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# Language Minorities= 404 Language Not Found

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# Meet Max Sage.

Max is not fluent in his indigenous language, but he is 1 of 225 people who can speak and write in Oneida.



# Tulalip Boarding School



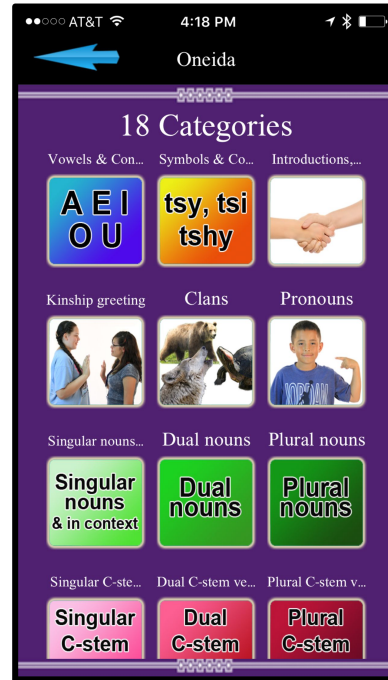
Repository: Museum of History and Industry, Seattle



The **Oneida** language has a written system.

$\frac{2}{3}$  of the **7,000** living languages do not have a written system.

# Oneida Language Apps



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**Is the Internet  
helping or hurting  
linguistic  
diversity?**

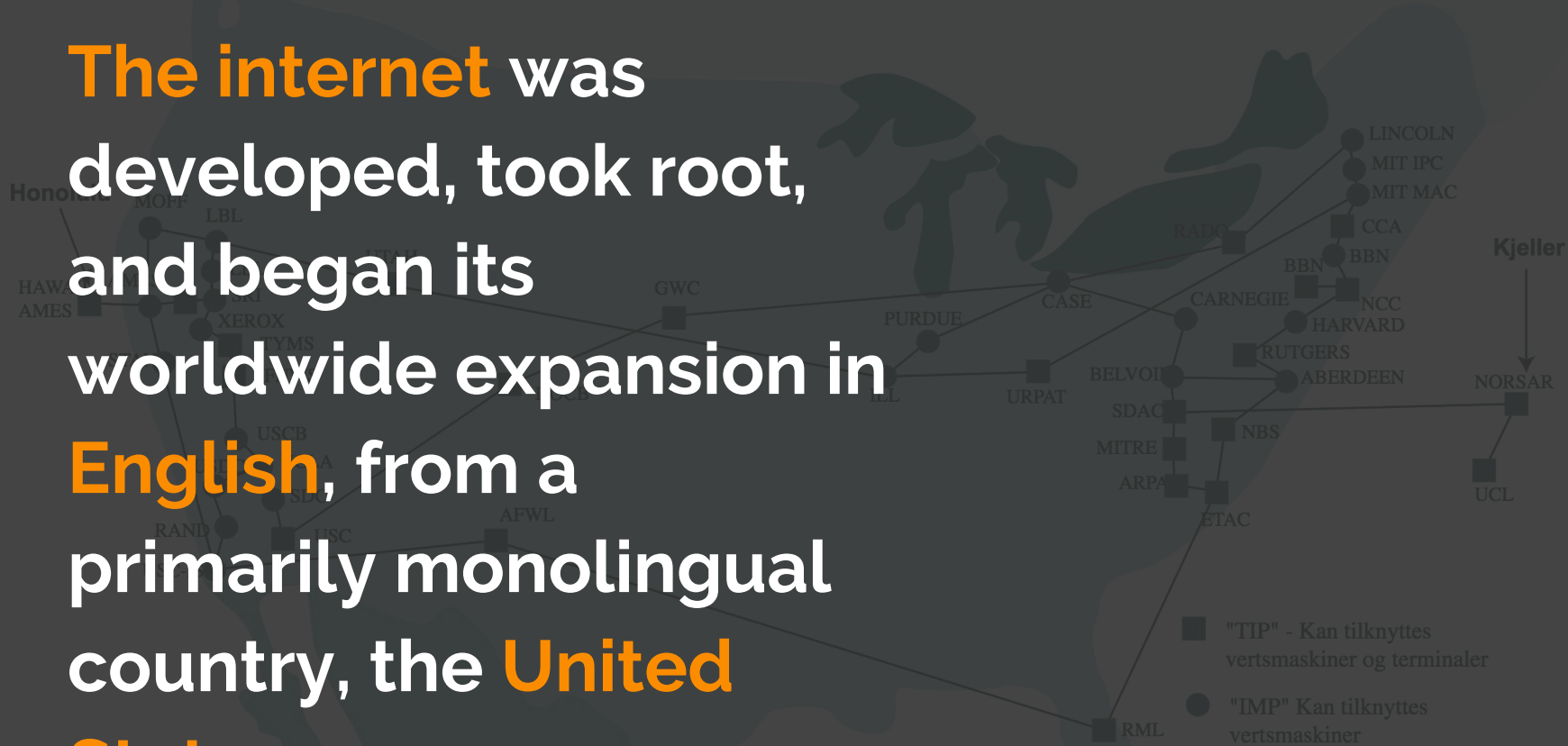


Based on a paper I co-authored last year, I would have said the Internet is hurting linguistic diversity by spreading English as the lingua franca. However, now I am not so sure. Perhaps it is more complicated than I thought a year ago.



