Language Archives: They're not just for linguists anymore

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Potentials of Language Documentation
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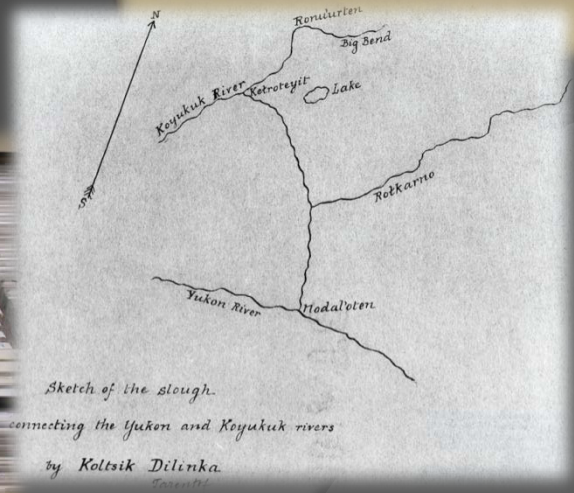
Overview

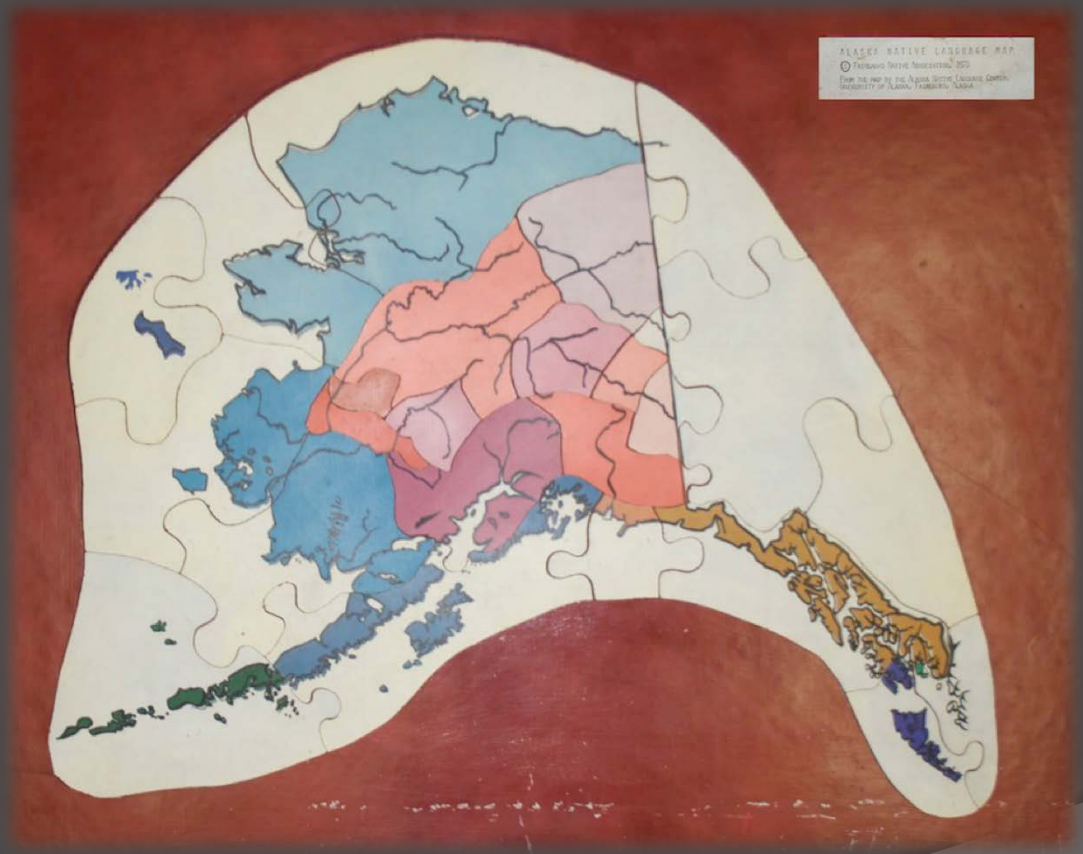
- The Alaska Native Language Archive
- Looking beyond linguistic data
- Creating derived language materials
- Implications for language archiving

