

**The Society for the Study of the
Indigenous Languages of the Americas**

SSILA BULLETIN

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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Correspondence should be directed to the Editor

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96.0 SSILA BUSINESS

SSILA website problems solved at last

The SSILA website returned to full functionality on September 28 -- for the first time in over a month all of the searchable databases at the site were accessible. Our webmaster, Autumn Bouck, and I both apologize for any inconvenience this problem has caused you. As we noted earlier, it resulted from a software problem on the server, and it was necessary to locate and install an alternative to the search script we had previously used.

We would also like to remind you that the site can now be reached by pointing your browser to the domain name now registered to SSILA (<http://www.ssila.org>). Pointers to this web address are automatically forwarded to our homepage at <http://trc2.ucdavis.edu/ssila>.

96.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Re: UNESCO grants

- From Robin Shoaps (shoaps@umail.ucsb.edu) 24 Sep 1999:

I am writing in response to the queries about UNESCO's endangered language grants. I also received word from them that my project was chosen for funding, almost a year after I submitted my application. Initially, I was told I was "eligible" for funding, in a letter that requested further information, which I never was able to send (I did some of the fieldwork before hearing from them and ended being unable to leave the country for a second trip due to school obligations, and thus was unsure of when I would be able to carry out the remainder). Because I never responded to their request for more information, I did not expect to hear from them again. But they surprised me by sending me a check (albeit for a lesser sum than what I had requested). I corresponded with someone at <cipsh@UNESCO.org>. The whole process took over a year. You too may be about to receive a grant from them!

~Robin Shoaps
San Francisco, California
(shoaps@umail.ucsb.edu)

- From Marcus Maia (maia@acd.ufrj.br) 7 Oct 1999:

Thanks to your information on UNESCO grants, I have also got an e-mail message from someone at CISPHE within the last few days, acknowledging receipt of my project (the organization of a Karaja dictionary).

~Marcus Maia
Museu Nacional-UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL
(maia@acd.ufrj.br)

Support sought for endangered languages workshop

- From Tammy Stenner (inti@mail.cosapidata.com.pe) 29 Sep 1999:

I am writing to request support for the organization of an international conference on endangered languages. The Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Network (IPBN) and the Quechua-Aymara Association for Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods (ANDES) are currently seeking support to organize a workshop on the preservation of endangered languages to take place in June 2000, in Cusco, Peru.

IPBN is an association of indigenous peoples and indigenous peoples' organizations working towards the common goal of nurturing biological diversity for the benefit of indigenous communities and humankind as a whole. The IPBN is active in issues of indigenous knowledge,

intellectual property and cultural survival. ANDES is a non-profit indigenous organization based in Cusco. It works with indigenous communities in southern Peru in culturally based development and conservation initiatives. ANDES focuses its work in the conservation and sustainable use of Andean biological resources and the strengthening of the culture and traditional knowledge of Andean peoples. The workshop's goal is to support indigenous peoples' struggles to conserve and promote their languages and conserve biological and cultural diversity. To achieve that goal the workshop will provide a forum to exchange experiences and information, as well as explore new strategies for language conservation. It is also hoped that dissemination of the results of the workshop will raise awareness among the general public.

We are seeking support to organize the workshop, and in particular we are looking for materials which could assist in workshop discussions. We would welcome reference materials, books, magazines, databases and any other materials which could help us to have quality information to prepare the workshop, and in the future provide an information centre for indigenous peoples active in language conservation issues.

~Tammy Stenner, Workshop Coordinator
Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Network
Box 567, Cusco, Peru
(ipbn@web.net)

Bow-wow

- From Beverly Slapin (oyate@oyate.org) 6 Oct 1999:

I've received a peculiar request from a woman who's writing a children's book about animal sounds. She would like to know how the sounds of certain animals are said in a wide variety of languages, including Native American languages. For instance, the written English renditions of the sounds a dog makes are "woof-woof," "arf-arf," and "bow-wow." So she wants some sounds from different Native languages for the following animals: dog, pig, rooster, chicken, horse, bird, frog, and cat. Anyone want to contribute to this? If so, please send your remarks to me, and I will forward them to her. Thanks.

~Beverly Slapin
Berkeley, California
(oyate@oyate.org)

96.2 HANDBOOK MAP NOW AVAILABLE FOR SEPARATE PURCHASE

Copies of the map of “Native Languages and Language Families of North America” that accompanies volume 17 (Languages) of the Smithsonian’s Handbook of North American Indians are now available for separate purchase through the University of Nebraska Press. (It is announced in their most recent catalogue, as well as at their website: www.nebraskapress.com).

The map has been reprinted in two formats:

- (1) a folded study map identical to the one in the pocket of HNAI 17 (\$14.95); and
- (2) a larger wall display map, which includes somewhat more detail than the original (\$19.95).

