Annual Report 2006

“Documentary linguistics aims to make an enduring record of endangered languages and to support speakers of these languages in their desire to maintain them”
Endangered languages documentation and support

It is generally agreed that today there are about 6,500 languages spoken across the world and at least half of these are under threat of extinction. This is mainly because speakers of smaller languages are switching to other larger languages and not passing on their heritage tongue to their children. They do this for perceived economic, social or political advantages, or because they feel ashamed of their ancestral language. The language can thus be lost in one or two generations, often to the great regret of their descendants.

Over the past 10 years a new field of study called “Language Documentation” or “Documentary Linguistics” has developed. Documentary linguistics is “concerned with the methods, tools, and theoretical underpinnings for compiling a representative and lasting multipurpose record of a natural language or one of its varieties” (Gippert, Himmelmann and Mosel 2006: v). It has developed over the last decade in large part in response to the urgent need to make an enduring record of the world’s many endangered languages and to support speakers of these languages in their desire to maintain them. It is also fueled by information and communication technologies which make documentation and the preservation and dissemination of language data possible in ways which could not previously be envisioned. But, essentially, it also concerns itself with role of language speakers and their rights and needs in ways not previously considered within linguistics. In a recently published textbook, Himmelmann (2006:15) identifies the following as important new features of documentary linguistics:

- Focus on primary data – language documentation concerns the collection and analysis of an array of primary language data to be made available for a wide range of users;
- Explicit concern for accountability – access to primary data and representations of it makes evaluation of linguistic analyses possible and expected;
- Concern for long-term storage and preservation of primary data – language documentation includes a focus on archiving in order to ensure that documentary materials are made available to potential users into the distant future;
- Work in interdisciplinary teams – documentation requires input and expertise from a range of disciplines and is not restricted to linguistics alone;
- Close cooperation with and direct involvement of the speech community – language documentation requires active and collaborative work with community members both as producers of language materials and as co-researchers.

Language documentation is built on a corpus of audio and/or video materials with transcription, annotation, translation into a language of wider communication, and relevant metadata on context and use of the materials. Such a corpus can be archived for current and future use by scholars, speakers and interested others. Woodbury 2003 advocates that ideally, the corpus will be large, cover a diverse range of genres and contexts, be expandable, opportunistic, portable, transparent, ethical and preservable. As a result, documentation is increasingly done by teams, including community members, rather than by individuals, because both the technical skills and the amount of time required to create this corpus make it difficult to achieve for a single linguist working alone. Importantly, outcomes of documentary linguistics research should be directly relevant and valuable to the community of speakers whose language is being documented so that their languages can receive the support they need in the face of pressures from other dominant groups and languages.

HRELP

The Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project (HRELP) was established with a commitment of £20 million from the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund to document as many endangered languages as possible and to encourage the development of relevant skills across the world. It has the following three components:

- **Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP).** Designed to provide approximately £15 million over an 8-10 year period in competitive research grants to encourage the development of linguistic fieldwork in endangered languages (especially by younger scholars) and to support documentation of as many threatened languages as possible. ELDP is governed by an international selection panel chaired by Prof Barry Supple: its grants are administered by the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).
- **Endangered Languages Academic Programme (ELAP).** Aimed at training the next generation of language documenters, it offers students an array of opportunities: an MA in Language Documentation and Description, a PhD in Field Linguistics, and post-doctoral fellowships at SOAS. We also offer a comprehensive programme of public lectures, seminars and training courses. Prof Peter K. Austin, Mārit Rausing Chair in Field Linguistics, is Director of ELAP.
- **Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR).** Established at SOAS in early 2004, this will be one of the prime resources for study and methodology in the field of digital language archiving. David Nathan is Director of ELAR.

The mission of HRELP is to:

- Provide opportunities for fieldworkers, academics, students, collaborative ventures and international organisations to work together with endangered language communities to ensure that everything possible is done to record and encourage linguistic, cultural and human diversity;
- Award approximately £1 million a year in research grants to high quality projects;
- Train new generations of linguists to research and develop work that opens up new fields of study;
- Set up an innovative, comprehensive endangered languages digital archive as a major international resource for scholars, communities and other interested persons;
- Endeavour to raise as much additional funds as possible to build the scale, scope and effectiveness of our work;
- Welcome all those able to donate time, money or expertise to help build on the solid base HRELP has established.
Activities throughout the year

This annual report covers the period from September 2005 to August 2006 for the ELDP, ELAP and ELAR programmes.

In 2006, ELDP awarded 27 grants for a total of £756,333, an amount almost double that awarded in 2005.

ELAP had its third intake of students, enrolling fifteen MA students along with four new PhD students (see p16 for further details). There were some changes to staff: Dr Oliver Bond joined as an ESRC post-doctoral researcher in May 2006 to work on cross-linguistic study of negation, and Zara Pybus left as ELAP Administrator and was replaced by Alison Kelly. In August Dr Frederik Lüpké began maternity leave, and was replaced by Dr Gail Coelho through a three-month temporary lectureship. Dr David Bradley, La Trobe University, spent three months at SOAS as Leverhulme Visiting Professor and gave a series of lectures on his research which focuses on South-east Asian languages. ELAP ran two series of seminars and two workshops throughout the year, and hosted the annual HRELP public lecture on 10th February 2006, which was presented by Dr Dietrich Schuller, Austrian Phonogramarchiv, with the title “Endangered archives of endangered languages”. The third in a series of publications entitled Language Documentation and Description was published in December 2005 (see details below), and a fourth volume will appear in early 2007.

ELAP’s premises were completed in September 2005 and the archive was officially opened for activities in October. Equipment for mass data storage was commissioned, and the first deposit was made. Since then, several other materials for deposit have been received from ELDP grantees: Yeshes Vodgsal Acuo (IPF0011, two deposits), Nora England (MDP0018), Louis Goldstein (FTG0025), Antoine Guillaume (IPF0007), Birgit Hellwig (IPF0001), Catriona Hyslop (IPF0002), Romero Mendez (FTG00029), Stephen Morey (IPF0081), Knut Olawsly (IPF0001), and Alice Taff (IPF0013), with several more due soon. Other developments during the year included: completion of software design, commissioning of a robot tape library for backup and transport of data offsite, installation of Dobbin specialist software for audio archives that provides quality feedback and automated audio processing, an agreement with Oxford Text Archive that provides data replication as well as a firm additional long-term data repository, formation of an inventory of audio recording and associated equipment for ELAP and ELAR field-workers, and an on-line equipment loan management system. ELAR has also been involved in the wider activities of HRELP; these are described in more detail below.

