Joint ISCA & ELRA

Special Interest Group
Under–resourced Languages
(SIGUL)

http://www.elra.info/en/sig/sigul/
SIG UNDER-RESOURCED LANGUAGES (SIGUL)

Joint Special Interest Group
✓ ISCA & ELRA

Main objectives
✓ Supports linguistic diversity through technology and ICT
✓ Commits to increasing the lesser-resourced languages (regional, minority, or endangered) chances to survive the digital world

Board (>2018)
✓ Co-chair and ELRA liaison representative: Claudia Soria (CNR–ILC, Pisa, Italy)
✓ Co-chair and ISCA liaison representative: Laurent Besacier (LIG, France)
✓ Secretary: Sakriani Sakti (NAIST, Nara, Japan)
✓ Contributor: Dorothee Beermann (NTNU, Norway) + committee and international advisory group
SIGUL 2019 Activities (1/2)

ICPhS 2019
✓ Special session at ICPhS 2019 (Melbourne, Australia)
✓ Computational Approaches for Documenting and Analyzing Oral Languages
✓ Attracting computer scientists to ICPhS and engaging them in discussions with phoneticians (and linguists generally)

Zero Speech Challenge 2019
✓ SIGUL as a partner http://zerospeech.com/2019
✓ TTS without T! 20 systems submitted

Local workshop in Uganda
✓ Canceled (riots on the Campus of Kampala...)
SIGUL 2019 Activities (2/2)

- Local workshop in Japan
  ✓ "Digital Revolution for Under-resourced Languages in Asia Region", Feb 5–6, 2019, Nara, Japan
  ✓ Objectives: Activate under-resourced language communities in Asia
  ✓ Invite 7 experts from Asia: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, India, China
  ✓ Content: Short presentation by each expert and panel discussion

- Language Technology for All (LT4All)
  ✓ Related to 2019 UNESCO International Year of Indigenous languages
  ✓ Participants based only on invitation (academia, ind., gov., indigenous communities)
  ✓ Content: White papers on LT for UL + Several panel discussions
  ✓ Very successful event at Unesco! [https://lt4all.org/en](https://lt4all.org/en)
SIGUL 2020 Activities

**Joint SLTU / CCURL Workshop in 2020**
- SLTU: spoken language community / CCURL: nlp community
- 64 papers submitted / 54 papers accepted – proceedings accessible from ISCA archive
- [https://www.isca-speech.org/iscaweb/index.php/archive/online-archive](https://www.isca-speech.org/iscaweb/index.php/archive/online-archive)
- Google sponsorship of 5000€ wired to ISCA account and not used!

**Zero Speech Challenge 2020**
- Return of 2019 track (TTS without T) and 2017 track 2 (word discovery) – 20+5 systems submitted
SIGUL 2021 Plans

- **Endorsement of ALPS winter school 2011**
  ✓ Advanced Language Processing School (in the Alps!)

- **Preparing for Joint SLTU / CCURL Workshop in 2022**
  ✓ Where? Around Interspeech 2022? Virtual?

- **Increase our visibility**
  ✓ SIGUL mailing list (337 members)
  ✓ Elections planned end of 2020