



SIL International Language & Culture Archives

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Archives Director

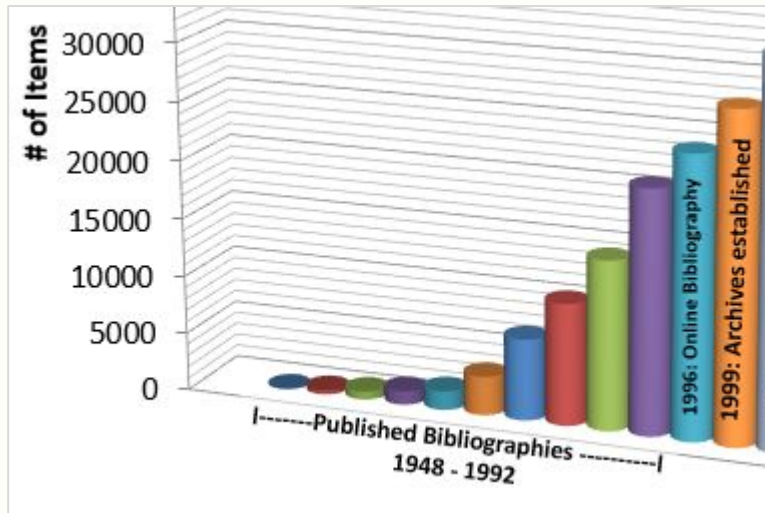
Summer Institute of Linguistics

- Founded in 1934 by L.L. Legters and William Cameron Townsend as a training program
- Fieldwork began in 1935 in Mexico
- Faith-based nonprofit based in Dallas
- 4,800+ staff worldwide
- Working alongside speakers of more than 1,600 languages in over 100 countries.
- Publishes [Ethnologue](#), [FLEx](#), [Bloom](#), [Webonary](#), and [more](#).



The SIL Bibliography

First edition compiled and published by Viola G. Waterhouse in 1947 citing 73 publications



- Nine print editions published
- Publications library maintained
- Microfiche program
- [Online edition](#) (1996-2014)

Language and Culture Archives

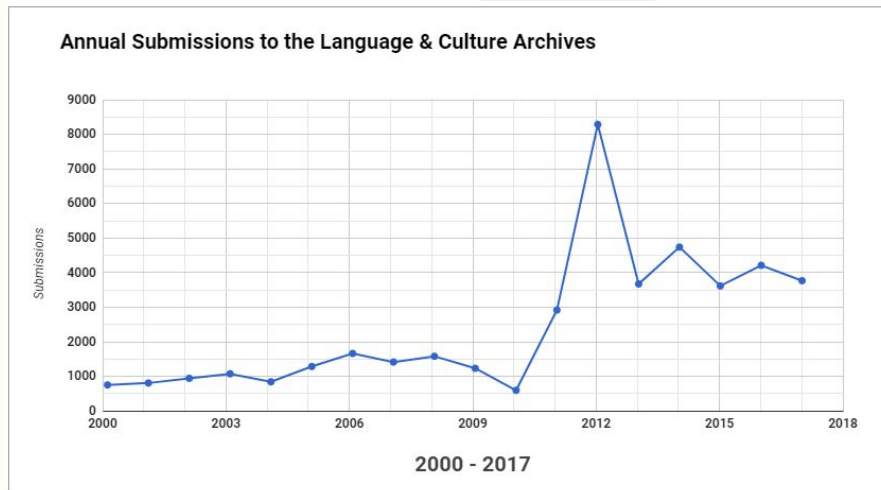
- Established in 1999 as an archives + publications library
- Emergent digital collections primarily from digitization of legacy print publications
- Private DSpace repository called REAP launched in 2011 resulting in dramatic increase of data intake
- The Bibliography was relaunched as the [Archives catalog](#) in 2014
- Currently holds 68,000+ catalogued items representing 3,900+ languages



The screenshot shows the website's header with navigation links: Home | Shopping cart (0 items) | Contact Us | Sign In. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the header, the main content area is titled "Language & Culture Archives" and includes a description: "The Archives contains works collected, compiled, or created by SIL, its strategic partners, or members of ethnolinguistic minority communities. Search and browse over 30,000 resources dating from 1935 to the present that describe, document, and/or communicate in the languages and cultures SIL serves." There are two sub-sections: "About the Archives" and "How to use the Archives Catalog", each with a "READ MORE >>" link. A sidebar on the right titled "Browse the Archives" contains filters for Contributors, Countries, Domains, Series, Subjects, and Languages. The footer contains navigation links: LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT | LANGUAGE & CULTURE | RESOURCES | TRAINING | DISCOVER SIL | SIL INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS.

Acquisitions

The bulk of submissions originate from active and retired SIL staff, though occasionally from former staff and persons more casually associated with SIL language work.



The main units of acquisition continue to be publications (80:20).

Acquisitions

Submissions are made to our DSpace instance (REAP), either directly or via our custom resource and metadata packager - [RAMP](#). All submissions are reviewed by collection curators for accuracy and completeness before approval.



Discovery

While REAP is private, a public catalog is available through our web site (<https://www.sil.org/resources/language-culture-archives>).

The public:private ratio of our collection is 3:2, and one-third of the public catalog's 41,000 citations include content that is available online.

In addition, researchers may discover our resources via the Open Language Archives Community.

Browse Language and Culture Archives

ALL A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

- [Pa'o Karen](#) (3)
- [Paasaal](#) (9)
- [Pacahuara](#) (1)
- [Pacoh](#) (28)
- [Padoe](#) (13)
- [Páez](#) (47)
- [Para Naga](#) (1)
- [Paraguayan Guaraní](#) (1)
- [Paraguayan Sign Language](#) (20)
- [Paranan](#) (4)
- [Parauk](#) (1)
- [Pima Bajo](#) (1)
- [Pinai-Hagahai](#) (7)
- [Pinotepa Nacional Mixtec](#) (31)
- [Pintupi-Luritja](#) (34)
- [Pinyin](#) (5)

Browse by

Contributors
Countries
Domains
Series
Subjects
Languages
Language Codes

Access

Beyond self-service access via the [Archives catalog](#), researchers may inquire further about our collection via SIL's online [contact form](#).

These inquiries include requests for digital copies of cited resources as well as requests for information on resources that may not be cited for a variety of reasons. Many legacy print materials are digitized upon request.

Discovery requests related to uncited resources may yield general descriptions of unprocessed materials or initiate contact with staff and departments who have not yet submitted all of their fieldwork to the Archives.

Issues and challenges

Generating greater financial sustainability

- Current dependence on philanthropic sources of income
- Limited ability to fill key staffing needs
- Development of a business plan to provide services to other organizations (subscription based on digital storage used)
- Selling services alone will not create self-sufficiency
- Considering feasibility of subscription based access to archived resources

Issues and challenges

Developing more efficient and effective collecting processes

- Grassroots submission process based in DSpace has generated dramatic results (increasing our average annual intake by 350%)
- Collecting language corpora still requires significant effort on the part of the linguist
- Incorporating an archiving 'button' in FLEEx was successful but a similar functionality within SayMore has been specified but not yet implemented.
- Retired staff possess language data in analog formats, but lack the equipment and technical knowledge to organize, digitize and archive

Issues and challenges

Bringing together other major SIL data sources not yet in the Language and Culture Archives for potential data licensing

- How could we commercially leverage large linguistic data sources/sets while also sharing individual products freely? Models elsewhere?
- Data sources managed in distinct systems
- Multiple stakeholders among the data submitters and managers
- Intellectual property complexity