Training for documentation and support at SOAS

The School of Oriental and African Studies is the premier institution in the UK for the study of African and Asian languages and cultures and has a strong tradition of research, teaching and publication on minority languages. In addition HRELP has developed a varied programme of training in language documentation and support focused on minority and endangered languages. This includes twice yearly workshops which discuss important issues of theory and practice in the field. In 2005-06 the two workshop topics were “Meaning and translation in language documentation” and “Endangered languages and literacy”; both workshops were attended by over 50 participants. The papers discussed at these sessions will be published in Language Documentation and Description Volume 4 which will appear in early 2007. Other smaller specialist workshops on “Australian Aboriginal languages” and “Audio recording, digitisation and archiving” were held during the year. We also run a six-day training course for ELDP grantees where fundamental issues and skills in language documentation and support are covered, with special focus on audio and video recording, use of computers to support research, data management and archiving, metadata, and development of multimedia and practical materials for communities. The course was attended by 16 grantees from all over the world and was taught by ELAR and ELAP staff, as well as outside specialists. We have developed a set of teaching materials for this training course, some of which is available through the HRELP web site.

Attendees of the June 2006 ELDP training course at SOAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location and Language</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Les Brown</td>
<td>Field Research in Sandaun Province, Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Field Research in Sandaun Province, Papua New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katia Chirrue</td>
<td>Documentation of four varieties of Baimo</td>
<td>Documentation of four varieties of Baimo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Cullfield</td>
<td>Blakoo Oral Histories Project</td>
<td>Blakoo Oral Histories Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centre Deckman</td>
<td>Cia-pula Documentation Project</td>
<td>Cia-pula Documentation Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Double</td>
<td>Field Research in Sandaun Province, Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Field Research in Sandaun Province, Papua New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valerie Guerin</td>
<td>Discovering Makua: Texts, grammar and lexic</td>
<td>Discovering Makua: Texts, grammar and lexic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antoine Guillaume</td>
<td>Takana and Reyuans: documentation of two almost extinct languages of Bolivian Andes</td>
<td>Takana and Reyuans: documentation of two almost extinct languages of Bolivian Andes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juan Jesus</td>
<td>Yekema Language Documentation and Grammar</td>
<td>Yekema Language Documentation and Grammar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esteban Mateo-Tolosa</td>
<td>Documentation of the yerpa and specialised uses of Q’erq’al (Maya)</td>
<td>Documentation of the yerpa and specialised uses of Q’erq’al (Maya)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Morey</td>
<td>A comprehensive comparative grammar of the Turung and Singpho languages of Assam</td>
<td>A comprehensive comparative grammar of the Turung and Singpho languages of Assam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pulani Nath</td>
<td>A comprehensive comparative grammar of the Turung and Singpho languages of Assam</td>
<td>A comprehensive comparative grammar of the Turung and Singpho languages of Assam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Der-Hwa Victoria Rau</td>
<td>Digital Archiving Yami Language Documentation</td>
<td>Digital Archiving Yami Language Documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utila Rosenda</td>
<td>Sinilum grammar, texts, and dictionary of Esnaano-Naswe (Araraw, Brazil)</td>
<td>Sinilum grammar, texts, and dictionary of Esnaano-Naswe (Araraw, Brazil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myleny Taratac</td>
<td>Aradu Songs Project: documenting Aboriginal verbal art in Central Australia</td>
<td>Aradu Songs Project: documenting Aboriginal verbal art in Central Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa Vallejos</td>
<td>Kokoaro-Kamuliki: texts, grammar and lexic</td>
<td>Kokoaro-Kamuliki: texts, grammar and lexic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean-Christophe Verstrate</td>
<td>Documentation of the Panam languages of Cape York Peninsula, Australia</td>
<td>Documentation of the Panam languages of Cape York Peninsula, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander Velid</td>
<td>Digital Archiving Yami Language Documentation</td>
<td>Digital Archiving Yami Language Documentation</td>
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<td>Meng-Chan Yang</td>
<td>Digital Archiving Yami Language Documentation</td>
<td>Digital Archiving Yami Language Documentation</td>
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The Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP) is administered by a team whose office is located in the School of Oriental and African Studies. The selection process for grant applications is overseen by an international panel of experts, chaired by Professor Barry Supple, who represents the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund.

The ELDP office supports both the work of the international panel and that of grant holders by administering the application process and managing awarded grants. In the last year, the office has seen a complete change of personnel. Current staff are Kathryn Oatey, Jean Tullett, Karen Remnant and Breon de Soyza (See page 10).

Contact details for all the ELDP staff can be found on the ELDP website at http://www.hrelp.org/aboutus/staff/.

Deadlines for the next round
The timetable for the next rounds of applications is on the website at http://www.hrelp.org/grants/apply/information/.

Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP)

Number of grants by research location

Number of languages by continent

Budget amount by location of project

Number of grants by research location

Number of languages by continent

Budget amount by location of project

Distribution by type of grant

Principal Investigator | Host Institution | Funding | Project Language
--- | --- | --- | ---
Stuart McGill | School of Oriental and African Studies | £5,010 | Western Acipa
Sophie Saffner | School of Oriental and African Studies | £7,945 | Ukaan, a language of Southern Nigeria
Dr Anne Vilain | University Stendhal | £8,657 | Babar1, a Bantu language
Dr Moges Yigazu | Addis Ababa University | £5,460 | Koga, South Western Ethiopia
Gerardo De Caro | School of Oriental and African Studies | £6,789 | Taliyshi
Burgel Faehndrich | University of Hawaii at Manoa | £12,975 | Karilang, Datong & Malaj
Dr Karen Gronow-Harsta | University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee | £8,195 | Two Magar dialects: Tanahu and Syangja
Prof Jinfang Li | Central University of Nationalities | £88,906 | Two Gelas Varieties: Zou Lei and A Hou
Dr Charles Macdonald | CNRS | £5,280 | Palawan-Tagalog

Dr Linda Barwick | University of Sydney | £120,670 | Song traditions of Western Arnhem Land
Sarah Cuffie | Monash University | £14,982 | Dalabon Oral Histories Project
Ryoji Hottori | University of Hawaii at Manoa | £8,473 | Pingilapese
Carmen O’Shannon | University of Melbourne | £83,418 | Lajamanu Warlpiri
Erich Round | Yale University | £20,731 | Kayardild
Dr Mylany Turpin | University of Queensland | £79,866 | Arandic Songs project
Dr Jean-Christophe Verstraete | University of Leuven | £79,750 | Five Paman languages, Cape York Peninsula

