

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Australia and non-indigenous staff serving an indigenous clientele. The total number of people attending, excluding Institute staff, was forty-six.

The workshop provided participants with information on the Institute's collections and services and those of other Canberra institutions, and opportunities to discuss issues such as the handling of sensitive material (for example, secret-sacred material) in libraries, copyright and indigenous materials, training of staff, and networking. As an outcome of the workshop, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library Information Resource Network (ATSILIRN) was formed. It issues newsletters on topics of interest to those working in libraries with indigenous clientele and/or which collect materials of Australia's indigenous cultural heritage, serves as a vehicle for the exchange of information, and seeks representation in forums where policy on documentary and heritage materials is being discussed.

Evaluation of the workshop by participants showed that most considered it extremely useful. Proceedings were generally informal and not suitable for publication, but tapes of most sessions are available for private study and research. Contact Glenys McIver or Alana Garwood at the Institute for more details.

DICTIONARIES PROJECT

Nick Thieberger

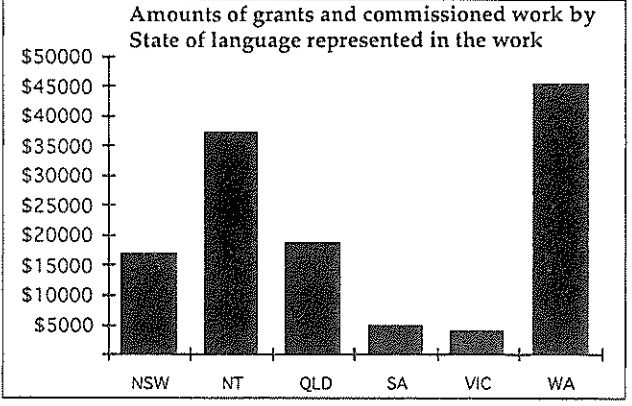
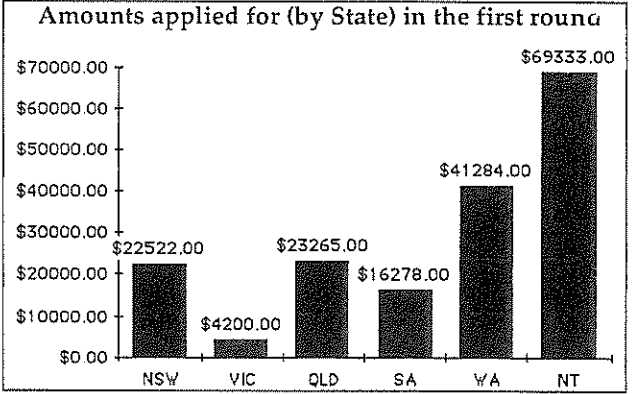
The AIATSIS Aboriginal dictionaries project is nearing completion with the production of both a number of dictionaries and word lists of Australian languages, and resources for use in the production and presentation of dictionaries and word lists.

Background

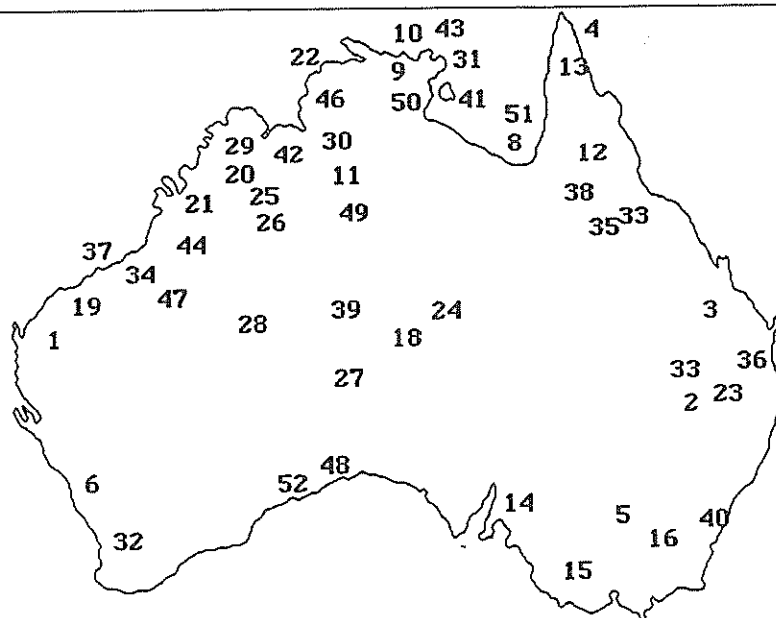
In late 1990 AIATSIS was approached by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Robert Tickner, to design a dictionaries project that would result in the production of material suitable for use in schools. An initial grant of \$150,000 from the minister via the

Aboriginal Languages Initiatives Program (ALIP) allowed the Institute to call for expressions of interest from researchers who were in a position to produce dictionaries during 1992.

