

Archive and database architecture and usability

Nancy Caplow, Sumshot Khular, and Christina Willis Oko

Language documentation and description of Himalayan Tibeto-Burman languages

India (Darma and Bangba)



Bhutan (Khengkha)



Archiving roadblocks

- Where?
 - No specific home for South Asian languages
- Time consuming
 - Migrating data
 - Organizing metadata according to archive template
 - Curating deposit
- Payoff?
 - Pressure to publish or perish makes archiving less of a priority
 - Competing pressure to contribute by creating an archive (now mandatory for grants)

Using archived materials

- Organization of websites
 - Can be difficult to navigate
- Some deposits are not curated
- Lack of consistency
 - What is included
 - How it is presented
 - Time aligned
 - Morpheme-by-morpheme breakdown
 - Keys
- Searchability
- Speed

Going Forward

- Push for citation standards
 - Important for validation
 - Bad for scholars working in sensitive areas who cannot archive or offer unrestricted access to materials
- Only those who archive get funded
 - Ethical complications
- Use of existing archives
 - We are not utilizing what we have

Archiving Darma and Khengkha

- Chose ELAR
- Paid in advance so that I could curate deposit at own pace
- Shell is there for Darma!

The screenshot displays the ELAR website interface. At the top, the header reads "Endangered Languages Archive at SOAS University of London" with a "Home" link on the right. Below the header is a search bar with a text input field, a dropdown menu set to "All Fields", and a "Search" button. A "Back to the result list" link is visible below the search bar. The main content area is titled "Darma Documentation and Description Project" and features two tabs: "Deposit" (selected) and "Bundles and resources". Below the tabs, there is a search box labeled "Search this deposit" with a text input field, a "Search" button, and a "Reset keywords" link. To the right of the search box, a message states "No items to display."