Alaska Native Language Archive

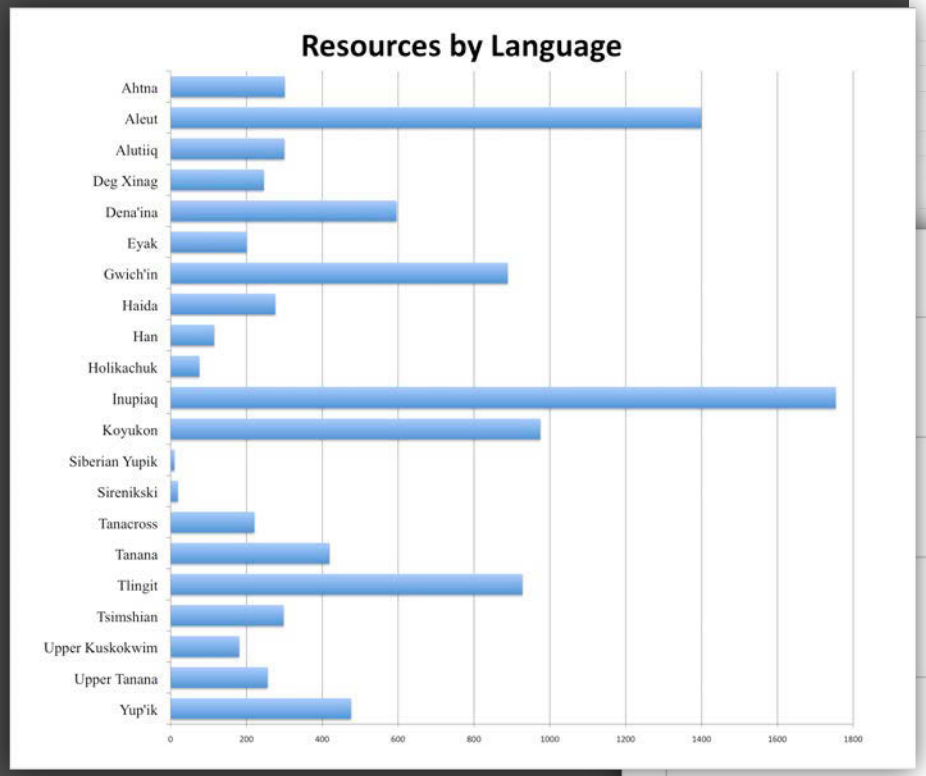
- Legacy archive, founded in 1961
- Primary linguistic data archive for the 20 Alaska Native languages
- Comprehensive: nearly everything written *in* or *about* Alaska Native languages
- Focus on unpublished manuscripts, field notes and recordings
- Items include:
  - print (>15,000 items), audio (>5000 tapes)

