This document is the fifth annual report of the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project (HRELP). It outlines the structure of HRELP and its activities for the year.

All photographs by David Nathan, Tom Castle & Bernard Howard except where stated otherwise.
Additional graphic material by Tui Pritchard see p19.

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Designed by Tom Castle Printed by SOAS Printroom

One of the tasks facing researchers and communities who are involved in documentation and support of endangered languages is helping people in the wider world understand the tragedy of language loss.
Endangered languages communicating about our work

It is generally agreed that today there are about 6,500 languages spoken across the world and at least half of these are under threat of extinction. This is mainly because speakers of smaller languages are switching to other larger languages and not passing on their heritage to their children. They do this for perceived economic, social or political advantages, or because they feel ashamed of their ancestral language. The language can thus be lost in one or two generations, often to the great regret of their descendants.

One of the tasks facing researchers and communities who are involved in documentation and support of endangered languages is helping people in the wider world understand this tragedy of language loss on a global scale. Loss of languages is not only a loss of heritage, history and culture for the individuals and groups whose language is under threat, it is also a loss for humanity as a whole. UNESCO has termed this “the world’s intangible cultural heritage”, parallel to the tangible cultural heritage of human creations such as the pyramids of Egypt or the Great Wall of China. Although most communities around the world are multilingual, and monolingualism has been the exception throughout human history, there are still many people today, especially in the English-speaking world, who believe that speaking more than one language is a problem rather than an advantage. Part of what those of us engaged in endangered languages research can do is help these groups appreciate the value of linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.

Each year we hold several events at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) with the goal of informing linguists, fieldworkers, researchers and academics, and the general public about endangered languages and language documentation, especially the ‘human side’ of the stories we have to tell. A highlight this year was 23rd to 27th April 2007, when we held an Endangered Languages Week that combined film showings, drama, displays of students’ work, and an “Open Day” presented by staff and students from the Endangered Languages Project. The week attracted several hundred visitors from within and outside the university, and all those who came away with a strong impression of the impact of language loss and the range of possible avenues for confronting it, including documenting, archiving and supporting languages that are in danger of being lost. Through our publications such as Language Documentation and Description, our website, our public events, and this Annual Report we hope that we at SOAS can in a small way communicate about our work.

HRELP

The Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project (HRELP) was established with a commitment of £20 million from Arcadia (formerly the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund) to document as many endangered languages as possible and to encourage the development of relevant skills across the world. It has the following three components:

Endangered Languages Documentation Programme

ELDP was set up to provide approximately £15 million over an 8-10 year period in competitive research grants to encourage the development of linguistic fieldwork in endangered languages (especially by those at an early stage in their careers) and to support documentation of as many threatened languages as possible. ELDP is managed by the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). The applications are assessed by an international panel that includes researchers an array of opportunities: an MA in Language Documentation and Description, a PhD in Field Linguistics, and post-doctoral fellowships at SOAS. We also offer a comprehensive programme of public lectures, seminars and training courses. Prof Peter K. Austin, Manti Rausings Chair in Field Linguistics, is Director of ELAP.

Endangered Languages Archives

ELAP is building up a large collection of endangered languages documentation resources, and also supports training, development of methodologies, and other technical aspects of language documentation and archiving. David Nathan is Director of ELAR.

The mission of HRELP is to:

- Train new generations of linguists to research and develop work that opens up new fields of study
- Provide opportunities for fieldworkers, academics, students, collaborative ventures and international organisations to work together with endangered language communities to ensure that everything possible is done to record and encourage linguistic, cultural and human diversity
- Award approximately £1 million a year in research grants to high quality projects
- Set up an innovative, comprehensive endangered languages digital archive as a major international resource for scholars, communities and other interested persons
- Endeavour to raise as much additional funds as possible to build the scale, scope and effectiveness of our work
- Welcome all those able to donate time, money or expertise to help build on the solid base HRELP has established.
Activities throughout the year

This annual report covers September 2006-August 2007 for the ELDP, ELAP and ELAR programmes. In 2007, ELDP awarded 33 grants for a total of £1,380,055. For further information please see page 6.

ELAP had its fourth intake of students this year, enrolling sixteen MA students along with four new PhD students, all of whom had taken the MA previously (see p16 for further details). There were some changes to staff during the year: Dr Anthony Jukes, who had been ELDP-funded post-doctoral fellow completed his project on the Toratan language of northern Sulawesi, Indonesia, and returned to Australia in August. Dr Leora Bar-el, who had been ELAP post-doctoral fellow in the previous year, returned for a second year in August after two and a half years left in August to take up a position at the University of Montana, USA. Dr Oliver Bond, who had previously held an ESRC-funded position, took up a two year post-doctoral fellowship in May 2007 to continue his work on the cross-linguistic study of negation and documentation of the Elerme language of southern Nigeria. ELAP ran two series of seminars throughout the year, one for a general audience and a second specialist series of research seminars for PhD students and staff. The fourth in the series of publications entitled Language Documentation and Description was published in March 2007 (see details below), and a fifth volume is planned for January 2008.

ELAR continued receiving language documentation data from depositors; this was the first year that a significant amount of data was received as several ELDP grantees finished preparing the data that resulted from their funded projects. ELAR now holds over 10,000 files representing over 500 hours of audio and 200 hours of video as well as transcriptions, annotations and other text. ELAR ran and hosted several training and outreach events, including ELDP training, the Endangered Languages Week Open Day, and the DELAMAN international archive network meeting. We managed field equipment and provided advice, training and lectures for ELAR students and ELDP grantees. Staff member David Evans left in July to take up a position at the University of Kent, and we are currently recruiting another software developer. For more information on ELAR please see page 23.

ELAP, ELAR and ELDP jointly ran six-day training courses for ELDP grantees in September 2006 and June 2007 (see photos p27) where fundamental issues and skills in language documentation and support were covered, with a special focus on audio and video recording and editing techniques, use of computer software to support research, data structuring and archiving, metadata, and development of multimedia and practical materials for communities. The courses were attended by ELDP grantees from all over the world and was taught by ELAP and ELAR staff, as well as outside specialists. ELDP staff briefed grantees on managing and reporting on their projects and offered one-to-one sessions for grantees. We have developed a set of teaching materials for this training course, some of which is available through the HRELP web site.

Endangered Languages Week

From 23rd to 27th April 2007 we ran an Endangered Languages Week at SOAS to present issues of endangered languages and language documentation and support to staff, students and the general public. The week was well attended and included visits from Professor Paul Webley, Director of SOAS, representatives of Arcadia, including the former Panel Chair, Professor Barry Supple and several hundred others.