Amazon.com is offering the latter at a 30% discount, making it the better buy if you have the space for it. It is also suitable for classroom use. (At the Amazon.com website look it up under the name of the compiler, Ives Goddard.)

96.3 POSITIONS OPEN

U of Pittsburgh (2 positions)

- From Alan Juffs (juffs+@pitt.edu) 6 Oct 1999:

The Univ. of Pittsburgh, Dept. of Linguistics, invites applications for two tenure track positions beginning fall 2000. One appointment will be at the assistant professor level and one may be at the associate professor level if a candidate has the appropriate experience and an established national reputation. Both positions are subject to budgetary approval. Women and members of under-represented minority groups are especially encouraged to apply. Applicants must have a solid training in linguistic description and analysis, as well as competence in one or more of the following areas: American Indian Languages, sociolinguistics and/or sociology of language, and descriptive linguistics. Preference will be given to candidates with language breadth and/or expertise in computational or quantitative methodologies. Candidates should send a CV (including a list of funded research if applicable), a statement of research and teaching interests, copies of 2 reprints or other written work, teaching evaluations (if available), and the names of three references. Reference letters should be sent directly to the search committee. Send materials to: Search Committee, Dept. of Linguistics, 2816 CL, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260; (412) 624 5900; Fax (412) 624 6130. E-mail inquiries should be directed to Alan Juffs, Chair, at juffs+@pitt.edu. The web page for the Department is <http://www.linguistics.pitt.edu/>. To ensure full consideration, complete applications should be received by December 1, 1999. Preliminary interviews will be held at the LSA/SSILA meeting in Chicago in January 2000.

The University of Pittsburgh is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity employer.

Native American literature at Cornell

A tenure track position in Native American literature and culture is open at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, at the rank of Assistant or beginning Associate Professor, beginning in August, 2000. The appointee will have the opportunity to work with both undergraduate and graduate (including doctoral) students. Teaching responsibilities will be divided equally between the American Indian Program and the Department of English. The American Indian Program emphasizes engagement with American Indian communities and support for American Indian students at Cornell. The position will be tenurable in the Department of English. Please send letter of application, CV, dossier, and writing sample to: Harry E. Shaw, Chair, Department of English, 256 Goldwin Smith Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-3201.

American Indian literature at the U of New Hampshire

- From Prof. Brigitte Bailey (bgb@cisunix.unh.edu) 9 Sep 1999:

The University of New Hampshire, Department of English, announces a tenure-track position at the level of Assistant or Associate Professor in American Indian and/or Western American literature, with possible interests in Chicano/a Studies, Ecocriticism, or Critical Race Theory. Teaching responsibilities range from undergraduate surveys to graduate seminars. Applicants may be interested in working with one or more interdisciplinary programs: African American Studies; American Studies; Women's Studies; Studies in Race, Culture, and Power; Cinema Studies; or Gay and Lesbian Studies (proposed). As these areas indicate, the Department is looking for applicants with interests in curriculum and faculty development and in contributing to their efforts to foster awareness of diversity in the university community. The Ph.D. must be completed by August 2000. Send letter, dossier, vita, and self-addressed stamped envelope by November 14, 1999 to: American Indian/ Western American Literature Search Committee, English Dept., Univ. of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824. Women and minority candidates are urged to apply. UNH is an AA/EEO employer.

96.4 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Siouan list and archives

For the past year, John E. Koontz has been operating a list for the discussion of Siouan languages and linguistics. All interested readers of the SSILA Bulletin are welcome to join in. To subscribe and/or to search the archives, please visit the Siouan Languages Mailing List page that is maintained by the Linguist List: <http://listserv.linguistlist.org/archives/siouan.html>
Archiving and public access to the list are courtesy of Linguist List.

‘Aha Punana Leo

- From Bill Wilson (pila_w@leoki.uhh.hawaii.edu) 1 Oct 1999:

I want to make SSILA members aware of a new web site for the ‘Aha Punana Leo, the Hawaiian “language nest” organization. It is located at <http://www.ahapunanaleo.org>

‘Aha Punana Leo is often said to have the most developed set of Native American language revitalization programs in the United States. Our organization assists Native Hawaiians and indigenous peoples worldwide who share our quest to maintain and develop traditional languages and cultures for life today. From a pioneer group of language nest immersion preschools, the ‘Aha Punana Leo has evolved into a non-profit Native Hawaiian family-based educational corporation serving students and family members of all ages with a multitude of programs and functions. Our website is fully bilingual. You may browse in either Hawaiian or English. To switch between the two languages, you click a “Switch To Hawaiian” button on the navigational bar. Hawaiian fonts can be downloaded free of charge.