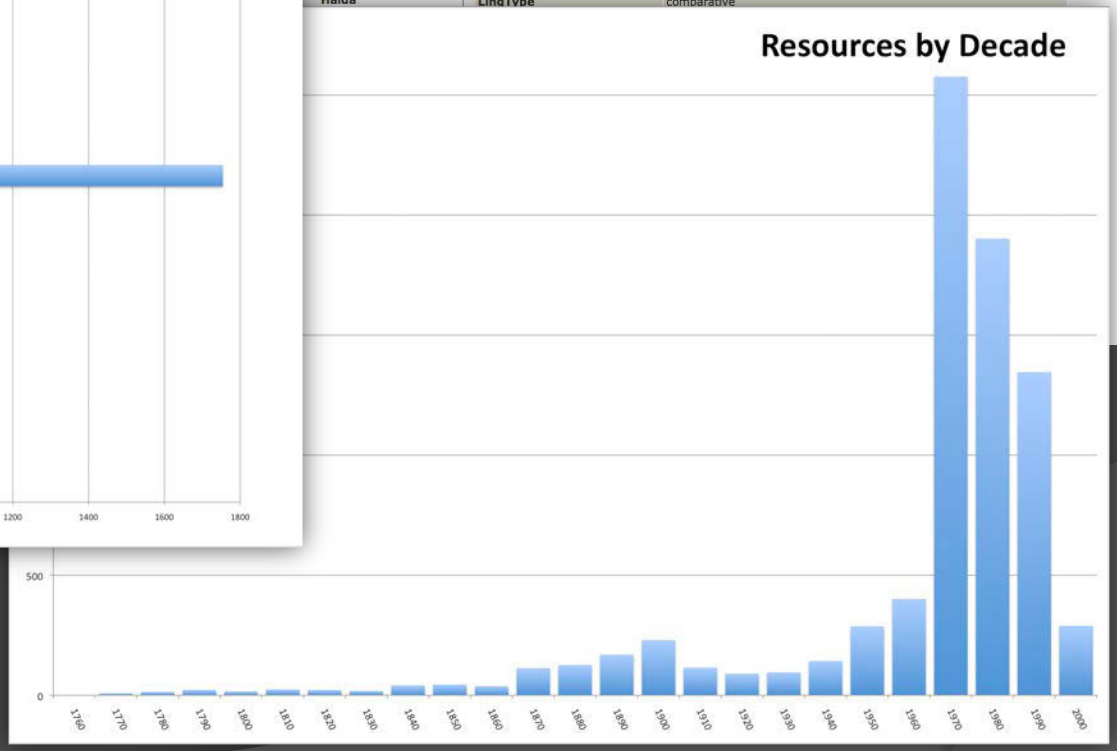


Crossroads of Continents



ANLA Resources





Digitization

ANLA Users

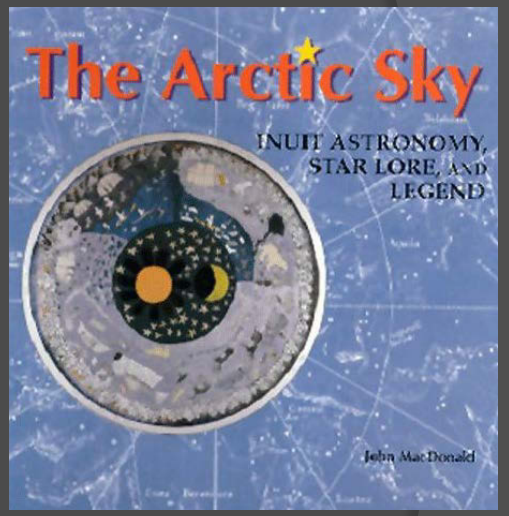
Beyond Linguistics

Vast majority of requests are non-linguistic

- ethnobotany in the Yukon Flats region
- eulogy for Father Rysev
- genealogy in the Upper Koyukuk region
- Yup’ik music recordings
- photos from Prince William Sound region
- information on Russian influence in the middle Kuskokwim River region.

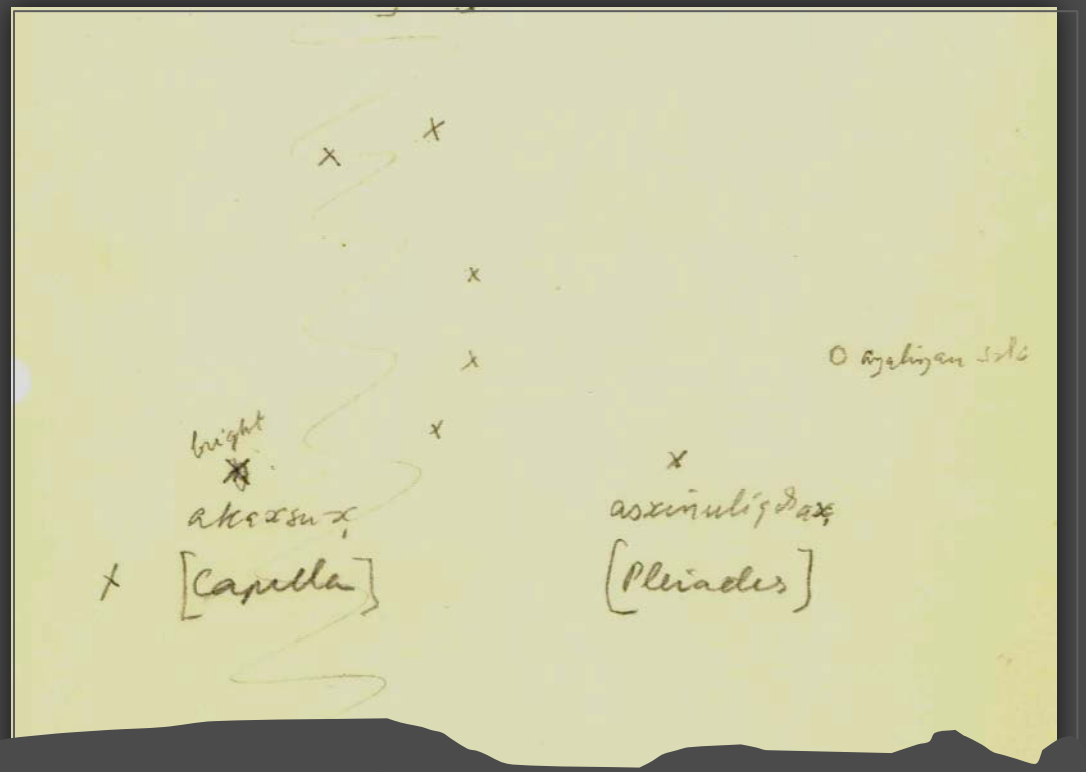
Knowledge of the sky

- well-documented for Eastern Canadian Inuit (MacDonald 1998)



- almost nothing known for Alaskan languages

Knowledge of the sky



Bergsland, Knut. [Notes on Aleut wordlists regarding the natural world, 1952-59.] Item AL950B(B170)1952

Ursa major

- Aleut ‘caribou’
- Yup’ik ‘caribou’
- Siberian Yupik ‘caribou’
- Inupiaq ‘caribou’
- Tsimshian ‘spoon’
- Haida ‘sea-otter-stretching-board’
- Tlingit ‘all stone’
- Ahtna ‘the one that moves above us’
- Dena’ina ‘one that turns over us’, ‘stars stretched’
- Koyukon ‘it rotates its body
- Tanacross ‘dipper’
- Upper Tanana ‘I’m sitting’
- Gwich’in ‘the seat’

Pleiades

- Aleut ‘bundles of codfish’
- Yup’ik ‘little foxes’
- Siberian Yupik ‘group of girls’
- Inupiaq ‘sharing out of food’
- Haida ‘water bailer’
- Tlingit ‘sculpin’
- Eyak ‘sculpin’
- Koyukon ‘multiple objects moving’
- Upper Tanana ‘big dog’

Derived Language Materials

Eyak

- 1805: first documentation,
  1308-item vocabulary
- 1963: four speakers
- 1963-1970: modern documentation (Krauss)
  - field notes: ~3000 pp.
  - lexicon: 3600 pp., 7000 lexemes
  - text: 10 hours transcribed narrative
- 1992: one speaker remains
- 2008: last speaker passes

Eyak Language Documentation

λəɢš

λəɢš-g (noun, unclassified, with -g-thematic) 'dirt' (of any kind) LMA, Rezanov Тлюкушке 'Глина Lehm, Thon', λəɢšgyəqʼd 'in the mud' M, λəɢšg kʼuqəχ̣ə=łe? 'there's dirt all over the place' L, ʔəw λəɢšg ʔəłkʼuʔd 'wipe that dirt (away)!' L.