The activities during the week included:
- a reading of Professor David Crystal’s play ‘Living On’ which offered, through the medium of drama one view of what it is like to be a last speaker of a language. Many members of the audience felt that drama was an unexpected but powerful way to highlight the problems associated with language endangerment.
- showing of three films presenting different aspects of endangered languages. In Languages We Live: Voices of the World by Danish directors Janus Billeskov Jansen and Signe Byrge Sørensen is a wide-ranging documentary about endangered languages and the responses by various communities around the world to the loss of their language and culture. The Importance of Being Mlabri (Mlabri and Outsiders), also by Jansen and Sørensen, takes a more personal approach to portray a group of Mlabri, Mon-Khmer speaking forest hunter-gatherers numbering around 300 who are being forced by habitat destruction to become agriculturalists and day labourers working for their Hmong neighbours for a pittance. We see the first group of their children going off to a Thai boarding school, and the challenge faced by two men in their 20’s to find Mlabri wives as the eligible female population shrinks. The third film was Kim McKenzie’s Fragments of the Owl’s Egg with dialogue in English, Kriol and varieties of Bininj Gunwok. It is a poignant story of people and country, and of loss and forgetting. The film has been billed, along with Ten Canoes, as part of a new approach to ethnographic film making in Australia.
- ‘Open Day’ when we threw open the doors to the ELAR archive and presented various aspects of HRELP: including talks and demonstrations, by ELAP, ELAR and ELDP staff and students. This included a progress report on the project to make an online interactive version of the William Dawes manuscripts of the Sydney language (see below, p24 and pictures, p3 & p26), demonstrations of solar power techniques by two PhD students based on their experiences during recent fieldwork in Nigeria, and a display of work by students in the MA in Language Documentation and Description including posters entitled “Communicating About Our Work”.

Three films on endangered languages were shown during Endangered Languages Week. We designed this poster to publicise the film Mlabri and Outsiders (The Importance of Being Mlabri).
The Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP) is managed by the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and funded by Arcadia, formerly known as the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund.

The Secretariat
The ELDP office supports both the work of the international panel and that of grant holders by administering the application process and managing awarded grants.

ELDP Programme Manager
Kathryn Oatey manages the grant funding programme and oversees the development and administration of ELDP activities. Kathryn previously worked for the British Council in Nepal, Ghana, Mozambique and Russia which included funding scholarship and training programmes in support of development objectives. At the Wellcome Trust Kathryn was a Programme Officer in the International Department and managed collaborative biomedical grants as well as the prestigious International Senior Fellowships programmes for India and South Africa.

ELDP Grants Co-ordinator
Anna Greedharee has replaced Jean Tullett, who has now left SOAS to join the Canon Collins Trust. Anna’s background is in Sociology and Art. She has had six years’ experience of grants management working for the Big Lottery Fund where she was often involved with projects focusing on small communities. Anna is the first point of contact for all potential applicants and grant holders. She is responsible for administering the grant application process and for managing projects which have been awarded. She implements the reporting procedures. She also supports the ELDP panel members and organises the annual panel meetings.

Karen Remnant deputises for Anna Greedharee when she is away and Dorinne Tin Ming Kaw provides administrative support to the team. Contact details for all the ELDP staff can be found on the website: www.hrelp.org/aboutus/staff/ and they can be contacted by email at eldp@soas.ac.uk.

Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP)

ELDP grants awarded 2007

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<td>Tucker Childs</td>
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<td>South America</td>
<td>Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship 10%</td>
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<td>Europe</td>
<td>Individual Graduate Scholarship 15%</td>
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<td>Asia</td>
<td>Individual Graduate Scholarship 15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia - Pacific</td>
<td>Individual Graduate Scholarship 15%</td>
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The ELDP Panel

Grant applications are assessed by an International Panel of experts. Full details of the panel members can be found on the ELDP website at www.hrelp.org/aboutus/staff/panel/

Following the retirement of Professor Barry Supple, SOAS has appointed Professor Graham Furniss to be Chair of the ELDP Panel. Professor Furniss has been involved in the HRELP project since it began. He has also been Head of the Language Centre and is currently the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) Director at SOAS. He is a member of the University of London’s Centre for African Studies and the British Academy’s Africa Panel. He is a former President of the African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUK) and Vice-Chair of the Royal African Society.

Panel members William Foley and Anthony C Woodbury completed their term on the Panel in 2006-7 and ELDP thanks them for their hard work. We are very pleased to welcome Dr I Wayan Arka of the Australian National University and Professor Susan Penfield from the University of Arizona who joined the Panel in 2007.

ELDP Panel Membership

Felix K. Ameka, Leiden University
Felix K. Ameka lectures in the Department of African Languages and Cultures of Leiden University & Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (UCL) and is also an Associate Researcher of the Language and Cognition Group at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen. He obtained a BA (first class honours) in Linguistics from the University of Ghana, Legon-Accra (1980) and an MA (1986) and PhD (1991) in Linguistics from the Australian National University. He has a wide range of interests and has fieldwork experience in Australia and West Africa. Apart from the description and documentation of languages, he is interested in the cultural, cognitive and human social interrelations of grammar and how speakers use grammar. He has conducted field-based research and published extensively on the grammar, semantics, and pragmatics of Ewe, his mother tongue, and on other West African languages like Akan. He is currently involved in and coordinates the documentation of four of the little studied Ghana-Togo-Mountain languages: Likpe, Logba, Nyagbo and Tafi. These languages are massively influenced by surrounding bigger languages like Ewe and Akan.

As a trained linguist who has worked on his native language and on other languages, he has a continuing concern about the role of native knowledge in documentary linguistics and how the different types of expertise can be tapped in a collaborative manner to generate optimal records of languages. He is also interested in the challenges that documentary linguistics poses for linguistic training and academic linguistic practices. His other research interests lie in typology and comparative grammar, anthropological linguistics, ethnography of communication, cross-cultural semantics and pragmatics. He is also interested in how the structure and semantics of languages are affected and modulated over time and when they come into contact with other languages.

I Wayan Arka, The Australian National University
Wayan Arka is a Fellow in Linguistics at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at The Australian National University. He received his PhD from Sydney University in 1999 with research on Balinese morphosyntax and pragmatics. During the course of his PhD, he was a visiting scholar at CSLI, Stanford University (1995). He went back to Udayana University in Bali, Indonesia for three years before he moved again to Australia (April 2001) to take up a fellowship at the RSPAS, ANU.

