

Language Data Commons of Australia (LDaCA) Statement of Intent

Australia is one of the most linguistically diverse nations in the world. There have been ongoing efforts by Australian universities to secure Australia's language data, but these are dispersed across institutions in different states in Australia. The aim of the Language Data Commons of Australia (LDaCA) is to federate these efforts into nationally integrated research infrastructure for collections of high strategic importance for the Australian research community, including (1) Australian Indigenous languages, (2) Indigenous languages in Australia's region, (3) Australian English(es), and (4) Australian Community languages. LDaCA will thus be (1) a sustainable long-term repository curating unique language records in forms that permit analysis and re-use, and (2) a portal to existing data sources, harvesting metadata into an aggregator as a single point of access to the collections in participating projects. The establishment of a national research infrastructure for research on languages is critical not only to enable Australian researchers and industry to fully realise the social and economic possibilities of Australia's rich linguistic heritage and that of our region, but to ensure Australia is able to keep pace with best practice in the broader international research community.

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