ɢl-λəɢšg (noun, unclassified?, with ɢl-thematic 'ground') 'mud' (regular mud on the ground, also as ᵒpposed to alluvial mud in flats) LM, xą̣ʔłqʼ ɢą̣·λəɢšg kʼu·łeh 'it's very muddy, there's much mud' L.

eyaklanguageproject

https://sites.google.com/site/eyaklanguageproject/

Eyak Language Project

q'aayaa tl'hix

(A New Beginning)

Word of the Week 44 | WOW LIST | Toolbox | Word Requests | Get Involved | The Project | Links | Contact Us | Sitemap

Daily Living - The Details

Ready for some specifics? You'll be learning some details to for the broader directive to...

k'uyAq' Gada'
Get dressed
(Week 40)

dAq'AtaaLyAq' GAlAx'e'dz
Step into (or put on) your pants
(Speaking to more than one)
(Week 42)

q'Alaak' yAq'Gada'
Put on your shirt
(Speaking to just one)
(Week 43)

adgudasa'q yAq' GAda'
Put on your dress
(Week 44)

(Modeled by Dr. Michael Krauss)

Suggestions? Questions? Comments?
We want to hear from you. email us at:
eyaklanguageproject@gmail.com

The Word of the Week is updated each Sunday by noon Alaska Time. This site is optimized for used with Google Chrome Browser. Safari, iphone, & ipad users may have issues using audio and video files.

Join us on FACEBOOK Here

Eyak Yak Language Circles

The next gathering is set for:

Saturday * November 19 * 9 a.m.

EBCO Building
2804 W. Northern Lights Blvd
(Corner of Turnagain STREET and Northern Lights)

email us if you are interested in joining us via Skype

Are you Eyak?

Let us know who you are by taking the

Eyak Ancestry Survey

Do You Want to Learn Eyak?

We invite ALL who are interested in learning this language to take the

Eyak Learning Opportunities Survey

The information you share will help us create new materials and provide the teaching opportunities to guide you on your journey.

(all personal information will be kept confidential)

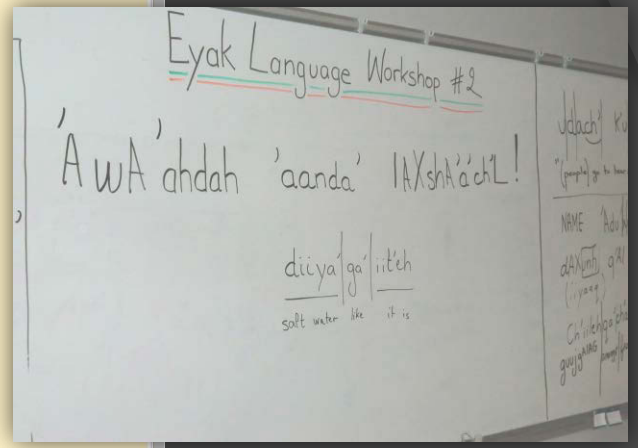
Eyak Language Workshops

More than 40 Learners in Anchorage and Cordova turned out for 6 language workshop sessions in June.