Wayan’s interests are in descriptive, theoretical and typological aspects of Austronesian and Papuan languages of Indonesia. He has completed detailed studies on morpho-syntactic aspects of Balinese and Bahasa Indonesia, within the framework of LFG (Lexical-Functional Grammar). He has recently begun to extend his research on other languages in western and eastern Indonesia such as Nias and Mentawai (Sumatra), Manggarai, Rongga and Lamaholot (Flores), and Kei (south-east of Maluku) focussing on morpho-syntactic aspects of core arguments, (pronominal) marking and voice/argument alternations.

He has completed extensive fieldwork for his Rongga Documentation Project (funded by the ELDP, 2004-6), and organised capacity building programmes for language documentation, maintenance and revitalisation in Indonesia.

Wayan is currently working on a number of projects. He continues working on his Rongga materials and Core Argument Project. He is also currently doing collaborative research on voice in the Austronesian languages of eastern Indonesia (funded by an NSF grant, 2006-2009), and a large-scale Indonesian Corpus and Grammar Development Project.

William Foley, University of Sydney
William Foley is Professor of Linguistics at the University of Sydney, Australia and has a wide range of interests. He has worked in syntactic theory from a lexicalist approach and examined the role of semantics in syntax. He is particularly interested in the usefulness of modern syntactic theories in the description of the Austronesian and Papuan languages of the Pacific, which is his main area of specialisation.

Over the last 20 years he has conducted extensive periods of fieldwork in Pacific area languages, specifically in the Papuan languages of the Sepik region of Papua New Guinea, such as Yimas, Wam and Mambuan, as well as some Austronesian languages such as Paluan, Fijian and Tagalog. This fieldwork is the discipline which guides his continuing development of syntactic theories, so that for him theory and description constantly reinforce each other synergistically.

Lenore Grenoble, University of Chicago
Lenore Grenoble is the Carl Darling Buck Professor at the University of Chicago where she holds appointments in the Department of Linguistics and the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures. She holds a BA from Cornell University and an MA and PhD from the University of California, Berkeley.

Her current research interests include the study of discourse phenomena, contact linguistics, language endangerment, and the relationship between language policy, language use and attrition, as well as other issues in the documentation and study of endangered minority languages. Her research is focused on the study of indigenous languages of Siberia, where she conducts fieldwork, most specifically on the Tungus languages. Recent work has focused on the study of contact and languages of the North.

Susan D. Penfield, University of Arizona
Susan Penfield has been involved in language documentation and revitalization as a language consultant with the Colorado River Indian Tribes in Arizona for over thirty years. In 2003, she received funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support training tribal members in the use of technology to support revitalization. In 2005, she was the recipient of NSF/NEH funding to support the “Mohave and Chemehuevi
Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project (HRELP) Annual Report

South Asia), where she has

major language families of

languages (representing three

ancient languages (Sanskrit and

languages. She has made

being centred on South Asian

food for linguistic thought, has

South Asia as a cornucopia of

A never-waning fascination with

linguistics.

Anju Saxena’s training as a

Uppsala University

Anju Saxena’s education as a

researcher and teacher as well

as her subsequent professional

career in academia have

all been in the discipline of

General Linguistics. She was

born and raised in Delhi, where she also completed her

undergraduate education in linguistics.

A never-waning fascination with

South Asia as a cornucopia of

food for linguistic thought, has

led to her linguistic research

being centred on South Asian

languages. She has made

linguistic investigations of

ancient languages (Sanskrit and

Classical Tibetan), but most of

her work has been on modern

languages (representing three

major language families of

South Asia), where she has

conducted and supervised

fieldwork on lesser-known

languages in North India (e.g.

Krimna, Gahri and Tinam).

Besides studying their

linguistic structures, she is also interested in using

modern technologies to

document these languages,
digital documentation of Indian

minority languages, and using

linguistic corpora in teaching

linguistics at university level (IT-

based collaborative learning).

Anthony C Woodbury,

University of Texas, Austin

Anthony Woodbury is interested

in linguistic diversity and its

preservation. He received his

BA and MA in Linguistics at the

University of Chicago in 1975

and his PhD in Linguistics at the

University of California

at Berkeley in 1981. He has

taught in the Linguistics

Department at the University

of Texas at Austin since 1980

where he is now Professor and

Department chair.

Roberto Zavala-Mandano,

Ciesas-Sureste

Roberto Zavala is Associate

Professor at CIESAS-Sureste, a

Mexican interdisciplinary

research centre for Social

Sciences, located in San

Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. He got his BA in

Linguistics at the National

School of Anthropology and

History in Mexico, and his MA

and PhD in Linguistics at the

University of Oregon. He has

conducted extensive fieldwork

on Mayan, Uto-Aztecan and

Mixe-Zoquean languages

spoken in Middle-America and

has written two grammars: one

on Akatek-Maya and another on

Olituc-Mixe Zoquean.

He has written several papers

on Wastek, Akatek and Olutec.

He is currently working on

language contact in the

southern part of Mesoamerica,

and language documentation of

Zoque, Olutec and Chol.

Ex-officio members

Peter K Austin,

SOAS

Director, Endangered Languages

Academic Programme, School

of Oriental and African Studies,

University of London. See under

ELAP staff (p20)

David Nathan,

SOAS

Director, Endangered

Languages Archive, School of

Oriental and African Studies.

See under ELAR staff (p28)

ELDP panel member Felix K. Ameka.

Three examples of ELDP funded work

Joana Jansen

The Yakima language
documentation and grammar project

The Yakima language
documentation and grammar

project funded by ELDP

collected audio and video
documentation of the Yakima

Sahaptin language, and

transcribed and annotated

collected texts that are the

foundation of the resulting

grammatical descriptions,

lessons, and audio CDs.

The language is spoken in

and around the Yakama

Indian Reservation in central

Washington State, USA. A part

of the Sahaptian language

family, it is closely related to

languages spoken along the

Columbia River and at the

Confederated Tribes of Warm

Springs and the Confederated

Tribes of the Umatilla Indian

Reservations in Oregon. There

are only a handful of speakers

of Yakima Sahaptin, all of

whom are elderly, and so the

work of documenting this

language is pressing.

Materials collected and
developed with the input of

tribal members are being

used in classrooms at a local

school district, the Yakama

Nation Language Program,

and Heritage University. In

addition, collected audio and

video materials and associated

language learning lessons were

used at the Northwest Indian

Language Institute at the

University of Oregon (UO).

