Language Minorities=

404 Language Not Found

Laurie Bridges
Instruction and Outreach Librarian,
Associate Professor
Oregon State University, USA
Meet Max Sage.

Max is not fluent in his indigenous language, but he is 1 of 225 people who can speak and write in Oneida.
Tulalip Boarding School

Repository: Museum of History and Industry, Seattle
The Oneida language has a written system. \(\frac{2}{3}\) of the 7,000 living languages do not have a written system.
Oneida Language Apps

Tsikwil:tu’ (Squirrel) and Caterpillar

Onhwalá:ne’ (Caterpillar)

Kalutá:ke wahaláthá (On the tree he climbed)

AEI OOU

18 Categories

Vowels & Consonants, Symbols & Co., Introductions...

Kinship greeting, Clans, Pronouns

Singular nouns, Dual nouns, Plural nouns

Singular nouns & in context, Dual nouns, Plural nouns

Singular C-stem, Dual C-stem, Plural C-stem
Is the Internet helping or hurting linguistic diversity?
Based on a paper I co-authored last year, I would have said the Internet is hurting linguistic diversity by spreading English as the lingua franca. However, now I am not so sure. Perhaps it is more complicated than I thought a year ago.
The internet was developed, took root, and began its worldwide expansion in English, from a primarily monolingual country, the United States.
In this data set every internet user in the world is assigned **one language** and uses only one language on the internet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Internet users by language</th>
<th>% of world population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>952,055,837</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>763,262,224</td>
<td>20.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>293,817,719</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>173,538,690</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>155,036,606</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesian/Malaysian</td>
<td>154,694,982</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>118,453,595</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>104,553,691</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>100,581,456</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>83,966,634</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percent of websites in each language as of August 2017.

- 51% in English
- 7% in Russian
- 6% in Japanese
- 6% in German
- 5% in Spanish
- 4% in French
- 3% in Portuguese
- 2% in Italian
- 2% in Chinese
- 2% in Polish
Google Scholar, Scopus, WS

Google Scholar allows users to “Search for a page in any language” or limit the search to 1 of 13 languages (in Scholar Settings).

Scopus requires that a journal’s, “content should be relevant and readable for an international audience (at minimum have references in Roman script and English language abstracts and article titles).”

Web of Science allows users to use one of eight languages as the interface language, but...“search queries must always be in English. The results of your search are always in English.”
“Speakers of major languages can access apparently unlimited amounts of Web content, easily perform searches, interact, communicate through social media and voice-based applications.” However, speakers of minority languages do not benefit similarly and “do not enjoy the same range of opportunities.” - Claudia Soria
At most, **21%** of living languages are online

5% of 7,000 languages online or 300+ languages? (ITU, United Nations)

1,500 languages online? (Soria, 2015)
More than **half of the world's population does not use the internet**. The UN estimates 2.5 billion people from “developing” countries and 1 billion from “developed” countries are using the internet while 3.9 million are cut-off. There are **many reasons** people are cut off from the internet, but **language** is primary among them.
Growing, percentage of websites not in English
Meet Catriona MacIsaac

Catriona is a librarian at the University of Glasgow in Scotland. Catriona is fluent in Gaelic, which is spoken by 57,000 people, or 1% of the Scottish population.
Catriona
@cmniciosaig  Follows you

Libraries, HE, football (#LFC, my first team), music, Gàidhlig, the west highlands. Tweets ann an dá chànan (Ìann mheàrachdàn).

📍 Scotland

Joined March 2009

Gaelic online:

Facebook
Twitter
Phone Apps
BBC Gaelic
Librarians: Increasing linguistic diversity on the internet (ideas)

- Support tweeting, facebooking, or adding to wikipedia in languages other than English.
- Partner with organizations to build, support, and promote apps for minority language learning.
- Publish and promote multilingual open access - begin with multilingual abstracts in your Institutional Repository.
Thank you!

Please contact me if you have any follow up questions or ideas:
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Twitter: @imlaurie

Slideshow can be found at:

Bridgesbio.weebly.com
References

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Slide 3
Altaha, Noel G. (2012) "Kill the Indian, Save the Man: Native American Historical Trauma in College Students". Metamorphosis.

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W3Tech, https://w3techs.com/technologies/overview/content_language/all

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