Gabriela Caballero Hernandez | University of California | £15,000 | Tarahumara
Dr Connie Dickinson | Universidad San Francisco de Quito | £10,000 | Chi’palas
Dr Veronica Grononda | Eastern Michigan University | £44,387 | Wichi
Dr Giles Polian | CIESAS-Sureste | £6,080 | Central Tseltal
Jorge Gomez Rendon | University of Amsterdam | £7,940 | Six Pediex, Ecuador
Rosa Vallejos | University of Oregon | £15,187 | Kokama-Kokamilla
Marine Vuillermet | CNRS | £8,402 | Eve Ejja, Bolivia

Dr Marianne Ignace | Simon Fraser University | £7,700 | Northern (Massett) Haida
Indrek Park | Indiana University | £9,982 | Hidatsa
Tyler Peterson | University of British Columbia | £10,000 | Gitksan
Conor Quinn | Massachusetts Institute of Technology | £65,352 | Passamaquoddy-Maliseet
ELDP panel membership

The members of the panel and their areas of expertise are:

Barry Supple, Chair 
University of Cambridge
Barry Supple studied at the London School of Economics and the University of Cambridge, where he was awarded a PhD for a dissertation on seventeenth-century trade fluctuations. Between 1955 and 1981 he held academic appointments at the Harvard Business School, McGill University, the University of Sussex and the University of Oxford. He was elected to the Chair of Economic History in Cambridge in 1981 and to the Mastership of St Catharine’s College in 1983.

Barry has been President of the Economic History Society, a Council member of the UK Social Science Research Council, Chairman of its Postgraduate Training Board and its Economic and Social History Committee, and Chairman of the Modern History Section and Foreign Secretary of the British Academy. In 1993 he left Cambridge to be Director of the Leverhulme Trust, from which he retired in 2001.

Felix K. Ameka 
Leiden University
Felix K. Ameka lectures in the Department of African Languages and Cultures of Leiden University and is also an Associate Researcher of the Language and Cognition Group at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen. He has a wide range of interests and has fieldwork experience in Australia and West Africa. Apart from the description and documentation of languages, he is interested in the cultural, cognitive and human social interactional motivations of grammar and how speakers use grammar. He has conducted field-based research and published extensively on the grammar, semantics, and pragmatics of Ewe, his mother tongue, and on other West African languages such as Akan. He is currently involved in and coordinates the documentation of four of the little studied Ghana-Togo Mountain languages: Likpe, Logba, Nyagbo and Tafi. These languages are massively influenced by surrounding bigger languages like Ewe and Akan.

As a trained linguist who has worked on his native language and on other languages, he has a continuing concern about the role of native knowledge in documentary linguistics and how the different types of expertise can be tapped in a collaborative manner to generate optimal records of languages. He is also interested in the challenges that documentary linguistics poses for linguistic training and academic linguistic practices. His other research interests lie in typology and comparative grammar, anthropological linguistics, ethnography of communication, cross-cultural semantics and pragmatics. He is also interested in how the structure and semantics of languages are affected and modulated over time and when they come into contact with other languages.

William Foley 
University of Sydney
William Foley is Professor of Linguistics at the University of Sydney, Australia and is a wide range of interests. He has worked in syntactic theory from a lexicalist approach and examined the role of semantics in syntax. He is particularly interested in the usefulness of modern syntactic theories in the description of the Austronesian and Papuan languages of the Pacific, which is his main area of specialisation. Over the last 20 years he has conducted extensive periods of fieldwork in Pacific area languages, specifically in the Papuan languages of the Sepik region of Papua New Guinea, such as Yimas, Watam and Mambuan, as well as some Austronesian languages such as Palauan, Fijian and Tagalog. This fieldwork is the discipline which guides his continuing development of syntactic theories, so that for him theory and description constantly reinforce each other synergistically.

William Foley’s other main area of interest, again one forged ultimately out of his interest in fieldwork, is anthropological linguistics. He is strongly committed to a view of linguistics as ultimately a branch of anthropology and believes that language can only really be adequately understood when it is conceived as both a psychological and a social skill.

Lenore Grenoble 
Dartmouth College
Lenore Grenoble is currently a Professor at Dartmouth College where she holds a joint appointment in Linguistics and Cognitive Science and the Department of Russian. Her current research interests include the study of discourse phenomena, contact linguistics, language endangerment, and the relationship between language policy, use and attrition, as well as other issues in the documentation and study of endangered minority languages. Her research is focused on the study of indigenous languages of Siberia, where she conducts fieldwork, most specifically on the Tungus languages.

More recently she has been involved in collaborative research with polar scientists, anthropologists and other social scientists to investigate the impact of environmental change on the linguistic, social and economic conditions of the peoples of the North. Together with Lindsay Whaley, she has created an open-access electronic journal “Linguistic Discovery” devoted to research on lesser-studied languages, which is supported by the Baker-Berry Library at Dartmouth College. The journal was designed to enable linguists throughout the world to have free and unlimited access to publish and read linguistic research on lesser-studied and endangered languages.

Anju Saxena 
Uppsala University
Anju Saxena’s training as a researcher and teacher as well as her subsequent professional career in academia have all been in the discipline of General Linguistics. She was born and raised in Delhi, where she also completed her undergraduate education in linguistics. A never-waning fascination with South Asia as a cornucopia of food for linguistic thought has led to her linguistic research being centred on South Asian languages. She has made linguistic investigations of ancient languages (Sanskrit and Classical Tibetan), but most of her work has been on modern languages (representing three major language families of South Asia), where she has conducted and supervised fieldwork on lesser-known languages in North India (e.g. Kinnauri, Gahri and Tinani).

Anthony C Woodbury 
University of Texas, Austin
Anthony Woodbury is interested in linguistic diversity and its preservation. He received his BA and MA in Linguistics at the University of Chicago in 1975 and his PhD in Linguistics at
the University of California at Berkeley in 1981. He has taught in the Linguistics Department at the University of Texas at Austin since 1980, where he is now Professor and Department chair.

He has had a career-long research interest in the Yupik-Inuit-Aleut language family, has written on the family’s prehistory, on Greenlandic and Aleut syntax, and on a wide range of topics arising from his long association with the Cup’ik speaking community of Chevak, Alaska, including Cup’ik prosody, intonation, expressive phonology; morphology and syntax; oral literature and conversational discourse. He is currently involved in an effort there to establish Cup’ik in the schools. In recent years, he has become involved in the University of Texas’ Centre for Indigenous Languages of Latin America, helping bring indigenous graduate students to study linguistics, and co-founding, with Joel Sherzer and Heidi Johnson, the Archive for the Indigenous Languages of Latin America.

