

Clearly Heard Forever

The J.P. Harrington Project Newsletter

Number 1

September 2002

John Peabody Harrington (1884–1961), hired in 1915 by the Bureau of American Ethnography as a research ethnologist, devoted over 50 years to field work on Native American languages. The men and women he interviewed were often among the last remaining speakers of their languages.

The J. P. Harrington Database Project, administered through the Native American Language Center at the University of California, Davis, received initial funding from the National Science Foundation in August of 2001 (BCS01-11487). The goal of the project is to increase access to the linguistic and ethnographic field notes collected by J. P. Harrington. The database will provide a continuous text of the notes in an easily readable form, and will be used to generate lists of words and phrases. It can be searched for specific words, or by categories, such as plants, animals, personal names, place names, and cultural items.

Volunteer research assistants from native communities participate in project training sessions offered in various locations in both northern and southern California. Volunteers need access to a computer, although no specialized software is required.

The success of this project has exceeded our expectations. The response of native communities in California has been enthusiastic. Many graduate students at UC Davis have joined the project, coding data for independent study units, many working

on languages related to their own research and/or their own heritage languages.

The development of keyboard equivalents for the phonetic symbols used by Harrington has been our first task. The system uses only extended ASCII characters in Times font, that are equivalent on both Mac and PC platforms. This insures maximum transportability of the data. Most symbols are readable without reference to a phonetic key. Specialized phonetic fonts will be used in final printed copies, and in .pdf files available on the Web. Unicode, the standard for the future, will be utilized as it becomes more accessible.

A Bell+Howell ABR 2700, a high volume microfilm reader/printer is being used to create copies of the notes. Currently we have copied all or part of 32 microfilm reels (over one tenth of the California materials).

Reels currently being coded

California languages

Cahuilla 100 frames in progress
Chimariko 100 frames in progress
Chumash, Barbareño 1 reel in progress (another coded by Wash for the UCSB project (NSF BNS90-11018), is being reformatted.
Chumash, Obispeño 105 frames in progress
Cupeño 100 frames in progress
Fernandeño 1 of 1 reel finished
Kumeyaay 200 frames in progress
Luiseño/Juaneño 2 of 15 reels finished, 300 frames in progress
Miwok, Coast 158 frames of 158 complete
Miwok, Lake and Coast/Southeast Pomo/Wappo 187 frames of 187 complete
Miwok, Plains 15 frames of 15 complete
Mutsun 400 frames in progress

Nisenan/Northern Sierra Miwok 216 frames of 216 complete
Pomo, Southern/Central Sierra Miwok/Sir Francis Drake 405 frames of 405 complete
Serrano 15 frames in progress
Shoshone 40 frames in progress
Washo 16 frames of 16 complete
Wiyot and Yurok 1 of 2 reels finished
Misc. So. Cal groups: 56 frames finished (Gabrielino, Cahuilla, Luiseño/Juaneño, Serrano (Tejon) Chemehuevi, Diegueño)

Other languages

Coos 100 frames in progress
Duwamish 70 frames in progress
Massachusetts 100 of 180 frames finished
Ojibwa 49 frames of 49 complete
Shawnee 90 frames in progress

The next newsletter will discuss the confidentiality policy and explain the various levels of coding.

Collaborators and Advisors

Tribal Digital Village Project, director, Ross Frank, Ethnic Studies, UCSD
Payomkawichum Kaamalam First People, President, Joyce Perry
Survey for California and Other Indian Languages, UC Berkeley, director, Leanne Hinton
Catherine Callaghan, Linguistics, Ohio State University
Kathryn Klar, Celtic Studies, UC Berkeley.
Katherine Anderson, Environmental Horticulture, UC Davis

Project Presentations

California Indian Conference October 2001, Macri, Woodward, Tatsch
Pechanga Tribe, Cultural Resource Director and community members, December 2001, Woodward
Nissenan Tribal Council, December 2001, Tatsch
Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting January 2002, Golla, Macri, Woodward, Tatsch
Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, January 2002, Woodward

Group in American Indian Languages, UC Berkeley, February 2002, Woodward, Tatsch
Language Is Life (Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival), March 2002, Woodward, Tatsch
Breath of Life, UC Berkeley, June 2002, Tatsch, Macri
Mutsun Volunteers, June 2002, Woodward, Tatsch
Southern California Tribal Digital Village, Barona Cultural Center, July 2002, Macri, Woodward, Tatsch
Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival, August 2002, Macri, Tatsch
Soboba Reservation, Cultural Committee, September 2002, Woodward

Current Training Sessions

Covina, September (Woodward)
Shasta Lake, September (Macri)
Central Valley (southern), October

Contact Information

Principal investigators of the J. P. Harrington Database Project are Martha Macri and Victor Golla. Lisa Woodward is project director. Research associates include Sheri Tatsch, Suzanne Wash, Georgie Waugh, and Helen McCarthy.

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Newsletter name: Harrington frequently wrote *c.h.* next to transcriptions, to indicate that a word or phrase was *clearly heard*.

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