It is our conviction that language documentation and language support are mutually informing and mutually strengthening aspects of an overall response to the current threats to the world’s linguistic diversity.
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It is generally agreed that today there are about 6,500 languages spoken across the world today 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 tongues 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.

This is a world-wide phenomenon and language loss is found across all continents and all countries. The level of language endangerment and loss is highest in countries with long-standing colonialist attitudes and approaches to their indigenous languages and communities, such as Australia (where 95% of indigenous languages are moribund or extinct), the United States, Canada and Russia.

Increasingly, factors such as globalisation and urbanisation are affecting all regions of the world and many countries are seeing languages becoming endangered.

Since its inception in 2002, the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project has focussed on documenting as many endangered languages as possible, and also providing support for their speaker communities in a range of ways. Its granting arm (ELDP) has sponsored over 200 research projects to document languages on every continent. Many of these funded projects have included as one of their goals the creation of materials to support learning of the threatened languages (primers, dictionaries, grammar books, multimedia) and many have involved training and skills transfer to members of the communities whose languages are being investigated. The post-graduate programme (ELAP) has trained over 60 students from the UK and Europe as well as a range of international locations, and many of them have been involved in first-hand language documentation, especially in the PhD programme. In 2008 we introduced a strand in the MA programme that focusses on language revitalisation and support, and includes courses on techniques of language revitalisation and the development of language policy. Aspects of both documentation and language support are woven into the annual fieldtrip undertaken by MA students to Guernsey that began in 2009 (as described below). The digital archive (ELAR) has also been involved in providing advice and infrastructure for grantees, students and others on all aspects of language documentation and support.

It is our conviction that language documentation and language support are mutually informing and mutually strengthening aspects of an overall response to the current threats to the world’s linguistic diversity.
The Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project (HRELP) was established with a commitment of £20 million from Arcadia Trust 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)**
ELDP was set up to provide approximately £15 million in competitive research grants to encourage the development of linguistic fieldwork in endangered languages (especially by those at an early stage in their careers) and to support documentation of as many threatened languages as possible. ELDP is managed by the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS); the Interim Director is Professor Peter Sells. Grant applications are assessed by an independent international panel that is chaired by Professor Andrew Spencer (University of Essex).

**Endangered Languages Academic Programme (ELAP)**
Aimed at training the next generation of language documenters, ELAP offers students and early-career researchers 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, Mærít Rausing Chair in Field Linguistics, is Director of ELAP.

**Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR)**
ELAR archives materials collected by ELDP grantees and ELAP staff and students, as well as other depositors. It is a prime resource 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;
- Train new generations of linguists to document and support endangered languages;
- Award approximately £1 million a year in research grants to high quality projects;
- Set up an innovative, comprehensive endangered languages digital archive as a major international resource for scholars, communities and other interested people;
- 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.

Melli Fang studying graphic display boards at the exhibition "Living Language".
Activities throughout the year

This annual report covers the period September 2008 to December 2009 for the ELAP, ELAR and ELDP programmes.

ELAP entered its sixth year of operation and enrolled seventeen new MA Language Documentation and Description students in September 2009, having taken in fourteen new students in September 2008. The students in both intakes came from a mixture of backgrounds, and a wide range of countries. Some had previously completed BA degrees in linguistics, languages, and translation, while some came from teaching backgrounds and others had worked in industry. The PhD in Field Linguistics enrolled four new students in September 2009, following two who joined in September 2008 (both of whom went on fieldwork in late 2009). Five of our PhD students, Mary Chambers, Stuart McGill, Chaithra Puttaswamy, Peter Budd and Sophie Saffnner completed their studies in 2009. Stuart McGill took up a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in October 2009. Two post-doctoral researchers joined ELAP as visitors for the academic year September 2008-August 2009: Dr Aurora Donzelli (funded by a Portuguese research fellowship) and Dr Malin Petzell (funded by a Swedish research fellowship). Dr Petzell is continuing her project for the September 2009-August 2010 year. In October 2009 Professor Tania Kuteva joined ELAP as a Feodor Lynen Visiting Professor, funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (sponsored by Professor Austin). She will visit SOAS for six months a year for the next three years. Volume 6 of *Language Documentation and Description* was published in May 2009.

As a result of restructuring agreed with Arcadia Trust, administration of ELDP moved into the Linguistics Department at SOAS in February 2009, and Arcadia funding for ELDP and ELAR was extended until 2016. A new post of Director of ELDP was created, to be filled by an appointment in 2010. Professor Peter Sells served as Interim Director of ELDP for most of 2009. In late 2009 Anna Greedharee resigned as ELDP Administrator to take up another post at SOAS – she will be replaced in January 2010. ELDP had a busy granting year in 2009, with two grant cycles running in March and August receiving a total of 136 grant applications for the year. 35 grants were awarded totaling £1.4 million.

This year ELAR purchased a 48 terabyte NAS storage unit to consolidate data storage and cater for projected increases for the next three years. A new data curation workflow was designed, taking advantage of the storage hardware that provides fast, transparent access to the data. The ELAR catalogue, based on a Drupal content management system with a customised and innovative “Web 2.0” approach to access management, was launched at the end of December 2008. Its second stage, providing user accounts to depositors, including facilities to edit and update catalogue entries, went live in February 2009. Development to enable safe access to data, observing depositors’ access conditions, is under way and will be in operation in early 2010.

From October 2008 to January 2009 East Gallery, Stratford, in east London hosted an exhibition ‘Living Languages’ that included displays on Endangered Languages, Sign Languages, and The Languages of London, provided by ELAP, together with interactive multimedia installations provided by ELAR.

