No longer gathering dust

The role of digital repatriation in supporting traditional language and culture



Gary Holton, Stacey Baldridge, and Wendy Camber Alaska Native Language Archive





Elmer E. Rasmuson Library UAF College of Liberal Arts

Overview

- Alaska Native languages
- The Alaska Native Language Archive
- Toward digital repatriation: digital resources at ANLA
- Beyond language: cultural resource documentation at ANLA
- Digital transformation: new ways of using ANLA resources
- Collaboration: Community Language Archives







Alaska Native Language Archive

- Founded in 1972 as part of the Alaska Native Language Center, but collection dates to 1960
- Housed at the University of Alaska Fairbanks; administered jointly by the Rasmuson Library and the College of Liberal Arts
- Comprehensive coverage of Alaska's 20
 Native languages: copies of nearly everything written in or about Alaska Native languages
- Also, significant collections on related languages in Russia and Canada
- Emphasis on preservation of intellectual content rather than physical medium



ANLA Resources







~ 1500 linear ft. manuscripts, including nearly everything written in or about Alaska Native languages

~ 5000 recordings

Digital repatriation

- ANLA has always been nominally "open" to the public, but this does not necessarily equate to being accessible
- As the collection has grown over 50 years to contain more than 15,000 items, ANLA has become an "accidental gatekeeper"
- Digital repatriation attempts to address this issue by making materials more widely accessible and relevant



Why Digital Repatriation?

"You know, all these recordings ... if we don't get it out and learn about it, where are we going to learn from? These are old recordings. We want to get it out and teach our younger children what the elder people are talking about. I think that's a very good idea for getting it free so we can listen to them."



Andrew Balluta



Digitization timeline at ANLA

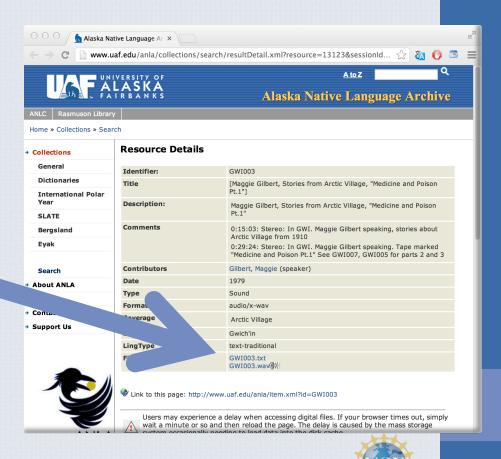
- 1999 first electronic catalog
- 2000 first attempts at digitization
- 2001 founding member of Open Language Archives Community (OLAC)
- 2003 founding member of Digital Endangered Languages and Musics Archiving Network (DELAMAN)
- 2004 Dena'ina Qenaga web portal
- 2008 electronic catalog goes online
- 2009 first digital materials available for download

Digital repatriation in the language context

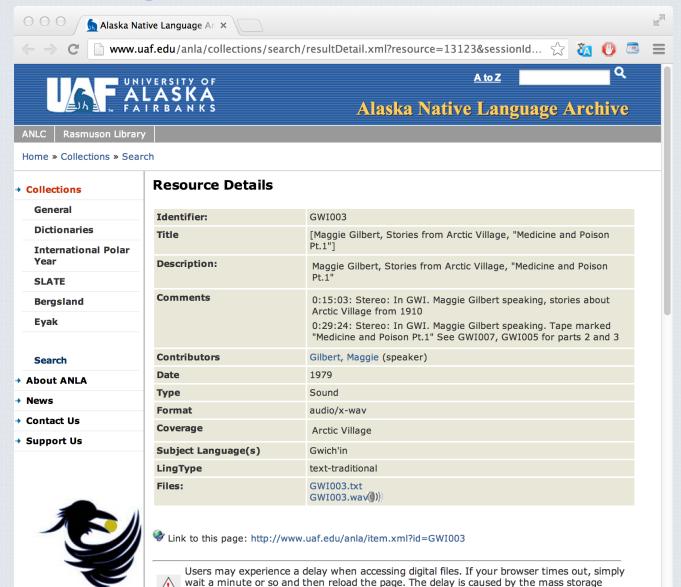
- In contrast to the cultural heritage context, the products of language documentation do not rely on physical materials
- Representations -- either as recordings or in print -- are infinitely reproducible
- Digital representations of language products are just as good (if not better) than the original