Of nearly sixty applications totalling over \$160,000, thirty were approved for funding in the first round. These were considered by a committee specifically constituted for the Dictionaries Project, including two members involved in Aboriginal language dictionary production who are not employed at AIATSIS (Dr Peter Austin and Veronica Dobson). As the total amount requested by applicants was well beyond the amount available to the project, we approached the minister for an additional \$90,000, which was received in March 1992. A second round of offers was thus made possible. Small contracts to work on the keyboarding of existing historical materials were also financed from these additional funds.



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|---|---|
| 1 Payungu Thalanyji Iwarli Warriyangha Yingkarta and Tharrkari (West Pilbara, WA) | 26 Kukatja (south-eastern Kimberley region, WA) |
| 2 Gamilaraay (Central northern NSW) | 27 Pitjantjatjara/ Yankunytjatjara (southern SA/WA) |
| 3 Kabi Kabi Bajjala, (Fraser Island and mainland, Qld) | 28 Martu Wangka (Great Sandy Desert, WA) |
| 4 Kalaw Kawaw Ya (Torres Strait) | 29 Wordlists of Kimberley languages |
| 5 Ngiyampaa (central western NSW) | 30 Jawoyn (Katherine region, NT) |
| 6 Wajarri (Murchison region, WA) | 31 Yarrnhangu (eastern Arnhem land, NT) |
| 7 (withdrawn) | 32 Nyungar (south-west WA) |
| 8 Kaiadilti (Bentinck Island, Gulf of Carpentaria) | 33 Muruwari (north central NSW) Gugu-Yalanji (Cape York, Qld) |
| 9 Kuninjku (Western Arnhem land, NT) | 34 Pilbara Handbook |
| 10 Burarra (northern Arnhem land, NT) | 35 Djabugay (Kuranda region, Qld) |
| 11 Mudbura (Barkly region, NT) | 36 Bundjalung (north eastern NSW) |
| 12 Kuuk-Thaayorre (Western Cape York, Qld) | 37 Yindjibarndi (Pilbara, WA) |
| 13 Injinoo Ikya (Injinoo language) (tip of Cape York, Qld) | 38 Wik-Ngathan (Cape York, Qld) |
| 14 Nukunu (eastern side of Spencer Gulf, SA) | 39 Pertame (south of Alice Springs, NT) |
| 15 Wemba-Wemba (north-western Victoria) | 40 Dharuk (Sydney) |
| 16 Wirajuri (south-eastern NSW) | 41 Anindilyakwa (Groote Eylandt, NT) |
| 17 Alyawarr (south-eastern NT) | 42 Miriwoong (east Kimberley, WA) |
| 18 Eastern/ Central Arrernte (south-eastern NT) | 43 Dharluwangu (eastern Arnhem land, NT) |
| 19 Banyjima (Pilbara, WA) | 44 Ngarla (Pilbara, WA) |
| 20 Jaru (south-eastern Kimberley region, WA) | 45 Curr wordlists (over three hundred vocabularies from around the continent) |
| 21 Bardi (western Kimberley region, WA) | 46 Laragia (Darwin) |
| 22 Tiwi (Bathurst Island, NT) | 47 Ngarluma/ Yindjibarndi & Nyiyapali (Pilbara, WA) |
| 23 Dhangadi (north-eastern NSW) | 48 Mirning (south-east WA) |
| 24 Eastern Arrernte (south-eastern NT) | 49 Gurinji (Barkly region, NT) |
| 25 Kukatja (south-eastern Kimberley region, WA) | 50 40 Arnhem Land languages |
| | 51 Lardil (Mornington Island, Gulf of Carpentaria) |
| | 52 Ngatjuma (south-east WA) |

Map 1

Location of languages represented in grants made by this project.

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Commissioned works will result in dictionaries or word lists of the following languages:

Adnyamathanha	Jiwarli	Pitjantjatjara/
Alyawarr	Kabi Kabi	Yankunytjatjar
Anindilyakwa	Kaiadilt	Thalanyji
Banyjima	Kalaw Kawaw Ya	Tharrkari
Bardi	Kukatja	Tiwi
Batjala	Kuuk-Thaayorre	Wajarri
Bundjalung	Martu Wangka	Warriyangka
Burarra	Martuthunira	Wemba-Wemba
Central Arrernte	Miriwoong	Werkaya
Dhalwa\u	Muruwari	Wik-Ngathan
Djabugay	Ngiyampaa	Yannha\u
Eastern Arrernte	Nukuna	Yindjibarndi
Gamilaraay	Nyungar	Yingkarta
Gugu-Yalanji	Payungu	
Injinoo Ikya (Injinoo language)	Pertame	
Jawoyn		
Jaru		

In addition, 300 word lists from Curr (1886) have been keyboarded, as well as 600 words of forty languages of the northern part of the Northern Territory. Other contract work includes:

- translating and keyboarding a Ngarla vocabulary found at New Norcia mission (Western Australia);
- typing von Brandenstein's word lists of the Pilbara languages Ngarluma/Yindjibarndi and Nyiyapali;
- keyboarding Ngan'gityemerri material from the Daly River region;
- keyboarding Western Daly language material;
- keyboarding a Gurindji (Wave Hill, Northern Territory) dictionary from card files; and
- keyboarding a portion of the Daisy Bates collection that is stored in the National Library (~150 pages of the vocabularies from Eucla). This collection comprises some 5,800 pages of typescript word lists and would greatly benefit from being accessed in electronic form.