A highlight of 2009 for the whole project was the *3L Summer School* held at SOAS 22nd June to 3rd July in collaboration with Lyon-2 and Leiden universities. The summer school was attended by 100 participants from around the world and featured ten courses, eight plenary lectures, four workshops, a sociolinguistics conference and a student-run conference. A notable feature of the summer school was two weeks of classes on documentation of sign languages, and the presence of both deaf and hearing signers (using American Sign Language and British Sign Language) – see the reports below. A book of lectures from the Summer School will be published early in 2010.

The Linguistics Department at SOAS hosted the second *Language Documentation and Linguistic Theory* international conference in November 2009 – several ELAP staff and students, along with a number of ELDP-funded researchers, presented papers at the conference.
In March-April 2009, a group of six MA students (Catherine Jones, Tracey Carro Noya, Jennifer Marshall, Simone Mauri, Charles Pigott, and Judith Ringmayer) undertook a field trip to Guernsey, Channel Islands, organised and lead by Dr Julia Sallabank, Research Fellow in Language Support and Revitalisation. Guernsey’s indigenous language, known to native speakers as Dgernesiais, is the closest indigenous endangered language to SOAS which has not yet been well documented. The trip was facilitated by Jan Marquis, Guernsey Language Officer, who organised most of the interview sessions; without his help the fieldtrip would not have been possible or nearly as successful.

The focus of the fieldtrip was primarily language documentation, which Jan and Julia have identified as a priority. It not only provided practice in documentation techniques such as the use of audio and video equipment, but also created the basis of a genuinely useful corpus of documentary material. As 75 language speakers were interviewed and 50 hours of audio and 10 hours of video recordings made (Julia and Jan have since been awarded an ELDP small grant to analyse the recordings and conduct further research). The students also investigated language policy and revitalisation measures, e.g. observing voluntary Dgernesiais lessons in primary schools and the sixth form centre, meeting language activists, interviewing with civil servants and an educational consultant, and administering a questionnaire on language attitudes and awareness to members of the public in the main shopping area of the island’s capital.

The beginning of the fieldtrip coincided with the main language-related festival on the island, with a competition of poetry recitations, short story and Bible readings, plays and sketches, and singing in Dgernesiais. Four ELAP students entered the beginners’ competition, and Julia entered the intermediate level. With coaching help from Jan Marquis, all the entrants gained first class certificates, and Charles Pigott won the Beginners’ Cup. This proved to be an excellent way for the students to gain acceptance by the speaker community, and opened several doors. The students were interviewed several times by local media, appearing on BBC and commercial radio, local ITV news, and in two newspaper reports.

It is planned to run another field trip in 2010. The Foundation for Endangered Languages has kindly provided a scholarship for one student to take part in the 2010 fieldtrip.
Overview and Grants
Following an internal review conducted in 2008 by the then Chair of the ELDP Panel, Professor Graham Furniss, a new administrative structure for ELDP was introduced in February 2009. A new post, Programme Director, was added and will be filled in 2010. The ELDP Programme Director will work with the programme administrator, and alongside the Directors of ELAP and ELAR and other staff to integrate ELDP activities with those of the other HRELP components within the Linguistics Department. Consideration of grant applications will continue to be the responsibility of the ELDP International Review Panel, with Panel meetings organised by the ELDP administration and chaired by an independent Panel Chair.

Part of the review of ELDP led to a reevaluation of the timeline for the grants programme, and the development of a more proactive discipline-focused administration, promoting the principles and practices of documentation, which will now run until 2016. From 2010 onwards, grants will be awarded in a single annual cycle, with the final round of grants awarded in 2014. ELDP and ELAR will be supported by Arcadia until 2016.

ELDP is now a unit within the Department of Linguistics at SOAS, and for the

ELDP grants awarded 2009

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<th>Funding</th>
<th>Project Language</th>
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transition period of 2009, Professor Peter Sells, Head of Linguistics, is Interim Director. He has implemented various recommendations from the 2008 review as part of the transition to the new administrative scheme, including working with the outgoing programme administrator, Anna Greedharee, to create new application forms, and to organise two funding cycles for 2009. In October 2009, Anna Greedharee took up a new post within the Research Office at SOAS; Claire Hose worked as a temporary administrative assistant until a permanent administrator takes over in early 2010.

ELDP had a very active year in 2009 with two grant cycles and two Panel meetings, in June and November. The previous categories of Field Trip Grant and Pilot Project Grant were combined into a new category, Small Grant, with a maximum award of £10,000. The category Individual Graduate Studentship was renamed Individual Graduate Scholarship (IGS) and redefined to cover a period of study for up to 36 months. Holders of the old 24-month IGS awards were invited to apply for a 12-month supplementary extension, to bring all IGS into the same scheme. In the first cycle in 2009, applications were taken in these categories. In the second cycle, the full range of grant types was open for applications.

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The ELDP Panel

Grant applications are assessed by an international panel of experts. Full details of the panel members can be found on the website at www.hrelp.org/aboutus/staff/panel/.

In 2009 ELDP appointed Professor Andrew Spencer, Professor of Linguistics in the Department of Language and Linguistics of the University of Essex, as Independent Chair for the Panel meetings. Professor Spencer’s research interests range over theoretical phonology, morphology, and syntax and he has published on a variety of languages including English, German, a number of Slavic languages, Hungarian, Japanese and Chukchi (an endangered language of north-east Siberia). He chaired both Panel meetings in June and November 2009.

ELDP Panel Membership

Felix K. Ameka, Leiden University
Felix K. Ameka teaches in the Department of African Languages and Cultures of Leiden University and Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (LUCf), and is also an Associate Researcher of the Language and Cognition Group at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen.

I Wayan Arka, The Australian National University
I Wayan Arka is a Fellow in Linguistics at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at The Australian National University.

Lenore Grenoble, University of Chicago
Lenore Grenoble is the Carl Darling Buck Professor at the University of Chicago where she holds appointments in the Department of Linguistics and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Susan D. Penfield, University of Arizona
Susan Penfield is Professor at the University of Arizona and currently seconded to the National Science Foundation as Programme Officer for the Documenting Endangered Languages Project.

