

New Media Toolkit

Indigenous Languages Resources

10 Easy resources for community language revival

Purpose

After communities have recorded and collected language material, the next step is to turn those into resources that can support language teaching or learning in the community. This guide provides some ideas for language resources using New Media.

Digital Story

Digital storytelling brings the tradition of oral storytelling and new technologies together in a powerful, learning process. Through digital storytelling we can weave together video, photos, art, music, narration, print, and sound effects using simple multimedia publishing tools to tell our stories.

There is a range of software and apps available for iPads, iPhones, Tablets or PCs that can be used to create digital stories. Hardware includes a good quality video camera, microphone, camera to create your content.

Songs

Often songs are the best record of language still used in communities; this may be traditional songs, hymns or contemporary songs that have been passed down through families. Another idea is to have young children sing 'heads shoulders, knee and toes' or 'hokey pokey' substituting in language words for body parts. A good quality video camera and/or microphone are the only requirements.

Virtual Books

There is a range of software/apps available to produce Virtual Books; a quick and easy idea is to turn an existing print book into a digital story book by scanning/photographing pages and add in language/narration by recording.

Need further information?

(07) 3842 9836 kdhagun@slq.qld.gov.au



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Flash Cards

As well as print flash cards; use software to create a digital flash card for learning language words.

Digital Dictionary

Using PowerPoint, PhotoStory or similar programs, create a simple picture dictionary to practise language. PowerPoint allows you to combine text, images and sounds to assist learning.

Community Dictionary

After collecting words and building up your language database through Miromaa, We Say, Lexique Pro, etc. print a basic community dictionary for community members to share and practise.

Electronic Body Chart

Create or find a body image template. Upload to PowerPoint or similar; record the parts of the body and embed these sounds onto the image to create an interactive learning tool.

Recording

Using a microphone, iPad, phone, etc. record community members using and sharing language – this may be songs, words, stories, etc. Compile wordlists for learning in the community.

Traditional Knowledge

Record or film Elders and community members sharing traditional knowledge about Caring for Country, plant use, seasonal calendars, family history, significant sites, etc. Create a digital story or short film to share with others.

Animation

Explore animation techniques, e.g. stop-start, clay animation, etc. to create language stories from your community. Animation Apps are also available for iPhone, iPads, Tablets, etc.

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Further Reading

The following selection of language resources may be useful references for communities to support the teaching/learning of languages and provide suggestions and ideas for language resources.

Aird, M. (1996) *I know a few words: Talking about Aboriginal Languages*. Keeaira Publications: Southport. **G 499.15 1996**

Amery, R. and Nash, J. (2007) *Warra wiltaniappendi = Strengthening languages: proceedings of the inaugural Indigenous Languages Conference (ILC) 2007, 24-27 September, University of Adelaide*. Discipline of Linguistics, University of Adelaide: Adelaide. **Q 499.15 IND**

Auld, G. (2002) "The role of the computer in learning Ndjbbana." *Language Learning and Technology*, v6 no 2 May 2002 41-58. [**Available online via SLQ login**].

Australia (2012) *Our land our languages: language learning in Indigenous communities*. Commonwealth of Australia: Canberra. **J 499.45 AUS**

Condamine Alliance (2013) *Languages of the Condamine: schools activity guide*. Condamine Alliance: Toowoomba. **HCF 499.15 CON**

Ford, M. (1996) 'Language nests in NZ: Implications for the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander context', *Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*, vol. 24, no. 2. **S 371.97 003**

Hartman, D. and Hendersen, J. (Eds) (1994) *Aboriginal Languages in education*, IAD Press, Alice Springs. **G 499.1507 1994**

Hobson, J., Lowe, K., Poetsch, S. and Walsh, M (Eds) (2010) *Re-awakening languages: theory and practice in the revitalisation of Australia's indigenous languages*. Sydney University Press: Sydney. **499.15 2010**

Kimberley Language Centre (1997) *So they can know: Kimberley Language Resource Centre Language nests*. Kimberley language Centre: Hall's Creek. **QVC 499.15 SO VHS**

Lockhart River Language Learning Project (2012) *Lockhart River Language Readers: Umpila and Kuuku ya'u languages*. **HKT 418 HIL**

Nettle, D. and Romaine, S. (2000) *Vanishing voices: The extinction of the world's languages*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. **G 417.7 2000**

Quinn, M. (1992) *Ngirrama badji! : Djabugay! Sing in language*. Queensland Department of Education: Brisbane. **JUVQ 782.42 QUI**

State Library of Queensland (2010) *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language projects*. **HDVD 499.1 ABO**

Thieberger, N. (1995) *Paper and talk: a manual for reconstituting materials in Australian indigenous languages from historical sources*. Aboriginal Studies Press: Canberra. **J 499.15 PAP**

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Websites

The following weblinks provide further ideas on language resources, including those that utilise technology and New Media.

- ABC Open Mother Tongue Project: <https://open.abc.net.au/explore?projectId=95&sortBy=publishedDate>
- Aussie Educator Indigenous Languages – website/portal developed by educators to provide resources and ideas on a range of curriculum topics: www.aussieeducator.org.au/curriculum/otherlanguages/indigenoulanguage.html
- Indigenous Knowledge Centres (IKCs) Blog: <http://ikc.org.au/>
- Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative: www.muurrbay.org.au/
- Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority – Indigenous perspectives: https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/senior/snr_sos_12_res_indigenous.pdf
- Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity (RNLD): <http://www.rnld.org/>
- Sharing Culture: www.sharingculture.com.au
- Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages: www.vaclang.org.au/
- Yugambah Museum, Language and Heritage Research Centre www.yugambah.com

Further Details:

For further information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages at the State Library of Queensland, please contact:

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SLQ Indigenous Languages Webpages: www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages

SLQ Indigenous Languages Blog: <http://blogs.slq.qld.gov.au/ilq/>

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