Roberto Zavala-Mandano
CIESAS-Sureste
Roberto Zavala is Associate Professor at CIESAS-Sureste, a Mexican interdisciplinary research centre for Social Sciences, located in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. He got his BA in Linguistics at the National School of Anthropology and History in Mexico, and his MA and PhD in Linguistics at the University of Oregon. He has conducted extensive fieldwork on Mayan, Uto-Aztecan and Mixe-Zoquean languages spoken in Middle-America and has written two grammars: one on Akatek-Maya and another on Olutec-Mixe-Zoquean. He has written several papers on Wastek, Akatek and Olutec. He is currently working on language contact in the southern part of Mesoamerica, and language documentation of Zoque, Olutec and Chiol.

Peter K Austin
SOAS
Director, Endangered Languages Academic Programme, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
See under ELAP staff (p28)

David Nathan
SOAS
Director, Endangered Languages Archive, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
See under ELAP staff (p28)

Kathryn Oatey manages the grant funding programme and oversees the development and administration of ELDP activities. Kathryn previously worked for the British Council and the Wellcome Trust, both of which are international charities who have grant awarding programmes in various fields. She has worked in Nepal, India, Ghana, Mozambique, South Africa and Russia.

Jean Tullett studied Linguistics as part of her first degree and is the ELDP Research Grants Officer. Jean is the first point of contact for all potential applicants and grant holders. Earlier in her career she worked for the World Council of Churches, an international grant giving charity, and she previously dealt with..

Karen Remnant, who is due to start in October 2006, will deputise for Jean Tullett, and organises the annual panel meetings.

Nora Remnant, who is due to start in October 2006, will deputise for Jean Tullett, and Breon de Soyza currently provides administrative support to the team.

The project aims to undertake extensive fieldwork to make audio and video recordings of speakers, collect oral texts including songs, produce an illustrated trilingual Hindi/Great Andamanese/English dictionary, and write a comprehensive grammar and sociolinguistic sketch.

Four examples of ELDP funded work

Professor Anvita Abbi
Vanishing Voices of the Great Andamanese

Great Andamanese is a mixed language of ten disparate groups of a tribe that once inhabited the entire region of the Andaman Islands.

Nora C. England
Documentation of Two Mayan Languages of Guatemala: Uspanteko and Sakapulteko

Uspanteko is one of the smallest of the Mayan languages with only about 1,000 speakers. Both Sakapulteko and Uspanteko are strongly threatened by shift to Spanish and, in the case of Uspanteko, to K’iche’ (another Mayan language).

The work on these two languages was coordinated from the beginning with the local Linguistic Communities of the Academy of Mayan Languages which was kept informed throughout of progress, as were other community institutions and leaders.

The final products included over 100 recorded texts in each language (50 of these in Sakapulteko and 32 in Uspanteko were completely glossed), lexical databases of over 8,000 entries in Sakapulteko and over 6,000 in Uspanteko, and grammars of over 700 pages for each language. A full set of the audio recordings, paper and digital copies of the grammar, and a paper copy of the draft dictionary were given to the Linguistic Community, and paper copies of a selection of texts and of the grammar were given to each secondary school in the town. Audio recordings of each text were given to the person who had recorded the text.

OKMA (Oxlajuu Kej Maya’ Ajtz’ib’), the institution in charge of the research, plans to publish the grammars and dictionaries. The audio files, lexical database, grammars, and transcriptions of the texts have been submitted to ELAR for archiving and will be submitted to AILLA as well.
Mercedes is half deaf. to together for conversation, a difficult task because Emilia has a very light/soft voice and Antoine Guillaume. At the house of one of Mercedes’ sons, Emilia and Mercedes came story tellers. Manuel was one of the best Reyesano time) at his house while recording a story. Ricardo Roca (81 years old at the time) was a talented traditional musician. He made possible the organisation of a fiesta where various Reyesano speakers were brought together.

Reyesano was said to be probably extinct without any record apart from a list of only 150 words.

This project made it possible to find fluent speakers of Reyesano, to collect a sizeable amount of material, and to produce annotations and analyses of these data in order to allow future users to make sense of it.

The analysis of the grammatical structure of Reyesano has revealed interesting features, such as a peculiar hierarchical and inverse-like agreement system and an intriguing head-marking typological profile, two characteristics which are unique within the Tacanan family.

The project has also been fruitful for the Reyesano community, in reinforcing efforts being made by some community members in documenting and revitalising their language, and in allowing pedagogical materials to be created, such as a bilingual Reyesano-Spanish dictionary and a pedagogical grammar.

The aims of this project have been, first, to record, in video and audio, a major corpus of Unangam Tunuu (Aleut language) conversations among fluent speakers in order to answer the question, “How was Unangam Tunuu spoken in 2005?” We accomplished our first aim by recording a total of 52.5 hours of spontaneous speech across the region from 66 of the 90 some speakers (73%), a brilliant result achieved by the entire language community. The recordings were made, for the most part, simultaneously on audio CD and video tape. From September 2005, we stopped recording and focused on bilingual annotation and preparing the materials for deposit.

The second aim, to make time-aligned bilingual annotations of the recordings, has resulted in time-aligned English translation for 16% of the corpus and Unangam Tunuu transcription for 10% of the corpus. Highly labour intensive, this bilingual annotation is ongoing and files will be deposited with archives as they are completed.

The third aim has been to teach language community assistants professional recording techniques, linguistics basics, data collection requirements, and Aleut literacy. Twelve assistants received training, assisted in recording sessions, and worked on bilingual annotation. The majority of the annotations were done by 4 of these assistants; before this work only 2 were literate; now all 4 are. All these assistants used Praat phonetics software to listen to and specify time-alignment for their transcriptions. Six fluent speakers assisted with bilingual annotation, giving English translations and pronouncing full forms of the words shortened in rapid speech while younger “understanders” entered the data into text files. Of these 6 elders, 1 was literate. Now the other 5 have learned to read and spell by watching the computer screen as their words appear in print. Because they have been working with elders in activities that value their ancestral language, understanders are also beginning to speak Unangam Tunuu.
Endangered Languages Documentation Programme
Research Projects 2006
Endangered Languages Academic Programme (ELAP)

The Endangered Languages Academic Programme had its third full year of operation, enrolling fifteen MA students along with four new PhD students. The MA students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and have experience as foreign language teachers, English as a second language teachers, information technology specialists, translators and school teachers. They come from a range of countries and places within the UK. The four new PhD students are Gerardo De Caro (former ELAP MA student) who is working on ergativity in Talysih, spoken on the border areas between Iran and Azerbaijan, Stuart McGill who is studying Acipu, a Niger-Congo language spoken in northwest Nigeria, Mary Raymond (former ELAP MA student) who is working on Kubakota, spoken on Rongongga Island in the Solomons, and Sophie Saflffer (also a former ELAP MA student) who is carrying out research on Ukaan, a language spoken in four villages in Southern Nigeria. Gerardo De Caro and Sophie Saflffer received SOAS scholarships, Mary Raymond is supported by the AHRC and Stuart McGill has an ELAP scholarship. The four new students upgraded from the MPhil to PhD in June 2006 and commenced the fieldwork and data collection phases of their research.