From brick and mortar to digital archive



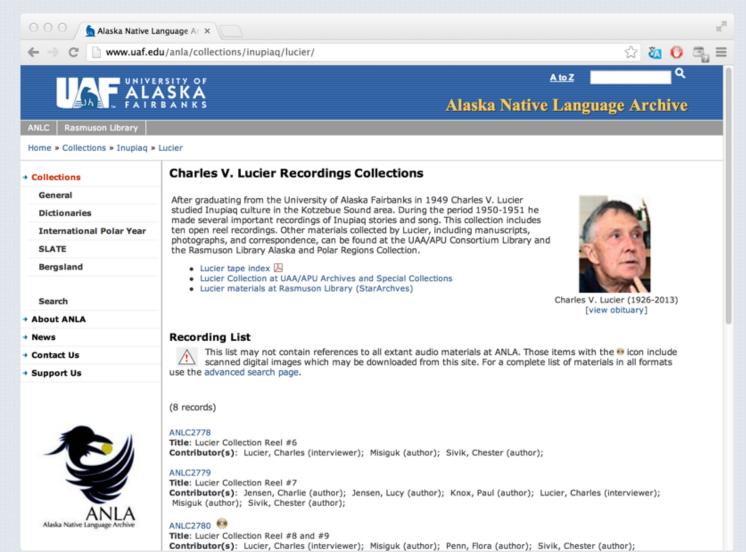


Challenges for resource discovery



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Featured collections







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Online Dictionary Resources for Alaska Native Languages

Many dictionaries of Alaska Native languages have been scanned are are available as searchable PDF documents. Still others include web-accessible versions. The following is a list of electronic dictionary resources in our collection. This list is expanding as we continue to digitize our collection, so check back often for additional resources. Those materials marked with a book icon () can be purchased in book form from the Alaska Native Language Center for a nominal cost.

Eskimo-Aleut

- Inupiaq
 - Abridged Inupiaq and English Dictionary (1981, PDF) IN(N)971M1981
 - Kanjqsisautit Uqayusragnikun / Kobuk Iñupiat Junior Dictionary (1979, PDF) IN(S)M975SDG1979
 - Iñupiat Eskimo Dictionary (1970, HTML) Online at Alaskool
- Alutiiq
 - Nanwalegmiut Paluwigmiut-Ilu Nupugnerit / Conversational Alutiiq Dictionary (Kenai Peninsula) (1978, PDF)
 SU972L1978a
 - A Conversational Dictionary of Kodiak Alutiiq (1978, PDF) SU972L1978b

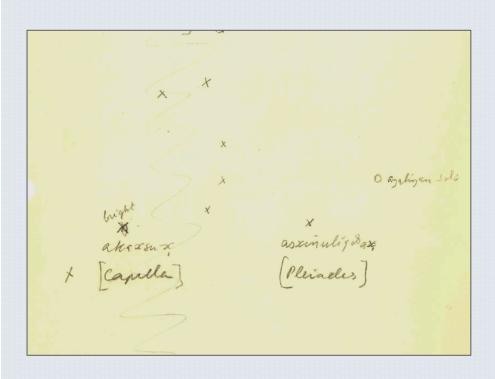
Athabaskan-Eyak-Tlingit

- Tlingit
 - 575+ Tlingit Verbs (2010, HTML) online
 - English-Tlingit Dictionary: Nouns (1963, rev. 1976) TL972Dv1976
 - Dictionary of Tlingit (2009, book) TL005E2009
- Eyak Dictionary (1970, PDF) EY961K1970b
- Ahtna
 - Ahtna Noun Dictionary (1975, PDF) AT973BK1975
- Dena'ina
 - o Kenai Tanaina Noun Dictionary (1974, PDF) TI972K1974i
 - o Dena'ina Athabaskan Junior Dictionary / Dena'ina Qenaga Duch'duldih (1979, PDF) TI974WK1979 🐓
- Deg Xinag
 - o Deg Xinag Ingalik Noun Dictionary (1978, PDF) IK974K1978a
 - Deg Xinag Learners' Dictionary (2007, HTML) Online at Alaska Native Knowledge Network
- Holikachuck Noun Dictionary (1978, PDF) HO975K1978c
- Upper Kuskokwim
 - Dinak'i (Our Words). Upper Kuskokwim Athabaskan Junior Dictionary (1979, PDF) UK964CP1979

