



Centre for Norwegian Language and Literature

# Language museums of the world

Edited by Ottar Grepstad

woodi ujuneeje bolle there are thousands  
of languages maailmas on tuhandeid keeli  
世界上有数千种语言 tá mílte teanga ann  
di lingue ce ne sono a migliaia há milhares  
de línguas **det finst tusenvis av språk** jest  
kilka tysięcy języków هناك آلاف اللغات  
linguarum sunt milia complura na svijetu  
ima nekoliko tisuća jezika hay millares de  
lenguas kune zviuru nezviuru zvemitauro  
ИМА НЯКОЛКО ХИЛЯДИ ЕЗИКА binlerce dil  
vardır kieliä on useita tuhansia það eru til  
mörg þúsund tungumál مەھلقە حقیر  
हज़ारों भाषाएँ हैं y mae miloedd o ieithoedd  
существует несколько тысяч языков il existe  
des milliers de langues هزاروں زبانیں ہیں  
es gibt mehrere tausend sprachen daar is  
duisende tale יש כמה אלפי לשונות hi ha  
milers de llengües ada beribu-ribu bahasa  
χλωττων εισι χιλιάδες πολλαί er zijn duizenden  
talen kule zinkulungwane ezinengi zendimi



# Language museums of the world

## Institutions, websites, memorials



**Edited by Ottar Grepstad**

Centre for Norwegian Language and Literature  
Ørsta 2018

Last update 19 March 2018

Published at [www.aasentunet.no](http://www.aasentunet.no) 19 March 2018

*Front page*

Inscription in 34 languages on a glass wall in the Ivar Aasen Centre, Ørsta, Norway (photo Ivar Aasen Centre).

An inaccurate transcription of the texts:

- 1 Fulfulde (woodi ujuneeje bolle)
- 1–2 English (there are thousands of languages)
- 2 Estonian (maailmas on tuhandeid keeli)
- 3 Mandarin (shiejie shang you shuqianzhong yuyan)
- Irish Gaelic (tá mílte teanga ánn)
- 4 Italian (di lingue ce ne sono a migliaia)
- 4–5 Portuguese (há milhares de línguas)
- 5 Noregian Nynorsk (det finst tusenvis av språk)
- 5–6 Polish (jest kilka tysięcy języków)
- 6 Arabic (hunaak aalaaf allughaat)
- 7 Latin (linguarum sunt milia complura)
- 7–8 Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian (na svijetu ima nekoliko tisuća)
- 8–9 Spanish (hay millares de lenguas)
- 9 Shona (kune zviuru nezviuru zvemitauro)
- 10 Bulgarian (ima njakolko hiljadi ezika)
- 10–11 Turkic (binlerce dil vardır)
- 11 Finnish (kielis on useita tuhansia)
- 11–12 Icelandic (það eru til mörg þúsund tungumál)
- 12 Armenian
- 13 Hindi (hazaaron bhaashaen hain)
- Welsh (y mae miloedd o ieithoedd)
- 14 Russian (susjtsjestvujet neskol'ko tysjatsj jazykov)
- 14–15 French (il existe des milliers de langues)
- 15 Urdu (hazaaron zabaanen hain)
- 16 German (es gibt mehrere tausend sprachen)
- 16–17 Afrikaans (daar is duisende tale)
- 17 Hebrew (yesh kama alfe lshonot)
- 17–18 Catalan (hi ha milers de llengues)
- 18 Bahasa Indonesia (ada beribu-ribu bahasa)
- 19 Classic Greek (glsttsn eisi khiliades pollai)
- 19–20 Dutch (er zijn duizenden talen)
- 20 Ndebele (kule zinkulungwane ezinengi zendimi)

*Title page*

Museu da Língua Portuguesa, Sao Paulo, Brazil (photo Dreamstime.com)