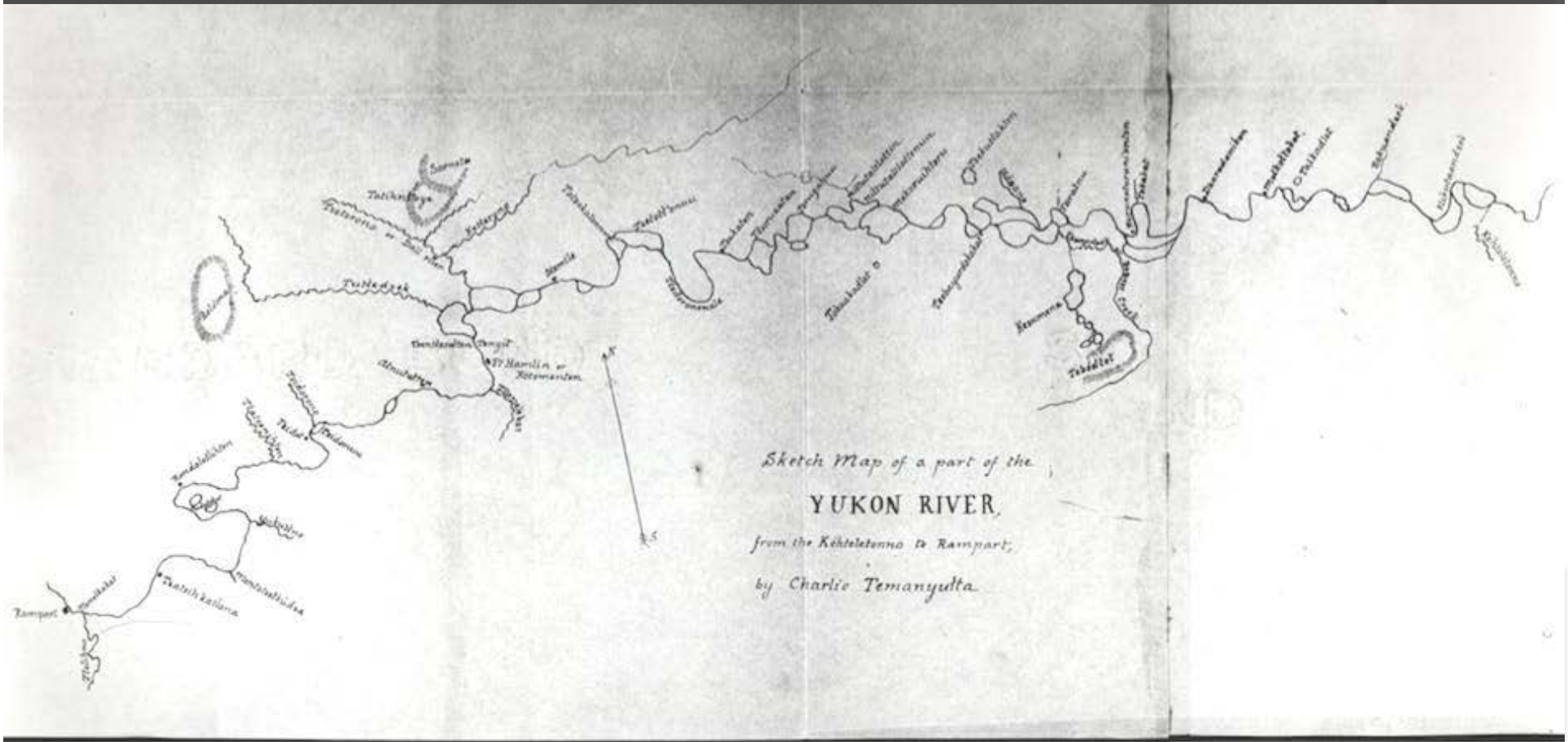
AwA'ahdah

to all those who took participated and to those who made this historic FIRST possible.

Click HERE
or go to our LINKS menu at the top to read and see more about it.