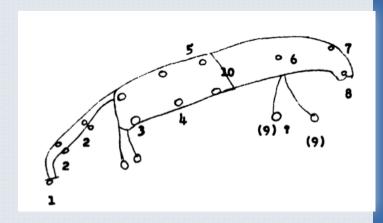
Much more than just language

- Examples of recent requests to ANLA:
 - ethnobotany in the Yukon Flats region
 - eulogy for Father Rysev
 - genealogy in the Upper Koyukuk region
 - Yup'ik music recordings
 - photos from Prince William Sound region
 - information on Russian influence in the middle Kuskokwim River region.

Knowledge of the sky

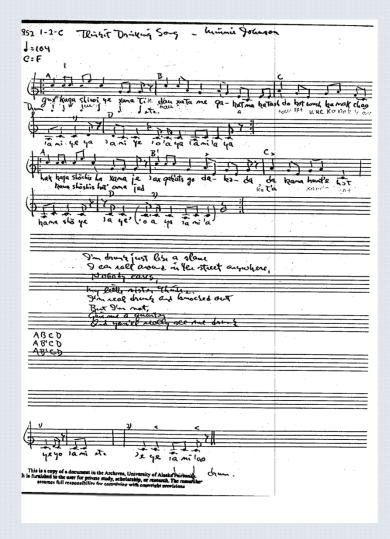


Bergsland, Knut. [Notes on Aleut wordlists regarding the natural world, 1952-59.] Item AL950B(B170)1952

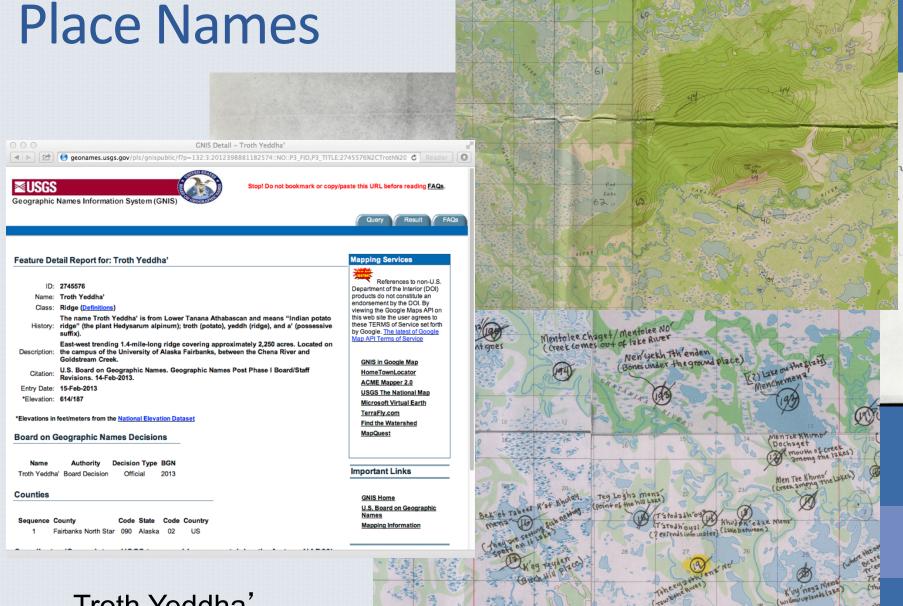


De Laguna and McClellan. 1960. [Ahtna fieldnotes] (AT954DM1960)

Music



[Yakutat, Minnie Johnson] Minnie Johnson, 1974 ANLA item ANLC1674



Troth Yeddha'

Photographs

Dir. praet. Iden Taxas so pl. 1th Je tran xai dath

25 Taxas op 2 Jarga dath

Dad. We don, Te tran xai vieto

Dig. Idig. Durth kaing pl. 1th Tro-garthe kaing

2 Dight kaing 2 Dight kaing

B. Lurth kaing 2 Dight kaing

The arm is perperty and of digging in the beaut, and the experience is perperty and of digging in the beauty and the experience in the object.

"Jaril out work on the chop" is simulation, and the experience in the significant work on the diet; Illuts oxiving mitigating in.

Disport, Mayor to promitt! In Disportant with voing little in the Dert, Kynrish

Dirty, Kynrish

Dirty, Kynrish

Directles - (The word with a first chottes, delor kynrish gian.

