

Pathfinder on endangered languages and linguistic diversity

LIS 413 Assignment 2

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Suggested subject headings for searching the library catalog

Language obsolescence	Language spread	Language revival
Linguistic minorities	Languages in contact	

Article databases

(Databases are available via the e-resources list at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/eresources/>)

Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts. — Abstracts of articles from about 2,000 journals in language, linguistics, speech, and communication. Updated once a month. Online coverage begins with 1973; for articles published 1967–1972 see the print version: **Hatcher Ref. Z 7003 .L12**.

Linguistics Abstracts Online. — Covers only 400 journals but still helpful. Coverage begins with 1985.

Introductory works

Nettle, Daniel. (1999). *Linguistic diversity*. 168 pages. **Hatcher P 106 .N43 1999** — An eclectic introduction to language diversity, examining links between human activities and language diffusion.

Abley, Mark. (2003). *Spoken here: travels among threatened languages*. 336 pages. **Shapiro P 40.5 .L33 A25 2003** — Part travelogue, part linguistic description: an engaging account of the author's pursuit of endangered languages and their speakers, focusing on the diversity and richness of language and culture.

Dalby, Andrew. (2003). *Language in danger: the loss of linguistic diversity and the threat to our future*. 328 pages. **Hatcher P 40.5 .L33 D35 2002** — Discusses the impact on minority languages of the spread of English, ideas of what constitutes a language, and how languages change. Provocative and alarming.

Nettle, Daniel. (2000). *Vanishing voices: the extinction of the world's languages*. 241 pages. **Hatcher P 40.5 .L33 N48 2000** — Approaches language extinction from an ecological perspective, proposing that linguistic diversity and biodiversity are linked.

Wardhaugh, Ronald. (1987). *Languages in competition: dominance, diversity, and decline*. 280 pages. **Hatcher P 40.5 .L37 W37 1987** — Explores a number of instances of language contact and conflict, with an emphasis on new immigrants' experiences.

More advanced works

Grenoble, L. A. and Whaley, Lindsay J., eds. (1998). *Endangered languages: language loss and community response*. 361 pages. **Hatcher P 40.4 .L28 E631 1998** — A collection of articles on language extinction written from sociological and linguistic perspectives. Covers language contact, social aspects of language change, the role of linguistic fieldwork in language preservation, and other approaches to preserving languages and culture.

Greymorning, Stephen. (2003). *A will to survive: indigenous essays on the politics of culture, language, and identity*. 256 pages. **Hatcher GN 380 .W54 2004** — Perspectives on endangered languages and cultures by the people who use and inhabit them, for the reader interested in branching out from a strictly linguistic point of view.

Schmidt, Annette. (1985). *Young people's Dyrirbal: an example of language death from Australia*. 252 pages. **Hatcher PL 7101 .D5 S33 1985** — Analysis of changes in the Dyrirbal language of Australia due to the decline in transmission of the language from generation to generation.

Parasnis, Ila, ed. (1998). *Cultural and language diversity and the deaf experience*. 320 pages. **Shapiro HV 2545 .C85 1996** — Essays on deaf people as a minority language community, including perspectives on linguistic diversity and bilingualism among deaf people.

Reference

Ethnologue: languages of the world. <http://ethnologue.com/> — Information on nearly 7,000 known languages: number and geographical distribution of primary and secondary speakers, language family affiliations, and literacy rates. Language articles include links to relevant entries in the SIL International bibliography (see below). Extensive index of language name variants (very important for little-studied languages). Language indexes organized by country and language family.

Wurm, Stephen A., ed. (2001). *Atlas of the world's languages in danger of disappearing*. 2nd ed. 90 pages. **Hatcher P 40.5 .L33 A84 2001** — A geographically based catalog of endangered languages.

Interactive atlas of the world's languages in danger of disappearing. <http://www.unesco.org/webworld/babel/atlas> — An online version of the preceding book. As of July 2005, only Africa is covered.

Crystal, David. (2003). *A dictionary of linguistics and phonetics*. 508 pages. **Shapiro Ref. P 29 .C651 2003** — A comprehensive dictionary of terminology for students of linguistics. Technically oriented.

Trask, R. L. (1997). *A student's dictionary of language and linguistics*. 247 pages. **Shapiro P 29 .T69 1997** — A more concise dictionary for students with more modest needs.

Organizations

SIL International. <http://www.sil.org/> — Formerly known as the Summer Institute of Linguistics, SIL International conducts linguistic research on understudied languages, promotes literacy, and provides resources for field linguists. Includes a section on endangered languages (<http://www.sil.org/sociolx/ndg-lg-home.html>) with case studies of successful language renewal efforts. Other resources include online articles from the SIL Electronic Working Papers series; SIL bibliography, containing 13,000 articles published in 1935 and later on 1,000 languages (<http://www.ethnologue.com/bibliography.asp>); fonts, software, and other computing resources .

Foundation for Endangered Languages. <http://www.ogmios.org/> — Provides grants for research in endangered languages. Includes an online newsletter published two or three times a year.

E-MELD. <http://emeld.org/> — Project aims: preserve information about endangered languages, develop technological infrastructure to support collaborative work on endangered languages.

Selected languages and language families

Brenzinger, Matthias. (1998). *Endangered languages in Africa*. 284 pages. **Hatcher PL 8002 .E63 1998**.

Ureland, P. Sture, ed. (2001). *Global eurolinguistics: European languages in North America—migration, maintenance and death*. 490 pages. **Hatcher P 40.45 .N7 G56 2001**.

Schmidt, Annette. (1990). *The loss of Australia's Aboriginal language heritage*. 147 pages. **Hatcher PL 7001 .S35 1990**.

Himalayan Languages Project. <http://ias.leidenuniv.nl/host/himalaya/>

Peterson, John. (2005). *South Asian linguistics*. <http://www.southasiabibliography.de/>