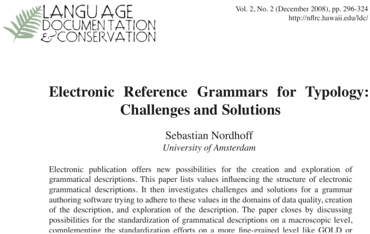
language
science
press

Open Text Collections

Sebastian Nordhoff
Corpus Glosés: de la construction à
l'exploitation automatique
2023-06-28

Introduction



LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION & CONSERVATION

Vol. 2, No. 2 (December 2008), pp. 296-324
http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/ldc/

Electronic Reference Grammars for Typology: Challenges and Solutions

Sebastian Nordhoff
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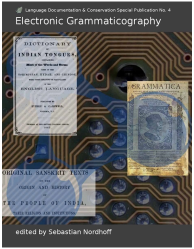
Electronic publication offers new possibilities for the creation and exploration of grammatical descriptions. This paper lists values influencing the structure of electronic grammatical descriptions. It then investigates challenges and solutions for a grammar authoring software trying to adhere to these values in the domains of data quality, creation of the description, and exploration of the description. The paper closes by discussing possibilities for the standardization of grammatical descriptions on a macroscopic level, complementing the standardization efforts on a more fine-grained level like GOLD or



Language Documentation & Conservation Special Publication No. 4

Electronic Grammaticography

DICTIONARY OF INDIAN TONGUES, CONTAINING Most of the Words and Terms USED IN THE TSHIMPSEAN, HYDAH, AND CHINOOK, WITH THEIR MEANING OR EQUIVALENT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.
GRAMMATICA
ORIGINAL SANSKRIT TEXTS ON THE ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, THEIR RELIGION AND INSTITUTIONS.

edited by Sebastian Nordhoff

- work on grammaticography since 2007
- Language Science Press since 2014
- starting 2023: open text collections

Boasian Trilogy: publication options

1. **Dictionaries**: many outlets
2. **Grammatical descriptions**: many outlets
3. **Text collections**: no significant outlets

Existing platforms

- **TILA**: `https://www.americanlinguistics.org/?page_id=1830` (closed access)
- **pangloss**: `https://pangloss.cnrs.fr/` (eclectic, manual workflow)
- **doreco**: `https://doreco.huma-num.fr` (transcribed audio, finished project?)

Open Text Collections

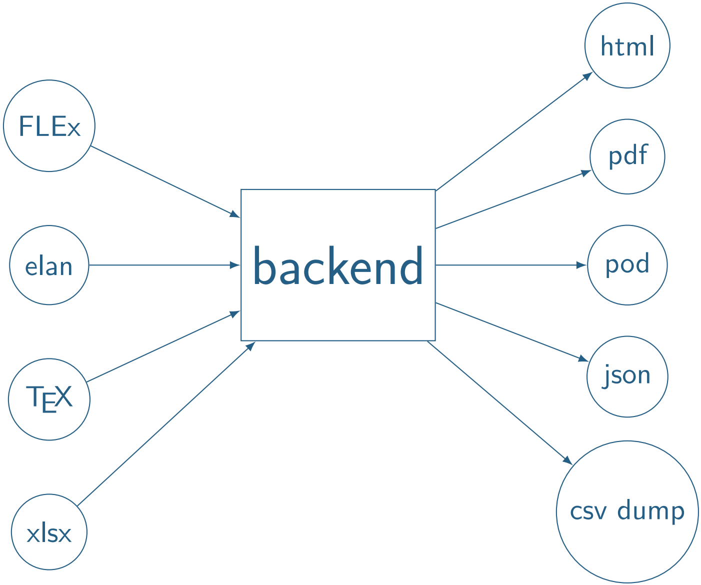
- Platform to start in 2023
  - open
  - prestigious
  - interoperable
  - start 2023-09-15

Guiding principles

- **texts**, not audio
- **edited**, not naturalistic
- **curated**, not eclectic
- **peer reviewed**, not legacy or opportunistic

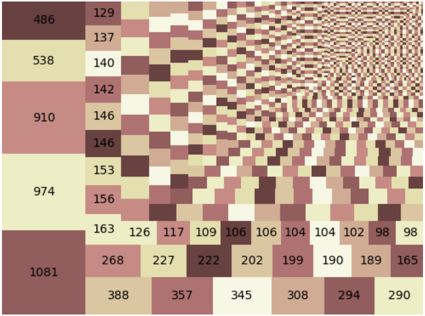
- **availability first**: no paywalls, registration, waiting times, click rallyes
- **community**
- **openness**
- **prestige**: seasoned editors

Import



Consistency on input files

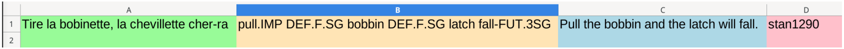
- For a project at ZAS Berlin, I analyzed 20,000 ELAN files culled from various endangered language archives
- Take home message: everybody does what they want with ELAN
- tier names and structures vary wildly
- it is possible to build an API to access glossed material in language archives, but it is painful.



