Program: **LRC**

Project: South Asia Language Resource Center

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PI: Steven Poulos

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Project Identification

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Grantee has been previously awarded the following Title VI/Fulbright-Hays grants: International Research and Studies; National Resource Centers

Abstract

The universities currently designated as National Resource Centers for South Asia together with other major American universities with South Asia studies programs have established the South Asia Language Resource Center (SALRC). The goal of SALRC is to meet the pressing need for human and material resources supporting the teaching and learning of the subcontinent's languages. Other U.S. universities with South Asia programs also collaborate in this effort. The new LRC is an umbrella under which less-commonly-taught languages are being advanced. SALRC is creating and disseminating new resources for teaching and research on South Asian languages, mostly via the World Wide Web; providing administrative support and pedagogical expertise for the South Asia Summer Language Institute (SASLI); developing a shared infrastructure for delivery and archiving of South Asia language resources; sharing infrastructure and approaches with other institutions having overlapping language interests; and offering workshops to

North American faculty and students on pedagogy; language materials development and other areas of interest.

Nearly a half century of Federal funding for foreign language and area training has resulted in excellent print and audio resources for teaching the less commonly taught languages of South Asia, however these resources are not centrally available. SALRC, as one of its undertakings, is collecting, refurbishing, and disseminating the best of those older resources in a way that eliminates the need for duplication and augments and enhances the new tools being developed specifically for the changing environment of language instruction in the U.S.

Status/Impact

SALRC continues to develop its infrastructure and relationships in addition to starting up the activities projected in the grant proposal.

Staffing of SALRC office (1/2 time graduate student assistant).

Regular meetings of the SALRC Executive Committee in conjunction with the Annual South Asia Meeting (Madison, October) and the Association for Asian Studies meeting (location varies, March/April).

Learning, refining and executing the sub-contract process of both large awards to institutions and research/materials awards to individuals (via their home institutions).

Listserves (one for Hindi-Urdu instructors and students; one general one for South Asian language instructors and students) that have been set up have been used to communicate workshop offerings, job openings, information of specific interest (new websites, reference materials etc.).

SALRC made specific progress in the following areas during the 4/15/03-4/14/04 period:

The SALRC has been heavily involved in the development of the joint South Asia language summer session held on the University of Wisconsin campus. The SALRC Director serves on the SASLI board and is a member of the decision making national Executive Committee. The Executive Committee which has met 4 times during the current reporting period has been directly involved in all aspects of budget, hiring, admissions policy, course offerings, staffing, evaluation. The Summer 2003 session was judged a success (12 courses, 9 langs, 11 instructors, 11 teaching assistants, 73 students) SALRC has already been occupied with planning and decision making for the Summer 2004 SASLI session.
Six weekly summer pedagogy sessions for 11 lecturers and 11 teaching assistants were held at SASLI (Madison, 6/03-8/03).
Two national competitions were held for grants to faculty for language materials development (13 awards) (Spring 03; Winter 03-04) (see Exemplary Activities section for details).

A Mini Grant program was initiated in Spring 2004 (see Adjustments and Exemplary Activities sections).

A highly technical workshop was held to introduce SALRC grantees to many aspects of the digital world including audio and video products, standards and methodology as well as covering issues like intellectual property rights, use of Unicode, human subject protocols and more (Chicago, 10/03).

SALRC co-sponsored with the University of Pennsylvania the first ever workshop on the languages of Afghanistan. (Philadelphia, 12/03).

In February 2004, SALRC held the first language pedagogy workshop specifically oriented to South Asian language instructors (Berkeley).

SALRC ran a panel at the Annual South Asia Conference with three of our grantees making presentations on existing and proposed work (Madison, 10/03).

The SALRC website has been made dramatically more useful during this year. Major impacts have been in carrying the full load of the grant application process, providing information on all U.S. summer language programs for South Asian languages and selectively pointing language faculty to outstanding pedagogy workshops run by other LRCs.

OTHER COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES

In addition to his role in SASLI, the SALRC Director opened up the beginnings of collaboration with other LRCS.

CeLCAR. Participated in SALRC Languages of Afghanistan workshop; SALRC website advertises CeLCAR summer Pashto courses.