Photo of Virginia Beavert the main language consultant and Joana Jansen.

Virginia Beavert is a well-

respected tribal elder, has a

master’s degree in education,

and has been a Sahaptin

language teacher for much of

her life. One of the project’s

aims has been to keep the

material accessible to and

useful to teachers of her

language, rather than aimed

singly at an audience of

academics and linguists.

Writing for teachers and

language learners is a

challenge - it’s much easier

to write that something is a

“second position complex

pronominal clitic” than it is to

describe what that means to

someone who has not studied

grammar or linguistics. Ms.

Beavert and other teachers and

learners have been valuable

consultants and partners in

meeting this goal.

Photo of Sahaptin language teachers playing a language-learning game. Members of other NW tribes look on.

ELDP funded work

The Yakima language
documentation and grammar

project funded by ELDP

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**Stephen Morey**  
**The documentation of Turung and Singpho**

**Turung**
In January 2006, Sai Su Shyam of the village of Na Khong, laid out some principles for a Turung orthography. These principles were discussed at an orthography meeting in Rengmai and led within a day to the writing out of stories by several Turung people. Kon Kham Turung, a young man who assisted by providing the Turung word list and checking the translations of many of the texts, was soon able to take dictation in the new orthography.

A Turung story book Turung Khong na Pung (Stories of the Turung area) was published in December 2006. The principal work on this was done by Palash Nath, Sanu Shyam and Ananta Singpho (photographed with the book). Enough copies were published to be able to present one in each Turung household.

Many ceremonies and festivals are held throughout the year in the Turung area. The Poi Ok Wa, the end of the Buddhist rains retreat, is a time of celebration. We can see photographs of Ilakhi Turung preparing flowers for the festival, and the dancing that occurs at night around the ceremonial patesa, carried by young men around the temple and venerated by all.

**Singpho**
One of the principal aims of the project was to record traditional songs, and the traditional prayers to the spirits or nats that are still venerated by some Singphos.

The longest song we were able to record and translate is the Hka Yawng Ningkin, literally ‘water-flowing song’, a saga that, even in the incomplete form in which it was recorded, ran to forty minutes. This was sung by Kiyang Gam of Mhpum village in Arunachal Pradesh and recorded by Palash Nath. The translation was done with the help of Gumi Gurnhtoi, over a period of 7 days, spending around 8 hours per day on the work.

In its infancy, the Kurtöp Documentation Project has completed a sketch of the phonology (Hyslop’s M.A. thesis) and is currently finalizing the orthographies. Pema, Kezang and Gwendolyn Peldon provide accommodation for the researchers. Accommodation provided for researchers by Thrinley and Peldon.

Kurtöp is an East-Bodish (Tibeto-Burman) language of Bhutan spoken by approximately 10,000 people in the upper Kurtö region of Lhuntse. Like many of Bhutan’s languages, Kurtöp is endangered as young members of the community shift to the Dzongkha and English speaking capital; and like the other East Bodish languages, Kurtöp remains almost utterly undocumented.

Our project will devote two years to the documentation and description of Kurtöp in order to produce a descriptive grammar and Kurtöp/English/Dzongkha dictionary with approximately 10,000 entries. The grammatical analyses will be offered in historical light whenever possible and etyma for Kurtöp lexical items will be provided when known. The audio and video data from which the description will emerge will be submitted to the Dzongkha Development Commission and the local Kurtöp speaking community in Bhutan in addition to being archived with ELAR. The Kurtöp Documentation Project is currently working closely with the Bhutanese government to develop Roman and ‘Ucén orthographies for the language. Many of the audio and video recordings will be transcribed using both recordings and will accompany the data.

The Kurtöp Documentation Project works in full collaboration with the Dzongkha Development Commission of Bhutan and heavily relies on a team of members. Karma Tshering assists Gwendolyn Hyslop with data collection, transcription, and orthography development. He oversees logistics in Bhutan and is responsible for the Dzongkha entries in the trilingual dictionary. Kuenga Lhendup is the Project’s main transcriber and translator but also plays a role in data collection, transcription, and orthography development. Pema Chhophyel oversees direction of the project and assists with data collection while Thrinley and Peldon provide accommodation for the researchers.

Karma Tshering oversees logistics in Bhutan and is responsible for the Dzongkha entries in the dictionary.

Gwendolyn Hyslop has completed a sketch of the phonology (Hyslop’s M.A. thesis) and is currently finalizing the orthographies. Once those details are finalized, we can archive the over 80 pages of oral texts we have transcribed and translated.
Endangered Languages Documentation Programme
Research Projects Awarded 2007
Endangered Languages Academy Programme (ELAP)

The Endangered Languages Academy Programme had its fourth full year of operation, enrolling sixteen MA students along with four new PhD students (all of whom had completed the MA in Language Documentation and Description previously). As in previous years the MA students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and have experience as foreign language teachers, English as a foreign language teachers, information technology specialists, translators and school teachers. They come from a range of countries overseas and from various places within the UK. The four new PhD students are:

- Louise Ashmore who is working on Wik Ngatharr spoken in Cape York Peninsula, Queensland, Australia
- Hugues Prevost who is studying the morphosyntax of Western Anakwa spoken in Quebec, Canada
- Larmen Souag who is examining the effects of contact on the morphology of two languages of the Sahara, Korandje (a Songhai language spoken in Algeria) and Siwi (a Berber language spoken in Algeria)
- Radu Voica who is documenting aspects of Bla Bla, an Oceanic language spoken on Santa Isabel, Solomon Islands

The four new students upgraded from the MPhil to PhD in June 2007 and are commencing the fieldwork and data collection phases of their research.