Paper and Talk workshop

In early March 1993, the project sponsored a workshop organised by the AIATSIS linguists project group. Over thirty participants came to Canberra at their own expense to work on methods for dealing with historical texts as sources for linguistic information. This is of special relevance to people who

no longer speak their ancestral language. Nine instructors covered various issues, including the problems of reading nineteenth century handwriting, choosing appropriate word forms from numerous sources, locating possible repositories of information, and presenting data using computers. The workshop was very successful and resulted in a set of papers which we will produce later as a book.

Hypercard interactive education kit

Production of a set of Hypercard materials for computers will describe the nature of Aboriginal languages to senior school and university students and to the general public. It will also be used by museums and language centres. It will contain the following types of information:

Ethnographic information: outlines Australia's indigenous languages, type, broad structural information, current state, type of activity being used to record and support languages, handsign as part of language (animated examples), spelling systems in use in Australia (digitised examples of sounds represented by letters).

Language names: enables users to locate language names from three points of entry: by State; by 1:1,000,000 map reference; by AIATSIS code. A searching function allows users to retrieve standard names of languages by searching for alternative forms or alternative spellings. Alternatives are listed as per AIATSIS list, with some prompting of users to also consider spelling variations. The language names list includes some 6,500 alternatives (which are by no means exhaustive), allowing searching to locate the standard and alternative forms of language names.

Word lists: displayed on a map of Australia, a set of twelve word lists for 160 words, allowing comparison of words and discovery of similarities over the spread of languages included.

Sample dialogue: in one language (most likely a Western Desert language), with expressions for greetings and leave-takings.

Sample story: with digitised sound in a language. The story links in to grammatical information and

provides a template for reproduction in other languages. It is envisaged that a number of languages will be represented in this way.

Notes for the computer-assisted language worker

A draft manual which outlines approaches to using computers for preparation and presentation of linguistic data has been prepared and is being trialled in courses in 1994. It deals with methods as well as with specific pieces of software, and attempts to make clear the advantages of using computers for manipulating and retrieving information. A suggested approach to designing and developing dictionaries for Australian languages is included, taking into account the limited resources available to most language workers in this field.

Study guide for the Macquarie book

We are working with Macquarie Publishers on a study guide for their forthcoming book of word lists of seventeen Aboriginal languages. We have discussed the inclusion of the book in the National Framework for teaching Aboriginal languages in secondary schools, being produced by the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia (SSABSA), and expect that both the study guide and Hypercard materials will be included in the reading and resource lists of this framework.

The guide will provide activities for students to use linguistic concepts to explore Australian languages, as presented in the Macquarie volume and the guide; to encourage an interest in Australian languages generally; and to encourage students to explore their own language. The guide will be able to be used on its own or alongside the Macquarie book.

REFERENCE

Curr E.M. 1886 *The Australian Race*, Vol. 1, Government Printer, Melbourne.

GRANTEE NEWS—HISTORY

Ian D. Clark

Aboriginal history continues to be an expanding area of research funded by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. Funded projects include personal, family, community and regional histories, and organisational-institutional histories. Family and genealogical research is very popular at present, and interest in the field should continue to grow, given that native title claims require the documentation of land tenure and family association. The following list provides a brief update of recent history projects: some have been completed, others are still in progress:

Barngarla Aboriginal Consultative Council

The Barngarla Aboriginal Consultative Council was awarded \$2,310 in March 1993 to research the oral history and family genealogies of the Barngarla people of South Australia. The council intends to house this important community information in the Barngarla cultural centre.

June Barrett

Sister June Barrett was awarded a grant-in-aid of \$9,850 in October 1990 to research Kundat Djaru histories from Yaruman, Western Australia. This important research was finalised in June 1993 when manuscripts of stories, along with photographs and drawings, were deposited with the Institute.

Lee Chittick

In October 1991, Lee Chittick was awarded a grant to the value of \$10,000 to research and prepare a photographic and oral history of Mr Percy Mumbler, a senior elder of the south coast of New South Wales. Photographs, oral histories, and a draft calendar have been deposited with the Institute, and the project was finalised in late 1993.

Christine Choo

Christine Choo was awarded \$4,531 in March 1992 to undertake a historical analysis of the lives of Aboriginal women living on Roman Catholic missions in the Kimberley region from 1897 until 1970. The Benedictine mission at Kalumburu and the Pallottine mission at La Grange were proposed case