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ISBN 978-82-92602-25-6

# Contents

<b>Foreword and acknowledgements</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Museums of language and languages of the world</b>	<b>9</b>
Grimmwelt (2015), Germany	11
Linguistic Educational Museum (1992), Ukraine	12
Mundolingua (2013), France	13
Museum der Sprachen der Welt (2013), Germany	14
National Museum of Language (2008), USA	15
Taalmuseum (2016), Netherlands	16
<b>Museums of one language or group of languages</b>	<b>17</b>
Afrikaans Language Museum and Monument (1975), South Africa	19
Alutiiq Museum (1995), USA	20
Ateneo de Lengua y Cultura Guaraní (1985), Paraguay	21
Baile nan Gàidheal / Highland Village (1962), Canada	22
Basque Museum and Cultural Center (1985), USA	23
Canadian Language Museum (2011), Canada	24
Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich (1991), Northern Ireland	25
Dante Alighieri Society (2011), Italy	26
Erlebniswelt Deutsche Sprache (2013), Germany	27
Esperanto Museum of the Austrian National Library (1927), Austria	28
Esperanto Museum (2008), Czech Republic	29
Esperanto Museum (2013), China	30
Great Blasket Centre (1993), Ireland	31
Hungarian Language Museum (2008), Hungary	32
Ivar Aasen Centre (1898), Norway	33
Language Movement Museum (2010), Bangladesh	34
Musée national de l'espéranto de Gray (1977), France	35
Museo de Esperanto de Subirats (1968), Spain	36
Museo de la Lengua (2012), Argentina	37
Museo de la Tierra Guaraní (1978), Paraguay	38
Museo del Dialetto dell'Alto Lario Occidentale (2007), Italy	39
Museo della Lingua Greco-Calabra "Gerhard Rohlfs" (2016), Italy	40
Museu da Língua Portuguesa (2006), Brazil	41
Museum Ladin Ćiastel de Tor (2001), Italy	42
Museum of the Basque language (2004), Spain	43
Museum of the Lithuanian language (2006), Lithuania	44
Nüshu Museum (2004), China	45
Sòn de Lenga Museum (1999), Italy	46
Sprachpanorama (2017), Switzerland	47
SprachRaum (2010), Germany	48
wortreich (2011), Germany	49
Yazi Tarihi Müzesi (2003), Kazakhstan	50
Yugambeh Museum (1995), Australia	51
<b>Museums of writing and written culture</b>	<b>53</b>
China Book Culture Exhibition Hall (2008), China	55
Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum (1884), Germany	56
Gutenberg Museum (1901), Germany	57
JAARS Museum of the Alphabet (1961), USA	58

Klingspor-Museum Offenbach (1953), Germany	59
Musée Champollion (2007), France	60
Museo del Libro y de la Lengua (2011), Argentina	61
Museum für Kommunikation (1898), Germany	62
Museum für Kommunikation (1907), Switzerland	63
Museum of Writing (1999), England	64
National Hangeul Museum (2014), Korea	65
National Museum of Chinese Writing (2009), China	66
Sydney Museum of Words (2013), Australia	67
The Word (2016), England	68
Verbum – Casa das Palabras (2003), Spain	69
<b>Museums in memory of persons</b>	<b>71</b>
Daniel Sanders Haus (2011), Germany	73
Dr. Johnson’s House (1911), England	74
House Museum of Neofit Rilski (1981), Bulgaria	75
Ján Kollár Museum (1983), Slovakia	76
Konrad-Duden-Museum (1999), Germany	77
Ljudevit Gaj Museum (1966), Croatia	78
Ludovít Štúr Museum (1965), Slovakia	79
Museum of Vuk and Dositej (1949), Serbia	80
Native House of Ludovít Štúr and Alexander Dubček (1965), Slovakia	81
Noah Webster House (1966), USA	82
Primož Trubar House (1986), Slovenia	83
<b>Digital museums and information</b>	<b>85</b>
Digital museums	87
Websites	90
International institutions and networks	95
<b>Plans and projects for new museums</b>	<b>99</b>
English Language Museum, England	101
Eurotales, Italy	101
Lingman, Language Museum, China	102
National Museum of the Hebrew Language, Israel	102
National Museum of World Writing, Korea	103
Planet Word, USA	103
Sprach Lust, Austria	104
Vigdís International Centre of Multilingualism, Iceland	105
<b>Beginnings and endings</b>	<b>107</b>
Initiatives for new museums	109
Museums closed	111
Projects halted	112
<b>International network of language museums</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Events and places of memory and celebration</b>	<b>117</b>
Years, days and weeks	119
A selection of festivals	121
Language monuments by country	124
<b>Indexes</b>	<b>127</b>
Museums by country and by year	129