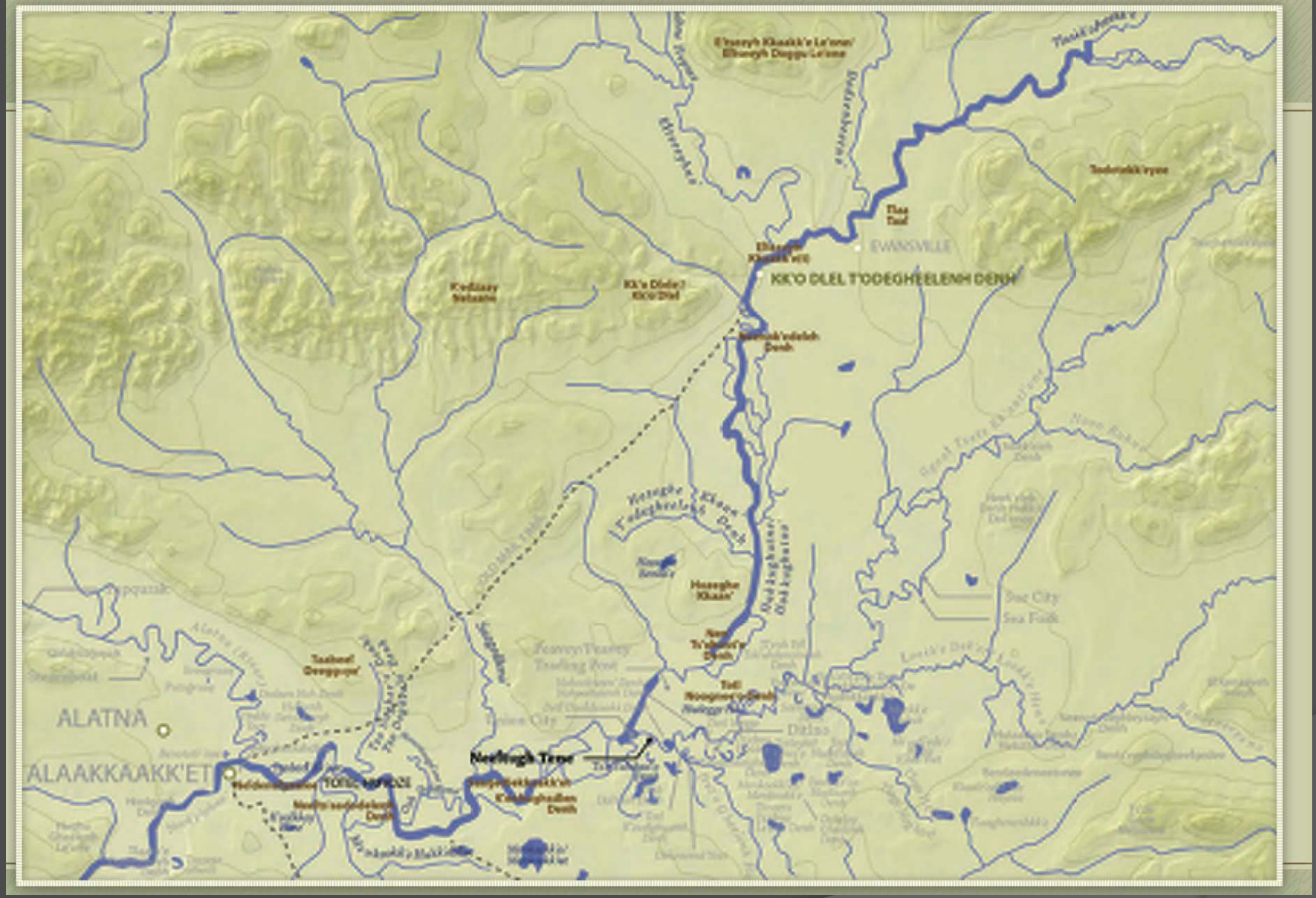


Place Names



Jetté ca. 1908

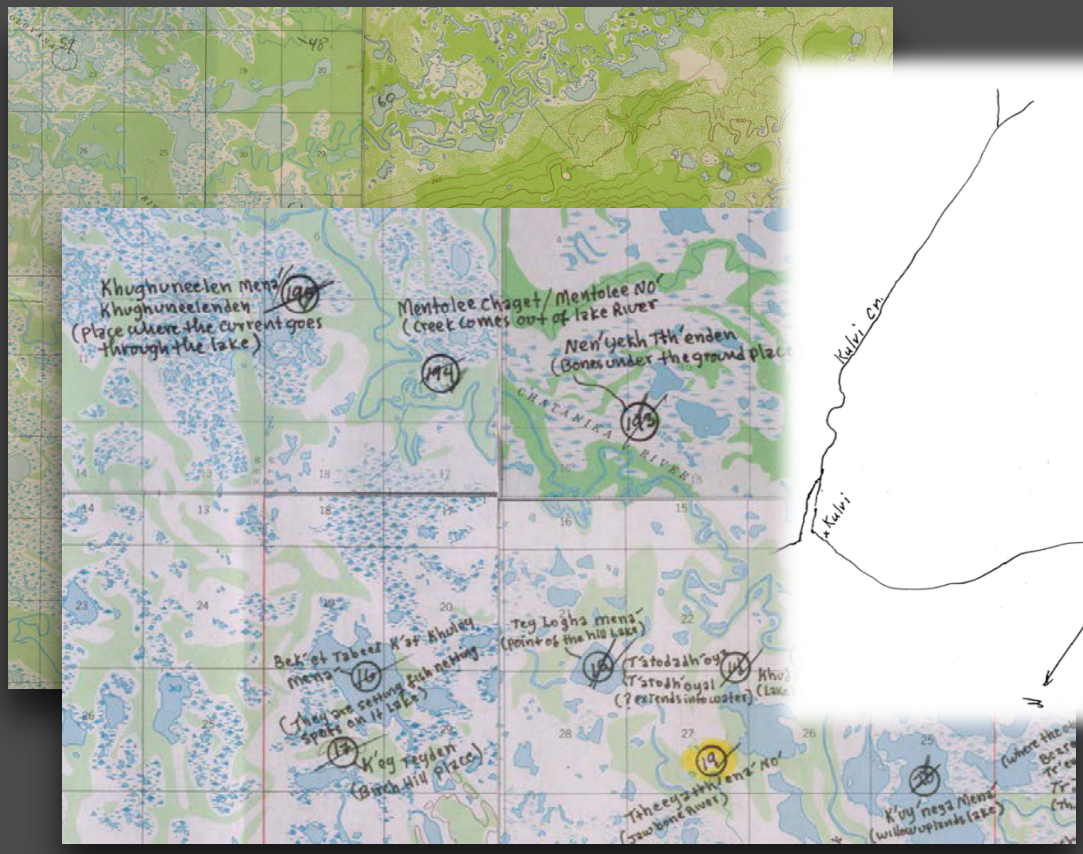
THE KOYUKUK RIVER ABOVE THE VILLAGE OF ALLAKAKET INCLUDING THE SOUTH FORK

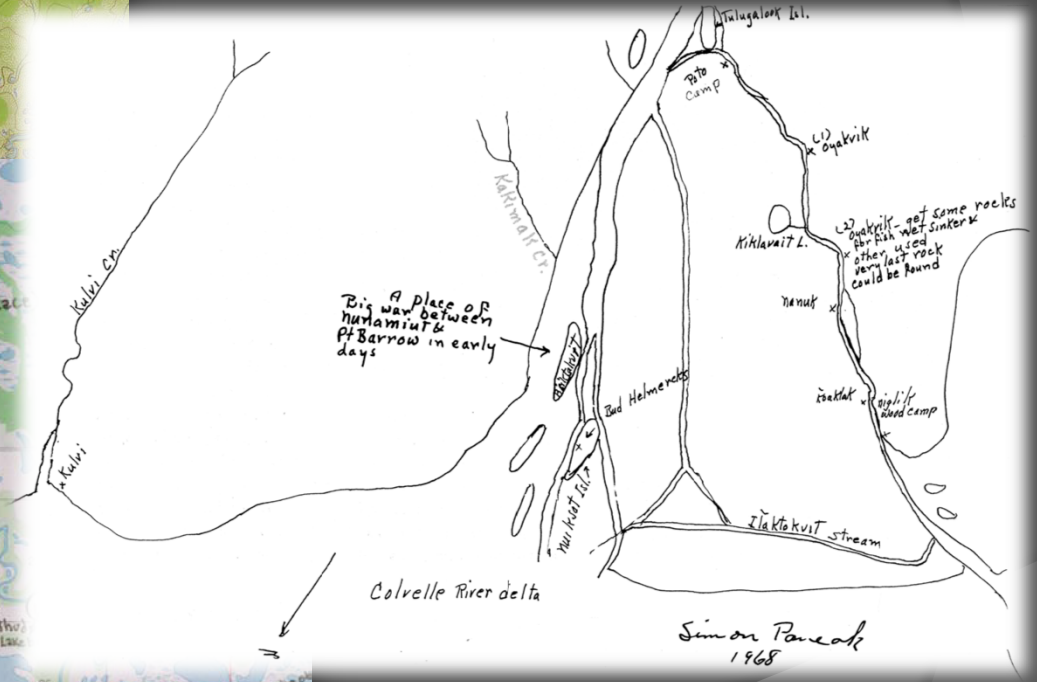


Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association 2008

