CALL for participation in NEH-funded project 'Democratizing Digital Lexicography'

We are inviting applications to participate in the NEH-funded project 'Democratizing Digital Lexicography' (HAA-290402-23 - see below for the project description)
https://digitallexicograph.wixsite.com/democratizing-digita

Project Description

The NEH-funded project "Democratizing Digital Lexicography" is directed by Dr. Ligeia Lugli (Mangalam Center, USA) and coordinated by Prof. Regiani Zacarias (UNESP, Brazil). It aims at facilitating the creation and dissemination of digital dictionaries for low-resource languages. With many world languages at risk of extinction, online dictionaries & glossaries are increasingly crucial. Unfortunately, the languages most in need of such resources have the biggest challenges. The availability of digital infrastructure for a language is proportional to its representation - the more data that is available in digital format, the easier it becomes to automatically process it. Conversely, the less a language/culture is represented online, the higher the costs of retrieving and processing data about it. In this project we will prototype a digital infrastructure that can help redress this inequality by drastically reducing the costs and technical expertise required to create, publish and maintain online dictionaries. A series of iterative development cycles will bring together user-testers, identify their needs, and prepare an alpha-prototype application to address these needs.

Detailed information

We are looking for candidates who have curated dictionary or glossary data in any file format (e.g. Word/Excel/CSV/XML/Flex etc) and need help with rendering them in digital form**.**

All dictionaries projects are welcome, but, should we receive more applications than we can accept, priority will be given to projects focussing on **low-resource** languages (low-resource languages include, but are not limited to, endangered, minority and historical languages).

Role Description
- Participation in the project is voluntary, *not* remunerated.

- Project-participants must already have some structured dictionary-data and be willing to share a small sample of this data with the project developers (see Data Management) .
- Project participation consists of attending 4 online meetings in the course of a 13 month period (about one meeting every 3 months). At each meeting, all participants will discuss the requirements for a specific aspect of the infrastructure to be developed in the project (data conversion, extraction of dictionary data from corpora, visualization of dictionary data and customisation of dictionary interfaces through an interactive application).
- Participants will be asked to try out the applications developed throughout the project on their own dictionary data and give us feedback.

Benefit and limitations

By the end of the project, participants will be able to create an interactive digital version of their dictionaries using the infrastructure developed during the project.

Participants must keep in mind that this project aims to develop an alpha prototype. The final work will not be perfect and the level of customisation available will be limited. We expect that we will not be able to accommodate all feature requests and will focus on developing features that cater for the majority of participants.

Data Management

Project participants will remain the owners of their dictionary data and decisions about publishing and licensing them will be their own. All sample dictionary data shared with the project developers will be erased from the developers' machines at the end of the project and not made available to the public.

To apply please submit
- one paragraph (max 200 words) describing your dictionary project and the file format in which you have your dictionary data,
- a sample entry from your current dictionary data.

Deadline April 21st.

Successful participants are expected to attend a virtual meeting the first week of May.

Method of submission: digitallexicography@gmail.com

We will notify selected participants by email on April 24th.