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THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

\*\*\* SSILA BULLETIN \*\*\*

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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Number 125: November 7, 2000

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125.0 SSILA BUSINESS

- 2000 Mary R. Haas Award to Sergio Meira
- SSILA elections
- Webmaster needed

125.1 CORRESPONDENCE

- Hawaiian orthography now used in newspaper (P. Wilson)
- More love (C. Masthay)
- Ethics (J. Urla)
- Shuar linguists (L. Grenoble)

125.2 UPCOMING MEETINGS

- \* BLS 27 (UC Berkeley, February 16-18, 2001)
- \* 51st Int'l Congress of Americanists (Santiago de Chile, 2003)

125.3 POSITIONS OPEN

- \* Tenure-track position in linguistics at CSU-Chico
- \* One-year replacement position at Reed College

125.4 FURTHER POSTINGS ON AUDIO-VISUAL ARCHIVING

125.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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125.0 SSILA BUSINESS

2000 Mary R. Haas Award to Sergio Meira  
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>From Karl V. Teeter ([kvt@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:kvt@fas.harvard.edu)):

The Mary R. Haas Award for 2000 will be presented to Sergio Meira, for "A Grammar of Tiriyo", his doctoral thesis for Rice University. All of us on the committee were impressed by Meira's grammar, a wide-ranging description of a Cariban language.

Meira will receive the Award at the SSILA Business meeting in San Francisco, November 17.

The 2000 Haas Award committee included Louanna Furbee, Sally McLendon, Douglas Parks, Karl V. Teeter (chair), and Anthony C. Woodbury.

SSILA elections  
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The 2000 SSILA Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate of candidates for the offices to be filled in the 2000 election:

Vice-President (2001) and President-Elect for 2002: Ken Hale

Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee (2001-3): Akira Yamamoto

Secretary-Treasurer (2001): Victor Golla

Member of the Nominating Committee (2001-3): MaryAnn Willie, Karen Dakin

All members in good standing will receive a ballot with the October issue of the SSILA Newsletter, which is being mailed this week. The ballot will include instructions for e-mail voting, for members who prefer to use this method of exercising their franchise. Ballots will be due on Friday, December 29, 2000.

Webmaster needed  
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SSILA needs a new webmaster. Autumn Bouck, our website manager for the past four years, is moving on.

The job is a labor of love -- we can pay little -- and probably the best person for it is an SSILA member who has acquired some HTML skills and is willing to devote some time and energy to helping with a very important task. If you're interested, please let Victor Golla know at the earliest opportunity ([golla@ssila.org](mailto:golla@ssila.org)).

Hawaiian orthography now used in newspaper  
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>From Pila Wilson ([pila\\_w@leoki.uhh.hawaii.edu](mailto:pila_w@leoki.uhh.hawaii.edu)) 24 Oct 2000:

As of Sunday, October 22, The Honolulu Advertiser, the largest daily newspaper in Hawai'i, has adopted the policy of spelling all Hawaiian words, place names, street names, and other terms with macrons to indicate long vowels and single open quote marks to indicate glottal stops. The names of persons and titles of companies, etc. are to be spelled according to the wishes of the individuals affiliated with them.

This policy change represents a major milestone in the effort to reform Hawaiian spelling and to assist the general public in the proper pronunciation of Hawaiian. Hawaiian place names, terms, and personal names are extremely common in our state, but the pronunciation of the terms varies from very good to atrocious. There are many, many terms and place names that are spelled the same when the markings of the glottal stops and long vowels are left out. For example:

lanai (1) porch (lanai); (2) one of the main islands (Lana'i)  
Alae (1) area on Hilo side of Hawai'i ('Alae); area on Kona side of Hawai'i ('Ala'e)

Furthermore, the lack of marking of the long vowels and glottal stops makes it impossible for someone who has no experience in Hawaiian or who has not lived in Hawai'i long to know how terms are pronounced. Since, it is now considered proper to pronounce Hawaiian terms as in Hawaiian even when speaking English, especially in situations of formality such as newscasts, public speeches, etc., recognition of full spelling of Hawaiian words strengthens this trend.

We are hopeful that even teachers of English in local schools will require their students to spell Hawaiian terms and that this will increase enrollments in Hawaiian language classes.

--Bill Wilson  
Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani College  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

More love  
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>From ([carl.masthay@harcourt.com](mailto:carl.masthay@harcourt.com)) 25 Oct 2000:

I have sent to John Man (see SSILA Bulletin #123) a copy of my monograph

"I love you' in about 310 languages", published in 1986, as well as the paper "I love you from A to Z: 120 Ways to Say 'I Love You'", compiled by Pamela Munro, also published in 1986. Apparently there is a diffuse and abiding interest in this phrase.

--Carl Masthay  
St. Louis, Missouri

Ethics  
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>From Jacqueline Urla ([jurla@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:jurla@anthro.umass.edu)) 25 Oct 2000:

Can anyone help me in locating some basic sources that discuss ethics in linguistic or linguistic anthropological research? Aside from the basic principle of never endangering one's subjects, are there any more specific proposed guidelines published or discussed somewhere that address issues of publishing or translating sacred texts or stories, for example? I would be interested in any sources or web sites that discuss ethical controversies in linguistic research.