Anju Saxena, Uppsala University
Anju Saxena is Professor of Linguistics at Uppsala University, Sweden.

Roberto Zavala-Maldonado, 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.

Ex-officio members

Peter K. Austin, SOAS
Director, Endangered Languages Academic Programme, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. See under ELAP staff (p20).

David Nathan, SOAS
Director, Endangered Languages Archive, School of Oriental and African Studies. See under ELAR staff (p24).

Peter Sells, SOAS
Interim Director, Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, School of Oriental and African Studies. Peter Sells, is Professor of Linguistics in the Department of Linguistics at SOAS. His research interests include morphology, syntax and semantics, primarily of languages of Asia and the Pacific. He has written extensively on grammatical structures in Japanese and Korean, with a theoretical focus on the overall architecture of linguistic theory. He has also worked on the syntax of the Austronesian languages Tagalog, Cebuano, and Toba Batak.
In the arid lands of Central Australia, Arandic language speakers have a unique tradition of ceremonial songs (awely), performed during group activities involving singing, dancing, painting-up and narration. Singing can summon ancestral powers (eg. to bring rain, or increase the abundance of plants or animals), resolve conflict, express identity at inter-cultural exchanges, or be a source of entertainment. Performing ceremonies can build confidence and enhance the health of individuals and communities.

Ceremonies (or ‘song series’), fall into various categories (e.g. men’s, women’s, mixed, initiation), each being associated with a tract of land or ‘Country’, owned by land-holding groups, the spiritual descendants of their song-bearing ancestors in Altyerre, known as the ‘Dreamtime’ in English. Altyerre continues to influence the everyday modern human world.

A song series may contain as many as 50 verses. ‘New’ verses are revealed in dreams (though this rarely happens today) and ceremonies are passed on orally through performance. The songs are perceived to be in the language of the ancestral beings who shaped the country, established the way of life and sang the ceremonies. Song texts are notoriously difficult to learn and understand, with word shapes changed to fit rhythmic patterns, and vocabulary drawn from neighbouring varieties. Words refer to flora, fauna, ancestral beings, country, homesickness, people, and cultural practices such as ceremony.

Traditional songs struggle to find a place in the contemporary world as TV, video and iPods make inroads into remote Aboriginal communities, spreading popular culture. Elders are worried that younger people only hum and do not sing the text of these songs, as opportunities for learning are few.

This two-year research project provided opportunities for learning and performing Arandic songs, and raised awareness about the dire situation of these art forms. Over 30 song series and six song styles were recorded and documented, and 14 community DVDs and CDs were produced.
‘3L Summer School’
International Summer School on Language Documentation and Description

The Department of Linguistics at SOAS hosted the second 3L International Summer School on Language Documentation and Description from 22nd June-3rd July 2009. The summer school was attended by 100 participants (85 students and 15 teachers) from all over the world, including UK, Europe, Russia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Cameroon, USA and Australia. There was a notable presence of deaf and hearing signers, and interpreting in American Sign Language and British Sign Language was provided throughout the summer school.

Financial support came from the Endangered Languages Academic Programme, the Endangered Language Fund, Cambridge University Press, the National Science Foundation, the Linguistics Association of Great Britain, the Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies, the SOAS Disability Office, and the Comité International Permanent des Linguistes (CIPL). Thirty-one full and partial scholarships were provided to students.

The two week summer school introduced principles and practices of language documentation and its links to language description for future and experienced field linguists. It drew upon the extensive expertise of the three organizing universities in the 3L Consortium: University of Lyon-2, Leiden University and SOAS, London.

The Comité International Permanent des Linguistes (CIPL) ran a one-day Conference on the Sociolinguistics of Language Endangerment, and a student Conference on Language Documentation and Description was organised by the SOAS Linguistics MA and PhD students.

Classes spanned a variety of topics, including:
- Amazonian languages (Françoise Rose, Lyon)
- Cariban languages (Eithne B. Carlin, Leiden)
- Caucasian languages (Denis Creissels, Lyon)
- Data and archiving (Edward Garrett and David Nathan, ELAR)
- Documenting sign languages: from field to archive (Victoria Nyst, Leiden; Adam Schembri, UCL and Edward Garrett, ELAR)
- Documenting special vocabulary (Raymond Mayer and Lolke Van der Veen, Lyon)
- Grammar writing (Maarten Mous, Leiden)
- Lexical semantics (Frederieke Lüpke and Stuart McGill, ELAP)
- Sociolinguistics of language endangerment (David Bradley, La Trobe University)
- Tone in Bantu languages (Nancy Kula, Essex University and Lutz Marten, SOAS)
- Communities and ethics (Peter K. Austin, ELAP)
- Data collection methods (Friederike Lüpke, ELAP)
- Digital language archiving (David Nathan, ELAR)
- Documenting sign languages (Adam Schembri, UCL)
- Issues in language documentation (Peter K. Austin, ELAP)
- Language documentation and linguistic theory (Peter Sells, SOAS)
- Language documentation and typology (Oliver Bond, ELAP)
- Language policy (Julia Sallabank, ELAP)

There were workshops on:
- Advanced audio (Tom Castle and David Nathan, ELAR)
- Advanced video (Jens Franz, SOAS and Michael Yorke, Upside Films)
- Applying for a research grant (Peter K. Austin, ELAP)
- Software tools (Mary Chambers and Stuart McGill, ELAP)
I am Eyasu Hailu, lecturer and sign language program coordinator in the Department of Linguistics and Philology, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. I lecture on sign linguistics and coordinate both regular and non-regular sign language activities. I did my BA and MA in general linguistics; my MA thesis was “Language Use in the African Union: A Sociolinguistic study.” However, I became interested in sign language issues when I worked as a lexicographer/linguist in a sign language dictionary project for a local NGO. As I had exposure to many deaf people, I easily learnt to communicate in Ethiopian Sign Language in a short period of time. Gradually, I developed my interest in research and findings of other countries about sign languages, mainly American Sign Language, British Sign Language and Australian Sign Language. My observations of the work done on other sign languages helped me to see the linguistic universals and issues specific to Ethiopian Sign Language.