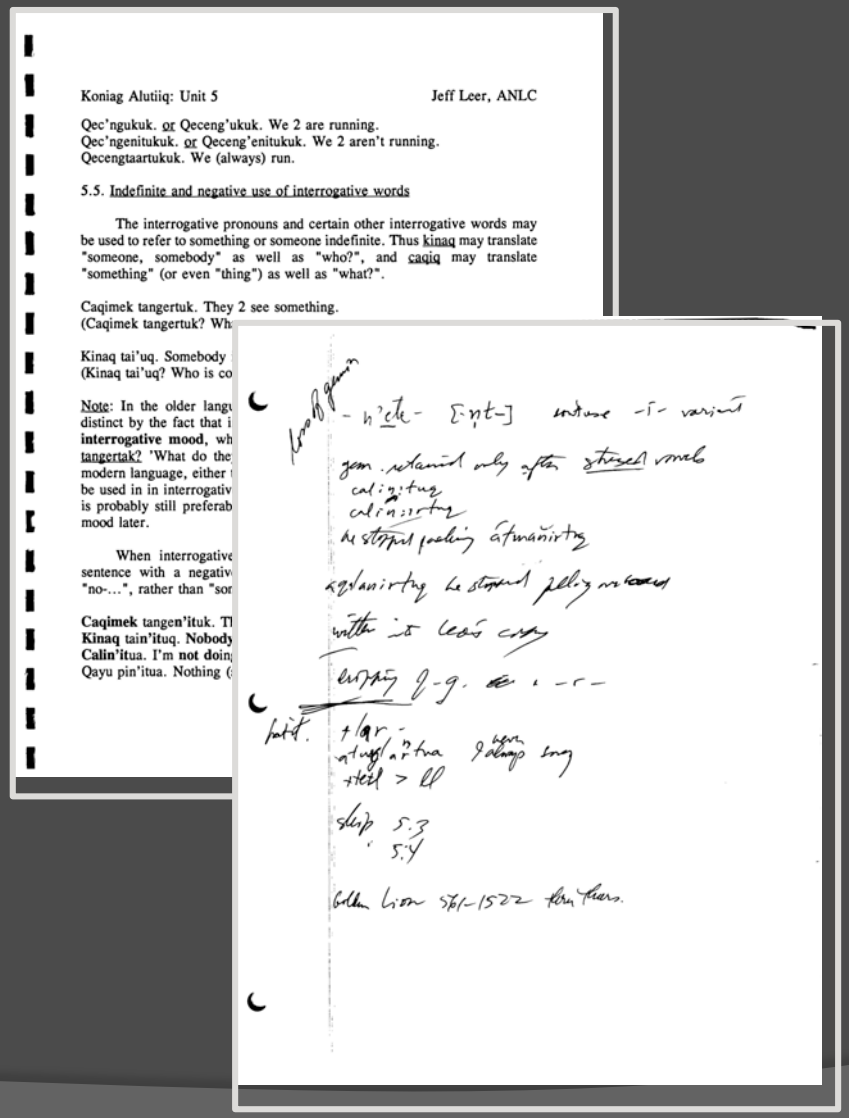
MapTEACH

...new ways to tell old stories





Alutiiq Museum



Koniag Alutiiq: Unit 5 Jeff Leer, ANLC

Qec'ngukuk. or Qeceng'ukuk. We 2 are running.
Qec'ngenitukuk. or Qeceng'enitukuk. We 2 aren't running.
Qecengtaartukuk. We (always) run.

