What we do...

• 7,000 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

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What we fund...

* Linguistic documentation of endangered languages

* Contain a variety of projects
  * Language documentation (Himmelmann & Woodberry)
  * 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 £50,000): 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 £500,000

How to prepare...

- Read the guidelines carefully
- Study the website carefully (www.eldp.net);
- LD&C Hawai‘i: 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 version/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)
Outcomes
-Naturalistic corpus
-Lexicon

Method
-Ethnographic
-Elicitation

Workplan
-Month 2: naturalistic data collection
-Month 4: Analysis
-Month 5: Wordlist elicitation

Equipment
-Video cam.
-Microphones
-Audio recorder
-Tripod
-Solar panels
-Backup drives

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 not involved
- No salary for administration

Justification: I need a camera because I want to video record...?
Video camera (can connect mics, can adjust sound)
- Microphone (hyper cardioid)
- Tripod
- Mic stand
- Audio recorder
- Microphone (stereo)

- Lavalier
- Lavalier
- Lavalier

Why applications fail...

- Too ambitious goals
  - 100 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