Indian Circle (web ring)

“Indian Circle” is a new web ring, maintained by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, intended to connect the Internet web pages of all federally recognized American Indian tribes in the US. The address is: <http://www.indiancircle.com/>

As of October 2, the web ring had 22 members, but one of the pages at the site has a complete list of all federally recognized tribes and their official websites, whether or not they are fully participating members of the ring. The site also has links to American Indian newspapers, magazines, publications, and media; to the texts of tribal and state compacts; and to a number of informational pages.

[FYI, a “web ring” organizes web sites with similar content by linking them together in a circle, or ring. Once you are at one site in the ring, you can click on a “Next” or “Previous” link to go to adjacent sites and--if you do it long enough--end up where you started. For more information, visit www.webring.org.]

Still more Chinook Jargon

- From Jeffrey Kopp (jeffkopp@teleport.com) 3 Oct 1999:

Several more dictionaries have been added to the “Tenas Wawa” web site (www.geocities.com/~tenaswawa/dictnote.htm) this month, most of them gleaned from U Toronto/Canadiana.org. These include:

- Francois Norbert Blanchet, “Dictionary of the Chinook Jargon, to Which is Added Numerous Conversations, Thereby Enabling Any Person to Speak Chinook Correctly” (Portland, Oregon) [1869?].
- J.B. Good, “A Vocabulary and Outlines of Grammar of the Nitlakapamuk or Thompson Tongue, Together with a Phonetic Chinook Dictionary, Adapted for use in the Province of British Columbia” (Victoria, 1880).
- [Hibben & Carswell,] “Dictionary of Indian Tongues, Containing Most of the Words and Terms Used in the Tshimpsean, Hydah, & Chinook, with Their Meaning or Equivalent in the English Language” (Victoria, 1862).
- [Hudson Bay Employee,] “Chinook Jargon: Language used by the Different Indian Tribes-- French and Half-Breeds of Frazer’s River, Puget Sound and Surrounding Country, as the Means of Conversation with Americans” [by an ‘Old employee, formerly of the Hudson Bay Company’] [18??].
- [Hutchings & Rosenfield,] “Vocabulary of the Chinook Jargon: The Complete Language Used by the Indians of Oregon, Washington Territory and British Possessions” (San Francisco, 1860).
- J.M.R. LeJeune, “Practical Chinook Vocabulary Comprising all & the only usual words of that wonderful Language arranged in a most advantageous order for the speedy learning of the same, after the plan of Right Rev. Bishop Durieu, O.M.I., the most experienced Missionary & Chinook speaker in British Columbia.” (Kamloops, B.C., 1886).
- Granville Stuart, “A Dictionary of the Chinook Jargon, in Use Among the Tribes of Oregon, Washington Territory, British Columbia, and the North Pacific Coast, with Critical and Explanatory Notes” [1865?].
- Victor Henry, “Esquisse d’une grammaire de la langue innok: etudiee dans le dialecte des Tchiglit du Mackenzie, d’apres la grammaire et le vocabulaire Tchiglit du R.P. Petitot” [Paris? 1878?].
- Fr. LeJeune’s “Chinook Rudiments” (1924 version, in its entirety as scanned page images).

Discussion list & webpage for minority language technology

- From Briony Williams (briony@cstr.ed.ac.uk) 6 Oct 1999:

The start of the new academic year sees the start of the “Speech and Language Technology for Minority Languages” (SALTMIL), a Special Interest Group within ESCA (now ISCA). This group has now been approved, and can begin activities, as follows.

1) E-mail discussion list

The first activity is an e-mail discussion list. As a preliminary measure, a new list has been created at the US website <www.onelist.com> To subscribe to the SALTMIL discussion group, you can do one of two things:

a) Point your web browser to <http://www.onelist.com/community/saltmil> and follow the link to subscribe;

or

b) Send a blank email to saltmil-subscribe@onelist.com A message with further details will be automatically sent to you. This list is free, but carries commercial advertising in a brief section at the end of each message. However, until we can migrate to a non-commercial server this will be adequate. The discussions can be followed through email, and also through a Web browser at the Onelist site.

2) SALTMIL web page

The provisional SALTMIL website is currently at <http://www.cstr.ed.ac.uk/SALTMIL>

Please send any material you would like to add to the web pages to: <briony@cstr.ed.ac.uk>.

This could include details of your work, or a link to your web pages.

We hope very much that you will join in the discussions and share your knowledge and experience with others who are also working in the field of speech and language technology for minority languages.

~Briony Williams, Centre for Speech Technology Research, U of Edinburgh

~Clement Nadeu, U Politecnica de Catalunya, Spain

~Donncha O' Cro'ini'n, Linguistics Institute of Ireland

96.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Beck, David dbeck@umich.edu
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Willie, Mary Ann mwillie@u.arizona.edu