Archive and database architecture and usability

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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!