--Jacqueline Urla  
Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst  
([jurla@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:jurla@anthro.umass.edu))

Shuar linguists  
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>From Lenore A. Grenoble ([Lenore.A.Grenoble@dartmouth.edu](mailto:Lenore.A.Grenoble@dartmouth.edu)) 2 Nov 2000:

I am looking for information on how to contact the Federacion de Centros Shuar, and information about the Federation, and also the names of any linguists working with the Shuar, especially the Shuar in Ecuador.

I would appreciate any leads you might have on this; please contact me directly.

--Lenore A. Grenoble  
Linguistics & Cognitive Science, Dartmouth College  
([lenore.grenoble@dartmouth.edu](mailto:lenore.grenoble@dartmouth.edu))

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125.2 UPCOMING MEETINGS





Chico, CA 95929-0830 ([strecchter@csuchico.edu](mailto:strecchter@csuchico.edu)).

\* One-year replacement position at Reed College  
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>From John B. Haviland ([johnh@reed.edu](mailto:johnh@reed.edu)) 25 Oct 2000:

The Linguistics Program at Reed College invites applications for a one-year replacement position in Linguistics at open level to begin fall 2001. Reed College is a small, highly selective undergraduate institution which emphasizes excellence in both teaching and scholarship. The successful candidate must demonstrate a strong commitment to teaching undergraduates, as well as the ability to teach linguistics at all levels, from a general disciplinary introduction to more advanced courses on formal and typological aspects of language. Responsibilities also include directing senior theses on quite varied topics relating to linguistics, often with an interdisciplinary component. Candidates must have the Ph.D. in linguistics or a related field in hand or near completion, and senior scholars are encouraged to apply. Applications should include a letter of application describing teaching and research interests and experience, a curriculum vitae, and the names of at least three academic referees. Review of applications will begin 15 November 2000. Send materials to John B. Haviland, Chair, Linguistics Search Comm., Reed College, 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd., Portland, OR 97202. EOE.

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125.4 FURTHER POSTINGS ON AUDIO-VISUAL ARCHIVING

A few more messages have been posted in the thread on ARCLIST (and ELL) on the topic of audio-visual archiving (see Bulletin #124).

>From Tony Gardner ([Anthony.Gardner@cec.eu.int](mailto:Anthony.Gardner@cec.eu.int)) 24 Oct 2000:

Here are some thoughts on an approach to your problems.

Here and Now. I think the sad fact of life is that when it comes to permanent archiving of anything over tens of years, it is simply not possible to copy it somehow to some support and then put it in a vault and forget about it. Tape and current storage technologies do not permit this level of security and I doubt if anything is coming in the next 20 years that will adequately address the problem (I hope that I am proved wrong). That's the bottom line.

Talk about archive formats addresses important issues of data formats and supports: the general objective is to find a stable support which will last a long time and not to unacceptably compromise your quality by choosing a good method of recording the data onto that support.

This has to be the starting point, and archive preservation becomes as a consequence not only a technical matter but 50% also a management strategy, requiring regular and planned intervention, and anticipating rather than reacting to problems.

It must take into account the need to migrate to new supports regularly, say every 10 years (longer with luck).

It must use the most appropriate technology available now within your budget, and meeting your quality criteria. Don't wait for tomorrow.

It must take into account the possibility of physical damage by fire, flooding or machine malfunction.

It must also take into account that no single support can be guaranteed to last indefinitely -- accelerated testing and manufacturers claims apart -- and there is the additional danger of unforeseen modes of deterioration.

There must be planned continuous quality control, on the preservation copies, with appropriate measurements of error rates or drop outs, so that a good percentage of the copies are checked every (say) 3 years. (There are books and methods in management and systems courses to plan this -- it need not be heavy to be effective).

Chose good storage systems.

Keep a thorough database.

Use separate work copies for routine access and avoid touching the preservation copies.

There must be a regular planned assessment of the technologies being actually used and assessments of the advantages of any new technologies. If you have got material now, start now, using the best techniques available now. Don't plan on the speculation and hopes of others becoming reality.

Part of any preservation strategy then must be to hold two preservation copies, each on a different support, and that these be stored in separate locations.



Migration in digital is more transparent and technically easier: the problem with digital is being sure that the players are around when you want to migrate. This you address in your management planning.

Make clear as well the distinction between how you encode the audio and video, and how you then store it. In the IT world, you can change storage medium without changing the encoding - transparently.

Since you are originating video at 'domestic' quality, I would suggest that digitising your video using a good quality capture card in a PC and bit rates of a few Mbps - or buy the systems for transferring the DV stream from the camera tape direct to disc: this will preserve essentially the original quality of the video from a domestic DV camera you seem to be using. Perhaps a higher bit rate is appropriate for SP and other 'professional' recordings. The hardware is not too expensive. If you use one of the recognized subsets of the MPEG2 formats, (see ebu/smpte report on harmonization) as used in DVB and ATSC, then you should be reasonably future proofed for a while.

