

Designing the Southeast Asian Languages Fieldwork Digital Collection

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Abstract

This research explores the significance of recording linguistics fieldwork notes and highlights the need for a digital archive dedicated to collecting and preserving Southeast Asian languages fieldwork collections. Traditionally, linguists had to engage in arduous and often adventurous expeditions to distant cities or ethnic groups to study their native languages. However, the availability of comprehensive research notes offers a valuable alternative, eliminating the need for physical fieldwork. Moreover, these records play a crucial role in language preservation, particularly for endangered languages. Unfortunately, the existing records are predominantly in book or document form, making them inaccessible to the general public. To overcome this challenge, the creation of digital language archives becomes essential, enabling linguists, ethnic communities, and interested individuals to access linguistic data more easily and efficiently.

The research methodology involves two main steps: firstly, the establishment of a data structure based on the Dublin Core metadata, and secondly, the utilization of the Omeka program to design the Southeast Asian Languages Fieldwork Digital Collection. The findings demonstrate that the Dublin Core metadata framework proves to be suitable for effectively organizing and storing relevant linguistic data from Southeast Asian languages fieldwork. Its flexibility and comprehensiveness enable the efficient representation and management of diverse types of linguistic information. Furthermore, the integration of the Omeka program showcases its compatibility with the Southeast Asian languages fieldwork data, primarily due to its capacity to incorporate and present the Dublin Core metadata seamlessly. This integration enhances user experience by facilitating streamlined access and navigation through the digital collection.