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

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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-->> --Correspondence should be directed to the Editor-- <<--

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127.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Re: Cassette tape shelf life?

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>From William Poser (Bill_Poser@telus.net) 23 Nov 2000:

[In reply to the query posted by Brian Levy on the Endangered Languages List and in the most recent SSILA Bulletin (#126.1).]

Cassette tapes can survive for many years, but they are also quite

subject to damage. They do not like being exposed to strong magnetic fields (such as generated by many electric motors) and are quite susceptible to heat. I've had cassettes ruined just from leaving them on the dashboard in hot weather for a few hours.

I strongly recommend against making use of any kind of tape for archival purposes. Other media, such as minisdiscs and CDs, are less susceptible to damage, although since they are new there is not much hard data on their long-term stability. The paramount principle for archival material therefore should be not to assume that it will last very long. Instead of planning on a particular incarnation of the data lasting indefinitely, put the data into a format that is easily copied and plan on updating periodically, say every five years.

This means that the audio should be digitized. You can either record digitally in the first place or digitize analogue recordings. Once you have digital data, it can easily be copied, and it can be copied repeatedly without deterioration. You can back it up by burning it onto CDs, but instead of assuming that CDs will last forever, plan on burning a new set (or perhaps DVDs, or whatever the new format is) in a few years. A further advantage to digital storage is that digital audio files can readily be combined with non-audio information: transcription, translation, annotation, photographs, drawings, maps, video clips, etc.

--Bill Poser
Prince George, BC
(Bill_Poser@telus.net)

Placename query, response
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>From McDowell, John H. (mcdowell@indiana.edu) 4 Dec 2000:

I have a query. In western Montana there is a lake known as Lake Otatsi. Based on its location (in the hills above the town of Ovando) it might be a Blackfeet word, or possibly a Salish-Kootenay word. Any ideas?

--John McDowell
Bloomington, Indiana
(mcdowell@indiana.edu)

>From william bright (William.Bright@Colorado.EDU) 6 Dec 2000:

I don't find the spelling OTATSI in my records, but the US Geological

Service lists a LAKE OTATSY in Powell Co., Montana. I don't have any etymological info on OTATSY as such, but it might be a variant of the word that occurs in OTATSO CREEK, in Glacier Co. That name is listed by Jack Holterman in Place names of Glacier/Waterton National Parks (West Glacier, MT: Glacier Natural History Association, 1985). He says it is a Blackfoot name for President John F. Kennedy, literally meaning "walking stooped". Prof. Don Frantz, my consultant on the Blackfoot language, confirms that there could be a noun /aotahsoowa/ 'he who walks stooped'.

Incidentally, Salish and Kootenay are two different tribes, with entirely different languages. I don't have a linguistic consultant for Kootenay, but I'm copying this to Prof. Sally Thomason, who works on Flathead (Salish), in case she has any ideas.

--Bill Bright
Editor, Native American Placenames of the United States
(william.bright@colorado.edu)

127.2 POSITIONS OPEN

* Specialist in Alaska Native languages, U of Alaska
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>From Gary Holton (gary.holton@uaf.edu) 28 Nov 2000:

The Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, seeks applicants for a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Linguistics specializing in Alaska Native languages, to begin Fall 2001. (PCN # 216215.)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Ph.D. in Linguistics or a related field is preferred, ABD considered with expectation of completion within the first year of employment. Demonstrated field experience with an Alaskan or related language.

TYPICAL DUTIES: Fieldwork in an Alaskan language for purposes of documentation and support of local language efforts. The person hired will write grammars, compile dictionaries and collections of texts in Native language(s); perform outreach to Native communities and organizations; and teach in the field of Alaska Native languages in the classroom or through distance delivery. Duties will include coordinating language efforts with statewide and local institutions such as museums, libraries and cultural heritage centers; establishing and

overseeing contacts with national and international organizations dealing with Native languages; writing grant proposals; and assisting with collecting, archiving, and disseminating written materials and tapes in and on Alaska Native languages.

APPLICATION: Applicants must submit a signed University of Alaska employment application, a cover letter addressing interest and qualifications, photocopies of transcripts of all graduate coursework, a current resume or curriculum vitae, and the names, mailing and e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of three professional references to:

Search Committee
Alaska Native Language Center
University of Alaska
P. O. Box 757680
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7680
Tel: 907/474-7874
Fax: 907/474-6586
E-mail: ffldk@uaf.edu

All materials must be postmarked by the January 15, 2001.

A copy of the UA Employment Application Form can be obtained from any of the UA Human Resources offices or downloaded from:

http://www.uaf.edu/uafhr/pdf_files/employment_app_0998.pdf.

Person(s) hired by the University of Alaska Fairbanks must comply with the provisions of the Federal Immigration Reporting and Control Act of 1986 and are expected to possess a valid social security card. The University of Alaska Fairbanks is an equal employment opportunity/affirmative action employer and educational institution. Application for employment with the University of Alaska is subject to public disclosure under the Alaska Public Records Act. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Applicants needing reasonable accommodation to participate in the application and screening process should contact the Assistant Director at 907/474-6259.