# Preface

Two out of three of all the languages in the world are used in Africa or Asia. In this book, however, two out of three language museums are situated in Europe. That indicates differences in the institutional development of societies, but also some of the difficulties connected to such documentation.

In some way or another, language has been in the world as long as there have been human beings. Museums dealing with language are among the newer institutions in the world of museums. The way of thinking about language has changed throughout the world the last decades, and almost half of all language museums listed below, was opened after year 2000. But language in a broader sense, meaning writing and written culture, has been an important subject for many museums for more than a hundred years. The oldest language museum dates from 1898, and the oldest museum on written culture from 1884.

In this context, a language museum is a museum devoted to information, education, documentation and/or research about language of some kind or another. Language is a cultural, social or political issue as well as a linguistic one, and in this broader sense, language museums also include institutions that deal with written or spoken culture as their core theme.

The hunt for language museums started in 2008. A preliminary catalogue was published in 2009, *Museums of language and written culture in the world*. By then, 22 museums were identified, and 12 institutions were under construction, out of which only three existed in 2017.

The work was to be continued, and in February 2015, 58 language museums were presented in *A world of languages and written culture*. Several hundred websites had been visited to find museums and collect relevant information. Some museums also contributed with information about other museums. All the diplomatic stations in Norway were asked for help, and they broadened the picture even more. A number of national ICOM committees were asked for help to get hold of possible lacks. Renewed systematic search in various Internet browsers brought some more institutions into light, and latest news about institutions under construction confirmed the picture.

Many museums of archaeology or history contain sections or even whole departments of exhibitions about language and written culture, for instance the British Museum in London, National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka, and the many Smithsonian museums in the USA. Language and written culture is, however, not a main focus of their field of work. The boundary between a museum of writing and a museum of literature is anything but sharp. Literary museums seldom discuss language matters, but nevertheless, a few museums of culture that emphasizes language have been included as a reminder of the fact that any language is a cultural issue, and an essential one.

Some museums of written culture deal with the history of books as a history of technology and thus place themselves in the group of museums of communication. Musée de l'imprimerie de Lyon in France and all other museums of printing, paper mills and so on are also on the fringes of written culture. Museum für Kommunikation in Bern, Switzerland, is more concerned about the history of written culture. Centres of literacy easily become a part of the education system and usually present no documentation of the language situation in the world or in a country.

Many museums deal with individuals or are connected to the history or collection of persons. There is nothing strange about that: language is made by people, by persons. Every

single language is the outcome of the work of people – many or few, but for a long time. So after all, the museums of language are another chapter in the history of mankind.

This second edition includes 80 museums of language and written culture in 31 countries. There might be more, and in some cases, updated information has been hard to find. The museums have been divided into five groups:

- 6 museums of language and languages of the world
- 33 museums of a single language or group of languages
- 15 museums of writing and written culture
- 11 museums in memory of persons
- 15 digital museums

By 2017, there were ideas, plans and initiatives for at least 18 more language museums, some of them even under construction, but six museums had been closed.

The book presents 39 websites about language systems, language in use and language rights. Documentation is also included about 35 monuments, 23 festivals and 69 days and weeks for memory or celebration of languages.

The first edition was the background for inviting museums to establish an *International network of language museums*. By January 2018, 14 museums had joined the network after an inaugural meeting in Milan in July 2016. The platform is included at page 100.

Most of the texts, as most of the photos, have been edited from the websites of the museums, sometimes supplied with articles and presentations from news media. Some museums have also contributed with texts written for this edition.

