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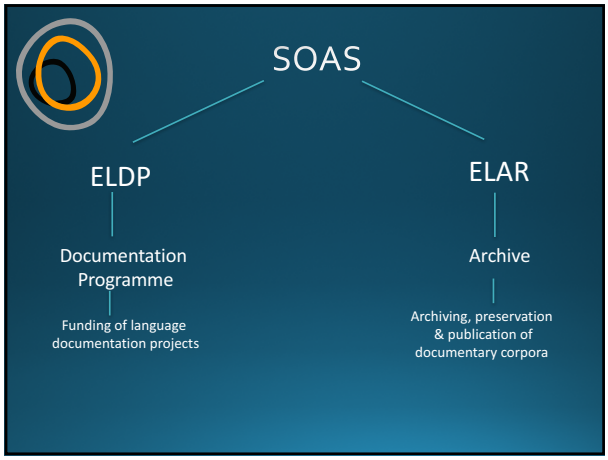
What we do…

- 7000 languages in the world today and half of these will have fallen silent
- Many of these languages have never been recorded and we are losing our linguistic diversity
- 16 years ago SOAS was given a donation to preserve our language diversity, the Hans Rausing Endangered Language Project was set up



ELDP's mandate…

- to support the documentation of as many endangered languages as possible
- to encourage fieldwork on endangered languages, especially by younger scholars with skills in language documentation
- to create a repository of resources for the linguistic, social science, and the language communities

Funding (-2016) by Area

Language_Region	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
North America	1	2	3	4	1	4	1	2	1	1	2				22
Central America & Caribbean	1	1	3	2	4	4	9	1	3	3	4	1	2	3	41
South America	7	1	2	4	2	5	6	4	3	5	4	6	5	2	56
Europe					1	1	1			1	1		1	1	7
Africa	1	4	1	4	7	8	5	6	14	11	6	5	6	5	83
Middle East				1	1	5	1	2	1		3	1		2	17
Asia	7	8	7	4	10	7	7	5	7	9	8	3	5	7	94
Oceania	4	4	3	6	7	4	5	9	6	6	4	9	3	7	77
Grand Total	21	20	19	25	33	38	35	29	35	36	32	25	22	27	397

What we fund…

- Linguistic documentation of endangered languages
- Contain a variety of projects
  - Language documentation (Himmelmann & Woodbury)
  - Songs with a linguistic component
  - Ethno botanical documentation (interdisciplinary)
  - Ritual speech events (e.g., religious chanting, ceremonies…)

What we do not fund…

- Revitalisation projects
- Purely scientific projects
- Conference travel
- Publication of research publications
- Advocacy materials
- Teaching materials
- Website development
- Professional filmmaking
- Bridges and hospitals and bookshelves

Grant types

- Small grants (up to £10 000): up to 1 year
- Individual Graduate Scholarships: up to 3 years
- Individual Post-doctoral fellowships: up to 2 years
- Major Documentation Project: up to 3 years; maximum amount of funding £150 000

How to prepare…

- Read the guidelines carefully
- Study the website carefully (www.eldp.net)
- LD&C Hawaii: language documentation and conservation; open access journal
- Essentials of language documentation
- Language Documentation and Linguistic Description
- Cambridge Handbook of Endangered Languages
- Contact grantees and alumni and other specialists
- Organize grant writing workshops
- Network, network, network….
- Proofread, show carefulness in application preparation

What do we want to know

- Why: why is this project important?
- Why NOW: why do we have to do this now or can it wait?
  - Language endangerment
  - Linguistic uniqueness/contribution
- How: How will you do it (methods & outcomes)
- What do you need to do it (budget)

What to do

- Demonstrate your knowledge by being as concrete as possible
- Argue for why this project is important now
  - Endangerment
  - Language versus dialect
  - Other work on the language

How will you do it

- Show that you know what you will be doing
  - How long in the field
  - What will you record and analyse
  - How will you do it (community involvement?)
  - How will you prepare for archiving (tools etc.)

Documentation goals should align to dissertation goals (space vs ritual)

What do you need to do it: Budget (what not to ask for)

- No overheads
- No salary costs of fully employed people (exception teaching buy out if necessary)
- No salary for people who are mot involved
- No salary for administration

- Justification: I need a camera because I want to video record….?

Project

Outcomes	Method	Workplan	Equipment
Naturalistic corpus	Ethnographic	Month 2 naturalistic data collection	Video cam. Microphones Audio recorder
Lexicon	Elicitation	Month 4 Analysis	Tripod Solarpanels
….		Month 5 Wordlist elicitation	Backup drives

Documentation

Data	Type
• Coffee ceremony	naturalistic
• Conversations at ceremony	naturalistic
• Conversations about ceremony	semi-naturalistic
• Explanation about procedure interview	ethnographic
• Explanation about history interview	ethnographic
• Specialized vocabulary	elicitation

- Coffee ceremony naturalistic →
- Conversations at ceremony naturalistic →
- Conversations about ceremony semi-naturalistic

→
- Video camera (can connect mics, can adjust sound)
- Microphone (hyper cardiod)
- Tripod
- Micstand
- Audio recorder
- Microphone (stereo)

- Explanation about procedure ethnographic interview → Lavalier
- Explanation about history ethnographic interview → Lavalier
- Specialized vocabulary elicitation → Lavalier

Why applications fail…

- Too ambitious goals
  - 300 hours of video fully annotated and translated in one year
  - Multimedia dictionary and website and online teaching materials (
    - technical knowledge?
    - pedagogical knowledge?
    - conceptual knowledge
    - maintenance of the website after funding has ended?)

Why applications fail…

- Unrealistic budgets (often too high)
- Employment of technicians or assistants to do the work for you
- Salaries for professors who are not really involved in the work
- Books, shelves, course works, video projector…
- Costs are not based on local pay rates
- Equipment is costed to high
- No clear methods and goals and equipment for the given project
- Not competitive enough

Remember…

- We do not only want to know **what** you want to achieve but we want to know **how** you want to achieve it
- Be concrete!
- Explain how you want to do what and why!

Exceptions…**none**

- There are **NO** exceptions
- **NO** change of deadline
- **NO** adding of materials after the deadline
- Incomplete applications are not eligible and will be excluded
- Do not leave things to the last minute
- Get in touch with other documenters, specialist and with ELDP early on
- Get in touch well prepared with clear questions