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Abstract



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The use of documentary linguistic and library technological infrastructure for digital language archives

Linguistics have embarked on the daunting task of making language information from thousands of low-resourced languages available to speaker-communities and computational and typological linguists. To do this linguists, specifically Documentary Linguists, use current technologies in information preservation and access to create repositories called Digital Language Archives. This presentation provides an overview of how digital archiving technologies are being used worldwide to preserve and disseminate language information with a view to revitalizing individual languages and preserving linguistic diversity. In particular, we review the technologies used to grow collections in the Computational Resource for South Asian Languages (CoRSAL) archive. The technologies include digital recording, data management software, transcription software, translation and grammatical annotation, and metadata editors. Along with the technology CoRSAL uses a mediated archiving methodology which requires person to person communication between the archive and depositor. Through mediated archiving and a stable technology infrastructure, we are able to reach the goals of CoRSAL which are to provide a trustworthy repository with open access for information on South Asian languages.

Brief Bio :

Shobhana Lakshmi Chelliah is Distinguished Research Professor of Linguistics and Associate Dean of Research and Advancement at the College of Information, University of North Texas. Her research has four areas of focus on the documentation of the Tibeto-Burman languages of Northeast India. She was a Program Director for the US National Science Foundation's Documenting Endangered Languages Program from 2012-2015 where she now serves as an NSF Intermittent Expert. She has received major funding from the National Science Foundation and fellowships from the American Institute of Indian Studies, National Endowment for the Humanities, and American Council of Learned Societies. She is a recipient of the Nehru-Fulbright Chair Fellowship for 2020-2021. She is the founding director of the Computational Resource for South Asian Language Archive (CoRSAL) at the UNT Digital Library. Her publications include *A Grammar of Meithei* (Mouton 1997), *The Handbook of Descriptive Linguistic Fieldwork* (Springer 2011), *Why Language Documentation Matters* (Springer 2021), as well as many additional articles on Tibeto-Burman language structure and methodologies for language description and documentation.