Northwest NFLRC. Provided scholarly connections and resources for NNFLRC grant proposal; SALRC Director to join NNFLRC advisory board for major upcoming project.

NAfricanLRC, NMiddleEastLRC and NNFLRC directors consulted by SALRC for advice in multiple areas with very positive response.

CALPER Associate Director served on SALRC grant selection committee.

In action affecting the South Asian language map in the U.S., the Director and other SALRC Board members have played important roles in developing the South Asia portion of the Title VI supported eLCTL project run by Michigan State.

SALRC grantees are moving ahead in providing audio-text interplay for the Digital Dictionaries of South Asia in two Pakistani languages as part of their projects.

SALRC staff and affiliated faculty have been asked by a non-South Asia center (University of Iowa) to participate in the development of a Kannada language teaching program and Kannada materials development.

Please see the Exemplary Activities section for our interaction with SANRCs and other institutions.

Adjustments

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

PEDAGOGY The intention to hold a single workshop in the summer for language professionals has changed. It became apparent that pedagogical training is an area that needs greater emphasis. The number of instructors at SASLI is significantly large that to

invite others would impact the effectiveness of the workshop. We have moved to having 2 or 3 shorter workshops during the year besides the Madison session.

TECHNOLOGY It has become clear that for the unique web based materials projects proposed by the SALRC, enhanced training needs to be provided in technology. We have undertaken to do this for our grantees, both with individual sessions provided for some grantees and group sessions.

MINI GRANTS Mini grants are being awarded outside of the major grant competition to provide for 3 areas of need: greater distribution via the Internet of existing print, audio or visual media materials; planning assistance for a larger project to be submitted to SALRC or other funding body; web site development for small scale projects. The above activities are made possible by funds left over from year one of the grant.

ACTIVITIES NOT CONDUCTED

TECHNOLOGY The expectation of employing UChicago technical personnel to 1. provide streaming media assistance to grantees and 2. archive resources and catalog and create metadata has not yet been necessary. Those experts have been part of planning and consultation sessions and will come to play more of a role in the upcoming period.

GRANTS No additional grant proposals have been written. The SALRC has decided to concentrate on getting results out of currently outstanding projects before looking for additional resources.

Exemplary Activities

A. NATIONAL IMPACT OF SALRC WORKSHOPS

Summer PEDAGOGICAL WORKSHOP at University of Wisconsin: 22 participants; 11 institutions represented (6 SANRCs; 3 other U.S. institutions; 2 foreign programs); 9 languages; once a week over 6 weeks.

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP at University of Chicago for grantees: 11 participants; 6 insts. represented; 9 languages; 1.5 days; serviced by 17 resource persons from 2 institutions.

WORKSHOP ON THE LANGUAGES OF AFGHANISTAN at University of Pennsylvania: 38 participants; 25 insts. represented (incl. U.S. Dept of Defense, U.S. Dept of State, 3 overseas universities, one NGO working in Afghanistan); 19 languages; 2.0 days; virtually all participants served as resources.

APPROPRIATE PEDAGOGY: LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND CURRICULUM: THE SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGE CLASSROOM WORKSHOP at University of California, Berkeley: 16 participants; 9 insts. represented (incl. U.S. Dept. of Defense); 5 languages; 1.5 days; serviced by 5 resource persons from 3 institutions.

ALL South Asia NRCs have participated in one or more of these workshops including travel support for language lecturers; 3 NRCs have made substantial cash and in-kind contributions when hosting SALRC workshops.

B. INITIATION OF SALRC GRANTS TO DEVELOP LANGUAGE TEACHING MATERIALS

B.1 Two major grant cycles (SP 2003, WI 2004)

AWARDS (13)

Awardees: 25; Insts. involved: 18; Languages funded: 10; Collaborative proposals: 8

APPLICATIONS (29)

Applicants: 43 ; Insts. involved: 26; Langs. 17; Collab. proposals: 14

B.2 On-going mini-grant competition begun Spring 2004

AWARDS

Awards: 2; Languages funded: 2; Collaborative proposals: 2

APPLICATIONS

Apps.: 4; Languages: 4; Collab. proposals: 2