

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

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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173.0 SSILA Business

* A new website at last
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>From Ardis R Eschenberg (are2@acsu.buffalo.edu)

The SSILA website has (finally!) moved to a site sponsored by the University at Buffalo. It's still at <www.SSILA.org>, but the underlying address has changed, so you should reset your bookmarks.

Due to a change in server type, all of the pages had to be re-created, but we have attempted to keep as much continuity as possible with the former site.) The databases are all completely up to date, as are the conference pages. The homepage addresses that you have been sending us have been incorporated into the Directory listings.

Please check out the new site and send us your comments or suggestions.

--Ardis Eschenberg
SSILA Website Manager
(are2@acsu.buffalo.edu)

* Seeing the Bulletin double
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Wa apologize for the duplicate copies of the Bulletin that you have been receiving recently. The problem is, once again, with automatic

spam protection. The problem may be at our end, at the University of Oregon server. We hope to figure it out soon. Meanwhile, we are sorry for the mailbox clutter.

173.1 SOAS Endangered Languages Program Invites Grant Applications

From Jacqueline Arrol-Barker (info@eldp.soas.ac.uk) 2 Aug 2002:

The Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, which has recently been established at SOAS with support from the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund, has published its first invitation to apply for funding. Full details of the programme and application forms are available on the ELDP web page:

<http://www.eldp.soas.ac.uk>

A general summary is appended below.

Please direct any queries to myself (contact details below) or to my colleague, Mrs Maureen Gaskin (m.gaskin@eldp.soas.ac.uk).

The deadline for submission of preliminary applications is 11 October 2002.

--Jacqueline Arrol-Barker
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Endangered Languages Documentation Programme
School of Oriental and African Studies
University of London

The objective of the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme is twofold: (1) to encourage the development of linguistic fieldwork in endangered languages, especially by younger scholars with a grounding in linguistic theory, who will thereby also be provided with support between basic graduate work and the possible assumption of university positions; and (2) to support the documentation of as many threatened languages as possible, focused on where the danger of extinction is greatest, facilitating the preservation of culture and knowledge, and creating repositories of data for the linguistic and social sciences, and of course for indigenous communities. Such documentation should, therefore, have regard not only to the formal content and structure of languages, but also to the varied social and cultural contexts within which languages are used. In addition to the intellectual quality of applications, principal grounds for support will be the degree of

endangerment, the urgency of the issues, and the extent to which the grant promises to develop expertise in as well as knowledge of field linguistics and endangered languages.

In general, documentation projects supported by the Programme must be:

- Accessible and usable, both to members of the language community and to the wider scientific community.
- Secure against abuse, to protect the rights of the community originating the data.
- Permanent, to guarantee long-term survival of the data.
- Cumulative, to allow existing data to be supplemented and annotated.
- Focused on languages whose continued existence is most at risk.
- Comprehensive, to include records of the widest possible range of linguistic data (in as wide a variety of social and cultural uses as possible) currently available, including audio, video, written materials, grammatical descriptions, monolingual and bilingual lexicography.
- Built on common notation standards, which presuppose as little as possible about the content of the data or the specific purposes to which they can be put, but also allow an optimum level of practical access.
- Presented to the public worldwide, in the interests of attracting support and emulation to tackle the vast problem of language endangerment. (However, access will be restricted for up to three years after the period of data gathering and collation to allow for scholarly use of the material by the grant holder.)

Projects may be undertaken by research teams or individuals (including suitably qualified graduate students). As a truly international programme, there is no restriction on either the nationality of applicants or the region(s) where the proposed documentation research is to be undertaken.

In all instances the applicant(s) should have, or be in a position to develop, a formal link with a university or comparable research institution. The university/research institution will be expected to administer the grant, be responsible for its proper expenditure, and submit regular and authenticated accounts of the expenditure.

The core of the program will be grants to support projects for the documentation of individual or closely related endangered languages. There are three main types of grants:

-- Postdoctoral Fellowship applications will be entertained from individuals seeking their own support costs for up to two years (or if adequately justified, three years) duration. In addition to fieldwork costs, salary costs for the period may be sought. It is anticipated that all postdoctoral fellowship applicants will be academically junior and/or young researchers.

--Graduate Studentship applications will be entertained from individuals seeking their own support costs for up to two years (or if adequately justified, three years) duration. In addition to field trip costs, a stipend may be sought to cover the period while undertaking field research and processing the results. Support is only available to individuals who (at the time the award is due to commence) will have

successfully completed appropriate graduate training extending over at least one year.

--Major Documentation Project applications by an established principal investigators will be entertained. Such applications could involve a number of elements including fieldwork, salary costs of one or more researchers and stipend costs of graduate students (while engaged in the field and processing work) whose doctoral work will contribute to the project as a whole. Applicants may request support for between six months and three years. In exceptional cases support for four years may be considered.

Applications for small as well as fairly large grants will be considered.

In addition to the three main types of grant, in exceptional circumstances applications may be submitted for relatively brief fieldwork, between 6 and 12 months duration, and pilot project applications may be submitted for the purposes of assessing and demonstrating the feasibility of a larger project.

It is expected that for each of the three main types of grants outlined above, at least a survey grammar and dictionary will be produced, where these do not already exist.

Applications will be considered once a year. The deadline for the first competition for grants will be 11 October 2002, and decisions will be taken in February 2003, although this timetable may vary in future years.

Applications will be considered in two stages. In the first instance applicants should submit a completed Preliminary Application Form, a copy of which can be obtained at the ELDP website (www.eldp.soas.ac.uk). In this first round Preliminary Applications must be received no later than 11 October 2002.

Invitations to a limited number of applicants to submit detailed applications will be despatched no later than the end of November 2002. The closing date for receipt of detailed applications will be about 10 January 2003. However, these dates may be extended in light of changing circumstances. For the structure and content of the detailed application, please consult the ELDP website (www.eldp.soas.ac.uk).

All applications will be assessed by a small international panel, selected to serve in their capacity as scholars and researchers in the field. The members are: Barry Supple (Chair), U of Cambridge; Peter K Austin, U of Melbourne; Richard Hayward, SOAS; William Foley, U of Sydney; Yolanda Lastra, UNAM; Johanna Nichols, UC Berkeley; and Anthony C Woodbury, U of Texas. The Director of the SOAS Academic Project on Endangered Languages will serve ex officio

Based on its assessment, the panel will submit its final recommendations to the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund. In making its assessments at the detailed application stage, the panel may consult independent referees.

Grants will be announced by late February 2003. The earliest possible starting date for any project is April 2003. Projects must commence within 12 months of the date of the offer letter.

In addition to creating local repositories of data for the linguistic and social sciences, it will be a requirement of funding that the outcomes of all projects--including copies of recordings and videos--will be ultimately deposited within the ELDP Central Archive which is to be housed at SOAS. The outcomes should also be placed on a website.

Applications for extensions of existing grants will not normally be accepted. Applications for supplementary grants will only be accepted in exceptional cases.

For further information and application forms, visit the ELDP website at:

<http://www.eldp.soas.ac.uk>

173.2 E-mail Address Updates

The following additions or changes have been made to the SSILA mailing list since the last Bulletin:

Gustafson, Bret D. bdgustaf@artsci.wustl.edu
Koerner, Konrad elk.koerner@uni-koeln.de (after 8/15)
Linn, Mary S. mshinn@ou.edu
Nichols, Lynn lnich@socrates.berkeley.edu
Zuniga, Fernando zuniga@rz.uni-leipzig.de

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