Ethiopian Sign Language (EthSL) is one of the under-researched languages, among the 80 plus languages of Ethiopia. There is very little knowledge about EthSL among the public at large, and no proper documentation work done on it. If proper preservation is not made, the language will remain endangered.

I came to the 3L Summer School in order to:

- gain exposure to knowledge of language documentation and description.
- meet internationally renowned scholars in these areas
- network with the summer school attendees and exchange information

I was able to meet all these goals and also to give a conference paper on my research.
Endangered Languages Research Project
Documentation Programme
Grants Awarded 2009
Endangered Languages Week 2009

From 23rd to 28th February 2009 we ran our annual Endangered Languages Week at SOAS. Our aim was to highlight the issues of endangered languages and language documentation, with the theme for 2009 being “Endangered Languages: Who cares?” The week long activities publicised the HRELP project and the importance of its work, to both students and the general public.

This year activities included:

- **Languages vs species?** - A debate on priorities of preservation in an endangered world.
- **Meet an Endangered Language** - a series of short presentations on several endangered languages, where participants learned about where they are spoken, why they are threatened, and experienced their culture, as well as learning some basic words and phrases. Peter K. Austin presented on Gamilaraay (south-east Australia), Julia Sallabank on Guernésiais (Guernsey), Irina Nikolaeva on Khanty (north-west Siberia), and Oliver Bond on Eleme (south-east Nigeria).
- **Films** - a day of international films on endangered languages
- **Open day** – a one day popular event with a variety of displays, demonstrations, software, posters, and books from organisations involved in endangered languages activities. Displays included: Endangered Archives Programme, Foundation for Endangered Languages, Deafness, Cognition and Language Research Centre, Fondation Chirac, Center for Innovative Learning Technologies, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press and Multilingual Matters, as well as information tables by ELAP, ELAR and ELDP.
- **Poster Presentations** were given by ELAP students: Louise Ashmore, Mike Franjieh, Radu Voica, Stuart McGill and Pete Budd
- **Annual public lecture** by Bernard Spolsky (Bar-Ilan University) on “Rescuing Maori: the last 40 years”
- **Seminar** by Bernard Spolsky “Applying a model of language policy and management to endangered languages”
- **Two day workshop** on Beliefs and ideology for endangered languages organised by Peter K. Austin and Julia Sallabank. This involved presentations by SOAS staff and students, Bernard Spolsky (Bar-Ilan University), Tadhg Ó hídearnáin (University of Limerick), Jeanette King (University of Canterbury, NZ), Jessica Boynton (University of Western Australia), Jane Freeland (University of Southampton), Michel Bert & Colette Grinevald (Université de Lyon), Emily McEwan-Fujita (University of Pittsburgh), Lenore Grenoble (University of Chicago), Michael Walsh (University of Sydney), Olimpa Rasom (University of Bolzano/Bozen), Anahit Minasyan (UNESCO’s Endangered Languages Programme), and Salem Mezhoud (Foundation for Endangered Languages)
A two-day conference in Language Documentation and Linguistic Theory took place at SOAS on 13-14 November and was opened by Professor Nirmala Rao, Vice Principal at SOAS, and Professor Peter Sells, the Head of the Linguistics Department at SOAS.

The conference brought together researchers working on linguistic theory and language documentation and description, with a particular focus on innovative work on under described or endangered languages of Africa.

With 100 attendees, the conference was a great success. A total of 31 papers were presented (published in a book of proceedings made available to attendees), with two keynote addresses: Larry Hyman (University of California, Berkeley) ‘Good things come in small languages: grammatical loss and innovation in Nzadi’ and Tania Kuteva (Heinrich Heine Universität, Dusseldorf/SOAS) ‘Grammatical categories and linguistic theory’.

The conference also featured panel discussion ‘Is Africa really different? Documentation and theory construction for African languages’, which initiated some interesting debate involving panel members and the audience.

For further information and abstracts, see http://hrelp.org/events/ldlt2
Endangered Languages Academic Programme (ELAP)

ELAP is in its sixth year of operation and enrolled fourteen MA Language Documentation and Description students in September 2008. The new students came from a mixture of backgrounds. Some had previously completed BA degrees in linguistics, languages, and translation, while some came from teaching backgrounds and others had worked in industry. In September 2009, 17 new students joined the MA in Language Documentation and Description, the largest intake of MA students since ELAP began in 2004.

Five PhD students, Pete Budd, Mary Chambers, Stuart McGill, Chaitra Puttaswamy and Sophie Salffner completed their studies in 2009. Two new MPhil students joined the programme in October 2008: Alexander Cobbina and Mike Franjieh, who both moved into the PhD programme in October 2009. This year there are four new MPhil students, three of whom are graduates from our MA programme. The fourth student comes from Nepal:

- Simone Mauri is working on a Berber language spoken by a small community living in Libya. During the MPhil year in London he will study the structures of Berber languages and further improve his understanding of linguistic tools useful for data-collection in the field. During fieldwork in Libya planned for 2010, he aims to document as wide a range of linguistic genres as possible, with a focus on how aspectual distinctions are encoded.
- Tracey Caro Noya is working on Chamacoco, a Zamucoan language spoken in the Paraguayan Chaco. The Chamacoco are known for their rich and complex system of mythological and cultural representations, shaping their identity and social organisation. Their language, however, remains underdescribed. Tracey will research aspects of the verbal morphosyntax of Chamacoco.
- Charles Pigott is working on how, through verbal art (singing, storytelling, poetry etc.), Quechua/Spanish bilinguals index their identity in relation to the wider society. His fieldwork will be located in Ancash Department, Peru, and he plans to record a range of verbal performances, and conduct textual analysis of them. Language-choice, word-choice, and other rhetorical strategies will be examined to see how people align themselves to different social groups, affirming or re-configuring their identities.
- Narayan Sharma is conducting research on Puma, an endangered Tibeto-Burman language of Nepal with the goal of documenting and describing its complex verbal morphology. He has previously worked on Puma as part of a project based at the University of Leipzig.