ELAP hosted a number of visitors throughout the year, including:

- Professor Edward Garrett, Eastern Michigan University, American Council of Learned Societies Visiting Fellow, 1st September 2006 to 31st August 2007
- Dr Midori Osumi, Tokyo Women’s Christian University, 15th September to 4th October 2006
- Professor Peter Sutton, University of Adelaide/Institute of Archaeology, UCL 18th December 2006 until 1st February 2007
- Dr. Mark Harvey, University of Newcastle, Australia, Visiting Research Associate 1st to 31st August 2007

In March 2007 ELAP published the fourth volume of Language Documentation and Description. Volume 4 contains the following papers:

- ‘Introduction’ Peter K. Austin
- ‘Current trends in language documentation’ Peter K. Austin and Lenore A. Grenoble
- ‘Documentary linguistics and ethical issues’ Nick Thieberger and Simon Musgrave
- ‘The ecology of documentary and descriptive linguistics’ Jeff Good
- ‘Searching for meaning in the library of Babel: field semantics and problems of digital archiving’ Nick Evans and Hans-Jürgen Sasse
- ‘Reason, understanding and the limits of translation’ William Foley
- ‘On thick translation in linguistic documentation’ Anthony C. Woodbury
- ‘What elicitation misses: dominant languages, dominant semantics’ David Bradley
- ‘The importance and challenges of documenting pragmatics’ Lenore A. Grenoble
- ‘The role of metadata for translation and pragmatics in language documentation’ Henrik Bergvist
- ‘Literacy work in Papua New Guinea: the accidental and the planned’ Mary Raymond
- ‘Literacy use and acquisition in multilingual Eritrea’ Yonas M. Asfaha, Jeanne Kurvers and Sjaak Kroon
- ‘Multilingualism, past and present, in the Karaim communities’ David Nathan and Eva A. Csató

There were some staff changes during the year: Leora Bar-el left in August to take up an Assistant Professor post at the University of Montana, and Anthony Jukes completed his ELDP-funded post-doctoral project in July and returned to Australia. Oliver Bond who had previously been a one-year ESRC post-doctoral fellow was appointed to a two-year ELAP post-doctoral fellowship. Eli Timan was appointed as a research associate to work with Professor Austin on a project funded by a British Academy small grant to document personal narratives in the endangered Jewish Iraqi dialect of Arabic. ELAP advertised a new Lectureship in Language Documentation and a Research Fellowship in Language Revitalisation and Support; both posts have been filled and the appointees will take up their positions in September 2007.

Other Activities

Other activities of ELAP during the year include:

- A weekly seminar series co-ordinated by Leora Bar-el and Oliver Bond which included the following presentations on endangered languages topics:
  - 3rd October 2006 “Morpho semantic structures of classificatory prefixes in Tinnin and Neku in typological and cognitive perspectives” Midiori Osumi, Tokyo Women’s Christian University
  - 17th October 2006 “Gurung in the Manang District, Nepal: Observations and outstanding questions” Kristine Hildebrandt, University of Manchester
  - 16th January 2007 “Equilibrium and punctuation: small language survival and large language expansion on a hunter-gatherer continent” Peter Sutton, University of Adelaide / Institute of Archaeology, UCL
  - 8th May 2007 “The last speakers of Reyesano” Antoine Guillaumé, DLN CNRS & University Lyon-2

- A fortnightly series of research seminars for SOAS researchers and PhD students was co-ordinated by Leora Bar-el and Oliver Bond and included the following presentations on endangered languages and language documentation:
  - 31st October 2006 “Contact and Convergence in Malto” Chaitra Puttaswamy
  - 15th November 2006 “Spoken relations in Birero” Pete Budd
  - 13th December 2006 “Using video for elicitation: events, aspect and control” Leora Bar-el
  - 10th January 2007 “Mismatch and asymmetry in Eleme verbal agreement” Oliver Bond
  - 2nd May 2007 “Gender and Person Agreement in Cicita” Stuart McGill
  - 30th May 2007 “The typology of number borrowing in Berber” Lameen Souag
  - 6th June 2007 “Tone in ikan grammar” Sophie Saffner

A workshop for specialists and members of the general public was organised by Leora Bar-el and Friederike Luepke:

- ‘What Counts (and what doesn’t)? Data and Methodology in Language Documentation’ 4-5 November 2006

With presentations by:

- Linda Barwick, Sydney University; ‘Data Schmata: some reasons why I think musicians in Wadeye (NT, Australia) have chosen to work with researchers’
- Ruth Finnegan, Open University; ‘Data – but data from what? Or, I’m no longer sure what counts as language, how and by whom it should be documented’
- Maurizio Gnerre, Instituto Orientale University, Naples, Italy; ‘Linguist’s multi-layer data and linguistic community’s polyphony’
- Apríl McMahon, University of Edinburgh; “Making the Most of Limited Data: Network methods and language documentation”
- Carson Schutte, University of California, Los Angeles; USA; “What counts as useful, relevant data? An I-Language perspective”
- Frank Siefart, Ruhr-Universität Bochum; “The role of systematic sampling procedures in language documentation”

The workshop was attended by approximately 50 people and resulted in lively discussion. Revised versions of some of the presentations will be published in Language Documentation and Description Volume 5. Launch of the Atlas of the World Languages 2nd edition, edited by R.E. Asher and Christopher Moseley on 12 December 2006. This book launch was attended by approximately 50 people.

ELAP staff and students collaborated with ELAR and ELDP to run “Endangered Languages Week” from 23rd to 27th April 2007 (see p5). ELAP staff were also involved in ELDP grantee training held in September 2006 (with 14 attendees) and June 2007 (with 22 attendees) in collaboration with ELAR. The training courses covered a range of topics in language documentation, with a focus...
on sound and video recording and editing techniques, intellec
tual property rights and ethics, data structuring and
manipulation, software for
language analysis, metadata,
archiving and preparation of
multimedia and practical
materials for communities.

Prof Austin served as Chair of
the Linguistic Society of
America (LSA) Committee on
Endangered Languages and
their Preservation, the HEFCE
Research Assessment Exercise
Panel for Linguistics, the Arts
and Humanities Data Service
advisory board on languages
and linguistics, the Cambridge
University Press Linguistics
Board, the board of the journal
‘Indonesia and the Malay
World’, and the Northcote
Trust. He was a member of
research grants selection
panels for the National Science
Foundation and National
Endowment of Humanities,
and the Volkswagen Foundation
DoBeS project, and the
Northcote Trust.

Professor Austin visited and
gave presentations at a num
ber of universities in the UK
and overseas and took part
in several conferences and
symposia during this period:

- 13th-14th October 2006
  Seminar “Endangered
  Languages”, Kings College
  London Department of
  Philosophy, Cumber
tand Lodge workshop

- 4th-7th January 2007
  Paper presentation “How
to talk to a menak: speech
levels in Sasa, Indonesia”,
  Linguistics Society of
  America annual meeting,
  Anchorage, California, USA

- 3rd-9th March 2007
  Invited speaker, “Language
documentation”.