* Three Year Research Fellowship in Australia
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>From Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (a.aikhenvald@latrobe.edu.au) 6 Dec 2000:

Applications are invited for a three-year Research Fellowship in the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology. This is to commence between

March 1 and July 1, 2001.

Applicants should have a Ph.D. in linguistics or be close to the award of a Ph.D. (they will have to have submitted their dissertation before taking up this position). They should have experience of linguistic fieldwork and will, ideally, have already completed a grammatical description of some previously undescribed language (not their native language) in terms of basic linguistic theory.

The successful applicant will work as part of a team with Prof. R.M.W. Dixon, Prof. Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, and other members of the Research Centre, on a topic relating to languages from (a) South America, or (b) the New Guinea region (primarily relating to Papuan languages), or (c) Aboriginal Australia. They will undertake extensive fieldwork and will either (i) produce a comprehensive description of some previously undescribed language; or (ii) pursue an in-depth study of a language contact situation. Option (ii) will be suitable for someone who already has good knowledge of one or more of the languages involved in a suitable contact situation. The choice of project will be made after discussion between the successful applicant and Professors Dixon and Aikhenvald.

Salary will be at step 6 on the Academic Level A scale, \$43,022 (Australian) per annum. An allowance will be made to cover travelling expenses to Melbourne at the beginning of the period of employment. A suitable allowance will be made to cover the expenses of linguistic fieldwork.

Further information about the RCLT will be found at:

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/www/rclt>

If they have any queries, prospective applicants are invited to write to:

linguistic.typology@latrobe.edu.au

Applications should be marked Private and Confidential and forwarded to:

Office of the Director (Personnel)
La Trobe University
Victoria 3086, AUSTRALIA

PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE NUMBER: 50005809

Applications should address the selection criteria and include a curriculum vitae, list of publications, and the names of three referees (plus addresses, e-mail addresses, phone and fax numbers). A copy of

the application should also be sent direct to Ms Siew Peng Condon,
Executive Officer, Research Centre for Linguistic Typology, La Trobe
University, Victoria 3086, Australia. COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SHOULD
BE SENT DIRECT TO MS CONDON AND NOT TO PERSONNEL.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Tuesday January 23, 2001

127.3 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

* Indian language vocabularies

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>From Victor Petrucci (vicpetru@hotmail.com) 27 Nov 2000:

I invite readers of the SSILA Bulletin to to visit my website:

http://geocities.com/indianlanguages_2000

The purpose of the site is to spread information about native languages
from the Americas. All pages are in English, Portuguese and Spanish.
It is planned to present a large number of word lists from hundreds of
indigenous languages, with glosses in those three languages. At present
there are 314 languages at the site, and around 11,000 words. It will
be expanded, and enlarged with a bibliography and links to other sites.

I appreciate your contributions and suggestions.

--Victor A. Petrucci

Sao Paulo, Brazil

(vicpetru@hotmail.com)

* On-line course in Aymara

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>From M.J. Hardman (hardman@ufl.edu) 28 Nov 2000:

My colleagues (Juan de Dios Yapita & Juana Vasquez) and I are still in
the process of preparing our introductory course in Aymara, AYMAR AR
YATIQUAN~ATAKI/TO LEARN AYMARA/PARA APRENDER AYMARA for on-line access.
We have uploaded a sample at this point. This first unit, only just
barely adapted from the paper/classroom materials, is accessible from
my homepage:

<http://grove.ufl.edu/~hardman/>

If this passes muster, the Center for Latin American Studies will support us to upload the whole course -- 13 units, previously taught in a 2-year, 5 credit per semester course. For the sample we had only limited time and support, and some obvious changes will have to be made for the 'real thing' -- like rewriting the presentation specifically for the web!

Any comments on the sample would be much appreciated.

--MJ Hardman
University of Florida
(hardman@ufl.edu)

* Tualip students' web site
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>From Abbie Cort (abbiejcort@earthlink.net) 28 Nov 2000:

I would like to direct your attention to a unique website maintained by the Native and non-Native students of Tulalip Elementary School on the Tulalip Indian Reservation. At this site students share their learning about the Native language and culture of the Puget Sound area. The site includes an extensive selection of bilingual literature from Puget Sound (including elders' narration in some cases), as well as numerous Lushootseed language pages. Other topics include Native constellations, lunar calendar, art and math of the Puget Sound. The URL is:

<http://www.msvl.wednet.edu/elementary/tulalip/home.html>

--David Cort
Tulalip Elementary School
Tulalip Indian Reservation, Washington
(David_Cort@msvl.wednet.edu)

127.4 OJIBWE LANGUAGE MATERIALS

>From Rand Valentine (jrvalent@facstaff.wisc.edu) 30 Nov 2000:

(I got the following from some people involved in producing Ojibwe language materials, and was wondering if you would let SSILA people know about them.)

against, and your contact details. We encourage papers dealing with both Pama-Nyungan and non-Pama-Nyungan subgroups. A copy of the guidelines for participants is available at:

<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~bowern>

Participation in this workshop does not, of course, preclude you from submitting a paper to the main ICHL session.

--Claire Bower, Harvard (bowern@fas.harvard.edu)

--Harold Koch, ANU (harold.koch@anu.edu.au)

127.6 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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