Stuart McGill took up a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in October 2009 to continue research on Cicippu, a Niger-Congo language spoken in north-west Nigeria. Two post-doctoral researchers joined ELAP as visitors for the academic year September 2008-August 2009: Dr Aurora Donzelli (funded by a Portuguese research fellowship) and Dr Malin Petzell (funded by a Swedish research fellowship). Dr Petzell is continuing her project for the September 2009-August 2010 year. In October 2009 Professor Tania Kuteva joined ELAP as a Fodor Lynen Visiting Professor, funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (sponsored by Professor Austin). She will visit SOAS for six months a year for the next three years.

Volume 6 of Language Documentation and Description was published in Spring 2009 and a seventh volume is due in early 2010. The papers in Volume 6 covered issues in language documentation methodology, sociolinguistics and pedagogy for endangered languages, and software applications. A DVD was also produced containing Bernard Spolsky’s lecture Rescuing Maori – the last 40 years, presented during Endangered Languages Week 2009.

ELAP also began collaboration with the Foundation for Endangered Languages by publicising and selling their publications through the HRELP website. Some funds from the sales of these publications were kindly donated to create an FEL Scholarships to support one student undertaking next year’s Guernsey fieldwork trip.
Other Activities

ELAP ran a series of seminars throughout the period covered by this report, which were coordinated by Julia Sallabank. They included the following presentations on endangered languages:

7 October 2008
‘The Galoes grammar authoring environment’ Sebastian Nordhoff (Amsterdam)

14 October 2008
‘Dialectology in Iran’ Gerardo Barbera (ELAP)

21 October 2008
‘Hybridity versus revivability: The genesis of the Israeli language’ Ghil’ad Zuckermann (Queensland)

28 October 2008
‘A role for sociolinguistics in language documentation? The case of Northern Sumu in Nicaragua’s multilingual Caribbean Coast region’ Jane Freeland (Southampton)

11 November 2008
‘Ethnolinguistic distinctiveness: some social psychological data’ Itesh Sachdev (SOAS)

18 November 2008
‘Determining the syntax of an obsolescent language. A case study from the Channel Islands’ Mari Jones (Cambridge)

25 November 2008
‘Mathematical models of language shift’ Anne Kandler (UCL)

2 December 2008
‘An Introduction to the Araxes-Iran linguistic area’ Don Stilo (MPI Leipzig)

9 December 2008
‘The maintenance of small-language identities: sedentism and mobility as key factors in variation’ Peter Sutton (Adelaide/SA Museum)

13 January 2009
‘Dogs in space: putting language documentation on a sound footing’ David Nathan (ELAR)

27th January 2009
‘Issues in documenting sign languages’ Adam Schembri (UCL)

3 March 2009
‘Contact-induced change in Evenki’ Lenore Grenoble (Chicago)

20 October 2009
‘Expressions of futurity in the Vilamovicean language’ Alexander Andrason UCM (Madrid)

27 October 2009
‘Arandic songs: documenting Aboriginal verbal art in Central Australia’ Myfany Turpin (Griffith)

3 November 2009

17 November 2009
‘Body part applicatives in Murrinh-Patha (Australia)’ Rachel Nordlinger (Melbourne)

1 December 2009
‘A preliminary analysis of tone in Uwu’ Anja Choon (ELAP)

Launch of 1,000 Languages edited by Peter K. Austin
On 16 October 2009, Professor David Crystal (University of Wales, Bangor) launched Peter K. Austin’s edited volume 1,000 Languages, a beautifully designed, engagingly written panoramic tour of the globe exploring the language situation across the world’s geographical regions.

Workshop on Beliefs and Ideology
A 2-day of workshop took place 27-28 February 2009 with a total of 17 papers presented. (see page14).

Guernsey field trip
A 2-week field trip to Guernsey organised by Julia Sallabank during the Easter break. A group of 6 ELAP MA students attended and gained valuable hands-on field work experience. (see page5).

Teaching field linguistics techniques
A full day workshop organised by ELAP and the Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies took place on 22 May 2009 aimed at students interested in learning more about fieldwork, and staff who were considering how fieldwork might fit into the linguistics curriculum.

Teaching linguistic fieldwork and sustainability
A full day workshop organised by ELAP and the Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies took place on 4 December 2009 aimed at students interested in learning more about fieldwork and language sustainability. There were two strands – one for beginners with no experience of fieldwork, and one for advanced participants with some fieldwork experience. A total of 50 students and staff took part in the workshop.
Publications


Austin, Peter K., Oliver Bond, Monik Charette, David Nathan & Peter Sells (eds.) 2009 Proceedings of Conference on Language Documentation and Linguistic Theory 2. Department of Linguistics, SOAS


Bond, Oliver 2009 The locative-applicative in Eleme. Transactions of the Philological Society, 107, 1-30


Dobrin, Lise, Peter K. Austin & David Nathan 2009 ‘Dying to be counted: the commodification of endangered languages in language documentation’ In Language Documentation and Description, Volume 6, 37-52. London: SOAS

Hildebrandt, Kristine A. & Oliver Bond 2009 WALS in the university classroom, Linguistic Typology, 13, 181-191


Nikolaeva, Irina 2008 Chuvan and Omok languages? In A. Lubotzky et al. (eds.) Evidence and counter-evidence. Essays in honour of Frederik Kortlandt. 313-336 Amsterdam: Rodopi

Sallabank, Julia 2008 Motivating young people to learn endangered languages, in Tjerd de Graaf, Nicholas Ostler and Reinier Salverda (eds.) Endangered Languages and Language Learning. Papers from the XII Foundation for Endangered Languages Conference.


