SLQ, new technologies and community language revival

Puliima 2015
National Indigenous Language and Technology Forum
14 October 2015
100 (approx.) languages in Queensland

< 20 are strong
2 are living/thriving

5 Indigenous Language Centres support community language revival and maintenance

700+ languages in Australia

50% are spoken in some form
Languages at State Library of Queensland

- National Indigenous Languages Survey Report 2005 (commissioned by AIATSIS & FATSIL)
- Recommended libraries could play an important part in preserving and supporting languages
- State Library of Queensland’s Indigenous Languages Strategy (2007)
- Funding from Australian Government, Office for the Arts, Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport – Indigenous Languages Support program

A second NILS survey is currently underway.
SLQ’s Indigenous Languages Project: AIMS

- Support the **maintenance, revival, and development** of Indigenous languages
- **Increase the use** of Indigenous languages in a range of fields and media
- **Support** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ engagement with their languages
- **Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing** by strengthening pride in identity and culture through languages
- **Promote public appreciate** of language
SLQ’s Indigenous Languages Project: AIMS

- Support capacity of community to research & manage their language
- Increase access and discoverability of language materials within State Library collections to support the growth of local knowledge of groups
- Assist Indigenous languages workers in new media & emerging technologies to record & document their languages
- Facilitate networking opportunities to share ideas, best practices and concerns regarding the revival and maintenance of languages in Queensland
- Raise wider community awareness & appreciation
Language Research at SLQ

A snapshot of researching languages at the State Library of Queensland.
Language Materials at SLQ

• The State Library collections include a diverse/extensive range of language materials, particularly relating to Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
  • Web-based Materials
  • Original Materials
  • Published Materials
  • Audio/Visual Materials
Original Materials

- Archibald Meston Notebooks: OM64-17 – A collection of press cuttings, notes, correspondence relating mainly to Aborigines in Queensland, in particular, to language.

- Margaret Lawrie Collection of Torres Strait Islands Material: TR1791 – Material collected by Margaret Lawrie from 1964-73 relating to Torres Strait Islander languages, histories, genealogies, cultures, customs, art, etc..
Published Materials

- Haddon, A. (1898) *Reports of the Cambridge Anthropological Expedition to Torres Strait*. Vols. 1-6. Q994.38 cam
- Watson, F. J. (1944) *Vocabularies of Four Representative Tribes of South Eastern Queensland*. REFJ 499.15 wat
Audio-Visual Materials

- Sound Recordings, Tapes, CDs, etc., of language, including songs, stories and linguistic recordings. For example, **Gunggari Language Audio Cassettes** is a collection of five cassette recordings that were made in 1974 with several Gunggari language speakers from the Mitchell area.

- DVDs, Films, etc., on cultural topics either speaking in language or speaking about language in communities. For example, **Retold: A retelling of stories and songs from Myths and Legends of the Torres Strait by Margaret Lawrie** (2010) is a SLQ project that involved Torres Strait Islander community members retelling the stories that were collected during 1964-1973 and providing additional cultural information to complement the original stories.
Discoverability

How to find language materials at the State Library of Queensland.
‘Tagging’ - Discoverability

**SLQ OneSearch**

SLQ Collection items relating to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are gradually being ‘tagged’ with AIATSIS Austlang language codes to make it easier for language researchers and the general public to identify materials.
‘Tagging’ – Subject Details

SLQ OneSearch

SLQ Collection items relating to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are gradually being ‘tagged’ with AIATSIS geographical and language codes in the Subject Description/Details.
‘Tagging’ - Example

A OneSearch request on ‘Djirbal’ will identify only three items in the collections; however there may be several different spellings for languages, e.g. Djirbal is also spelt as Djirubal, Dyirbal, Jirrbal or Jirrabul; the language is also known as Djirbalngan, Dyirbaldyi or one of its’ several dialects.

Hence the ‘tags’ for these items will include the AIATSIS Language Code y123 which will identify nineteen items in the collections. The AIATSIS Geographical Location Code (Qld SE55-05) will also be displayed in the subject details and provides another identifier for searches.
OneSearch – ‘tags’
‘Tagging’ – Popular language ‘tags’

Aiatsis language code Y1 [Kala Lagaw Ya] 101 items
Aboriginal English 101 items
Torres Strait Creole 83 items
Aiatsis language code Y2 [Kala Kawaw Ya] 82 items
Aiatsis language code Y57 [Wik Mungkan] 80 items
Aiatsis language code Y3 [Meriam Mir] 78 items
Aiatsis language code E29 [Gabi Gabi] 67 items
Aiatsis language code Y69 [Thaayorre] 49 items
Aiatsis language code Y78 [Kuku Yalanji] 42 items
Aiatsis language code Y106 [Djabugay] 41 items
Aiatsis language code E30 [Badtjala] 36 items
‘Tagging’ – other topics

- Range of other topics for schools, communities, etc. relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander themes:
  - Traditional knowledge
  - Caring for Country
  - Australian Curriculum [Teacher, Subject, Year Level]
  - Family History
  - Indigenous Literature
  - Civil rights
Discoverability

