ACL Special Interest Group on Endangered Languages – SIGEL

← Motivation

- “New” Special Interest Group (SIG) within Association of Computational Linguistics (ACL)
  - accepted as SIG in the October 2019 (after ComputEL-3)

- Goals
  - to formalize and recognize already existing community of researchers
    - computational linguists
    - field/documentary linguists, and
    - importantly, linguistic community members
      - community linguists
      - language instructors
      - language activists
  - narrow the gap between these groups and build a network among these constituent groups
  - to support the revitalization and sustainability of Endangered Languages
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Endangered vs. Less-resourced vs. Indigeneous vs. Minority languages

- Endangered languages
  - often also any combination of
    - Less-Resourced
    - Indigenous, and/or
    - Minority languages
  - but the opposite is not always the case
    - Less-Resourced and Minority languages are not necessarily Endangered
  - the needs of and challenged facing Northern Haida are quite different from Portuguese
  - the engagement/involvement of the language community is crucial

- broad interpretation of the linguistic scope of ACL-SIGEL
  - in particular when the challenges facing all these languages are the same
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- How to join?
  - https://acl-sigel.github.io/members.html
  - Email: sigel@googlegroups.com
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**Founding Officers 2019-2020:**
Interim President: Antti Arppe, University of Alberta
Interim Secretary: Mans Hulden, University of Colorado

**Founding Members-At-Large:**
Jeff Good, Jordan Lachler, Alexis Palmer, Lane Schwartz, Miikka Silfverberg

**Officers 2020-2022:**
President: Antti Arppe, University of Alberta
Secretary: Sarah Moeller, University of Colorado

**Members-At-Large:**
Antonios Anastasopoulos, George Mason University
Hilaria Cruz, University of Kentucky
Jordan Lachler, University of Alberta
Lane Schwartz, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
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Forthcoming activities

- ComputEL series of workshops
  → ComputEL-5 ← to be co-located next at an ACL cycle conference? (2022)
  → ComputEL-6 ← to be co-located at ICLDC8? (2023)

- “Database” of experts/communities with experience
  ○ computational linguists with experience on some particular language technology, and time to
    work with new languages?
  ○ language communities with experience in the development and use of language technology for
    various tasks → sharing their knowledge about what worked and what didn’t?

- Shared task?
  ○ with computational/documentary linguist/community collaboration at its core
  ○ matching together computational linguists (← expert database) with documentary linguists/
    communities with a need
  ○ rather than competition, reports on how the collaboration worked well, or less so?
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