Endangered Languages
conference, Tokyo University
of Foreign Studies, Japan

- 20th-21st March 2007
  Invited speaker “Endangered
Languages and Language
Documentation”, Cambridge
Linguistics Students Society
annual conference

- 27th-30th March 2007
  Seminar “Current Issues in
Language Documentation”,
Lyon 2 University, France

- 30-31 May 2007
  World Language Centre
  meeting, University of
  Gothenburg, Sweden

- 4th-8th June
  Paper presentation “Training
  for language documentation:
  the SOAS experience”
  Conference on Endangered
Austronesian Languages,
Providence University, Taiwan

- 9th-12th June 2007
  Paper presentation
  “Language endangerment”,
UNESCO Endangered
Languages Conference,
Tokyo, Japan

- 15 June 2007
  Seminar “Endangered
Languages and Language
Documentation”, Tokyo
University, Japan

- 27-29 June 2007
  Workshop on language
cataloguing, Max Planck
Institute for Evolutionary
Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany

- 30 August - 2
  September 2007
  Linguistics Association of
  Great Britain

Other ELAP staff gave invited
seminars and conference
papers during the year:

- Leora Bar-el
  28th November 2006
  Seminar “Perfectivity in
Salish” Department of
Linguistics Seminar Series,
University of Manchester.

- 17th February 2007
  Seminar “Cross-linguistic
  variation at the boundaries of
  aspect: Evidence from Salish”
  Linguistics Department Colloquium
  Series, University of Ottawa.

- 19th March 2007
  Seminar “How predicates
  can vary across languages:
  What we can learn from Salish”
  Department of Anthropology/Linguistics
  Program, University of
  Montana.

- 17th May 2007
  Seminar “Lexical or
  grammatical aspect?
  Distinguishing telicity from
  perfectivity” Linguistics
  and English Language
  Department, University of
  Edinburgh

- 25th May 2007
  Paper presentation “I (managed to) read
  the book: Video as a tool for eliciting aspectual
  distinctions” Semantics of
  Under-represented
  Languages of America 4
  (SULA 4). Universidade
de São Paulo, Brazil.

- 8th June 2007
  Paper presentation
  “Imperfective, progressive
  and static in Salish: Some
  aspectual markers in Skwxwú7mesh
  and SENÇOŦEN”. Surrey
  Morphology Meeting on
  Features: Morphological
  Aspect [co-presented with
  Claire Turner]

Friederike Lüpke

- February 2007
  Paper presentation “Contact
  between Mande and Atlantic
  languages”, Workshop
  on Atlantic languages,
University of Hamburg,
Germany.

- June 2007
  Seminar “La documentation
des langues en contact : Le
bainouk et le mandinka du
Sénégal”, Laboratoire
Dynamique du Language,
Universite Lyon-2, France

Publications

Austin, Peter K. 2007
“Survival of Languages” in
Emily F. Shuckburgh (ed.)
Survival: The Survival of the
Human Race, 72-88.
Cambridge: Cambridge
University Press.

Austin, Peter K. and Lenore
Greene 2007
‘Current Trends in Language
Documentation’. Language
Documentaon and
Description, Vol 4. SOAS:
HRELP.

Austin, Peter K. and Andrew
Simpson (eds.) 2007
Endangered Languages.
Linguistische Berichte
Sonderheft 14. Hamburg:
Heimat Buske Verlag.

Bar-el, Leora 2006
Punctual Clauses (and What
They Tell us about Predicates).
Proceedings of the Semantics
of Under-represented
Languages of America 3. M.
Becker and A. McKenzie (eds.).
Amherst, Massachusetts:
GLSA.

Bar-el, Leora 2007
Review of Suttles, Wayne.
2004. Musqueam Reference
Grammar. Vancouver: UBC
Press. International Journal of
American Linguistics.

Lüpke, Friederike 2007
“Vanishing voice. The passive
alternation of Jalokine”. In
Peter K. Austin and Andrew
Simpson (eds.): 173-190.

Lüpke, Friederike 2007
“It’s a split but is it
unaccusativity? Two classes
of intransitive verbs
in Jalonke”. Studies in Language
31: 525-568.

Lüpke, Friederike 2007
“On giving, receiving, benefiting
and experiencing in Jalokine”.
Linguistics 45: 539-576

Lüpke, Friederike 2007
“Smash it again, Sam! The
syntax and semantics of verbs
of cutting and breaking in
Jalonke”. Cognitive Linguistics
18: 251-262.

Margetts, Anna and Peter K.
Austin 2007
‘Three participant events in
the languages of the world:
towards a cross-linguistic
typology’ Linguistics
45: 393-451.

The cover of this annual
report is adapted from a
design created by Tui
Pritchard for the Conference
on Language Documentation
and Linguistic Theory, to
be held in december 2007
and organised by SOAS’
Linguistics Department and
HRELP to celebrate 75 years
of Linguistics at SOAS and
5 years of the Hans Raising
Endangered Languages
Project. The concentric rings
represent the numbers of
years of operation of SOAS
Linguistics and HRELP and
also, like the growth rings of
a tree, suggest accumulation
over a long period, as
languages accumulate the
knowledge of their
speaker communities.
and has co-authored with David Nathan the first fully page formatted hypertext dictionary on the World Wide Web, a bilingual dictionary of Gamilaraay (Kamilaroi), northern New South Wales, as well as publishing seven bilingual dictionaries of Aboriginal languages. Since 1995 he has been carrying out research on Sasaki and Samawa (or Sumbawan), Austronesian languages spoken on Lombok and Sumbawa islands, eastern Indonesia. His theoretical research is mainly on syntax and focuses on Lexical Functional Grammar, morpho-syntactic typology, computer-aided lexicography and multi-media for endangered languages. He has also published on historical and comparative linguistics, typology, and Aboriginal history and biography.

Peter currently has a small research grant from the British Academy to work with native-speaker scholar El-Timoteo on the Jewish Iraqi language, including recording the oldest generation of speakers talking about traditional practices and their memories of life in Iraq before they were expelled. This work is being done with the diaspora community in London, Canada and Israel.

Leora Bar-el
Post-doctoral Fellow in Language Documentation and Description

Leora Bar-el received a Combined Honours BA in English Literature and Linguistics from the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada in 1996. It was there that she was first introduced to, and became interested in, First Nations languages.

Leora moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, to pursue graduate work in linguistics and there she began to work on Salish languages. Since 1997 she has been conducting fieldwork with the last remaining speakers of the Skwxwú7mesh language (Central Salish), an extremely endangered language spoken in British Columbia. In 1998 Leora received an MA degree in Linguistics from the University of British Columbia. Her MA thesis focused on verbal plural and adverbial quantification in Skwxwú7mesh. In the course of her graduate studies, Leora has conducted research on other Salish languages, as well as Plains Cree, an Algonquian language. Some of her research areas have included: aspect, Aktionsart, reduplication, number, intonation and stress. Being engaged in research that contributes to the documentation of endangered languages has also led to Leora’s interest in and research on language revitalization practices in Canada and communities around the world.

