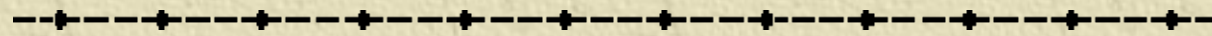
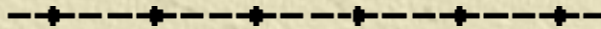


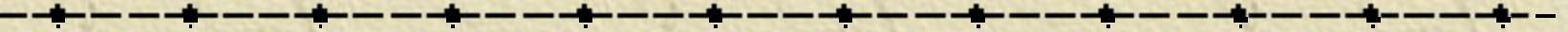
AILLA: The Archive of the  
Indigenous Languages of  
Latin America



Heidi Johnson / The University of  
Texas at Austin



# AILLA is a joint project of:



- ✦ Anthropology: Joel Sherzer
- ✦ Linguistics: Anthony C. Woodbury
- ✦ Digital Library Services: Mark McFarland

# Acknowledgements

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- ✦ Project begun in 2000 with funds from UT Austin College of Liberal Arts.
  - ✦ Currently funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation.

[www.ailla.utexas.org](http://www.ailla.utexas.org)

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- ✦ Pilot site launched March 2001.
  - ✦ Permanent site launched Jan. 31, 2003.
  - ✦ Parallel sites in English and Spanish.
  - ✦ 49 languages from 12 countries.
  - ✦ Recordings in a variety of genres, most accompanied by texts.

# AILLA's Mission

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- ✦ Preservation: irreplaceable recordings in endangered languages made on fragile analog media are digitized and permanently housed in our database.
- ✦ Access: valuable resources can be made available to everyone, especially indigenous people, over the Internet.

# Preservation

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- ✦ Archive housed on library computers, maintained by UT digital librarians.
- ✦ Secure computers, bottomless memory.
- ✦ Standard formats will be migrated forward as technologies evolve.
- ✦ Analog media sent to the Indiana Archive of Traditional Music  
(<http://www.indiana.edu/~libarchm/>)

# What we preserve

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## ✦ Multi-media resources:

- ◆ Audio/video recordings
- ◆ Texts, digital and manuscript
- ◆ Photos, drawings, etc.

## ✦ Types of resources

- ◆ Recordings of discourse in any genre
- ◆ Transcriptions, translations, annotations, etc.
- ◆ Literature, oral or written
- ◆ Analyses, lexicons, notes, sketches, etc.

# Formats

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## ✦ Archival formats:

- ✦ audio: PCM wav, 44.1 Khz, 16/24 bits
- ✦ digital text: original format
- ✦ manuscript, images: tiff
- ✦ video: mp2 (not done yet)

## ✦ Presentation formats, free readers & players:

- ✦ audio: mp3 (128 kbps)
- ✦ text & images: pdf
- ✦ video: not yet determined



# Access I

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- ✦ Bilingual interfaces are conformant with portability standards
- ✦ Add a Portuguese interface when funds permit.
- ✦ Multiple formats w/free readers/players:
  - ◆ Mp3: compressed, easy to download
  - ◆ Wav: uncompressed (huge!)
  - ◆ PDF: platform-independent text

# Access II

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- ✦ Internet cafes are springing up all over Latin America.
  - ✦ Easier to get to and into than libraries and universities.
  - ✦ AILLA will soon be able to ship CDs/DVDs with selected resources.
  - ✦ Long range goal: a network of related archives throughout the region.

# Why access is important

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- ✦ Indigenous communities need these resources for language maintenance and revitalization programs.
- ✦ Speakers can use analyses of all kinds in documenting their own languages.
- ✦ Share data in collaborative projects, e.g. comparative study of Quechuan languages.

# Metadata - catalog information

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✦ Resource = a bundle of files, e.g. recording + annotations, in multiple formats

✦ Information about:

- ✦ The depositor: contact info
- ✦ Project, sponsor, contact info.
- ✦ Participants: role, demographic data
- ✦ Resources: provenance, formats, etc.
- ✦ Content: context, genre, description
- ✦ References: publications

# Security: the graded access system

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- ✦ Provides speakers and depositors finely-grained control over resources.
  - ✦ Four levels:
    - ◆ 1: free public access
    - ◆ 2: automatic controls: password, time limit, conditions
    - ◆ 3: depositor control: users ask depositor for permission
    - ◆ 4: indigenous control: AILLA contacts indigenous person or group on user's behalf

# Security II

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- ✦ Access levels assigned to individual files.
- ✦ Depositors can change settings at any time.
- ✦ Depositor/indigenous control allows owner to know who is using their resources.
- ✦ Passwords allow fine or coarse control.
- ✦ Time limits: we recommend 5 years for student work

# Future plans

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- ✦ Package AILLA's software (database, search interfaces) for sharing.
- ✦ Organize offline distribution (CDs).
- ✦ Foster a multi-faceted network of archives, from "jukebox" to institutional.
- ✦ We welcome your suggestions!

# Useful addresses

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✦ AILLA: <http://www.ailla.utexas.org>

✦ Comments to [ailla@ailla.org](mailto:ailla@ailla.org)

✦ DELAMAN: <http://www.delaman.org/>

✦ IMDI: <http://www.mpi.nl/ISLE>

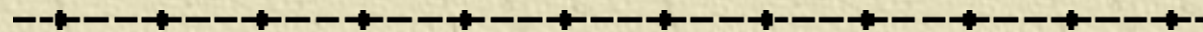
✦ OLAC: [http://www.language\\_archives.org](http://www.language_archives.org)

✦ EMELD: <http://emeld/.org>





[www.ailla.utexas.org](http://www.ailla.utexas.org)



Comments gladly received at  
[ailla@ailla.org](mailto:ailla@ailla.org)