Directles - (The word with a grant disposition that was a were with home who were tanget 2 int disposite to disposite and in the sing min.

Those when were tanget 2 int disposite to disposite with in the sing min.

They are his de Given gamitation in disposite to the sing min.

They are his de Given gamitation distribution on the sing min.

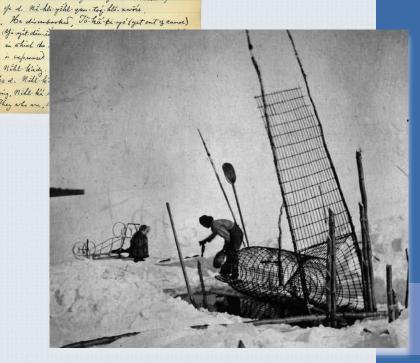
" " their ... Lamite."

(Thin dis. Zût-do-xwin gût-dû-gwo-dil-lû-an en)

ANLA IK887C1911

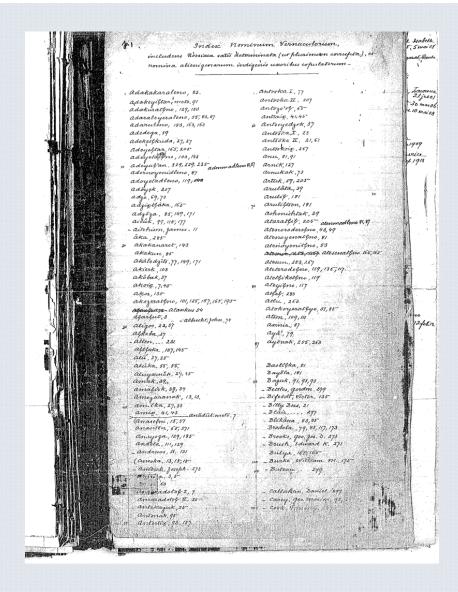


UAF-2008-15-96



UAF-2008-15-019

Genealogy



[Roster of Indigenous Families, Census and Baptismal Records] Jules Jetté, 1913 ANLA item KO898J1913a

Old words

Vaũ·gáihlt'·ái 'the governor of the universe'

```
Divi. praet. Idor Tă-xûs-só pl. 1st Ji-trû-xai-dátl
2° Toñ-ñi-yó 2° Jã-og-dátl
3° Tă-xai gó 3° Tã-qû-xai-dátl
          Dual, We dove, Je-tru-xai-o-ito
Dig. Idig, Durth kaing pl. 1st Tro-gwohl kaing 2 Doght kaing
        3' Qwohl-kaing \ 3 20-gwihl-kaing
    The word is properly new of digging in the snow, and the ex-
pression "to work in the dirt" is sometimes used instead.
     "I will not work in the dist," Hlats oxwin ntip as mig-it gain
Dip, Dipthon, ñi-griñ itl : The Dipper (contellation) Voir gaillt-ai (The Dipper) of the minume)
Dirty, Kgwos yran ; dirty clothes, deloi kgwos yran.
Disciples - (The word voxo yi ditteren, those who were
         with him, was mostly used in Early translations!
          Those who were taught, Lit-di-ying ho di-xuhl-ann
           Those whom he taught Lit-di-ying ho tihl ing min.
          They are his d. Itsin quit-dog o-dil livann git-de lair.
           " " Their " , Lavuritsi
         (Thin dis. Lait-do-xwin grit-du-gwo-dil-liran en)
Discuss - Je d. Ni hli yihl gan tog hlo - xwors .
Disembork, He disembarked, To-ka- pi-yo' (get out of cause)
            (Mi yet divid diryo, got out of cause, or any thing
             in which the might have been . The idea of getting "out"
             is expressed in the syllable "die".
Divergent - Mill-Kady.
Divides, We d. Will-ka-hir-will-mig.
Divides, sing, Mihl-ka vois-E-dl-nik: pl, nill-ka-garwin- E-dl-nik
Diseased - They who are, Um mir-gut de lains
```

Digital transformation

- Access ≠ repatriation
- Access
 - More than 17,000 digital documents are available for download from ANLA
 - These materials have also been distributed on hard drives to numerous tribal entities upon request
- Repatriation
 - New ways of accessing existing materials
 - Transforming materials into useful formats through
 - Addition of appropriate context
 - Enrichment with additional content
 - Use of appropriate media (web, mobile, etc.)