Interactive Languages Resources Map.
Interactive Language Map

- This resource aims to make it easier for community members, language workers, etc. to identify language material in the State Library collections.
- The interactive map can be searched via language name or geographical location.
- Current links to State Library Collections as well as identifying language centres and other organisations.
Research Discovery Workshops

Annual Indigenous Language Research Discovery Workshop to enable community language workers to access and research SLQ Collections.
Regional Language Workshops

• Generally 3-4 workshops in regional communities: focus depends on community needs and language profile:
  • Historical research
  • ‘White Gloves’
  • IT – recording & documenting
• Partner with local community, language centre, IKC, etc..
Indigenous Languages Residency

• Residencies as part of State Library’s Indigenous Languages Project
• Supports individuals to undertake focused, intensive research activity into their community language/s over 2 weeks
• 2015 – small group researching NQ rainforest languages
Creating new knowledge
Using historical language resources.
These InfoGuides support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and the general public in identifying materials within State Library collections related to their community or region.

The InfoGuides relate specifically to State Library collections and are also located on the SLQ Indigenous Languages webpages.
Resource Guides: Regions

- Resource Guides developed to complement regional workshops held in regional centres during 2010-15.
- Identifies State Library items [Linguistic and General Reference] for:
  - Longreach and Central-West
  - Mt Isa and North-West
  - South-East Queensland
  - Toowoomba and Darling Downs
  - Brisbane
  - Placenames
  - Maps

Linguistic-Language Resources in SLQ Collections:
This is only a selection from the SLQ Collections — for a comprehensive listing of print and electronic materials [books, journals, manuscripts, videos, images, sound recordings and items from digital collections, etc.] use the OneSearch facility: www.onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au


Wordlists

- Wordlists have been extracted from State Library collections.
- Collated and compiled using Miromaa software program.
- Longreach example – workshop in 2010; view in Longreach was ‘there’s no language left or recorded’.
- Presented community with ~300 words from Iningai language plus 500+ words from neighbouring languages.
Themed wordlists

• Say G’day
• Numbers
• Parts of the body
• Heads, shoulders, knees & toes…
• Loanwords
Creating new knowledge

Digitisation of historical collections.
Digitisation

• SLQ digitises collection items for community access and preservation.

• Key items: Margaret Lawrie; Tindale; Meston Notebooks; Ridley Notebook; Watson Four Vocabularies; etc..
Digitisation Toolkit

- **Online** resources provide a guide to digitisation
- How to advice for documents, AV, etc..

The Digitisation Toolkit information guides include the following:

- Distributed collection
- Introduction to digitisation
- Organising Queensland heritage collection
- Writing a Digitisation Plan
- File naming guide for digital files
- Digitising in-house or using vendors
- Selecting a digital camera
- Digitising audio and audio-visual material
- Scanning and capture guide for image-based material
- Digitising community newspapers with SLQ and Trove
- Making your collections accessible — engagement and networking
Wameyal by Eric Babia from Mabuiag island in the Torres Strait, in which children’s love and obsessions with playing string games lands them into trouble with their parents.
‘Retold’

- Wameyal: [http://vimeo.com/13810430](http://vimeo.com/13810430)
The Story of Wameyal

told by Eric Babia

Using social media to raise awareness and promote Indigenous languages.
Social Media Training

- State Library has conducted community training and skills sessions in social media:
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Blogs
  - Pin Interest
  - History Pin
  - Flickr
  - SLQ YouTube
  - SLQ Vimeo
Indigenous Languages Blog

- Use of Blog to increase community awareness and promote Queensland Indigenous languages.
- Blog launched June 2014: 10,500+ visits.
IKC Blog

- IKC Blog to increase awareness and promote the work of Queensland’s Indigenous Knowledge Centres (IKC)
- Local collections - histories, stories, languages.

- [http://ikc.org.au](http://ikc.org.au)
Language in the News

Connecting and sharing language news.
Language in the News

- Email distribution list to share news items, research articles, etc. relating to Indigenous languages
- 150+ recipients, including language centres, IKCs, language workers, etc.
Languages & New Media Toolkit

Online toolkit to support community language revival using New Media and technologies.
New Media Toolkit

• The toolkit aims to provide community members, language workers and others with some useful tips, resources and information to incorporate New Media into community language revival processes and activities.
New Media Tools

• New media tools can help you:
  – CONNECT people with Indigenous language information and services.
  – COLLABORATE with other people working with Indigenous languages—including those within your organization or community.
  – CREATE new Indigenous language content, communities and channels of communication that help you deliver information and services.
State Library of Queensland

Contact details
SLQ weblinks

• SLQ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages webpages: www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages

• On-line Language Resources: www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/ind/languages/resources


• SLQ Indigenous Languages Digital Stories on Vimeo: http://vimeo.com/40637189 (two versions; a 2 min overview and the full 7 min digital story)

• SLQ Online Exhibitions: www.slq.qld.gov.au/find/online
Further details:

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

  Queensland Memory, State Library of Queensland
  Stanley Place, South Brisbane Qld. 4101.
  PO Box 3488, South Brisbane Qld. 4101.
  Telephone: (07) 3840 7666          Fax:   (07) 3842 9126

• SLQ Indigenous Languages Webpages:
  www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/ind/languages