Conference presentations

Peter K. Austin
The good, the bad and the ugly: recent reference materials on Australian Aboriginal Languages, Australian Aboriginal Languages workshop, Kioloa, Australia, 20 February 2009
Some (personal) reflections on developments in linguistics over the past 10 years, University of Manchester, 24 April 2009
Issues in the synchrony and diachrony of case marking in the Mantharta and Kanyara languages, Australia, SKY conference on Case in and across languages, Helsinki, Finland, 27-29 August 2009
Syntax of Indonesian Languages, Course presented at Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute University of California Berkeley, California, 6-24 July 2009

The Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project, ESF EuroBABEL launch conference, Berlin, Germany,11-12 September 2009
Risk and the world’s linguistic diversity, SALT Forum, University of Uppsala, Sweden, 22 September 2009
What is your language footprint?, Linguistics Department, Uppsala University, Sweden, 23 September 2009
Documentation and revitalization of eastern Australian languages, Intangible Cultural Heritage conference, New Delhi, India, 23 October 2009
Language sciences in the 21st century, Public lecture, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, 26 October 2009
The ELAR archive model, Workshop on Language Archiving in the 21st Century, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, 27 October 2009
What is language documentation? Delhi University, New Delhi, India, 28 October 2009

Oliver Bond
Infrastructure requires a foundation: A base for the canons of negation, Workshop on Creating infrastructure for Canonical Typology, University of Surrey, 10 January 2009
Irreality and negation in the New Georgia linkage (with Mary Chambers), 4th Conference on Austronesian Languages and Linguistics, SOAS, 18 June 2009
A minimal definition of linguistic negation, Association for Linguistic Typology 8th Biennial Meeting, University of California, Berkeley, 26 July 2009
Eleme cognate objects: the source for denominalised unergative verbs?, 6th World
Congress of African Linguistics, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany, 20 August 2009

Selectional restrictions on Eleme cognate objects, Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain 2009, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, 9 September 2009

Mapping negation in conceptual space, Language Documentation and Linguistic Theory 2, SOAS, 13 November 2009

Friederike Lüpke
At the margin – African endangered languages in the context of global endangerment discourse, ELAP workshop on Ideologies and beliefs for endangered languages, SOAS, February 2009

Not cut to fit - zero-coded passives in African languages (with Alexander Cobbinah), World Congress of African Linguistics, Cologne University, Germany, 20 August 2009

We Bainouk speak the language of everybody else. On the multilingual practices of a Bainouk speech community, ESF workshop on Documenting convergence and diversity: Mande and Atlantic languages in contact, SOAS, September 2008

Irina Nikolaeva
Advanced possessor in the noun phrase, Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain, University of Essex, September 2008

Root Infinitive constructions. Predicate focus in Tundra Yukaghir (with Dejan Matic), Workshop on Predicate Focus, University of Potsdam, November 2008

Towards a typology of finiteness: a canonical approach, Workshop on Creating infrastructure for Canonical Typology, University of Surrey, 10 January 2009

Nominal tense in Northern Samoyedic, Surrey Morphology Group Meeting, University of Surrey, March 2009

Nouns and adjectives and adjectives as nouns (with Andrew Spencer), Workshop on Asymmetries and Universals, University of Konstanz, May 2009

Nominal mixed categories in Tungusic and beyond, Conference on historical-comparative linguistics: Turkic and Altaic, Moscow, June 2009

Noun-modifying construction in Eastern Uralic, Workshop on noun-modifying constructions in languages of Eurasia: Reshaping theoretical and geographical boundaries, Stanford University, July 2009

Exclamative as a universal speech act category, and A typology of polarity focus constructions (with Dejan Matic), Association for Linguistic Typology 8th Biennial Meeting, University of California, Berkeley, 26 July 2009

Julia Sallabank
Endangered language maintenance and revitalisation: issues of ‘authenticity’ and ‘correctness’ (with reference to varieties of French), University of Cambridge, 25 November 2008

Endangered language maintenance and revitalisation: the value of social networks, prestige planning and language attitudes (with reference to Guernsey, Channel Islands), University of Limerick, 12 February 2009

Motivating young people to learn endangered languages, Conference on Multilingualism, Regional & Minority Languages: Paradigms for Languages of the Wider World International Conference, SOAS, 16-17 April 2009

Language endangerment: problems and solutions, 7th Annual Conference Graduate School of Arts and Humanities, University of Glasgow, 9 June 2009

Endangered language maintenance and revitalisation: Social networks and language planning (with reference to Guernsey, Channel Islands), Conference on the Sociolinguistics of Language Endangerment, SOAS, 27 June 2009


Staff awards

Peter K. Austin
Funding for conference on ‘Beliefs and ideologies on endangered languages’, British Academy

Friederike Lüpke
Funding for exploratory workshop ‘Documenting convergence and diversity – Mande and Atlantic languages in contact’, SOAS, September 2008, European Science Foundation

Research leave ‘The Bainouk corpus: a first documentation of the Gunyaamolo variety of Bainouk (Atlantic, Casamance, Senegal)’, Arts and Humanities Research Council, September-December 2008

Julia Sallabank
ELDP small grant for Indigenous Language Documentation in Guernsey, Channel Islands (with Jan Marquis)

Funding for conference on ‘Beliefs and ideologies on endangered languages’, British Academy
ELAP staff and PhD graduates

For full staff profiles please visit the website www.hrelp.org/aboutus/staff

Academic staff

Professor Peter K. Austin
Peter Austin is Marit Rausing Chair in Field Linguistics and Director of the Endangered Languages Academic Programme. His research interests are language documentation and description, syntactic theory (Lexical Functional Grammar), morpho-syntactic typology, Australian Aboriginal languages, languages of eastern Indonesia.

