Ways to get involved:

» Sign up for an account and contribute to the site, by sharing your knowledge and content. Content can be anything from word and phrase lists, to video and audio files to best practice documents. It simply needs to be relevant to language documentation and revitalization work.

» Review the existing data for your community, and make changes or add valuable comments so it reflects what your community wants the world to see.

» If you are an organization involved in language revitalization work, join the Alliance and consider hosting an event to raise awareness about the project.

» Spread the word within the language community to encourage others to participate and to join the Alliance.

Learn more about the Endangered Languages Project and the Alliance for Linguistic Diversity by visiting the site:

www.endangeredlanguages.com

The world has an amazingly diverse array of languages.

Today, some 7,000 languages are spoken around the globe. Yet, linguistic diversity is declining. Almost half of the languages spoken today face extinction within the next century if a concerted effort is not made to protect and pass them on to future generations.

Language revitalization begins at a community level, but can be greatly enhanced with the use of technology and by connecting with others around the globe involved in this important work. That's where the Endangered Languages Project can help.

Be part of a collaborative effort to document and revitalize languages around the world.

The Endangered Languages Project
www.endangeredlanguages.com

The online community for language advocates around the world

What is the Endangered Languages Project?

Endangeredlanguages.com is an online resource where people can record, access and share samples of, and research on, endangered languages. The site is also a place where those working to document or strengthen at-risk languages can share advice and best practices. Endangeredlanguages. com is an online community for language champions around the globe.

Launched in June 2012, Endangeredlanguages. com is a work in progress. What it needs now is for community language leaders, linguistic scholars and others involved in language revitalization to add content, as well as to review and update what's already online.

How it works

Users create an account to share knowledge and research and to help keep content up-to-date. Content that has already been uploaded ranges from 18th century manuscripts to modern video and audio language samples, knowledge-sharing articles to word lists and dictionaries.

Initial content was provided by language experts at the University of Hawai'i and Eastern Michigan University. Now that the site is live, feedback from language communities and scholars worldwide can be incorporated to update and expand the site.

Ownership of uploaded content is retained and controlled by the poster (or group they represent) and can be removed at any time. Once on the site, content can be accessed freely by other users. It's 100% free to create an account, upload information, and browse content.

Who Benefits?

Everyone benefits from an initiative that protects and preserves linguistic diversity.

The disappearance of a language constitutes a monumental loss of scientific information and cultural knowledge, comparable in gravity to the loss of a species. That loss impacts all of us. When we document and share an endangered language we take an important step in preserving cultural diversity and maintaining crucial scientific and medical information.

In particular, documenting languages provides an immeasurable benefit to its speakers, their communities and indeed the global language community. By contributing this work we honor the knowledge of our Elders, empower our youth, and respect the very identity, spirituality and values of each culture.

Who's involved?

Google initiated the project after they were approached by a number of language experts to help with the technological aspect of language revitalization. Four founding partners oversaw the site's development and launch:

- The First Peoples' Cultural Council: www.fpcc.ca
- The Linguist List at Eastern Michigan University: www.linguistlist.org
- University of Hawai'i at Manoa linguistics department: www.ling.hawaii.edu/uhm-department-linguistics
- Google's philanthropic arm: www.google.org

Now that the site is live, oversight has been transferred to the First Peoples' Council and The Linguist List with support from a Governance Council consisting of language experts from around the globe. Moving forward, all four founding members will play key roles in the long-term plans for the Endangered Languages Project and retain a special place on the Council. First Peoples' is chair and acts as a key moderator for the site.

Alliance for Linguistic Diversity

In addition to the governing organizations listed above, a global coalition of organizations working to strengthen and preserve endangered languages is forming through the site. This group is called the Alliance for Linguistic Diversity. Visit endangeredlanguages.com to learn how to join the Alliance