



2019 | INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
Indigenous Languages

INTRODUCTION

REDISCOVERING PAST NARRATIONS: THE ORAL HISTORY OF THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE PRESERVED WITHIN THE NATIONAL PHONOGRAMIC ARCHIVE

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In this presentation we aim to deliver a key message related to the preservation of the Romanian National Phonogramic Archive. The data gathered within the Archive (the richest, most inclusive and diversified collection of dialectal texts and ethno-linguistic recordings in Romania) is of immeasurable documentary value and can be seen as a point of reference for various research topics.

Through the digitization and preservation of the Archive we can gain access to both individual and collective memories, aiding to a better understanding of our cultural heritage on the one hand, and, on the other hand, restoring missing or forgotten pieces of Europe's oral history.

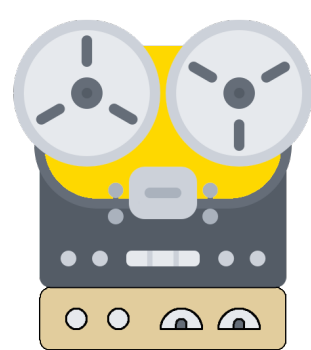
ROMANIAN – A BRIEF PRESENTATION



Romanian is the only surviving Eastern-European Romance language, being the national language of Romania, with over 24 million speakers within the country as well as across the borders. It descends from the vernacular variant of Latin, branching into Daco-Romanian, spoken north of the Danube, and three south Danubian dialects, Aromanian, Megleno-

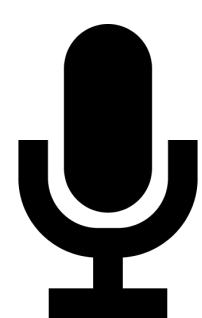
Romanian, and Istro-Romanian. The northern dialect is what is usually referred to as Romanian, while the southern tongues have the status of oral dialects, abiding by the literary language of the country they are found in, such as Greek, Bulgarian, Croatian or Albanian. It is generally considered that the Daco-Romanian variety is either divided in two areas, north-west and south-east or it has five subdialects, corresponding to the provinces of Muntenia, Moldova, Crișana, Maramureș and Banat. The north-Danubian subdialects show a remarkable unity, despite external influences, setting Romanian apart from other Romance languages.

THE URGENT NEED TO DIGITISE THE ARCHIVE



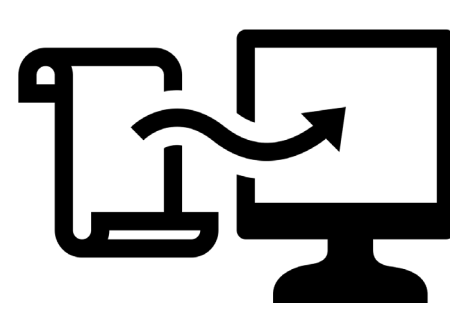
1958

Founding of the Archive



1960

First recordings



2006

Digital preservation

HIDDEN STORIES WITHIN THE ARCHIVE

- a monumental work, both in conception, structure and scope
- material from all Daco-Romanian subdialects
- systematic collection of the data
- more than 950 villages investigated
- speakers from 4 generations
- over 2000 reel to reel tapes
- ONLY 15% of the oral texts have been DIGITISED

THEMATIC TEXTS

customs, religious or laic ceremonies, practices of traditional beliefs, specific activities, onomasiological inventory, elements of microtoponymy, dialect terminology

SPONTANEOUS TEXTS

narrations, historic accounts, memories, anecdotes, songs, carols, folktales, legends, fables, short stories (especially from children).

THE MIDVAL PROJECT (2019 - 2021)

GAR-UM-2019-I-1.5-3

An initiative to digitally restore the metadata files within the Archive (hand written texts detailing each speaker's background information, conversation topics and pronunciation variants).

SCAN ME



AFLR is an authentic collection of ethno-texts, vast and original in information regarding traditions, customs and folkloric production. The purpose of such collections is to preserve the oral history, traditions, customs and folklore of the population. Various research topics, theoretical works, and projects have derived from the AFLR recordings, such as collections of dialectal texts, glossaries, monographs, dictionaries, anthologies, studies, articles and PhD theses.

The first recordings were made on wax cylinders and continued with reel-to-reel tapes in the 1960s.

There is an urgent need to develop digital preservation projects so as to prevent further degradation or even possible loss of the entire collection.

SPEAKER'S FILE

5 iunie 1970 Cercetători PL, BM, VN, RP
Localitatea: Boldu-Bogdan, Colegiu, PL, BM, VN, RP; Sămădria
Călugărești
1e Păslaru N. Prenumele Gheorghe
1a Trancăle
11 Buzău Com. Boldu Sat. Boldu
72 Școala 5 clasa
Ocupația Serviciul militar în Brașov/Bondre.
Deplasări
Data despre
părinți
soție
copii
5 în sat, are o fată învățătoare

TOPICS & PRONUNCIATION FILE

Fișă fonogramică nr. 107
Int.: Păslaru N. Gheorghe
Localitatea: Boldu-Bogdan, Colegiu, PL, BM, VN, RP; Sămădria
1. Întrebare: unde ești?
2. Întrebare: de ce?
3. Întrebare: unde ești?
4. Întrebare: unde ești?
5. Întrebare: unde ești?
6. Întrebare: unde ești?
7. Întrebare: unde ești?
8. Întrebare: unde ești?
9. Întrebare: unde ești?
10. Întrebare: unde ești?
11. Întrebare: unde ești?
12. Întrebare: unde ești?
13. Întrebare: unde ești?
14. Întrebare: unde ești?
15. Întrebare: unde ești?
16. Întrebare: unde ești?
17. Întrebare: unde ești?
18. Întrebare: unde ești?
19. Întrebare: unde ești?
20. Întrebare: unde ești?