Making Meaning of historical Papua New Guinea recordings: collaborations of speaker communities and the archive

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Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC)
Collaborative digital research resource set up by University of Sydney, University of Melbourne & Australian National University, 2003 with the aim of preserving ethnographic recordings made since the 1950s.

Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC)

- 1,103 languages
- 99 countries
- 487 collections
- 22,852 items
- 265,289 files
- 10,031 hours audio/video
- 53.42 TB of files

As of 24/01/2018
Discoverability of primary research materials
Catalog provides minimal required fields
Open Archives Initiative / Dublin Core – based metadata
Research collections into the archive
Re-connecting the archive with community

1. TD1 Tom Dutton - Enhancing existing metadata of Kuanua collections
   Kuanua language: Tolai, Rabaul, Gazelle Peninsula, East New Britain Province (TD1, MW6)

2. RL1 Ralph Lawton - Coordinating between depositor, archivist and speaker to create and share a new collection
   Kilivila language: Kiriwina, Trobriand Islands, Milne Bay Province (RL1)

3. MW6 Michael Webb - Collaborating with depositor as a speaker and as an archivist
Re-connecting the archive with community

TD1-Enhancing existing metadata of Kuanua collections

• Descriptive metadata on recordings and manuscripts
• Listening, direct translations and interpretations
• Names of people speaking, singing
• What they are speaking, singing about
• Where and when
• Types of discourses – narrative, interactive, singing
• What roles they play – speaker, singer, participant..
• Example Tom Dutton (TD1-P02776):
  http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/collections/TD1/items/P02776
Re-connecting the archive with community

RL1-Coordinating between depositor, archivist and speaker to create and share a new collection
Re-connecting the archive with community

MW6-Collaborating with depositor as a speaker and an archivist

• Combination of roles – speaker, & cultural knowledge, AUS-PNG community leader, archivist
• Intermediary in archive to community user
• Bridging academic and researchers ownership to collections to sharing and distribution to community and traditional owners of archival materials
• Collaboration as Kuanua and Tok Pisin speaker in the archive with community representation.
Impact of connecting to speaker communities

Archives can be seen “as both transparencies on which power relations were inscribed and intricate technologies of rule”

Making meaning of collaborations between speaker and archive