
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Federal Agencies Take Action to Digitally Document Nearly 50 Endangered Languages

(National Science Foundation – PRESS RELEASE)

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) today announced the award of 10 fellowships and 24 institutional grants totaling \$3.9 million in the agencies' ongoing Documenting Endangered Languages (DEL) program. This is the seventh round of their campaign to preserve records of languages threatened with extinction. Experts estimate that more than half of the approximately 7,000 currently used human languages are bound for oblivion in this century, and the window of opportunity for high-quality language field documentation, they say, narrows with each passing year. These new DEL awards will support digital documentation work on almost 50 endangered languages, enhance the computational infrastructure of the field and provide training for the next generation of researchers.

Enlisting Allah

*(The Atlantic)...*Brian Mockenhaupt

SOON AFTER HE DEPLOYED to southern Afghanistan this spring, Lieutenant Commander Nathan Solomon, a Navy chaplain, learned of a disconcerting and persistent belief among the locals in northern Marja: the Afghan soldiers stationed there weren't Muslim. The Taliban had convinced many in this stretch of Helmand province that the Afghan soldiers—most of whom were from northern and eastern Afghanistan and spoke Dari instead of Pashto, the local language—were nearly as foreign as the U.S. marines patrolling alongside them. Solomon and his Afghan liaison, Abdul Khabir, a mullah and an army captain, suggested that installing audio speakers at the joint patrol bases to announce the five-times-daily Muslim call to prayer might help. The first speakers brought quick results. "We didn't know they pray like we do," one man told a joint patrol of marines and Afghan soldiers. "It makes us trust them more, knowing we all share the same faith."

Program orients foreign teaching assistants to American culture

*(The StateNews.com)...*Britteny Dee

On Monday, future educators from 25 countries gathered at MSU for the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant, or FLTA, Orientation Program. The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. government, is designed to increase mutual understanding among citizens of the U.S. and other countries around the world. The FLTA Orientation Program is held for future teaching assistants from other countries who will come to the U.S. to teach their native language for a year. Participation in the program, which introduces the teaching assistants to U.S. culture and prepares them for their future teaching positions, is required before FLTAs can begin teaching.

Arabic program opens a new culture for students

*(The Courier-Journal)...*Sara Cunningham

When Claire Gothard greets friends and family, the Manual High School freshman may say "hello," or she might surprise you by saying "As-salamu alaykum." "It means 'peace be upon you' or something like that. I don't know, it's just prettier than plain old 'hello,' I think," said Claire, 14. Claire and 21 other middle and high school students spent three weeks at Seneca High School immersing themselves in Arabic language and culture as part of a program created by Louisville-based Los Monitos Language Center and the National Security Language Initiative, which provided \$84,000 in grant money for the program.

La Riviere – Maine French heritage language program

*(The Portland Press Herald)...*Juliana L'Heureux

La Riviere is a French heritage language program Ray is organizing at Lincoln and Hussey elementary schools in Augusta. "This French immersion afterschool program is based on Franco-American language and culture," says Ray. In other words, the children will learn pride in their Franco-American French and heritage. A parallel program is planned in Lewiston by the Franco-American Heritage Center.

Global Child Returns to Chelmsford Public Schools

(Patch.com)...Krista Perry

Global Child is returning to the Chelmsford Public Schools with a new theme this fall, "Going Places." Founded in 1992, Global Child provides foreign language instruction in French, Spanish and Mandarin for children in kindergarten through grade six. The program emphasizes listening and speaking skills through a unique combination of movement, singing and games. French and Spanish classes are small, grouped by grade level, and are held once per week in the Byam, Center, Harrington, and South Row schools.

RMIT launches on-line tool for aviation English proficiency

(Aviation Business)

To minimise potentially dangerous miscommunication, ICAO introduced English language proficiency requirements for all pilots and air traffic controllers operating in international airspace. More than 100,000 have been tested worldwide, including 22,000 who have taken the RMIT English Language Test for Aviation (RELTA).

Pay Your Taxes In 53 Languages

(Harford Courant)...Jon Lender

Google Translator Function Added To Department Of Revenue Services' Website. The online tool translates information on the website into 53 languages, ranging from Afrikaans to Chinese, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese and Yiddish. You call up a web page and click in the translator at the upper left for the language you want, and the text switches automatically. "Our job is to make taxpayer information and assistance available and accessible," said Revenue Services Commissioner Kevin B. Sullivan.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Soldier's Afghan strategy: One village elder at a time

(CNN)...Libby Lewis

Army Lt. Jarrin Jackson, who spent most of last year in eastern Afghanistan, said he believes in the counterinsurgency principles pushed by Gen. David Petraeus, who is now director of the CIA. "You'd walk up to somebody and say, 'As-salaamu alaykum.' 'Tsenga yee?' It's kind of like 'What's up?' " Jackson said. "It's like 20 different ways of saying hello. I would walk up to an old man, shake his hand, look him straight in the face -- with my sunglasses off, so he could see my eyes -- and we would be shaking hands for probably one or two minutes." The majority of my time in Afghanistan ... I was interacting with people over there. The more you do that ... the better results. Jackson didn't mind looking goofy, fumbling with the Pashto language or trying to tell a joke.

