Documenting Endangered Languages
The Ethnologue’s Contribution

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Goals and Purpose of the Ethnologue

• to provide a comprehensive listing of the known living languages of the world
  – Delimited scope
    • Classification
    • Dialects
    • Language Use
    • Language Development
    • Other
  – Summary data
Current contributions:

- **Demographics:** speaker population, ethnic population, monolingual population, bilingual population, population percent in country, age(s) of speakers
- **Vitality:** vitality status, attitudes assessment
- **Use:** domains of use, general comments on use, use in education, literacy rates, status (official, national, trade, etc.), media usage
- **Development:** script and orthography information, existence of locally-authored literature, date of publication of Bible or part thereof
- **Documentation:** Existence of dictionary, grammatical description, text collection
Future contributions under consideration:

- **Demographics**: age of youngest known speaker, change in speaker population,
- **Vitality**: GIDS level
- **Use**: expanded domain data
- **Development**: expanded script and orthography data
- **Documentation**: expanded range of documentation categories to include oral and visual materials
Future Directions

• Country-by-country data “audits”
• Participation in broad based development initiatives and networks
• Improved feedback mechanisms
• Increased frequency of publication
• Update of category definitions