

DOBES

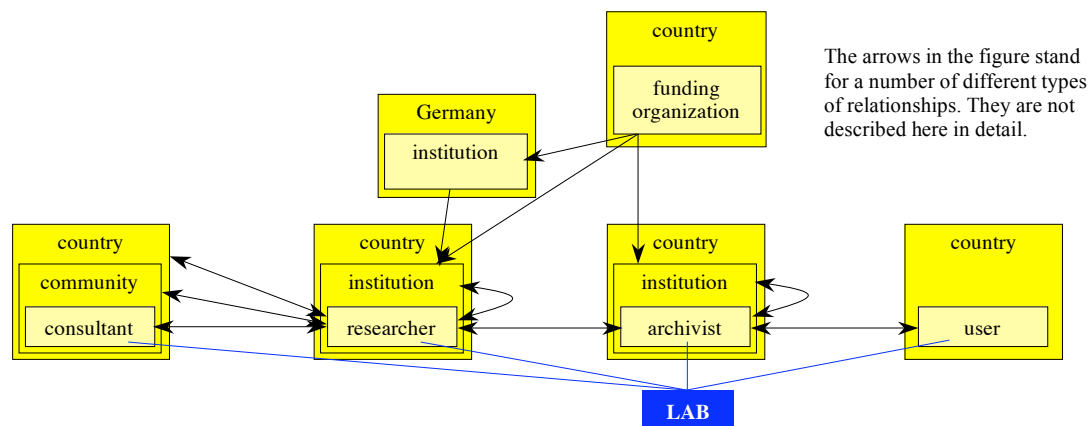
Code of Conduct *DOBES-CoC-V2*

Peter Wittenburg, 19.7.2005

General Statements

The Code of Conduct determines ethical guidelines for all participants in the DOBES documentation program and the users of the resulting resources. Fieldworkers, archivists, users, and funding agencies have to accept this CoC as the basic guideline for their activities. Any violation of these guidelines will be taken seriously and may have the consequence of loss of permission to contribute to the program or to use the data.

As indicated in the figure different parties are involved in DOBES program with different roles:



The acting teams in DOBES (indicated by a light yellow color) are embedded in organizational structures all defining legal frameworks of a different nature. To define a common basis for all persons and organizations involved in DOBES a Code of Conduct was defined and all are bound to adhere to its rules. Also all users of the DOBES material will have to accept the Code of Conduct as their basis.

A Linguistic Advisory Board will give advice to the archivist to carry out his task in accordance with the international efforts in documenting endangered languages. This Linguistic Advisory Board will be asked for advice in matters where conflicts about ethical behavior occur. To achieve this, internationally respected members of the linguistic field researcher community will be members of this board.

Ethical Rules

- Everyone will respect the Intellectual and Cultural Property Rights of the individual consultants and their communities. Wishes with respect to protecting the privacy of individuals will be respected.

- No one is allowed to offend the religious feelings of the consultants or communities. No missionary or political activities are allowed to be carried out under the umbrella of the DOBES documentation task.
- No one is allowed to use the recorded and analyzed data for commercial purposes without permission from the speech community.
 - a. It is the speech community that deals with the issue of commercial uses. The speech community not only gives permission, but also decides all aspects involved in the commercial use (copyrights, sharing profits, etc).
 - b. If the speech community does allow a user to make commercial uses, then the user should present a contract agreed with the speech community. This contract should be officially recognized by the required authorities (including authorities in the country where the speech community lives). This is to ensure that the whole process is made in a legal and transparent way.
- All parties must respect the national laws and the rules of the authorized organizations in the different countries.
- All parties will support the general frameworks as defined by the UN, UNESCO and WIPO where they are applicable.
- The consultants and communities will be informed openly and seriously about the goals of the DOBES program and about the possibilities of misuse.
- In general fieldworkers will document the agreed mutual understanding about the nature of the research and the formal consent achieved with the consultants by means of a signed document¹.
- The parties will support efforts for revitalizing the languages within the limits of their possibilities.
- Fieldworkers should operate in such a way as to ensure future fieldwork and the reputation of their field.
- The parties understand their participation as part of the great challenge to preserve cultural heritage for future generations. This includes the obligation to make material as accessible for interested non-commercial users as possible.
- The parties will record and archive the data according to professional standards, but taking in consideration the limitations of the field work.
- The archivist will take appropriate steps to ensure long lifetime of the data.
- The users of DOBES data will respect the intention of the recordings and acknowledge the work that the archivist and especially the collectors have invested. In general this is to be documented by making references in publications and by mentioning the names of the consultants if this is wanted.
- The users will give copies of all added data that will enrich the corpus to the archive and make it available to other interested and serious users maximally within three years after the analysis work has been started.
- A transfer of DOBES data to third persons or organizations is generally forbidden.

References:

- Angela Terrill, *Ethics policy for field research on adult humans at the MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology*, Leipzig, March 2001 (not published internal document)
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, *Guidelines for Ethical Research in Indigenous Studies*, May 2000

¹ In the DOBES programme it is a requirement that appropriate declarations and permissions have to be presented as part of the proposal.

American Anthropological Association, *Code of Ethics*, June 1998
United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948
United Nations, *Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People*, Forthcoming