

Methods for electronic dissemination of fieldwork

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I talk here about two populist strategies for disseminating field data as well as documentary material through the internet. I exemplify these strategies with material gathered during an intensive documentation workshop in Kupang, West Timor during July 2012. The first strategy employs an online interface to an XML database which itself is the output of a Fieldworks Explorer (FLEX) database. This constitutes a small but searchable collection of texts that are linked to a lexicon in the familiar fashion of FLEX. While this may be the ideal form to present data to linguists and other academics, it is not a friendly, or particularly useful interface for the wider public. I argue that public repositories such as YouTube are currently the most effective means for disseminating work to the public for communities that have web access. Recent tools adopted by YouTube allow for linking transcripts to media, a goal which has heretofore eluded some of the best funded language archives. Populist electronic platforms should be taken seriously but limitations should not be ignored nor should such platforms be taken as a replacement to archives. I demonstrate our efforts on the database side as well as the media side, discussing strengths, weaknesses and future directions.