



ARCHIVE OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF LATIN AMERICA
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

1 University Station C3200 • Austin, TX 78712-0303 • (512) 495-4604 • (512) 471-6535
www.ailla.utexas.org

June 12, 2009

To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing in support of Dr. Jonathan Amith's Mixtec Language Documentation Project. We will be very happy to archive the results of this project at AILLA; indeed, we have already archived many of the results of Amith's previous projects, including 38 hours of Mixtec recordings. Amith's materials are always of the highest quality and are always accompanied by complete metadata in convenient formats, so they are very easy to accession

The Mixtec Language Documentation Project is especially timely from AILLA's viewpoint. We recently digitized and archived all of the recordings from the late Kathryn Josserand's 1980 survey of Mixtecan dialects. These recordings consist of a large set of interviews conducted in many towns in the Mixtecan area. The results were published in Dr. Josserand's dissertation and in several articles that she wrote, which are also archived at AILLA. This 30-year-old survey is the only major documentation of this large and puzzling language family. It includes no texts, no grammar, no adequate analysis of the phonology and no lexicon. Amith's project is sorely needed to rectify these omissions.

I should note that from my perspective, Amith is a model researcher. He is diligent in archiving his language documentation materials as soon as possible, especially recordings. He stays abreast of documentation technologies and his recordings are of exceptionally high quality. The breadth of content in his Nahuatl corpus is also exemplary, including folk tales, life histories, community histories, myths, lives of the saints, oratory, conversations, songs, and public ceremonies, among other things, spoken and sung by men, women and children. His collection is possibly the most diverse in the archive, apart from AILLA Director Joel Sherzer's Kuna Collection. I fully expect the Mixtec Language Collection to adhere to the same high standards. Amith's recordings are always delivered with complete metadata; only two other regular depositors trouble themselves with this important step. Amith has deposited over 100 hours of recordings at AILLA so far, putting him in a class of only three super-depositors.

I urge you to fund the Mixtec Language Documentation Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Johnson".

Heidi Johnson, Ph.D.
Project Manager
The Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America