THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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-->> --Correspondence should be directed to the Editor-- <<--

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143.0 SSILA BUSINESS

Website still crippled

We must apologize for the continuing problems with the SSILA website. As you know if you have visited the site recently, the large databases have not been searchable for several weeks. The special software that powers the searches has been disconnected, and the tech support at our host site has been (to say the least) unhelpful. We are in the process of moving the site -- once again -- and we hope to have things running again by the end of August. Meanwhile, please bear with us.
Cohotate?

>From Liz LoGiudice (liz@gcswd.com) 18 Jul 2001:

I have recently been hired to work at a small nature preserve in upstate New York. The preserve is on the Hudson River and it is called the Cohotate Preserve. I have been told that the word 'Cohotate" is an Iroquois word for the river, meaning 'water that flows two ways'. I am assuming that if this is true, it would be a Mohawk word, since they were the members of the Iroquois nation who lived closest to the Hudson.

I am hoping that someone can inform me if this word is actually a Mohowk name for the Hudson River and advise on correct pronunciation.

Thanks very much for your time and effort.

--Liz LoGiudice, Education Coordinator
Cohotate Preserve
(liz@gcswd.com)

[Bill Bright writes: "I don't know anything about the pronunciation or origin of this word. It's not listed in Beauchamp's "Aboriginal Place Names of New York." Do other SSILA readers have suggestions?

Some animal terms needed

>From George Ann Gregory (hoanumpoli@hotmail.com) 18 Jul 2001:

I am working on creating materials to promote literacy among beginning readers and writers, regardless of the language (I call these "language prompts"). Essentially, they are pictures that a child can either write about or talk about. The first set of pictures are of animals and come with the names in various languages, mostly Native American languages. Although I have most of the terms I need, there are still a few gaps in my data. Here is what I need:

Choctaw: porcupine
Cherokee: ant, bat, porcupine, buffalo, turtle
Lakota: big fish, goat

Any help would be most welcome. Yokoke (thanks)!

--George Ann Gregory
Albuquerque, New Mexico
(hoanumpoli@hotmail.com)

Dictionary wanted
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^
J.L.(Zeph) Zephier (ishnajin@webtv.net)

I am a Nakota Sioux, from the Ihanktonwan Oyate, in South Dakota. I've been searching for a Nakota dictionary. As of yet my search has been in vain. Does anyone have an idea where I can find one? Thank You!

--"Zeph"
Wagner, South Dakota
(ishnajin@webtv.net)

Information on linguistic diversity?
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>From Patrick Steinkrueger (steinkrueger@zas.gwz-berlin.de) 26 Jul 2001:

For an event at our Institute on September 15th, we need information about endangered languages and linguistic diversity around the world. If readers of the SSILA Bulletin have some appropriate material (maps, brochures, etc.), could they send it to us? It goes without saying that we will reimburse all costs.

Thank you for your help in advance.

--Patrick Steinkrueger
Zentrum fuer Allg. Sprachwissenschaft, Typologie & Universalienforschung
Jaegerstr. 10/11, D-10117 Berlin, Germany
(http://www.zas.gwz-berlin.de)

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143.2 ENDANGERED LANGUAGES DATABASE UNDER DEVELOPMENT

>From NSF News Service (cns-admin@nsf.gov) 9 Jul 2001:

To combat the decrease in the number and diversity of languages and to capitalize on a growing store of digitized linguistic data, a team of
National Science Foundation-funded researchers led by Anthony Aristar at Wayne State University is developing an endangered languages database and a central information server that will allow users to access the material remotely by computer. A $2 million NSF grant to Aristar and his colleagues at Eastern Michigan University, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Arizona will be used to create this public digital archive.

The goals of the Electronic Metastructure for Endangered Languages Data (E-MELD) project are to collect data on endangered languages and to devise a Web-based protocol so that new and existing data will be accessible to researchers and native speakers everywhere. Researchers on the E-MELD project will start with 10 distinct endangered languages to design a system that will be versatile, useful and extensible. E-MELD is modeled on the Internet, where standard communications protocols allow users to access information housed on a variety of very different operating systems, including UNIX, Windows-NT, and VMS.

The first version of E-MELD is expected to appear online this fall at the Linguist List website (http://www.linguistlist.org).

143.3 STABILIZING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES SYMPOSIUM AND WEBSITE

>From Jon Reyhner (Jon.Reyhner@nau.edu) 19 Jul 2001:

The Eighth Annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium, "Merging Tradition and Technology to Revitalize Indigenous Languages", was held at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, on June 14-16, 2001, with about 400 indigenous language educators and activists in attendance. The symposium's many panels, workshops, papers, and informal discussions provided an opportunity to share ideas and materials for revitalizing the indigenous languages of the world.

There were sixty sessions, ranging from "Choctaw Internet Courses in Oklahoma" to "Planning a Summer Language Immersion Camp." Plenary sessions featured Oscar Kawagley of the University of Alaska speaking on "A Yupiaq Worldview: A Pathway to Ecology and Spirit"; readings by Navajo poets Luci Tapahonso and Laura Tohe; and a talk by language activist Gary Owens on "Curriculum Development and Language Learning: Breathing Outside the Box." A selection of the conference papers is scheduled for publication in the spring of 2002.

The ninth annual conference is planned for 2002 in Montana, with the date and place still to be determined. Updated information will be posted on
the Teaching Indigenous Languages (TIL) website at:

http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~jar/TIL.html

as soon as it is available. You can be put on an e-mail list to receive information by sending your e-mail address to:

Jon.Reyhner@nau.edu


Other new material on the TIL website includes the full text of "Learn in Beauty: Indigenous Education for a New Century", with papers on Navajo attitudes towards teaching their language in schools, a model Navajo/English dual language program, and western influences on teaching indigenous languages. There is also a link to the full text of the summer 2001 special issue of *Cultural Survival Quarterly* titled "Endangered Languages, Endangered Lives", and a link to the 2001 Alaska Guidelines for Strengthening Indigenous Languages.

143.4 POSITIONS OPEN

* Indigenous Studies at the U of Victoria

>From Andrew Rippin (arippin@uvic.ca) 16 Jul 2001:

The University of Victoria (British Columbia, Canada) has two vacant faculty positions in Indigenous Studies.

--Chair of Indigenous Studies, to be filled by an active researcher who meets the requirements of the Canada Research Chair program. The person will provide leadership to the efforts centred within our Faculty related to Indigenous Studies and will contribute to interdisciplinary work through links across campus, especially in the faculties of Human and Social Development, Social Science, Fine Arts and the newly approved Minor in Indigenous Studies.

--A tenure-track position in Indigenous Studies at the rank of Assistant Professor, beginning July 1, 2002.

In accordance with the University's Equity Plan and pursuant to Section 42 of the BC Human Rights Code, the selection for these positions will be limited to aboriginal peoples. Candidates from this group are
encouraged to self-identify. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, this advertisement is directed to Canadian citizens and permanent residents in the first instance. Others are encouraged to apply but are not eligible for appointment until a Canadian search is completed and no appointment made.

The full vacancy announcements can be found on the web at:

http://web.uvic.ca/humanities/positions/is-minor.htm

http://web.uvic.ca/humanities/positions/crc.htm

--Andrew Rippin
Dean, Faculty of Humanities
University of Victoria
(arippin@uvic.ca)

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