5.5. Indefinite and negative use of interrogative words

The interrogative pronouns and certain other interrogative words may be used to refer to something or someone indefinite. Thus kinaq may translate "someone, somebody" as well as "who?", and caqiq may translate "something" (or even "thing") as well as "what?".

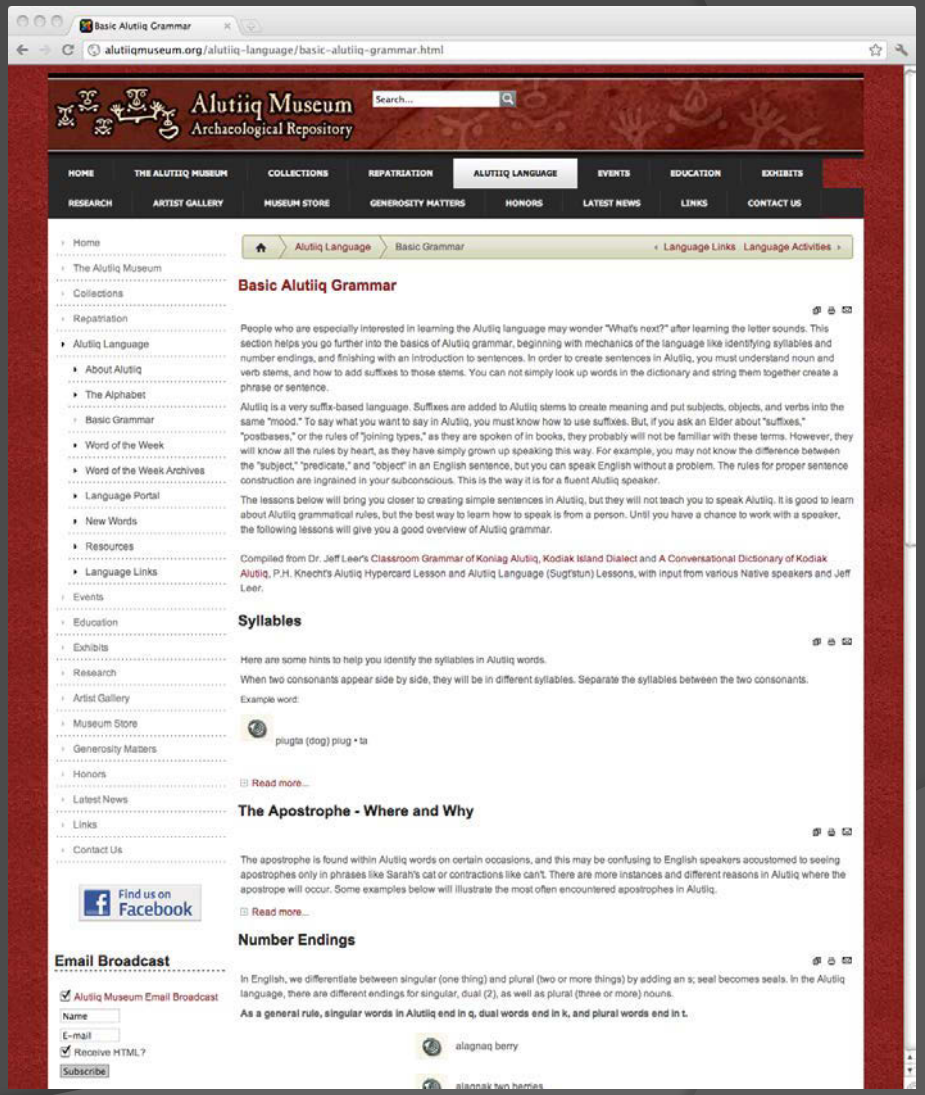
Caqimek tangertuk. They 2 see something.
(Caqimek tangertuk? Wh

Kinaq tai'uq. Somebody
(Kinaq tai'uq? Who is co

Note: In the older langu
distinct by the fact that i
interrogative mood, wh
tangertak? 'What do the
modern language, either
be used in in interrogativ
is probably still preferab
mood later.

When interrogative
sentence with a negativ
"no-...", rather than "sor

Caqimek tangen'ituk. Th
Kinaq tain'ituq. **Nobody**
Calin'itua. I'm **not doin**
Qayu pin'itua. Nothing (



Implications

- Experience of legacy archives can (should?) inform the way we think about utilization of emerging language archives
- Users may be interested in non-linguistic information encoded in the linguistic record
- Users may wish to repurpose linguistic data to create secondary language materials
- Archives will be better serve users to the extent that they facilitate these to types of users

Acknowledgements

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