

9. Language Endangerment III

Introduction to Language (Ling 201)

Prof. Pentangelo

Spring 2026

For tonight's class:

1. Publications, peer review, and finding sources
2. Language snapshot: Kanien'kéha
3. Work on your group projects

1. Publications, peer review, and finding sources

Purpose

- You will be conducting research for your final project, essentially creating a literature review.
- What is a literature review?
- In academia, “the literature” is a term used to refer collectively to the published writings – usually secondary sources – about a particular topic.
- Literature reviews should balance foundational works with recent research.
- Generally, you should use peer-reviewed publications whenever possible.

Overview

- i. Scholarly publications
- ii. Peer review
- iii. Finding sources

i. Scholarly publications

Scholarly Publications

Peer-reviewed publications are ideal. (We'll come to explaining how peer review actually works in a little bit.)

- Journals
- Preprint archives
- Conference proceedings
- Books

NYPL: Articles & Databases

<https://www.nypl.org/collections/articles-databases>

CSI Library: Search Library Resources

<https://library.csi.cuny.edu/home>

Scholarly Publications

- Journals
- Preprint archives
- Conference proceedings
- Books

Some examples: *International Journal of American Linguistics*, *Language Documentation & Conservation*, *Language Documentation & Description*

- Articles (including review articles and original research), book reviews, short communications
- Journals are often accessible through online archives, such as those offered through CSI's library or the NYPL.
- **Beware** of predatory, non-peer reviewed journals.

Scholarly Publications

- Journals
- Preprint archives
- Conference proceedings
- Books

Some examples: *arXiv*, *LingBuzz*

- Places where authors post the manuscripts that they have submitted to peer review (accepted manuscripts) but which have not yet been peer reviewed.
- Some people use other places, like *academia.edu* or their personal website, to host their preprints.
- Harder to establish quality – can try to figure out reputation of the repository as well as of the researcher & their lab.

Scholarly Publications

- Journals
- Preprint archives
- Conference proceedings
- Books

- Compile the papers presented at a given conference or workshop.
- Sometimes peer reviewed, sometimes just approved by an editor/editorial team.
- Proceedings are afforded different value depending on the field. Usually fairly low reputation in linguistics.

Scholarly Publications

- Journals
- Preprint archives
- Conference proceedings
- Books

- Often published as part of a series by academic publishers, but also published by commercial publishers.
- Some compile chapters by various authors, others are written by a single author.
- Don't usually introduce brand new information.
- Lower reputation than journal articles.

ii. Peer review

Peer review

- What is peer review? What do you know about it?
- Any decent journal will have a peer review process.
- How does it work?
- Why is it anonymous?

Peer review



Image from Elsevier's "What is peer review?" page.
(<https://www.elsevier.com/reviewers/what-is-peer-review>)

iii. Finding sources

Finding sources

- NYPL
- CSI's Library
- Google Scholar
- Archive.org, Google Books,
& HathiTrust

You should:

- Know your CSI library login credentials.
- Have & know your NYPL login credentials.



Finding sources

- NYPL
- CSI's Library
- Google Scholar
- Archive.org, Google Books, & HathiTrust

New York Public library has tons more than just books.

- Need a library card to access. These are free and available to anyone in NY state.
- Must have library barcode & password.
- Go to <https://www.nypl.org/> and click “Research.” From there, click “Articles & Databases” or “Academic E-Books.”

You should:

- Know your CSI library login credentials.
- Have & know your NYPL login credentials.



Finding sources

- NYPL
- CSI's Library
- Google Scholar
- Archive.org, Google Books,
& HathiTrust

A really good, often-overlooked resource.

- Access the list of databases here
(<https://library.csi.cuny.edu/az.php>)
- Log in with your CUNYFirst credentials.

You should:

- Know your CSI library login credentials.
- Have & know your NYPL login credentials.



Finding sources

- NYPL
- CSI's Library
- Google Scholar
- Archive.org, Google Books,
& HathiTrust

No login necessary!

Find lots of sources this way, but make sure they're trustworthy by seeing if they've been cited a lot.

- Access at <https://scholar.google.com/>
- Who did this work cite?
- Who is this work cited by?
- Allows you to visualize a network of research.

Finding sources

- NYPL
- CSI's Library
- Google Scholar
- Archive.org, Google Books, & HathiTrust

Login optional, but recommended for Archive.org. (Free and easy to set up.)

Three incredible resources.

- Access at <https://www.archive.org/>, <https://books.google.com/>, and <https://www.hathitrust.org/>
- Mostly contain public domain (i.e. pre-1931) works.
- Archive.org & HathiTrust – Can search metadata or text contents. Be sure to select texts (rather than images, software, etc.). Making an account will allow access to more sources.
- Google Books – Will show you results you can't view, by default. Click “Tools” > “Any Books” > “Free Google eBooks.”

Finding sources > Evaluating sources

- Evaluating sources: any ideas?
- Does the content make sense?
- Are they indexed by a dependable aggregator?
- Are they cited in other research?
- Is it full of errors?
- Is the journal junk? Does it engage in peer review?

2. Language Snapshot: Kanien'kéha

Language Documentation & Description

- An open access journal available here: iddjournal.org
- They do long-form articles as well as shorter “language snapshots” which detail the current state of endangered languages. These are a very useful resource.
- In 2020, I wrote a language snapshot for Kanien’kéha (Mohawk) which appeared in the journal. We can use this language snapshot as a sort of model for these group projects.

For next time:

- Submit and present group project #2. Please bring the paper to me printed out.
- Read pp.246–256 in *Language Files*. There will be a quiz on this reading at the start of class.

If you want to know your current grade, hang out.