

Archives, Access & Engagement in Language Documentation

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The focus of my workshop is on how communities and scholars interact with and use language archives and online collections, and how digital resources are being used to connect and revitalize linguistic and cultural practices. I will structure the workshop in three sections.

First, I will reflect critically on the 15 years that I have spent directing two international, interdisciplinary collaborative research initiatives—the Digital Himalaya and World Oral Literature Projects. The **Digital Himalaya Project** was established in 2000 as a platform for the collection, storage and distribution strategies for multimedia anthropological information from the Himalayan region. In 2009, I established the **World Oral Literature Project**, an initiative to encourage collaboration between local communities and fieldworkers in the collection and preservation of all forms of oral literature. Both of projects hold large collections of linguistic and ethnographic materials in their online archives and have been used in unexpected ways by Indigenous and originating communities around the world. I will illustrate the collections and demonstrate the architecture of the sites, and discuss issues of sustainability and metadata in practical ways.

Second, I will discuss how scholars can **mobilize their knowledge** and understandings of Indigenous and endangered languages in productive ways **outside of the academy**. I will draw on my own experience in radio, in the United Nations and in international advocacy networks to illustrate ways to connect and engage with wider audiences.

Finally, I turn to the practice of teaching language documentation, conservation and revitalization **within university contexts**. Institutions provide many fertile opportunities, as well as some challenges, for collaborative, community-based work, certainly in terms of recognition, promotion and tenure. Yet universities are also exciting places of ingenuity, strategy and partnership, and I will reflect on some initiatives at UBC that I have experienced over the past year that I believe offer compelling models of an Indigenized campus.