There were some staff changes during the year: Oliver Bond came to SOAS in May 2006 as an ESRC post-doctoral fellow. His PhD was awarded by the University of Manchester and his thesis, entitled ‘Aspects of Eleme verbal morphosyntax’, discusses Eleme fieldwork data from a functional-typological perspective, with a focus on participant reference (including logophoric reference and applicative morphology) and tense-aspect morphology. Oliver’s post-doctoral research project, entitled ‘Negative strategies in the Ogonoid languages’, aims to contribute to a broader understanding of the properties of negation in language. In August 2006 Zara Pybus left the post of ELAP Administrator to take up a job in the charity sector; she was replaced by Alison Kelly who had previously worked in the Language Centre at SOAS. Dr David Bradley, La Trobe University, spent February-June at ELAP as Leverhulme Visiting Professor and gave a series of seminars on his research on South-east Asian languages, as well as consulting widely with staff and students at SOAS and elsewhere in the UK.

In December 2005 ELAP published the 3rd of a series of papers entitled “Language Documentation and Description” Volume 3. “Language Documentation and Description” Volume 3 contains the following:

- “Introduction” Peter K. Austin
- “Cross-disciplinarity in the documentation work of anthropologists and linguists” Thomas Widlok
- “Ethnographically informed language documentation” K. David Harrison
- “When our values conflict with theirs: linguists and community empowerment in Melanesia” Lise M. Dobrin
- “A musicologist’s wish list: some issues, practices and practicalities in musical aspects of language documentation” Linda Barwick
- “Language documentation and ecology: areas of interaction” Gill Coletho
- “Small is beautiful: contributions of field-based corpora to different linguistic disciplines, illustrated by Jalonen” Friederike Lupke
- “Documenting child language” Sonja Eisenbeiss
- “The digital skills of language documentation” Birgit Hellwig
- “Personhood and linguistic identity, purism and variation” William A. Foley
- “It takes two to tango: linguistic and cultural (co-)variation in digital documentation” Anju Saxena
- “Why Rama and not Rama Cay creole?” Colette Gineval
- “Language contact, language endangerment, and the role of the ‘salvation linguist’” Yaron Matras
- “Ancestral languages and (imagined) creolization” Anthony C. Woodbury

Other Activities

Other activities of ELAP during the year include:

A weekly seminar series co-ordinated by Professor Austin which included the following presentations on endangered languages topics

- 22nd November 2005 “The ‘goe’ in Goemai: the development of modifiers in a Chadic language” Birgit Hellwig, SOAS
- 29th November 2005 “Endangered numerals” Bernard Comrie, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig
- 18th October 2005 “The native Lepcha orthography” Heleen Plaisier, Leiden University
- 25th October 2005 “Adverbs in Lakota” Bruce Ingham SOAS
- 6th December 2005 “An unusual typological mode for handling countability in Miracha (North West Amazon)” Frank Seifart, Ruhr University, Bochum
- 21st March 2006 “Protocol and the language data life-cycle at ELAR” David Nathan, ELAR
- 9th May 2006 “Negative strategies in Eleme” Oliver Bond, ELAP
- 23rd May 2006 “Aboriginal Languages in Canada: Past, Present, Future” Keren Rice, University of Toronto
- 13th June 2006 “Right(s), Permission(s) and Protocol(s) in Language Documentation: Laves’ 1931 Noongar Field Notes” John Henderson, University of Western Australia

A fortnightly series of research seminars for SOAS researchers and PhD students was co-ordinated by Dr Leora Bar-el and included the following presentations:

- 21st October 2005 “Depositing with ELAR: accepting, accessioning and archiving” Robert Munro and David Nathan
- 27th October 2005 “Translating in Salish” Leora Bar-el
- 17th November 2005 “Semantic aspects of the noun class system in Giguolay Eegirna” Serge Sagna
- 1st December 2005 “Engaging Extraction in Yukatek and Lakandon Maya”, Henrik Bergqvist
- 8th February 2006 “Inalienable possession” Peter Budd
- 22nd February 2006 “Directional verbs in Arop-Lokep and Karnai” Mary Raymond
- 8th March 2006 “Patterns of pronominal alignment in Northern Talysh” Gerardo De Caro
- 11th May 2006 “Verb Serialization in Betta Kurumba” Gail Coelho
- 25th May 2006 “Sentence connectives and deictic shift in Paasaal narrative” Stuart McGill

Workshops for specialists and members of the general public:

Endangered Languages and Literacy
3rd December 2005
with presentations by:
- Yasmin A. Asfaha, University of Tilburg, The Netherlands
- Eve Otsaro, Uppsala University
- Graham Furniss, Africa Department SOAS
- Friederike Lupke, ELAP
- David Nathan, ELAR
- Uta Papen, University of Lancaster
- Mary Raymond, ELAP
- Frank Seifart, Ruhr-Universitat Bochum, Germany
- Justin Watkins, Southeast Asia Department SOAS

Language contact and variation in language documentation
11th February 2006
with presentations by:
- Felix Areka, Leiden University
- Leora Bar-el, ELAP
- Henrik Bergqvist, ELAP
- David Bradley, La Trobe University and Leverhulme Visiting Professor, SOAS
- William Foley, University of Sydney
- Prof Lenore Grenoble, Dartmouth College
- Robert Munro, ELAR
- Anthony C Woodbury, University of Texas

Both workshops were attended by over 50 people and resulted in lively discussion. Revised versions of the papers presented at these workshops will appear in Language Documentation and Description, Vol 4, to be published in early 2007.
We hosted the UK premiere of a film on endangered languages: ‘In Languages We Live: Voices of the World’ directed by Janus Billeskov Jansen. The event, on 6th February 2006, was attended by over 60 people and the director participated in a question-answer session before the film showing.

