

# Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages



A digital archive of endangered literature in Australian Indigenous languages from bilingual schools in the Northern Territory

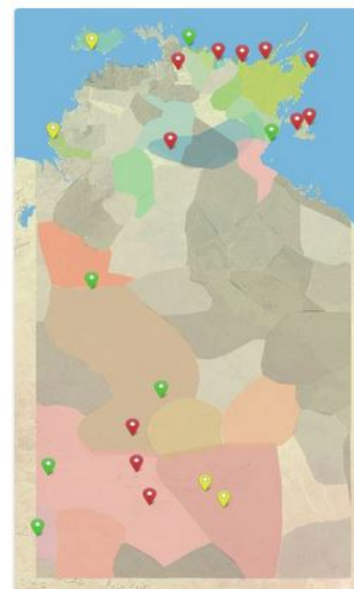
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## [www.cdu.edu.au/laal](http://www.cdu.edu.au/laal)

The **Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages** is a digital archive of endangered literature in Australian Indigenous languages from around the Northern Territory.

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This is a **living archive**, with connections to the people and communities where the books were created. This will allow for collaborative research work with the Indigenous authorities and communities.



There are four strands to the current stage of the project:

- **'Search and rescue'** will seek out materials in NT languages by Indigenous authors produced outside the bilingual education program, particularly unpublished items, including those stored in language centres, schools, libraries and private collections.
- **Community engagement** will provide resources for ongoing language and culture work, allowing local knowledge and language authorities to supervise development and use of their own collections of language materials
- **Classroom engagement** will explore how the resources in the archive can be used in classrooms, relating to the Australian Curriculum and the Draft Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages pathways
- **Academic engagement** will connect interested researchers (including students) worldwide with language authorities in the NT, creating opportunities to enrich the collection through collaborative research.

## Academic Engagement with the *Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages*

The archive of materials in Aboriginal languages at [www.cdu.edu.au/laal](http://www.cdu.edu.au/laal) is living and growing, with more than 1000 items in over 25 languages from around the Northern Territory. Hundreds more items are still being discovered and processed, to be uploaded when permission from the creators is obtained.

One of the four strands of Stage II of this ARC-funded project is designated '**Academic Engagement**'.

The goal is to **establish a network of academics involved in teaching and researching Australian languages**, to facilitate research which involves collaborations with language owners through the archive in undergraduate teaching and postgraduate research.





## Types of academic engagement may include

- Using texts (and related resources) from the Living Archive in teaching and research work.
- Enriching existing texts with translations, enhanced metadata, audio resources, commentaries etc to be uploaded as 'related items'
- Engagement with text and language owners for further research (including the upskilling and professionalisation of language authorities)
- Documenting uses of the resources in various contexts
- Building language-specific and text-specific lexicons, mini-grammars, etc.
- Deriving corpora for analysis
- Uploading new texts and resources
- Proposing alterations and corrections for existing resources

## We are looking for expressions of interest for a linguist / researcher to facilitate academic engagement.

Possible tasks may include the following:

- Bring together a network of academic linguists (including possibly internationally) interested in using the Living Archive for teaching or research
- Audit degrees and courses which could possibly engage with (or contribute) texts and collaborate with their owners
- Develop an audit of texts in (NT) Aboriginal languages in PhD theses and other research projects which could be included in the archive, and people to contact for permission.
- Locate texts in other archives which could be shared with the Living Archive and vice versa.
- Work with the Living Archive team to strategise and implement a permissions process including ways of identifying the creators and owners of materials who might be contacted for permission

This work may be done as a consultancy or part of a research project, or other arrangements can be negotiated.

*Please talk to Jane Simpson, Michael Christie or Cathy Bow*

**Contact: [livingarchive@cdu.edu.au](mailto:livingarchive@cdu.edu.au)  
[www.cdu.edu.au/laal](http://www.cdu.edu.au/laal)**