



Australia ICOMOS Secretariat
 Ph: +61 3 9251 7131
 austicomos@deakin.edu.au
 www.icomos.org/australia

CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

NAME OF PRESENTER:	Nick Thieberger
TITLE OF PAPER:	Access to recordings in the languages of the Pacific
THEME:	<i>Theme 3: Diverse Communities - Intangible Heritage</i>
<p>PAPER ABSTRACT:</p> <p>With over a quarter of the world's languages the Pacific is a particularly good place to focus on how language records can be made accessible. The creation and description of research records has not always been a priority for humanities academics, and any records that are created have typically not been provided with good archival solutions. This is despite these records often being of cultural or historical relevance beyond academia.</p> <p>Many academic researchers at the end of their careers despair at the task of making sense of a lifetime's output of papers, notes, images, and recordings. Our project, the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC), began in 2003 by digitising analog tape collections and providing sufficient metadata to make them discoverable. These tapes belonged to retired or deceased researchers and would otherwise have been stored in a house or maybe a library, but in both cases are difficult to find and more difficult to access.</p> <p>In this talk I will outline how PARADISEC works and how to find information in it. I will show how we provide access to the collections we hold and how that has helped build links with people and agencies in the Pacific. We have worked with a number of museums and cultural centres to digitise analog tapes. We are working on ways of getting information about the collection to the source communities so that they can find recordings made by their members in the past.</p>	
<p>BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER:</p> <p>Nick Thieberger wrote a grammar of Nafsan, a language from central Vanuatu that pioneered methods in citing primary data from a media corpus. He helped establish the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (http://paradisec.org.au), and is now its Director. He taught in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and is an Associate Professor and Australian Research Council Future Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Australia, where he is a CI in the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language.</p>	