A public lecture on 10th February 2006 was presented by Dr Dietrich Schüller, Austrian Phonogramarchiv, with the title “Endangered archives of endangered languages”. The lecture was attended by approximately 70 people.

A special workshop was held on 19th May 2006, on Australian Aboriginal Languages with presentations by Peter K. Austin, ELAP, David Nathan, ELAR, and Jean-Christophe Verstraete, University of Leuven

Training courses for ELDP grantees were run jointly by ELAP and ELAR staff together with invited external presenters on 21-27th June 2006. The course was attended by 16 grantees and covered a range of topics in language documentation, with a focus on sound and video recording, intellectual property rights and ethics, data management, software for language analysis, metadata, archiving and preparation of multimedia and practical materials for communities.

Professor Austin served on the topography of world languages and their preservation, the HEFCE Research Assessment Exercise Panel for Linguistics, the Arts and Humanities Data Service advisory board on languages and linguistics, the Cambridge University Press Linguistics Board, the Board of the journal ‘Indonesia and the Malay World’, and the Northcote Trust. He was a member of research grants selection panels for the National Science Foundation and National Endowment of Humanities, the Volkswagen Foundation’s DoBeS project, and the Northcote Trust.

Professor Austin visited and gave presentations at a number of universities in the UK and overseas and took part in several conferences and symposia during this period:

- 30th September 2005 workshop on Language Contact, University of Manchester
- 26th October 2005 seminar “Language Contact in Australia”, Department of Classics and Archaeology, Cambridge University
- 3rd February 2006 public lecture “Survival of Languages”, Darwin College, Cambridge University
- 20th February 2006 UNESCO, Paris
- 2nd-5th April 2006 co-organiser of Third Oxford-Kobe Linguistics Seminar “The Linguistics of Endangered Languages”, Kobe, Japan
- 24-26th May 2006 lecture series “Language Documentation”, Federico II University, Naples, Italy
- 2nd-3rd June 2006 UK Austronesian Research Group, St Catherine’s College, Oxford University
- 15-16th June 2006 DoBeS training workshop, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
- 27-30th June 2006 keynote lecture “Hierarchies of clause linkage”, International Symposium on the Grammar and Pragmatics of Complex Sentences (Subordination and Coordination), Tomsk Pedagogical University, Tomsk, Russia
- 10-13th July 2006 advisory committee member, Linguamón House of Languages, Barcelona, Spain

Other ELAP staff gave invited seminars and conference papers during the year:

Leora Bar-el at the University of Toronto, University of British Columbia, University of Sydney, Manchester University, Linguistics Association of Great Britain

Oliver Bond at University of Surrey, African Linguistics Congress Addis Ababa Ethiopia, Linguistics Association of Great Britain

Friederike Lüpke at University of Surrey, Lancaster University

Gerardo De Caro, Stuart McGill, Mary Raymond and Sophie Saltner attended the Leipzig Spring School on Language Typology and each gave a paper on their research at the associated student conference.

Professor Austin gave several press interviews during this period with the BBC.

### Publications


Austin, Peter K. 2006 “Content questions in Sasak, eastern Indonesia: an optimality theoretic syntax account” in Holger Warnk and Fritz Schulz (eds.) Papers in south-east Asian languages presented to Bernd Notherer. Wiesbaden: Harrasowitz Verlag


Coelho, Gail 2006 “Gathering plant and animal names” in Language Archives Newsletter 7 and http://www. mpi.nl/LAN


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Gathering plant and animal names in the Kimberley by Gail Coelho.

The Beegy tree (Phoradendron marianum). Photo: Gail Coelho.
Academic staff

Professor Peter Austin

Marit Rausing Chair in Field Linguistics. Director, Endangered Languages Academic Programme.

Peter Austin studied at the Australian National University, completing a BA with first class Honours in Asian Studies (Japanese and Linguistics) in 1974, and a PhD in 1978 on the Diyari language spoken in the far north of South Australia. He taught at the University of Western Australia (1978), held a Harkness Fellowship at UCLA and MIT (1979-80), and in 1981 set up the Department of Linguistics at La Trobe University. In 1989 he was instrumental in establishing Japanese language teaching at La Trobe. In 1996 he was appointed Foundation Professor of Linguistics at the University of Melbourne, and joined SOAS in January 2003.

Professor Austin's research interests cover descriptive, theoretical and applied linguistics. He has extensive fieldwork experience on Australian Aboriginal languages (northern New South Wales, northern South Australia, and north-west Western Australia) and has co-authored the first fully page formatted hypertext dictionary on the World Wide Web, a bilingual dictionary of Gamilaraay (Kamilaroi), northern New South Wales, as well as publishing seven bilingual dictionaries of Aboriginal languages. Since 1995 he has been carrying out research on Saak and Sumbawan, Austronesian languages spoken on Lombok and Sumbawa islands, eastern Indonesia. His theoretical research is mainly on syntax and focuses on Lexical Functional Grammar, morpho-syntactic typology, computer-aided lexicography and multi-media for endangered languages. He has also published on historical and comparative linguistics, typology, and Aboriginal history and biography.

Leora Bar-el

Post-doctoral Fellow in Language Documentation and Description.

Leora Bar-el received a Combined Honours BA in English Literature and Linguistics from the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada in 1996. It was there that she was first introduced to, and became interested in, First Nations languages.

Leora moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, to pursue graduate work in linguistics and there she began to work on Salish languages. Since 1997 she has been conducting fieldwork with the last remaining speakers of the Skwxwú7mesh language (Central Salish), an extremely endangered language spoken in British Columbia. In 1998 Leora received an MA degree in Linguistics from the University of British Columbia. Her MA thesis focuses on verbal plurality and adverbal quantification in Skwxwú7mesh. In the course of her graduate studies, Leora has conducted research on other Salish languages, as well as Plains Cree, an Algonquian language. Her research areas have included: aspect, Aktionsart, reduplication, number, intonation and stress. Being engaged in research that contributes to the documentation of endangered languages has also led to Leora’s interest in and research on language revitalisation practices in Canada and communities around the world.

Leora completed a PhD in Linguistics in 2005 at the University of British Columbia entitled “Aspectual Distinctions in Skwxwú7mesh” which looks at an aspectual classification of predicates, the perfective/ imperfective distinction and an exploration of cross-linguistic variation in these areas. She plans to continue conducting fieldwork on Salish during her post-doctoral research which will focus on the relationship between aspect, transitivity and control in three Central Salish languages.

