



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](http://www.ailla.utexas.org)

September 12, 2007

To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing in support of Dr. Jonathan Amith's project "Nahuatl 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 and are presently working out a schedule for transferring the results of last summer's field work to AILLA. We are looking forward to receiving video materials and expect to rely on Amith's expertise to help us work out appropriate standards and guidelines for video materials in general.

It is especially important to build a strong collection in Nahuatl, in many varieties, because there are so many speakers of Nahuatl who are ready and able to make positive use of such multimedia resources. Speakers of indigenous languages are AILLA's most enthusiastic users. We will collaborate with Dr. Amith in every way we can to ensure that his research and pedagogical materials are preserved and made available to the Nahua for generations to come.

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 corpus is also exemplary: he collects 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. 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 hope that the Nahuatl Language Documentation Project will receive full funding.

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