Upper Kuskokwim

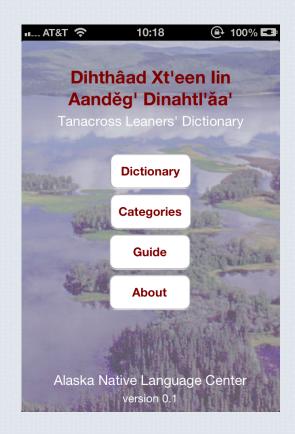


Tildzidza Diz'a Ch'idoghełtanh

The Mouse Saves His Uncle



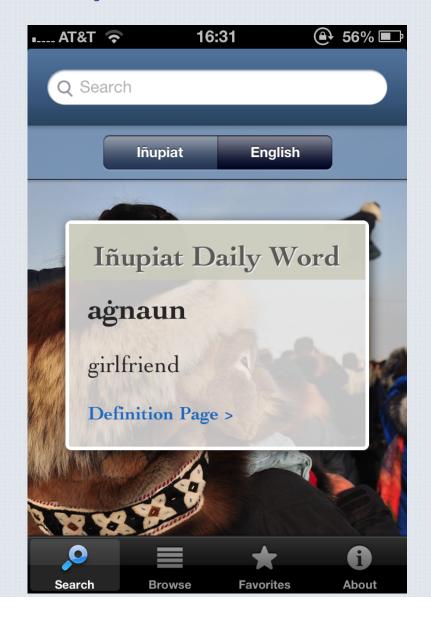
Tanacross dictionary app

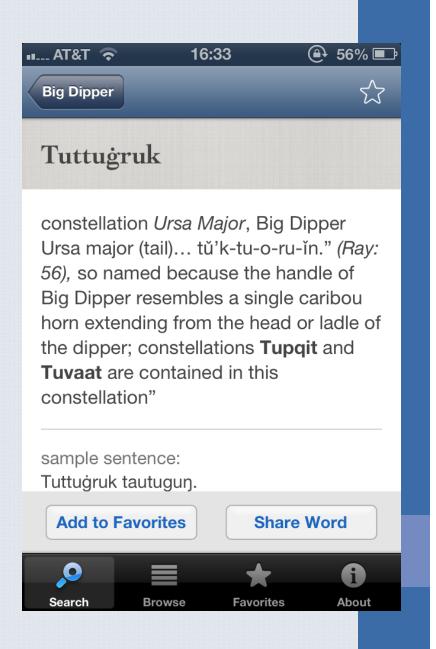




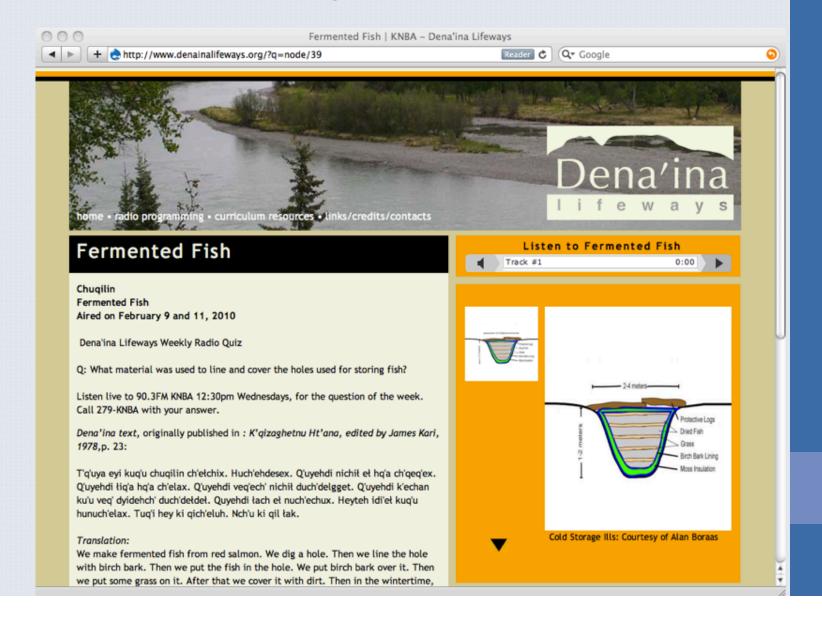


Inupiat





Dena'ina lifeways









Liicugtukut Alutiiq

Celebrate Valentines Day by learning new ways to tell the people you care about how you feel in **Alutiig**