Backend

- CSV for the web (CSVW)
- text-based
- simple
- extensible
- easy to version

CSVW



	A	B	C	D
1	Tire la bobinette, la chevillette cher-ra	pull.IMP DEF.F.SG bobbin DEF.F.SG latch fall-FUT.3SG	Pull the bobbin and the latch will fall.	stan1290
2				

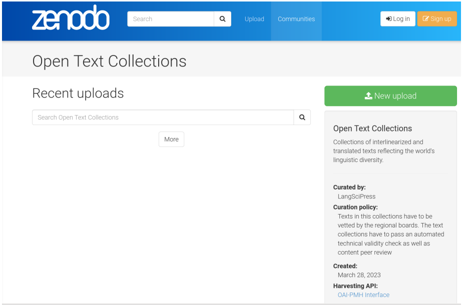
- three obligatory columns
  - vernacular
  - glosses
  - translation
- can be expanded by further columns as necessary
- Leipzig Glossing Rules
- correspondences and constraints between cells in the same row

Output formats

- dump (csv, json-ld, nq, rdf)
- pdf
  - printed pdf = book
- html
- query interface
  - see https://imtvault.org/?q=coconut

Workflow

- every text collection is prepared on GitHub
- DOI via the GitHub-Zenodo bridge
- review via GitHub issues
- collections approved by the regional boards get a new release (1.0), archived on Zenodo, and are accepted in the relevant Zenodo communities.



Open Text Collections

Recent uploads

Open Text Collections

Collections of interlinearized and translated texts reflecting the world's linguistic diversity.

Curated by:
LangSciPress

Curation policy:
Texts in this collections have to be vetted by the regional boards. The text collections have to pass an automated technical validity check as well as content peer review

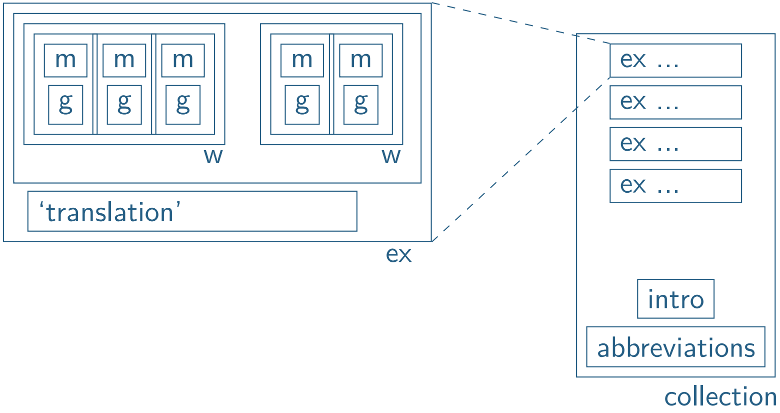
Created:
March 28, 2023

Harvesting API:
OAI-PMH Interface

Quality assurance

- technical review (automated, probably via GitHub actions)
    - number of words match between vernacular and glosses
    - number and type of morphemes match between vernacular and glosses
    - abbreviations are either Leipzig Glossing Rules or listed in separate document
- content review
    - regional boards with area specialists
    - precise setup to be debated
    - can use GitHub Issues

Data model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'translation'
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intro
abbreviations
collection

FAIR

- **findable**: registered, linked, metadata
- **accessible**: no paywalls
- **interoperable**: many different well-defined and open formats
- **reusable**: open license

Funding

- 3 year grant from DFG, 2023-2026, 1.5 FTE
- after that consortial funding via Language Science Press

People

- **Mandana Seyfeddinipur**, Director ELDP/ELAR at BBAW
- **Christian Döhler**, Papuanist, holder of the *Gabelentz Award* for the best published grammar (A grammar of Komnzo)
- **Sebastian Nordhoff**, managing director for Language Science Press, extensive experience in Open Access publishing and Linked Data
- student assistants

Regional boards

- **Oceania** Christian Döhler, Kilu von Prince (Düsseldorf)
- **Africa** Alena Witzlack-Makarevich (Jerusalem), Jeff Good (Buffalo)
- **Eurasia** Michael Rießler (Joensuu)
- **South America** Matt Coler (Groningen), Nick Emle (Groningen)
- **Caucasus** Diana Forker (Jena)
- further board probably via cooption

Planned text collections

- Komnzo
- Bine
- Daakaka
- Dalkalaen
- Muylaque Aymara
- Iquito
- two Amazonian languages
- Kawesqar
- Hinuq
- Sanzhi
- Chirag Dargwa
- Tabasaran
- Gawarbati
- Palula
- Saek

Thank you

Thank you for your attention.

http://opentextcollections.org

Mastodon https://fedihum.org/@otc

https://twitter.com/OpenTextColl

Open Text Collections