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**The internet** was developed, took root, and began its worldwide expansion in **English**, from a primarily monolingual country, the **United States**.





In this data set every internet user in the world is assigned **one language** and uses only one language on the internet.

	Internet users by language	% of world population
English	952,055,837	25.5
Chinese	763,262,224	20.4
Spanish	293,817,719	7.9
Arabic	173,538,690	4.6
Portuguese	155,036,606	4.1
Indonesian/Malaysian	154,694,982	4.1
Japanese	118,453,595	3.2
Russian	104,553,691	2.8
French	100,581,456	2.7
German	83,966,634	2.2

**Percent of  
websites** in each  
language as of  
August 2017.

51% in English

7% in Russian

6% in Japanese

6% in German

5% in Spanish

4% in French

3% in Portuguese

2% in Italian

2% in Chinese

2% in Polish

# Google Scholar, Scopus, WS

Google Scholar allows users to “Search for a page in any language” or limit the search to 1 of 13 languages (in Scholar Settings).

Scopus requires that a journal’s, “content should be relevant and readable for an international audience (at minimum have references in Roman script and English language abstracts and article titles).”

Web of Science allows users to use one of eight languages as the interface language, but...“search queries must always be in English. The results of your search are always in English.”

—  
“Speakers of **major languages** can access  
apparently **unlimited amounts of Web**  
content, easily perform searches, interact, communicate  
through social media and voice-based applications.”

However, speakers of **minority languages** do not  
benefit similarly and “**do not enjoy the same**  
**range of opportunities.**” - Claudia Soria

# At most, **21%** of living languages are online

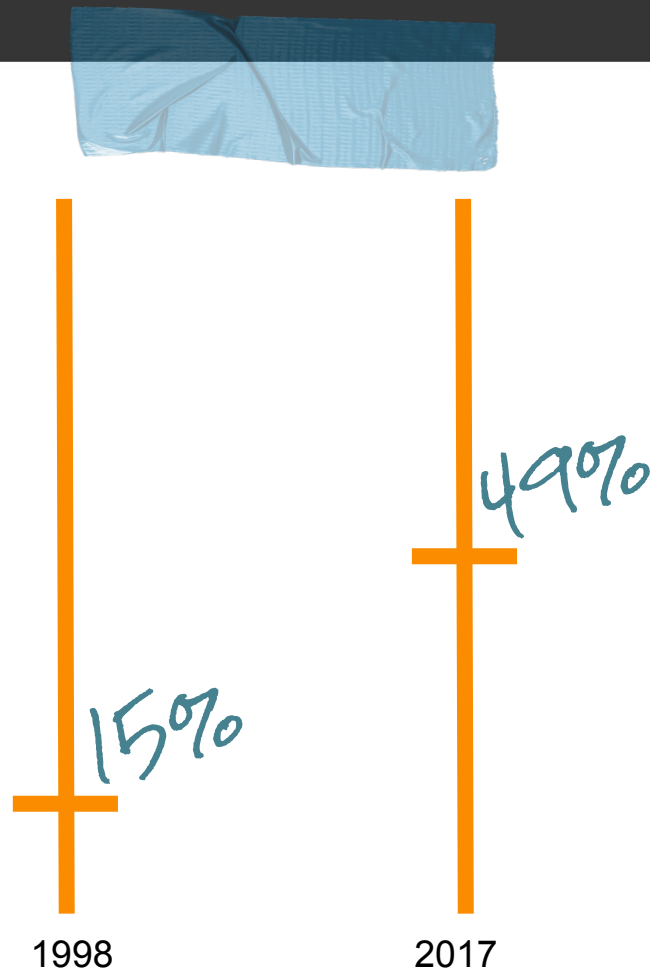
5% of 7,000  
languages online  
or 300+  
languages? (ITU,  
United Nations)

1,500 languages  
online? (Soria,  
2015)

More than **half of the world's population does not use the internet**. The UN estimates 2.5 billion people from “developing” countries and 1 billion from “developed” countries are using the internet while 3.9 billion are cut-off. There are **many reasons** people are cut off from the internet, but **language** is primary among them.



**Growing,**  
percentage  
of websites  
not in  
English





# Meet Catriona MacIsaac

Catriona is a librarian at the University of Glasgow in Scotland. Catriona is fluent in Gaelic, which is spoken by 57,000 people, or 1% of the Scottish population.





**Catriona**

@cmniciosaig Follows you

Libraries, HE, football (#LFC, my first team), music, Gàidhlig, the west highlands. Tweets ann an dà chànan (làn mhearachdan).

📍 Scotland

📅 Joined March 2009

Tweet to

Message

# Gaelic online:

## Facebook

## Twitter

## Phone Apps

## BBC Gaelic

# — Librarians: Increasing linguistic diversity on the internet (ideas)

Support tweeting, facebooking, or adding to wikipedia in languages other than English.

Partner with organizations to build, support, and promote apps for minority language learning.

Publish and promote multilingual open access - begin with multilingual abstracts in your Institutional Repository.



# Thank you!

Please contact me if you have any follow up questions or ideas:

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Twitter: @imlaurie

Slideshow can be found at:

Bridgesbio.weebly.com

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