For Navy SEAL Team 6, A Huge Loss For A Small Unit

(NPR)...Rachel Martin

The Special Operations Forces are used primarily to train foreign militaries around the world. Olson said that's happening in more than 60 countries right now, including places like Yemen, Somalia and Uganda. "We are developing long-term relationships; we are learning the language; we're meeting the people; we are studying the histories; we're learning the black markets; we're learning how things really happen in those places," he said.

Americans Could Earn 20 Percent More per Hour by Learning a new Language

(prNewswire)

[New research](#) and [infographic](#) has revealed that Americans could earn 20 percent more per hour by learning another language as research suggests that bilingual people not only earn more money but also, are better able to multitask in their everyday lives. Emerging economies such as China, India and Brazil continue to grow at an ever-increasing rate, so has the rise in foreign language studies. In 2009 results have shown that the study of Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese and Korean all grew by approximately 15 percent in just five years. However, despite the growing significance of non-English speaking countries, just 9.3 percent of Americans are bilingual, compared to over half of all Europeans.

[Why It's Smart to Be Bilingual](#)

(The Daily Beast)...Casey Schwartz

Bilingualism, of course, can be a leg up for college admission and a résumé burnisher. But a growing body of research now offers a further rationale: the regular, high-level use of more than one language may actually improve early brain development. According to several different studies, command of two or more languages bolsters the ability to focus in the face of distraction, decide between competing alternatives, and disregard irrelevant information. These essential skills are grouped together, known in brain terms as “executive function.” The research suggests they develop ahead of time in bilingual children, and are already evident in kids as young as 3 or 4.

[Quincy native enjoys role commanding female Marines in Afghanistan](#)

(Quincy Herald-Whig)...Rodney Hart

A woman's perspective can only help. That's how U.S. Marine and Quincy native Melissa Blyleven looks at her job as a female engagement team commander in Afghanistan. She oversees women Marines who go with patrols to remote villages and talk to the women they encounter.

[Draft report urges greater access to proposed rules for non-English speakers](#)

(nextgov)...Joseph Marks

Federal agencies should make more of an effort to post translations of proposed new regulations on their websites for non-English speakers, according to a [draft report](#) released Monday. Agencies also should provide text-only versions of the proposals to make them more accessible to citizens with low-bandwidth Internet and more compatible with software that translates Web pages into audio for the blind, according to the report to the rule-making committee of the Administrative Conference of the United States.

[A Look At Excelsior's Chinese Immersion Program](#)

(Patch.com)...Delane Cleveland

Although temperatures hovered around 100 degrees during the last week of the 2010-2011 school year, students at [Excelsior Elementary](#) were still hard at work honing their language skills. And they had help from their friends from the Far East. Eighteen students from Beijing came to the Lake Minnetonka area for a slice of Minnesota's version of 5th grade life while staying with host families. "It's totally different from our school," said Lucy Lui, an 11-year-old 5th grade student from Beijing.

[New HSK for iPad - Learn Chinese and Prepare for HSK Exams](#)

(prMac – PRESS RELEASE)

3y3.net today is pleased to introduce New Chinese HSK for iPad, a learning application which allows you to study all vocabulary and pronunciation for the new HSK levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 comprising more than 1200 words. The new Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) is a standardized international Chinese proficiency test designed by the Center of Beijing Language and Culture University. Certificate of HSK will be issued to those who have secured the required scores. It is a dependable measure of your Chinese level used in admission or course placement of colleges or universities, and job application.

[IU urges Congress to restore foreign language funding cuts](#)

(Chesterton Tribune)

Indiana University is working to find alternative ways to fund foreign language instruction after a \$1.7 million decrease in federal funds, even as its president urges Congress to restore funding for such programs. Congress has cut \$50 million from the Department of Education's HEA-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs that support foreign culture and language training. IU has one of the highest concentrations of Title VI programs in the country. President Michael McRobbie says the programs have

helped train foreign language scholars, military personnel and public service leaders for generations. He says restoring Title VI funding to 2010 levels is essential to continuing that work. McRobbie is one of more than 80 college and university presidents who signed a letter urging Congress to restore the funds.

Israeli nursing school rescinds ban on speaking Russian and Arabic

(Haareetz.com)...Jack Khoury

The Health Ministry has instructed the School of Nursing in Ashkelon, part of the city's Barzilai Medical Center, to withdraw an order banning students from speaking any language other than Hebrew on campus. The order, printed on nursing school and ministry letterhead and bearing the stamp of the school administration, reads: "Students, it is absolutely prohibited to conduct a conversation in a foreign language during studies and in school corridors. The official language of the school is Hebrew." The majority of the school's 250 students are from the south of the country, with a smaller number from the center and north of Israel. Many of the students speak Russian or other Eastern European languages, and quite a few are Arab. According to one student, who asked to remain anonymous, the directive was posted about two weeks ago and drew many angry responses from students.

300 Students Affected by Abbey College Closure

(98FM)

300 foreign language students have been left high and dry, after finding themselves locked out of classes, when their college ceased trading at the weekend. Abbey College, based on Dame Street, had about 300 English language students and 20 teachers, but now says a liquidator is being appointed to wind down the business.