

National Science Foundation
Workshop for
**Documenting Endangered
Languages**



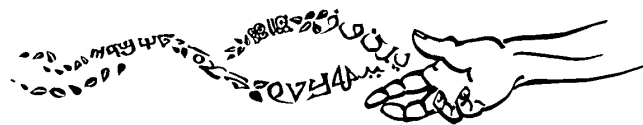
October 14 - 17, 2007
The New England Center,
University of New Hampshire,
Durham, NH

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Foundation for Endangered Languages

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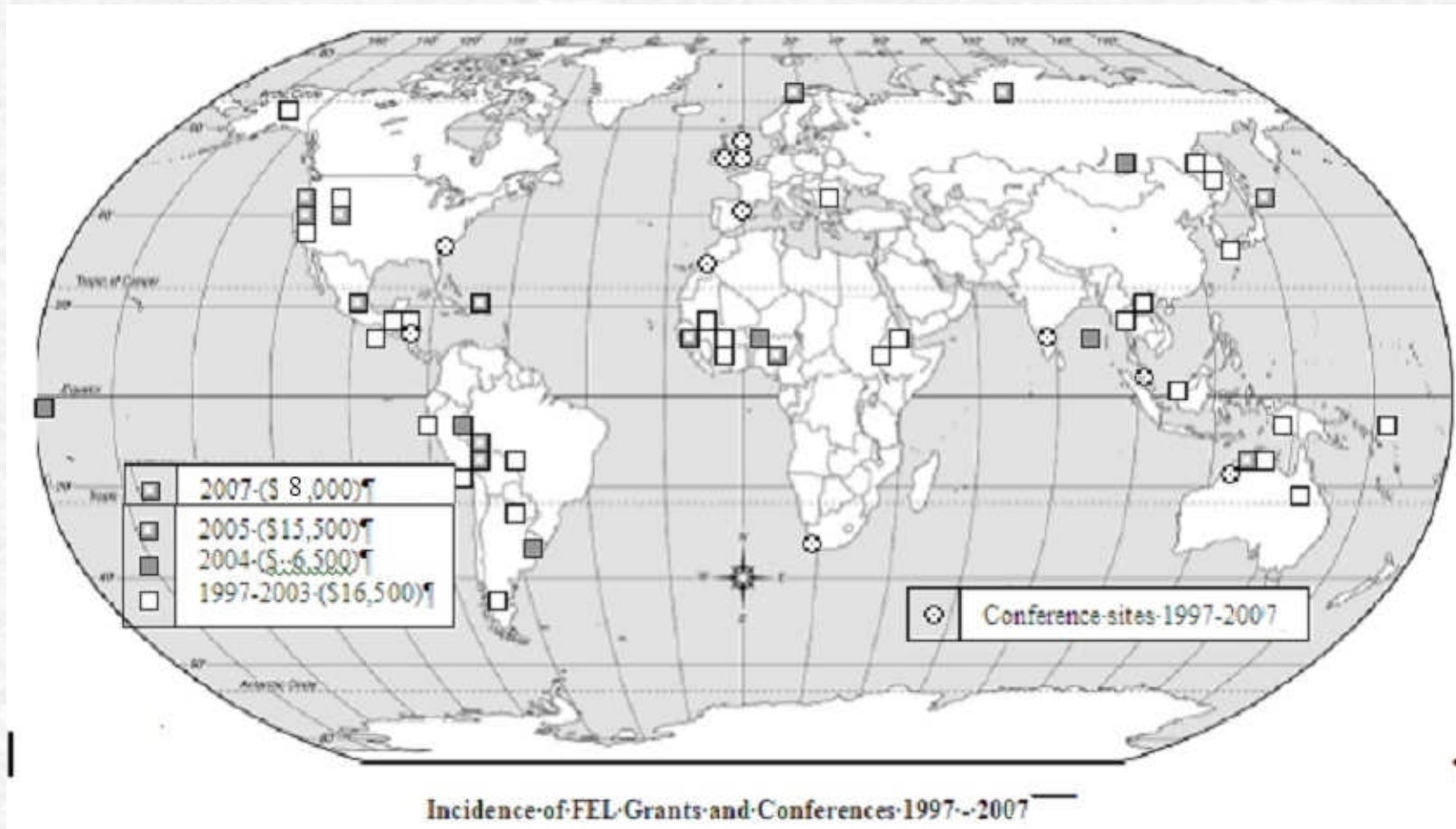
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FEL

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Foundation for Endangered Languages

FEL's mission is to
"support, enable and assist
the documentation,
protection and promotion
of endangered languages".

Languages aided by FEL



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Conferences

- ✓ 11 conferences, in 5 continents, so far
 - organized by theme, not region,
 - attended by local experts and western linguists,
 - stressing solidarity among small language communities



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Some Live Issues

It's not so simple —
running your own show.

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Latin in the 6th Century BC

☞ The Language of Western Europe:

- Dominated all elite discourse from 3rd to 16th centuries AD
- Vulgar Latin > Romance langs, totalling almost 800 million speakers: far bigger than English, smaller only than Chinese

☞ Could easily have been:

- Eliminated in favour of Etruscan

Latin in the 6th Century BC



- Early Rome politically dominated by Etruscans, e.g.
 - 2 Etruscan Kings: Tarquinius
 - Many Etruscan nobles: Claudius, even Caesar
- culturally dominated
 - Etruscan > Roman alphabet

Long-Term Attitudes

Endangerment is **NOT**
“a Problem to be Fixed”
once and for all.

Each New Generation
will have to take responsibility.

But as to the Future...

L. Frank Manríquez, working for Tongva (S. California)

“How can it be hopeless, when there is so much hope?”



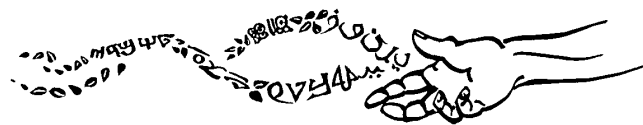
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