Professor Tania Kuteva
Tania Kuteva is Professor of English Linguistics at the Heinrich-Heine-University of Duesseldorf, Germany and Feodor-Lynen Visiting Professor (funded by Alexander von Humboldt Foundation) in the SOAS Linguistics Department at SOAS between October 2009 and March 2012. She works on grammaticalization, language contact, grammatical typology, and language evolution.

Dr. Friederike Lüpke
Friederike Lüpk is Lecturer in Language Documentation and Description. Her research interests are argument structure and the syntax-semantics interface, Mande linguistics, contact phenomena between Mande and Atlantic languages, theory in description and documentation, and the role of Arabic-based scripts for writing African languages.

Dr. Gerardo Barbera
Gerardo Barbera is ELDP-funded post doctoral fellow, working on southern Iranian languages.

Dr. Oliver Bond
Oliver Bond is post-doctoral fellow in endangered languages. His research project, ‘NegTyp’, aims to contribute to a broader understanding of the properties of negation in language by capturing information relevant to negative constructions in terms of their morphosyntactic/prosodic realisation and the formal/semantic-pragmatic distinctions encoded.

Dr. Stuart McGill
Stuart McGill is a post-doctoral fellow in endangered languages. He is particularly interested in the documentation and description of the Kainji languages spoken in north-west Nigeria, and the interaction between discourse and grammar, typology, technology and language documentation, and phonology.

Dr. Irina Nikolaeva
Irina Nikolaeva is Lecturer in Language Documentation. Her research interests lie in syntax (information structure interface, the structure of noun phrases, relative clauses, mixed categories, the typology of agreement, and finiteness), morphology, typology, lexicalist theories of grammar, and the documentation of endangered languages of the Uralic, Altaic and Palaeosiberian groups.

Dr. Julia Sallabank
Julia Sallabank is Research Fellow in Language Support and Revitalisation. Julia’s research interests are primarily sociolinguistic, focussing on language revitalisation, motivating young generations, Guernesias, literacy practices in endangered languages, and their implications for language policy.

PhD Graduates

Chaithra Puttaswamy
Chaithra Puttaswamy completed the PhD in March 2009 with a dissertation entitled ‘A Descriptive Analysis of Verbs in Malto’, an endangered North Dravidian language spoken in north-east India. It includes a sketch grammar of the language, and a chapter on language contact (Malto is in contact with Indo-Aryan languages and the Munda language Santali). The thesis is the first documentation of Malto. Chaithra is now employed at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India.

Mary Chambers
Mary Chambers completed the PhD in July 2009 with a dissertation ‘Which way is up? Spatial reference in Kubokota, Solomon Islands’, a documentation and description of Kubokota, an Austronesian language of the Solomon Islands. She has developed various practical products for use by the language community, including dictionaries, literacy materials and other literature.

Stuart McGill
Stuart McGill completed the PhD in September 2009 with a dissertation on agreement in Cicipu, a Kainji language spoken in northwest Nigeria, showing how discourse topicality influences speakers’ choice between the two paradigms of gender and person agreement. Since Cicipu is previously undescribed, the dissertation includes a sketch phonology and grammar.

Sophie Salffner
Sophie Salffner completed her PhD entitled “Tone in the phonology, lexicon and grammar of Ikaan”, which is an account of the role of tone in the phonology, lexicon, morphosyntax and at the grammar-phonology interface in Ikaan, a dialect of Ukaan spoken in two villages in southwestern Nigeria. In 2007, the Akaan people and Sophie worked together on a small booklet of Ikaan proverbs, riddles and a story written in a trial orthography.

Peter Budd
Peter Budd’s dissertation “Realis/irrealis and other topics in the grammar of Bierebo, Central Vanuatu” is a comprehensive study of the forms and uses of verbs in Bierebo, an endangered Oceanic language spoken on Epi Island, Vanuatu. It also includes a grammatical overview of other aspects of the language.
Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR)

The Endangered Languages Archive provides digital archiving and associated services for ELDP grantees, ELAP staff and students, 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)**

### Materials received by ELAR 2008/9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depositor</th>
<th>ELDP grant number</th>
<th>Project Language</th>
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<td>Anvita Abbi</td>
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<td>Anthony Woodbury</td>
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ELAR in 2008-9

The beginning of 2009 saw two major developments in ELAR’s archiving infrastructure. We purchased a 48 terabyte NAS storage unit to consolidate data storage and cater for our projected increase of data storage needs for the next three years. Tom Castle designed a new data curation workflow, taking advantage of the storage hardware that provides fast, transparent access to the data. Edward Garrett led the development of the ELAR catalogue, based on a Drupal content management system with a customised and innovative “Web 2.0” approach to access management. The catalogue was launched at the end of December 2008. Its second stage, providing user accounts to depositors, including facilities to edit and update catalogue entries, went live in February 2009. Development to enable safe access to data, observing depositors’ access conditions, is under way and will be in operation in early 2010.

Alex Clouter (SOAS network team) now provides consultancy for development and maintenance of the ELAR data and server infrastructure. Several ELAP students, including Louise Ashmore and Mike Franjieh, worked on an occasional basis in the archive.