Leora completed a PhD in Linguistics in 2005 from the University of British Columbia entitled “Aspects of Eleme verbal morphology”, which looks at an aspectual classification of predicates, the perfective/imperfective distinction and an exploration of cross-linguistic variation in these areas. Her post-doctoral research focused on the relationship between aspect, transitivity and control in three Central Salish languages.

Oliver Bond
Post-doctoral Fellow in Language Documentation and Description

Oliver Bond’s principal research interests lie in typology, historical linguistics and language documentation, including fieldwork on Eleme (Ogonoid, Benue-Congo) and verbal plural and adverbial quantification in Southeast Nigeria. Oliver’s research project, entitled “NegTyp”, aims to contribute to a broader understanding of the properties of negation in language. The main objective of the project is to capture information relevant to negative constructions in terms of their morphosyntactic/prosodic realisation and the formal/semantic-pragmatic distinctions encoded by negative morphemes. Oliver was awarded his PhD from the University of Manchester, where he also studied for a BA and a MA in Linguistics. His PhD thesis, entitled ‘Aspects of Eleme verbal morphology’, discusses Eleme fieldwork data from a functional-typological perspective, with a focus on participant reference (including logophoric reference and applicative morphology) and tense-aspect morphology.

Anthony Jukes
ELDP Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Anthony Jukes is an ELDP-funded postdoctoral research fellow, working to document and describe Toratán (Ratahan), an endangered language spoken by the older generation in a handful of villages located in southern Minahasa, North Sulawesi, Indonesia. Toratán is an isolated member of the Sangiric language family, surrounded by Minahasan languages. Like other languages of the region it is giving way to Manado Malay and the national language Bahasa Indonesia. Its decline is more advanced than most regional languages, with no more than a few hundred fluent speakers, all of advanced age. This project aims to document the language while it is still possible, and also to work with the language community on maintenance strategies.

Dr Friederike Lüpke
Lecturer in Language Documentation and Description

Friederike Lüpke studied African Linguistics, General Linguistics and Phonetics at the University of Köln (Germany) and Mentaling (Bambara) at the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales in Paris (France). In 1999, she received her MA in African Linguistics with first honours from the University of Köln. She was then offered a PhD scholarship at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen (The Netherlands).
Support Staff

Alison Kelly, Academic Programme Administrator
Alison Kelly obtained her BA in French Studies from Southampton University in 2000. The program included a year abroad studying at the University of Nice during 1998. She worked as an administrator for Mourant ECS just before taking a course administrator position in the Language Centre at SOAS in 2004. She joined HRELP as the Academic Programme Administrator in 2006. She is currently studying towards the Post-graduate Certificate in Professional Practice (Higher Education Administration and Management).

Alison’s main responsibilities include: dealing with enquiries from students and the general public, producing course handbooks and other materials, editing the HRELP Web site, minuting meetings, and providing administrative support to the Director.

The Endangered Languages Archive provides digital archiving and associated services for ELDP grantees and others working with endangered languages

We aim to provide

- Security - keep electronic endangered language materials safe
- Preservation - store electronic endangered language materials for the long term
- Discovery - help the wider world to find out about materials
- Protocol - respect and implement sensitivities and restrictions
- Sharing - provide access to materials, where appropriate
- Acknowledgement - create citable acknowledgment of research
- Mobilisation - help to create usable language materials for communities
- Quality and standards - give advice for creating materials of high quality and robust standards

We also offer auxiliary services including:

- Training
- Facilities for digitising media and documents
- Practical resource development (on a project by project basis)

Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR)

ELAR in 2006-7

Progress was made on ELAR’s systems for queuing and cataloguing data. The first web catalogue was released in February 2007, although the online catalogue system is not yet complete. Subsequently, further deposits have been received from:

- Anvita Abbi (MDP0081), I Wayan Arka (IPF0011), Christine Beier (MDP0042), Claire Bowern (FTG0010), Linda Barwick (MDP0139), Gail Coelho (FTG0012), Miriam Corris (IGS0012), Margaret Florey (MDP0009), Valerie Guerin (IGS0031), Henrik Bergqvist (IGS0038), Mark Janse (PPG0033), Anthony Jukes (IPF0087), Ulrich Kleinwillinghofer (IPF0074), Simon Musgrave (MDP0009), Gilles Polian (MDP0164), and Gabor Szekely (PPG0018).

Server rack at SOAS including ELAR’s Server “LAH”, the SAN (disk array) and tape backup device

Total holdings are currently 36 deposits with a total volume of approx. 0.9 TB, consisting of more than 6,300 audio files, around 900 video files, 2,200 images, and over 2,000 text files.

In September, ELAR ran a three-day “local training” event for ELAP and ELAR staff and students on technical issues in documentation. In October, ELAR ran a one-day workshop on XML for ELAP staff and students, presented by David Nathan, Edward Garrett and David Evans. ELAR collaborated with ELAP to deliver the training of ELDP grantees in September 2006 and June 2007. Our staff ran sessions ranging from recording techniques and archiving to database technologies. Further details about these training events.

ELAR continues to co-ordinate the HRELP website www.hrelp.org, through the web team which consists of David Nathan, Alison Kelly and Anna Greedharee. The website now contains over 1,000 documents and regularly receives over 100,000 "hits" per month. A highlight this year was the development of OREL - Online Resources for Endangered Languages - a virtual library of relevant online materials. OREL has a section in Arabic, which is the first of its kind on the world wide web and extends the website's outreach in languages other than English (see www.hrelp.org/languages/resources/orel/). The Arabic section was developed by ELAP PhD student Lameen Souag. The website now has information in Arabic, French, Indonesian, Russian and Spanish. ELAR also created new technical advice materials for the website on audio equipment and fieldwork management.

ELAR contributed to HRELP's publishing activities through the design skills of Tom Castle, who designed the Endangered Languages Week and Open Day Exhibition materials, film posters, and the 2005 and 2006 Annual Reports. Tom also redesigned and printed Volume 4 of the Language Documentation and Description series (editor Peter K. Austin). Tom and David updated and redesigned the CD-ROM The Disappearing Sounds of the World's Languages for release with LDD4.