This has got your video as far as a hard disc. Now look to how you are going to store it.

Burning a DVD either as a DVD-Video or DVD-R is one option. I have my doubts about the longevity of recordable CDRs, and the JITS2000 archive conference in Paris earlier this year went into a lot of detail about the problems with it (I have copies if you want). I imagine DVD will be much the same. Nevertheless it is a good option for one of the preservation copies. A second copy kept as computer files on (say) a local server with RAID discs and/or on storage space rented over the internet seems a good option and reasonably secure. The details depend on the local market in your part of the world.

Having got this far, additional storage on audio or video tape is a step backwards, and I do not recommend it. Another problem with this is that you have to go to the professional video formats which are expensive machines for the quality of video you are now originating. The IT solutions suggested are correct for domestic digital cameras.

A similar approach can be used for audio: a CDR (as now) and server and/or internet storage is also interesting.

An advantage of the IT approach is that your material is already there on a server if you are planning putting it on the web.

IBM and Sony (amongst others I am sure) also have services for storing

and accessing audio and video via a private or public web type front end. You are then paying for a service rather than having to manage the storage technology yourself. I cannot say if this is more economic.

Concerning the debate about analogue versus digital: I accept that an analogue machine for audio or video is probably more easily reconstructed and made to work than a digital machine. However -- if you get your management strategy in place, you are addressing the problem of obsolescence by regularly assessing the state of the technological market and state of your recordings. It is a proactive strategy.

--Tony Gardner  
European Commission AV Service (Europe)  
([Anthony.Gardner@cec.eu.int](mailto:Anthony.Gardner@cec.eu.int))

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>From Brian Levy ([xernaut@yahoo.com](mailto:xernaut@yahoo.com)) 24 Oct 2000:

Thank you, Anthony, you've given me a lot to work with, I'll need to think it through some more, esp. the part about video capture and storage to hard disk, since our budget is so limited right now. Maybe we can get a grant for that soon, though. What would be wrong with burning DVD's directly from our old VHS, Beta, HI-8, and now, Digital-8 (non-professional quality equipment) masters? I mean as soon as DVD burner technology gets more affordable, and more standardized, say in the next three years or so?

I guess video capture might be worth the investment in proper computer and capture equipment in the meantime, is that right? And then it would be all the easier to transfer the computer .mpeg2 or whatever files to burned DVD's?

We don't intend any web access outside the Caddo tribe to our audio and video, so it's not the same issue as say the Library of Congress here in the US with their Folkways collection all or much of which is made web-accessible.

We just want these audio and video recordings to be accessible by members present, and, importantly, future of the Caddo Tribe. I'm with you, I've accepted the reality that vault storage without maintenance would be disastrous, a fairy tale. I don't buy the simulated aging tests by CDR companies. I see the need to migrate every five to ten years. And maybe to buy a CD tester in the meantime to monitor digital deterioration.

I guess it would also be best to capture all audio from first gen. CD or

DAT directly to computer hard drive, and have that be one archival copy. We already have two CDR copies of everything stored in separate location, one silver dye, one gold, but I am considering doing only gold from now on, based on what others on these lists have said about relative longevities of the two, and particular problems with silver discs forming silver sulfates or something due to sulphur contents in the atmosphere all over the world.

Also interesting what you say about not 'going backward' and making analog copies of everything, despite the possible lack of CD players in say fifty to 150 years from now. Esp. given, as you say, how expensive professional modern analog reel to reel recorders and the like would be. I know others feel differently on this issue, in the end it's also a matter of man-hours, we just don't have the staff to do every possible backup strategy, so we have to choose carefully amongst all the options. Migrating seems the safest, though it pre-supposes people after we die will still care enough to keep the process going, on that we are banking. And, as one linguist friend in Calif. said, 'we're not going to let these precious language and cultural material die on our watch [if we can help it!]'.

--Brian Levy  
Kiwat Hasinay Foundation: Preserving Caddo Heritage  
Anadarko, Oklahoma

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>From Steven Bird ([sb@unagi.cis.upenn.edu](mailto:sb@unagi.cis.upenn.edu)) 25 Oct 2000:

People looking for discussion lists related to issues of archiving, media, and endangered languages, might want to try the Linguistic Exploration List:

<http://listserv.linguistlist.org/archives/linguistic-exploration.html>

One focus is digital archives for documenting and describing languages. There is a survey of digital language archives at:

<http://www ldc.upenn.edu/exploration/archives.html>

--Steven Bird  
Linguistic Data Consortium, Univ. of Pennsylvania  
([Steven.Bird@ldc.upenn.edu](mailto:Steven.Bird@ldc.upenn.edu))

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125.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Chapin, Paul [pchapin@alum.mit.edu](mailto:pchapin@alum.mit.edu)

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