Dr Oliver Bond

ESRC Post-doctoral Fellow.

Oliver Bond’s principal research interests lie in typology, historical linguistics and language documentation, including fieldwork on Eleme (Ogonoid, Benue-Congo), an under-described language spoken in southeast Nigeria.

Oliver’s ESRC research project, entitled ‘Negative strategies in the Ogonoid languages’, aims to contribute to a broader understanding of the properties of negation in language. The main objective of the project is to devise a questionnaire to capture information relevant to negative constructions in terms of their morphosyntactic/ prosodic realisation and the grammatical distinctions encoded in pairs of affirmative and negative constructions. More specifically, however, it is conceived of as a device for the eventual collection of cross-linguistic data for the comparison of diachronic paths of negative elements in the languages of the world.

Oliver has recently been awarded a PhD from the University of Manchester, where he also studied for a BA and a MA in Linguistics. His PhD thesis, entitled ‘Aspects of Eleme verbal morphosyntax’, discusses Eleme fieldwork data from a functional-typological perspective, with a focus on participant reference (including logophoric reference and applicative morphology) and tense-aspect morphology.

Dr Gail Coelho

Post-doctoral Research Fellow

Gail Coelho is working on Betta Kurumba, an understudied South Dravidian language spoken in the Nilgiri Mountains in southern India. She is currently working on a book manuscript which presents a grammar of Betta Kurumba, expanding upon a description of the language provided in her doctoral dissertation. She has also begun working on Betta Kurumba ethnobiology, for which she has collected native names for plants and animals, descriptions of traditional uses of natural resources, and folk stories in which animals and plants are anthropomorphised.

In previous research, she has worked on theoretical analyses of reduplication and lexical stress in a Native American language, Thompson River Salish. In addition, her Master’s thesis was a study of social variation in certain contact-derived phenomena in a dialect of Indo-English spoken in Madras, India.

Gail completed her PhD in linguistics at the University of Texas at Austin and a Master’s degree in linguistics at the University of Pittsburgh. She also has a Master’s degree in English Literature and Linguistics from the University of Bombay. She completed a BA in English Literature at Stella Maris College, University of Madras.

Her main research interest is in language documentation, for which she believes that it is particularly important to document a wide range of genres of discourse (stories, songs, riddles, proverbs, etc.) and to document cultural knowledge as it is encoded in language (as, for example, in the study of ethnobiology).

Within linguistic theory and description, her interests lie in morphosyntax, phonology, and language contact.

Anthony Jukes

ELDP Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

Anthony Jukes is an ELDP-funded post-doctoral research fellow, working to document and describe Toratán (Ratahan), an endangered language spoken by the older generation in a handful of villages located in southern Minahasa, North Sulawesi, Indonesia. Toratán is an isolated member of the Sangiric language family, surrounded by Minahasan languages. Like other languages of the region it is giving way to Manado Malay and the national language Bahasa Indonesia. Its decline is more advanced than most regional languages, with no more than a few hundred fluent speakers, all of advanced age. This project aims to document the language while it is still possible, and also to work with the language community on maintenance strategies.

Anthony studied Linguistics and Japanese at the University of Melbourne, completing a BA (Hons) in 1996, after which he began research on...
Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR)

Dr Friederike Lüpke
Lecturer in Language Documentation and Description.

Dr Friederike Lüpke studied African Linguistics, General Linguistics and Phonetics at the University of Cologne, Germany. She spent a year at the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO) in Paris studying the West African languages Bambara and Fula. In 1999, she completed her MA, which received first class Honours, with a thesis on parts of speech in Bambara. She then took on a PhD scholarship in the Language and Cognition Research Group of the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. For her PhD project, she worked on Jalonke (Yalunka), a previously undescribed Mande language of Guinea. Her PhD thesis is a field-based account of verbal argument structure and verb classes in Jalonke.

Dr Lüpke’s theoretical interests range from the syntax-semantics interface, especially in the domain of verbal argument structure and case marking, to morphosyntactic typology, semantic typology and the influence of cognition, culture and contact on language. Her descriptive interests lie in Jalonke and Mande linguistics and more generally in language documentation from a linguistic point of view. One of her concerns in this domain is the use and development of non-verbal stimuli facilitating linguistic analysis, in the field and cross-linguistic comparison. She is interested in African history and culture, especially in her geographical area of work, West Africa.

Support Staff

Alison Kelly
Academic Programme Administrator.
Alison obtained her BA in French Studies from Southampton University in 2000. The program included a year abroad studying at the University of Nice during 1998. She worked as an administrator for Moutant ECS before taking a course administrator position in the Language Centre at SOAS in 2004. She joined HRELP as the Academic Programme Administrator in 2006. She is currently studying towards the Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice (Higher Education Administration and Management).

Alison’s main responsibilities include: dealing with enquiries from students and the general public, producing course handbooks and other materials, editing the HRELP web site, minuting meetings, and providing administrative support to the Director.

The Endangered Languages Archive provides digital archiving and associated services for ELAR grantees and others working with endangered languages

We aim to provide
- Security - keep electronic endangered language materials safe
- Preservation - store electronic endangered language materials for the long term
- Discovery - help the wider world to find out about materials
- Protocol - respect and implement sensitivities and restrictions
- Sharing - provide access to materials, where appropriate
- Acknowledgement - create citable acknowledgment of research
- Mobilisation - help to create usable language materials for communities
- Quality and standards - give advice for creating materials of high quality and robust standards

We also offer auxiliary services including:
- Training
- Facilities for digitising media and documents
- Practical resource development (on a project by project basis)

ELAR in 2005-6

ELAR’s premises were completed in September 2005 and the archive was officially opened for activities in October. Equipment for mass data storage was commissioned, and the first deposit was made. Since then, several other materials for deposit have been received from; Yeshes Votgsal Acuo (IPF0071), Wayan Arka (IPF0011), Nora England (MOP0018), Louis Goldstein (FTG0025), Antoine Guillaume (IPF0007), Birgit Heilig (IPF0010), Catriona Hyslop (IPF0002), Romero Mendez (FTG0029), Stephen Morey (IPF0081), Knut Olawsy (IPF0001), and Alice Taff (IPF0013), with several more due soon.

