Center

> Mark Kaiser, Associate Director with the help of Marianne Garner, Librarian Susan Stone, Programmer

## **Historical Background**

- Fieldwork began in the 1950's
- Collection at the UCB Language Lab dates from the 1960's
- 1979-1980 UCB Language Lab received NEH funding to organize the archive
  - Archive mastered to reel-to-reel tape
  - Paper catalog created



Examples of the various media on which original materials are deposited (various reel-to-reel formats, magnetic wire, phonographs)



Storage of the original materials (left) and the mastered reel-to-reel tapes (right)

#### State of the Collection Late 1990's

- Factors influencing decision to digitize
  - Exercising the masters
  - Tape and tape machine manufacturers were leaving the business
  - Limited access to information about the archive
  - Distribution was limited
  - Patrons' needs

### **Technical Issues**

- File format
  - Archive: 24 bit / 96 kHz, uncompressed .wav
  - Production: 16 bit / 44 kHz, uncmp. .wav
  - Web: Windows Media Audio (.wma)
- "Master" and backup
  - Hard drive array
  - Tape and DVD, 2 copies each

## Legacy Permission Forms

- Collectors sign off on extent of access, contractual arrangement
- Three interest groups with the potential for disparate opinions
- Permission forms did not anticipate
   Internet
- Permission forms did not anticipate repackaging media
- In many cases original parties now deceased

## Resegmentation

- Segmentation of the analog recordings was based on time constraints of media, done by audio engineers
- Segmentation of the digital recordings is based on the content of the media, done by graduate students in linguistics

## **Item-level** Cataloging

#### Creation of segment titles

- Used collector's data when available
- Graduate students apply a limited uniform set of descriptors
- Searchable in the online catalog
- Modification of content type terms

   Controlled vocabulary, mappable to OLAC
- Lessons learned

## Conforming to OLAC Standards

- OLAC as a moving target
- Methodology to conform
  - Database mapping tables where our vocabulary does not conform to OLAC's
    - Personal roles, content type terms, language names

 Java program generates an OLAC static repository, using SQL database tables from OLAC and a Sybase stored procedure in our database

## **Current Status**

- Online catalog is up and running
  - Currently contains a mix of batch-generated data from the old catalog and newly digitized items together with the linked audio files
  - We are 6 months into the grant and on schedule to complete digitization and cataloging on time
  - We will register our collection with OLAC shortly

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 Collection: Audio Archive of Linguistic Fieldwork
 Duration: 5 hrs. 34 min. 14 sec.
 Documentation: Extensive documentation at Linguistics Department.
 Availability:
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		Contents for Maidu (	LA 30)	-
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:	Miscellaneous words especially animalic numbers, and body parts includes simple phrases, i.e., "I drink water."	Maida, Northeast / Inspartic data / Paynes Creek, CA. Formerly numbered 1.1 English glosses	Benner, Letse T. (Inguistic consultant), Shipley, William L. (collector)	
2	Words and phrases especially knobig terms	Madu, Northeast / Inguistic data / Paynes Creek, CA. Formerly numbered 1.2. English glosses.	Benner, Lens T. (Ingustic consultant); Shipley; William L. (collector)	
1	General talk, includes some words and planates pertinent to discussion.	Maidu, Northeast / Paynes Creek, CA Formerly numbered 1/3. English glosses for some	Benner, Lesa T. (Ingustic consultant), Shipley, William L. (collector)	
4	Earthquake bong with discussion	Maida, Northeast / songa/chants / Paynes Creek, CA. Formerly numbered 1:3. Discussion in English English glosopi for some	Benner, Lens T. (Enguintic consultant); Shipley, William L. (collector)	
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#### **Contact Information**

- Mark Kaiser, Associate Director, BLC
   <u>mkaiser@socrates.berkeley.edu</u>
- Marianne Garner, Librarian
   <u>II-lib@socrates.berkeley.edu</u>
- Susan Stone, Programmer
   sstone@socrates.berkeley.edu