Digital humanities as Infrastructure

PARADISEC and other services

Presented by
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Depositor Tote Tepano (Rapanui) collecting some CDs from Amanda at PARADISEC in 2004.
PARADISEC: What?

- Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures
- Cross-institutional collaborative research facility established in 2003 to preserve and make accessible Australian researchers’ records of endangered languages and cultures of the Asia-Pacific region
- Early Australian digital humanities project – enabled by development of distributed computing technologies, high bandwidth networking, collaboration technologies
- Partners Universities of Sydney, Melbourne and ANU (UNE in 2005) major financial support
- Setup and some maintenance funding from Australian Research Council Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities scheme
- 2014-2021 nominated archive for ARC Centre of Excellence in the Dynamics of Language
PARADISEC: Why?

- Endangered languages in our region – over 2000 languages, many at risk
- Endangered media – maintaining access to obsolete analogue & digital recordings
- Unique field recordings of unrepeateable events
  - E.g. Hugh de Ferranti’s recordings of the last blind Biwa player, Kyushu
- Discoverability and visibility of Australian research - Feed of our data to other services
- Primary data supporting publications
- Secure repository for specialised research data
  - Maintain ethical responsibilities
  - Aggregate information on language, etc
  - Most materials open access to registered users
- Research training and capacity building
PARADISEC: Who?

1. Community of practice (CIs)

- **University of Sydney**: Linda Barwick, Linda Connor, Bill Foley, Jane Simpson, Allan Marett, David Nathan, Michael Walsh
- **Australian National University**: Wayan Arka, John Bowden, Adam Chapman, Aaron Corn, Bethwyn Evans, Nick Evans, Mark Mosko, Andy Pawley, Malcolm Ross, Alan Rumsey
- **University of Melbourne**: Sander Adelaar, Peter Austin, Steven Bird, Cathy Falk, Janet Fletcher, John Hajek, Rachel Nordlinger, Nick Thieberger, Jill Wigglesworth
- **University of New England (2005)**: Hugh de Ferranti, Cliff Goddard
PARADISEC: Who?
2. Operational team 2015

- Director: Nick Thieberger (University of Melbourne)
- ANU operations: Julia Miller (Data Manager, CoEDL)
- Melbourne operations: Nick Thieberger
- Sydney operations: Linda Barwick (University of Sydney)
  - Sydney operations manager: Amanda Harris
  - Audio archiving: Nick Fowler-Gilmore
- Data and Catalog Hosting: Intersect Australia & University of Sydney
- Catalog software maintenance: Terem Technologies
PARADISEC: Who?

3. Steering Committee 2015

- Linda Barwick (chair), University of Sydney
- Kevin Bradley – National Library of Australia
- Denis Burnham – University of Western Sydney
- Linda Connor – University of Sydney
- Mark Ellison – Australian National University
- Nick Enfield – University of Sydney
- John Hajek – University of Melbourne
- Aashild Naess – University of Newcastle
- Jane Simpson – Australian National University (Deputy Director, CoEDL)
- Robyn Sloggett – University of Melbourne
- Paul Trilsbeek – Max Planck Institute, Nijmegen (President, DELAMAN)
- Jacques Vernaudon – University of the South Pacific

- Amanda Harris (Secretary to the Steering Committee)
Our collection 2015 - 887 languages represented
PARADISEC statistics (as at 25/9/2015)

Repository Objects
- 335 collections
- 12,525 items
- 94,660 essence objects
- 887 languages
- 2,716 users
- 55 universities

Essence Files
- 10,690:07:46.31 hours
- 9.78 TB of essence objects
- 1.12 TB of video files in archive
- 7.27 TB of audio files in archive
- 568 GB of image files in archive
- 870 GB of application files in archive
- 145 MB of text files in archive
Regional and international links

- AIATSIS – Canberra
- Archive of Maori and Pacific Music (University of Auckland, New Zealand)
- Programme Archivage - LACITO, CNRS, Paris
- Music Department, Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies
- Pacific Manuscripts Bureau – Canberra
- Solomon Islands Archives and Museum
- Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta
- Tjibaou Cultural Centre, New Caledonia
- UIN, Jakarta, Indonesia
- Archives with similar scope worldwide (DELAMAN)
Good e-citizenship

- Active collaboration across the digital humanities sector in Australia & beyond:
  - National: APSR, HuNI, Alveo, Research Data Alliance etc
  - International: Language archives community, DELAMAN, Data Alliance

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The University of Sydney
PARADISEC Awards

- Versi e-Research Award (2008) – best digital humanities project
- Data Seal of Approval (2012) – secure data repository certification
- UNESCO Memory of the World Australian Register (2013)
PARADISEC Conference Publications

- Researchers, Communities, Institutions and Sound Recordings (2003)
  http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/1319
- Sustainable Data from Digital Fieldwork: from creation to archive and back (2006)
  http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/1160
- Sustainable Data from Digital Research: humanities perspectives on digital scholarship (2011)
  http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/7890
  http://purl.library.usyd.edu.au/sup/9781743324431
Capability development through e-infrastructure

- HDR and ECR depositors and staff
  - Training workshops and field support for HDR and ECR projects
    • Proactive engagement pre-fieldwork
  - Research data capabilities
    • Understanding of data infrastructure issues
    • Research data lifecycle: planning, capture, curation, archiving, re-use
    • Agile design and collaborative development of:
      - Workflows
      - Interfaces
      - Databases
      - Digital annotation methods
      - Dissemination platforms
      - Permissions and IP
- Community engagement capabilities
- Information analysis capabilities
Infrastructure for the future

- Benefits of embedding research infrastructure development within humanities higher education contexts
- (H. Durrant-Whyte, “Future skills in information technology”, Australia’s future workforce?, 2015, 238)
  - Everyone will need to be a technology generalist
  - Everyone will need to be creative and agile with the application of technology to problems and be able, at some level, to ‘architect, design and analyse’
- Former PARADISEC ECR staff now working as eResearch analysts, language technology industry, library, publishing and community development as well as academia