Happy Valentines Day (click here)

Dictionary Flash Card Featured Alutiiq word is guutet

Meaning: teeth

The featured word is made possible through an Alaska **Humanities Forum** grant and Afognak Native Corporation. **More Words >>**

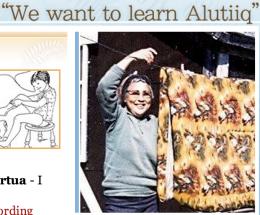
Alutiig Storybook

The Alutiiq Basic Storybook series is a great way to learn everyday words and short sentences.

Dictionary News



Guangnek Atkukutaartua - I Can Dress Myself Book PDF Audio Recording



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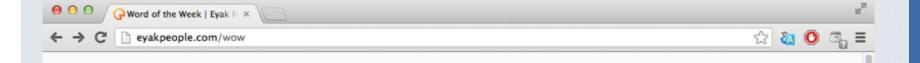
Books

Unguwallriat Atuun

In this video clip you will learn names of animals and their habitats in Alutiiq. This is a favorite in the classrooms and I hope it inspires you to use simple technology,



-00:01 📢 🚜



Eyak Language Project q'aayaa tl'hix (A New Beginning)

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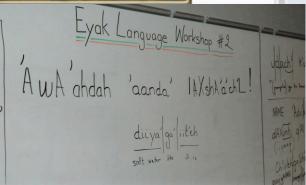
Home » Word of the Week

Word of the Week

iishuh, and welcome to WOW - the Eyak "Word of the Week".

Are you ready to make history? The Eyak language was declared 'extinct' when to speaker, Marie Smith Jones, died in January 2008. Now, you have the chance to wisdom of Eyak back into the world and make them part of your life. Every Sunday Eyak word or phrase at this site for you to listen to, practice, and learn. Whether you learn a fer something to you or endeavor to become fluent, your efforts will mean that this irreplaceable thinking about the world will never be lost.

- . Word of the Week 01: Hello (is that you?) iishuh
- . Word of the Week 02: Yes, this is me aan, xuu q'a'al
- . Word of the Week 03: Hello (is that you?) to a group laXiishuh

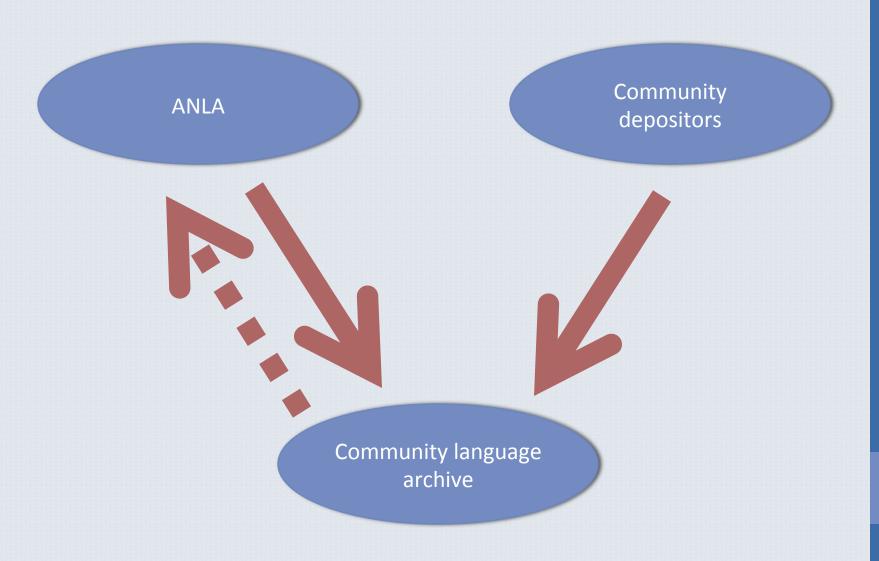




Community language archives



A community language archive model



Conclusions

- Merely providing access to linguistic documentation resources is not sufficient
- Digital repatriation facilitates new kinds of circulation through transformation and mobilization of resources
- Language archives must engage with communities to develop and repurpose materials
- These efforts are most successful when driven by the communities themselves

