

National Science Foundation
Workshop for
**Documenting Endangered
Languages**



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Networks Interoperability Sustainability

Arienne Dwyer
University of Kansas

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“Data provider” hat

- As DOBES, NSF/NEH-DEL grantee >> sustainability (when funding ends, motivated, skilled individuals usually abandon language work)
- As teacher of documentary linguistics in a large institution – difficult to maintain a well-rounded program with only one indiv >> consortium of teachers who could interact in an e-classroom

The continuing tension between
“Scientific” Research & Revitalization

- scientific research – to promote, test, or refute dominant theories; researcher until recently assumed to be not a community member //personal+community+nation empowerment not on the agenda of most major agencies
- revitalization considered to be non-academic
- Canadian solution – not just *involve* native communities, but actually ensure that projects are native-initiated, conceptualized, run.
- Additional bridge: put more science (e.g. applied linguistics, complex techniques) into revitalization efforts, until funding initiatives support such efforts. E.g. application of social network theory and corpus linguistics to language pedagogy. But not at the expense of community agency.

- Infrastructural reasons behind an Alleged “slowdown” in quality project applications
 - Need to redouble efforts to encourage PhD dissertations on ELs and EL issues
 - Need to support tool development
 - Interoperability
 - Gets back to 3 pts of meeting, interoperability, and networks, sustainability

Sustainability

- Sustainability via targeted funding to stimulate a mix of basic research (documentation, including symbolic and other cultural practices), tool and infrastructure building, and training (of scholars/comm members/students) to build and use data repositories
 - make the concept of archive - as repository and research tool - less daunting
- Sustainability not just achieved through funding, but also through teaching – awareness of our roles as mediators (as well as scientists), of the multiplicity of knowledge systems, and about creating mineable resources.

- **Interoperability**
 - creating searchable, accessible resources
 - making use of existing archives or at least their tools
 - creating new, small repositories
 - Issues: Interchange formats, ontologies

Networks

- E-courses (online and via video conferencing)
- LinguistSpace (Facebook for linguists)
 - would allow e.g. collaborative editing of texts
 - or a student in KS to look up words for Stephanie's Mohegan project in CT
- Worldwide network on language and cultural heritage (like DELAMAN, but broader; allow to bring in people from a greater number of world areas, does not necessitate FTF meetings; downside: proposed but not implemented at UNESCO 2004) – worldwide consultative dialogue on priorities, like has been done across Canada recently

synergistic activities

- InField (NSF-sponsored) training
 - 2 week intensive methodology course
 - 2 week intensive mentored fieldwork
- Planned annually at different locations (first year at UC Santa Barbara)