This year ELAR received documentation materials for deposit from the following grantees: Anvita Abbi, Jonathan Amith, Dorte Borchers, Anna Bugaeva, Gabriela Caballero, Mary Chambers, Anja Choon, Greville Corbett, Nick Drayson, Andrej Filchenko, Tom Gueldemann, Valerie Guerin, David Harrison, Elena Indjieva, Carina Jahani, Carmen Jany, Trevor Johnston, Tej Ratna Kansakar, Ana Kondic, Nariyo Kono, Stuart McGill, Michelle Morrison, Tam Nguyen, Gilles Polian, Ruth Singer, Saskia van Putten, Joshua Wilbur, Robert Williams, Anthony Woodbury.

ELAR participated in running international and local workshops at SOAS, and a documentary linguistics workshop in Tokyo. ELAR staff advised a large number of ELDP grantees and others about equipment and preparing data for archiving, and advised on the selection, purchase and allocation of equipment for ELAP staff and students. David Nathan assisted the ELDP Grant Panel with assessing applications, advising on equipment and documentation methodology. Tom and David gave guest lectures to ELAP students on archiving, audio recording, and multimedia.

Tom Castle designed posters and materials for Endangered Languages Week, the Conference on Language Documentation and Linguistic Theory, and other public events, and designed and formatted both Language Documentation and Description 6 and this Annual report. ELAR co-ordinates the HRELP website team of David Nathan and Alison Kelly. The website contains over 1,300 documents, ranks highly in search engines, and receives an average of 200,000 hits per month.

Outreach activities included participation in the exhibition Living Language, which ran in early 2009 at the East Gallery, London, and included displays on Endangered Languages, Sign Languages, and The Languages of London, together with interactive multimedia installations provided by ELAR.

David Nathan appeared in two episodes of the BBC World Service program: Numbers that made the world (On the linguistics of numbers in the world’s languages) on 2nd and 9th September 2009. He also appeared on 28th October 2009 on SBS Australian National News in a report on the launch of the Dawes Project website.

ELAR maintains the Raising Room, a public area for ELAR clients, ELAP staff and students, and other visitors and trainees. It is equipped with five workstations with specialised hardware and software for various linguistics, documentation and archiving tasks. Media devices such as audio and video digitising units and scanners are also available. There is a small but growing library of books on topics such as audio, video, designing web pages, XML etc. Many local and international scholars used the facilities this year.

ELAR continues active participation in the academic community. David Nathan published papers and gave lectures, presentations and training at national and international events. As part of the international DELAMAN group of archives, we are working towards proposing standards for citing archive deposits and corpora. David participated in an international summit on endangered languages at Salt Lake City in November 2009.
**Publications**


**Dobrin, Lise M., Peter K. Austin & David Nathan** 2008 Dying to be counted: the commodification of endangered languages in documentary linguistics, Language Documentation and Description Vol 6, 37-52. London: SOAS


**Conference presentations and plenary lectures**

**David Nathan**

Dogs in space: putting documentary linguistics on sound footing. Annual Conference of the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA). Sydney, 14-19 September 2008

Language documentation and pedagogy: seeking outcomes and accountability (with Meili Fang), Conference on Languages and Language Learning, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands, 26 September 2008.

Archiving language materials, plenary lecture, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, 9 February 2009

The soundness of documentation: towards an epistemology for audio in documentary linguistics, International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation, Hawaii, 14 March 2009

A performance approach to second/third language teaching and learning (with Meili Fang), Conference on Multilingualism, Regional & Minority Languages: Paradigms for Languages of the Wider World, SOAS, 17 April 2009

From diskspace to MySpace: a model for a specialised languages archive, Workshop on Digital Speech and Language Archives, UCL, 30 April 2009

Archives 2.0 for endangered languages: from diskspace to MySpace, Digital Resources in the Humanities and the Arts Conference, Queens University, Belfast, 9 September 2009

ELAR: applying social networking principles to solving key problems in archiving and sharing endangered languages materials, Endangered Languages Information Infrastructure Project, University of Utah, 13 November 2009

Multimedia for endangered languages. Department of Linguistics, University of Utah, 20 November 2009

ELAR Staff

For full details of ELAR staff members' interests see www.hrelp.org/aboutus/staff

David Nathan
David Nathan is Director of ELAR, leading the development of the archive, and actively involved in the technical and academic aspects of digital archiving. He is interested in the role of media in documentation, and multimedia representation of language materials for documentation and revitalisation.

Thomas Castle
Tom Castle is Digital Technician and manages ELAR’s data transfer, back-up systems, and the student resources in the Raising Room. He contributes to data curation and ELAP and ELDP training activities.

Edward Garrett
Ed Garrett is Software Developer, creating software enabling linguists, community members, and others to query, access, deposit to, and administer the ELAR collection.

Bernard Howard
Bernard Howard is Technical Officer. He manages the Linguistic Resources Room and provides technical support to assist staff and students with recording and digitising. He also writes reviews of recording equipment and helps with equipment support for ELAP fieldwork students and ELAR and ELDP training events.

Dawes digitisation project

This project is a collaboration between ELAR, the SOAS Library, and the New South Wales State Government. A pair of slim notebooks written by Lieutenant William Dawes in 1790–1, held in SOAS Library Special Collections, contains the major source of information about the Aboriginal language of Sydney, Australia. ELAR with Susannah Rayner (SOAS Library) made archive-quality images of the notebooks, created new transcriptions using state-of-the-art corpus tagging techniques, and published a book and website making these rare and important resources available to indigenous communities and the general public. Stuart Brown (ELAP alumnus) did the corpus work, Tom Castle designed the book, Nancia Guivarra designed the website, Christy Henshaw took the photographs, Michael Franjieh (ELAP student) was research assistant, and David Nathan wrote the general text, undertook community consultations, and coordinated the project which was launched in October 2009 at Macquarie University in conjunction with its Warawara Department of Indigenous Studies and the Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation. For more information see www.williamdawes.org.
This document is the seventh 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, Tom Castle & Bernard Howard except where stated otherwise.
Cover background photograph by Dr Friederike Lüpke.
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