In events further afield, Tom Castle held a public exhibition of his sonic art works called "Mall Praxis" at St Pancras Church Crypt, London. David was again involved in the Karaim Summer School, at Trakai, Lithuania, this time as the Director of the School.

This year, the Rausing Room became available for preparing archive materials, and for training in skills related to language documentation. The Rausing Room is an area adjacent to ELAR which we have allocated for use by ELAR clients, ELAP staff and students, and trainees. It has been equipped with five workstations with specialised hardware and software for various linguistics, documentation and archiving tasks. Peripheral devices such as audio digitising units and scanners are also available. There is a small but growing library of books on topics such as audio, video, designing web pages, XML etc. The Rausing Room is managed by Tom Castle and has been a considerable benefit to ELRELP's training activities and ELAP's teaching programme.

The Dawes Online project, conducted jointly with the SOAS Library Special Collections and the New South Wales Department of Aboriginal Affairs, has digitised a manuscript on the Sydney language, one of the key resources for Australian languages. It is currently being

Karaim Summer School 2007

ELAR again provided support for the Summer School for Karaim, an endangered language spoken in the village of Trakai in Lithuania. During the Summer School, which takes place annually, the Karaim community gathers for two weeks of intensive language classes. This year, David Nathan was the Director of the Summer School and provided technical support. In addition, Meili Fang, also from SOAS, provided pedagogical advice and materials. The Summer School is co-ordinated by Éva Csató of Uppsala University and receives its main funding from the Swedish Institute.
ELDP training 2007

ELDP trainees and trainers

Tom Castle explaining the merits of various connectors for microphones.

An emphasis this year was video training. Here, participants Conor and Gabriela prepare for the practical session.

Videographer Simon Atkins shows Stuart and Rados his 12 volt power distribution system.

ELDP training takes place in the Endangered Languages Archive.

Sven and Martina set up their camera.

Publications by ELAR staff


Nathan, David. 2006. “Proficient, Permanent, or Pertinent: Aiming for Sustainability”. In Sustainable data from Digital Sources: from creation to archive and back. Linda Barwick and Tom Honeymoon (eds), Sydney, Sydney University Press. 57-68


In Computational Linguistics 32.1:143-147


International conferences


Nathan, David 2006 “Proficient, Permanent, or Pertinent: Aiming for Sustainability”. Paper presented at Sustainable data from Digital Sources: from creation to archive and back, University of Sydney, Australia, December 2006.


Nathan, David and Eva Csató 2007 “Multimedia in language documentation and support: Working with Diaspora groups – the Karaim project”. Invited workshop presentation at Summer School on Documenting Endangered Iranian Languages, University of Kiel, Germany, August 2007.

ELAR has seen many scholars and others use our Visitor’s Room, where researchers and depositors can access our facilities. Visitors this year have included Linda Barwick (Sydney University, Australia), Edward Garrett (East Michigan University, USA), Antoine Guillaume (Lyon 2 University, France), Mark Harvey (Newcastle University, Australia), Christy Henshaw, Toshibide Nakayama (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan), Peter Sutton (South Australian Museum, Australia), Eli Tiran (London), Nicolas Tournadre (INALCO, Paris), and Ulrike Zeshan (University of Central Lancashire, UK).

ELAR staff continue active participation in the academic community. David Nathan published papers and gave lectures and presentations at national and international events as follows:

Christy Henshaw digitising the William Dawes manuscript.

ELDP training 2007
David Nathan, Director
David Nathan has worked with computing applications for endangered (especially Australian Aboriginal) languages for 12 years. He ran the ASEDA archive in Canberra, Australia, and taught courses in computing, linguistics, cognitive science, multimedia development and English at Universities in Australia, Japan and the UK. Publications include the textbook “Australia’s Indigenous Languages”; papers on lexicography, multimedia, and indigenous people and the Internet; and several multimedia CD-ROMs. He was co-author (with Peter Austin) of the web’s first hypertext bilingual dictionary (for Gamilaraay/Kamilaroi), and has established several major web sites. Along with developing the ELAR archive, he is actively involved with other archives and in other technical and academic areas: he is currently working on CD-ROMs including for Gamilaraay (New South Wales), and is interested in multimedia interfaces for authoring and presenting language materials and in the methodology of language documentation.

Thomas Castle, Digital Technician
Tom studied Three Dimensional Design at Kingston in Surrey, completing a BA (Hons) in 1977. He worked in the theatre – as a designer/maker, sound & lighting technician. Tom developed skills working with video, photography and sound for live performance and ‘multi-medium’ events. In 1982 he moved to Hoxton Hall in the East End of London, designing, teaching, performing and providing technical support for community projects, drama classes and professional performance companies. In 1992, Tom obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Psychodynamic Counselling from Birkbeck, University of London. In 2004, Tom completed an MA in Sonic Arts from Middlesex, having turned back his attentions to experimenting with music, sound, technology, performance and art. Tom is currently involved in setting up data transfer to the archive, back-up systems and the development of a supportive, specialist working environment for students and grantees.

David Evans, Software Developer
David holds a BA in English Literature (1997) and a Postgraduate Certificate of Education (1998) from Cardiff University, in addition to an MSc in Computer Science (2002) at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, where his dissertation was based on using robots as aids to teaching topics in Artificial Intelligence. In 2003 he joined the National Library of Wales as a Web Assistant. This role involved producing online versions of catalogues and exhibitions, including ‘Celtic Voices’ ([http://www.llgc.org.uk/celticvoices](http://www.llgc.org.uk/celticvoices)), an exhibition of items in the six Celtic languages [Welsh, Scots Gaelic, Irish, Cornish, Manx and Breton]. He joined SOAS in April 2006. David’s responsibilities include maintaining the digital catalogue of the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR), as well as the database functions of the HRELP website. David is a Member of the British Computer Society, and his interests include artificial intelligence, educational technology and the Semantic Web.

Bernard Howard, Technical Officer
Bernard Howard started work at SOAS as the Phonetics Lab Technician. He manages the Linguistic Resources Room and provides technical support to assist staff and students with recording and digitising. He also helps with equipment support for ELAP fieldwork students and ELAR and ELDP training events.

Several ELAP students, including Lameen Souag, Hugues Prevost, Chaitra Puttaswamy and Louise Ashmore also worked on an occasional basis in the archive.

ELAR's office at SOAS is on the second floor and looks over the statue of Tiruvalluvar.
One of the tasks facing researchers and communities who are involved in documentation and support of endangered languages is helping people in the wider world understand the tragedy of language loss.