

# **The clash between building a linguistic database and making it useful for interdisciplinary research**

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The project “Documenting Movima, an unclassified language of the Moxos region (Bolivia)” includes, among other things, an anthropological research topic: Cultural Identity among the Movima Indians. We found that it is not easy to combine fieldwork on this topic, which involves standardized interviews in Spanish, with the aim of our project, a documentation of the Movima language. This emphasizes the importance of structuring the database in such a way that also non-linguistic research questions can be answered.

We want to focus on two key issues here:

1. How can the database of one language be made accessible for interdisciplinary research?
2. How can the structure of the entire archive be improved for comparative interdisciplinary research?

Concerning point 1, we will demonstrate how developing a Controlled Vocabulary and creating content descriptions with a fixed set of keywords can facilitate interdisciplinary research. Concerning point 2, we will suggest three alternative possibilities for facilitating the use of the IMDI database: a) more unified tree structures of the different projects; b) more intersections between the key words set up by the different projects; or c) developing the Search function in IMDI in such a way that it recognizes the relationship between possible search terms and the different key names used by the individual projects. All these options require good communication between the different teams not just regarding technical issues, but also the content of the individual databases.

Our presentation will be based on our experience with organizing our own database and with searching the IMDI archive for particular topics.