Other developments included:
- completion of software design for a state-of-the-art Open Archives compliant digital archive
- commissioning of a robot tape library for backup and transport of data offsite
- installation of Dobbin, specialist software for audio archives that provides quality feedback and automated audio processing
- an agreement with Oxford Text Archive that provides data replication as well as a firm additional long-term data repository
- formation of an inventory of audio recording and associated equipment for HRELP field workers
- an on-line equipment loan management system
David Nathan assisted the ELDP Panel with assessing grant applications, advising on all matters related to equipment and documentation methodology, and ELAR co-ordinated the training of ELDP grantees in June 2006 (see p27). Our staff ran sessions ranging from recording techniques and archiving to database technologies.

We advised many ELDP grantees and others about equipment and preparing data for archiving, and advised on the selection, purchase and allocation of specialised equipment for ELAP fieldwork students.

In February 2006, ELAR ran a one-day workshop on “Audio Recording, Digitisation and Archiving”, presented by leading audio archivist Dietrich Schüller of the Vienna Phonogrammarchiv. It was attended by 21 people who provided extremely positive feedback; in addition, Dr Schüller was able to provide invaluable advice to ELAR on audio archiving.

ELAR continues active participation in the academic community. David Nathan and Robert Munro gave lectures and presentations at national and international events (see below).

David Nathan continued to initiate and develop multimedia projects, including CD lecture presentations by Peter Ladefoged and Dietrich Schüller, and pedagogical CDs for Gamilaraay and Karaim. The Dawes Online project, conducted jointly together with the SOAS Library Special Collections, is digitising, transcribing, and making an interactive online version of a manuscript on the Sydney language, one of the key resources for Australian languages.http://www.hrelp.org/dawes. In 2005, a course based around a CD co-authored by David with Michael Christie and Waymanba Gaykamangu won the Australian University Teacher of the Year award (the CD is entitled “Yolngu Languages and Culture: Guupapuyngu”).

Project development work includes continued collaboration in the European project Distributed Access Management for Language Resources (DAM-LR), a partnership between ELAR, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics (Netherlands), University of Lund (Sweden), and the Institute for Dutch Lexicology at Leiden (Netherlands). The DAM-LR and Dawes Online projects have both attracted external funding.

ELAR is a participant in the Digital Endangered Languages and Musics Archives Network (DELAMAN) which met in November 2005. Participating archives include ELAR, DoBeS, AILLA, Alaska Native Language Centre, E-MELD, Paradisec, and the Moani Music Archive. ELAR will host the DELAMAN meeting at SOAS from November 2-3, 2006.

ELAR has a new Visitor’s Room where researchers and depositors can use our research facilities. Visitors to date have been Susan Gehr, Bernard Conrie, Frank Sefart, Christy Henshaw, David Bradley, John Henderson, Chaithra Puttaswamy, and Edward Garrett.

Publications by ELAR staff


Seminars, workshops, training


SOAS ELDP Training course, SOAS June 2006 (co-ordinator David Nathan). (see p 27)

Karaim Summer School, Trakai Lithuania, July 2006 (co-organiser David Nathan).
International conferences


Munro, Robert. 2006 “Current design issues for digital archives: Architectures supporting value-adding access via a user’s preferred language(s) and granularity of materials.” Paper presented (by David Nathan) at the Georgetown University Roundtable on Linguistics, Georgetown University, March 2006


June 2006 ELDP training

Katia Chirkova presenting her work on Bama.

Professor Peter Austin introducing the training sessions. With Katia Chirkova and Sarah Cutfield.

Left to right: B’alam (Eladio) Mateo-Toledo, Matthew Dryer, and Stephen Morey practising their video skills.

Left to right: David Evans, Stephen Money, Ubiray Rezende and B’alam (Eladio) Mateo-Toledo.

Ubiray Rezende (left) showing how to use solar power. Victoria Rau Der-Hea (right) watches.

Left to right: Katia Chirkova, Victoria Rau Der-Hea, David Harrison and Sarah Cutfield.

General view of training session in the ELAR office at SOAS.

Left to right: Mykany Turpin, Katia Chirkova, Sarah Cutfield and Jean Tullet.
**ELAR Staff**

ELAR has seen several staffing changes this year. Following his half-time secondment to assist in setup of our infrastructure, Robert Kennedy left in March 2006. In April 2006, Robert Munro completed his two-year contract, and left having made important contributions to the design of ELAR's archive information systems, completed a detailed software model for ELAR's data storage and catalogue, and provided a great deal of input into ELAR and HRELP's website, and our training and academic activities. He was succeeded by David Evans. In order to support the expanded activities made possible by HEFCE funding of equipment, a new half-time Digital Technician post was created and is held by Tom Castle. In addition, several ELAP students, including Chaithra Puttaswamy, Louise Ashmore, and Stuart Brown, have worked on an occasional basis in the archive.

**David Nathan, Director**

David Nathan has worked with computing applications for endangered (especially Australian Aboriginal) languages for 12 years. He ran the ASEDA archive in Canberra, Australia, and taught courses in computing, linguistics, cognitive science, multimedia development and English at universities in Australia, Japan and the UK. Publications include the textbook "Australia's Indigenous Languages"; papers on lexicography, multimedia, and indigenous people and the Internet; and several multimedia CD-ROMs. He was co-author (with Peter Austin) of the web's first hypertext bilingual dictionary (for Gamilaraay/Kamilaroi), and has established several major web sites. Along with building up the archive functions, he is actively involved in other technical and academic areas: he is currently working on CD-ROMs including one for Gamilaraay (New South Wales), and is interested in multimedia interfaces for authoring and presenting language materials, and in the methodology of language documentation.

**David Evans, Software Developer**

David holds a BA in English Literature (1997) and a Postgraduate Certificate of Education (1998) from Cardiff University, in addition to an MSc in Computer Science (2002) at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, where his dissertation was based on using robots as aids to teaching topics in Artificial Intelligence. In 2003 he joined the National Library of Wales as a Web Assistant. This role involved producing online versions of catalogues and exhibitions, including ‘Celtic Voices’ (http://www.llgc.org.uk/celticvoices), an exhibition of items in the six Celtic languages (Welsh, Scots Gaelic, Irish, Cornish, Manx and Breton). He joined SOAS in April 2006. David’s responsibilities include maintaining the digital catalogue of the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR), as well as the database functions of the HRELP website. David is a Member of the British Computer Society, and his interests include artificial intelligence, educational technology and the Semantic Web.

**Bernard Howard, Technical Officer**

Bernard Howard started work at SOAS as Phonetics Lab Technician. He provides technical support, assisting staff and students with recording and digitising. He has also helped with equipment support for ELAP fieldwork students and ELAR and ELDP training events.
This document is the fourth annual report of the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project (HRELP). It outlines the structure of HRELP and its activities for the year. All photographs by David Nathan except where stated otherwise.

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