Corrections, updates and supplements are welcome to [admin@aaasentunet.no](mailto:admin@aaasentunet.no).

*Norway, 8 March 2018*

Ottar Grepstad  
General Director  
Centre for Norwegian Language and Literature



# Acknowledgements

Over the years, several people gave advices and answered my repeating questions. Dorit Lehrer helped to organize the museums in a proper way, Margaret Sonmez in Ankara made a major effort to find even more museums, and Elaine Gold in Toronto and Mark Oremland in Paris joined the first board of Internaitonal network of language museums.

Colleagues around the world were eager to send updated information and corrections:

Anvita Abbi (Padma Shri), Simon Fraser University, Vancouver  
Florence Aggeler, Sprachpanorama, Laufenburg  
Marilyn Ahrens, Museum of the Alphabet, Waxhaw  
Dan Aizpitarte, Basque Museum, Boise  
Marcus Barrett, The English Project, Winchester  
Wendy Bennett, University of Cambridge  
Nadia Cannata, Sapienza University of Rome  
Rodney Chaisson / Ruairidh Sèason, Baile nan Gàidheal / Highland Village, Iona / Rubha  
Shaun Davies, Yugambah Museum Language and Heritage Research Centre, Beenleigh  
Maia Gahtan, Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici, Florence  
Elaine Gold, Canadian Language Museum, Toronto  
Klaas van der Hoek, University of Amsterdam  
Helga Horschig, Klingspor Museum, Offenbach am Main  
Amy Hunter, Initiative für ein Museum der Sprachen der Welt, Berlin  
Michael Jonas, Die Afrikaanse Taalmuseum en Monument, Paarl  
Barbara Jouvès, Musée des lettres et manuscrits, Paris  
Andrea Kirchner, wortreich, Bad Hersfeld  
Stéphanie Lebreton, Musée Champollion, Figeac  
Dorit Lehrer, The Academy of the Hebrew Language, Jerusalem  
Liu, Hsing-Yi, National Taiwan Museum, Taiwan  
Nicolas Lodge, The English Project, Winchester  
Celine Luppó McDaid, Dr Johnson's House, London  
Beáta Mihalkovičová, Múzeum Ľudovíta Štúra, Modra  
Katharina Moling, Museum Ladin, St. Martin in Thurn  
Amaia Ocerin, Euskararen Etxea, Bilbao  
David Galeano Olivera, Ateneo de Lengua y Cultura Guaraní, Fernando de la Mora  
Mark Oremland, Mundolingua, Paris  
Rosella Pellerino, Espaci Occitan, Dronero  
Nyíri Péter, Hungarian Language Museum, Széchalom  
Manfred Pfaus, SprachRaum, Buchen (Odenwald)  
Lucilla Pizzoli, Società Dante Alighieri, Florence  
Jill Robbins, National Museum of Language, Maryland  
Hannelore Schneiderheinze, Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum, Leipzig  
Uta Seewald-Heeg, Neue Fruchtbringende Gesellschaft, Köthen  
Pepijn Reeser, Taalmuseum, Leiden  
Stephen J. Smith, Callaghan, Australia  
Margaret Sonmez, Middle East Technical University, Ankara  
Marina Toledo, Museu da Língua Portuguesa, São Paulo

Bernhard Tuidar, Esperanto Museum, Vienna  
Kostiantyn Tyschenko, Shevchenko National University of Kyiv  
Jolanta Zabarskaite, Institute of the Lithuanian Language, Vilnius  
Lijie Zhuo, China  
Jiyeon Yang, Korea

To all of you: you made this possible! I also wish to thank the embassies to Norway of Austria, Chile, Croatia, Denmark, Mexico, Paraguay, Switzerland, Ukraine and USA for worthful help, as well as the European Union Delegation to Norway.

# **Museums of language and languages of the world**





## **Grimmwelt (2015), Germany**

Kassel, Germany

[www.grimms.de/museum](http://www.grimms.de/museum)

[grimmnet@t-online.de](mailto:grimmnet@t-online.de)

Weinbergstraße 21, 34117 Kassel

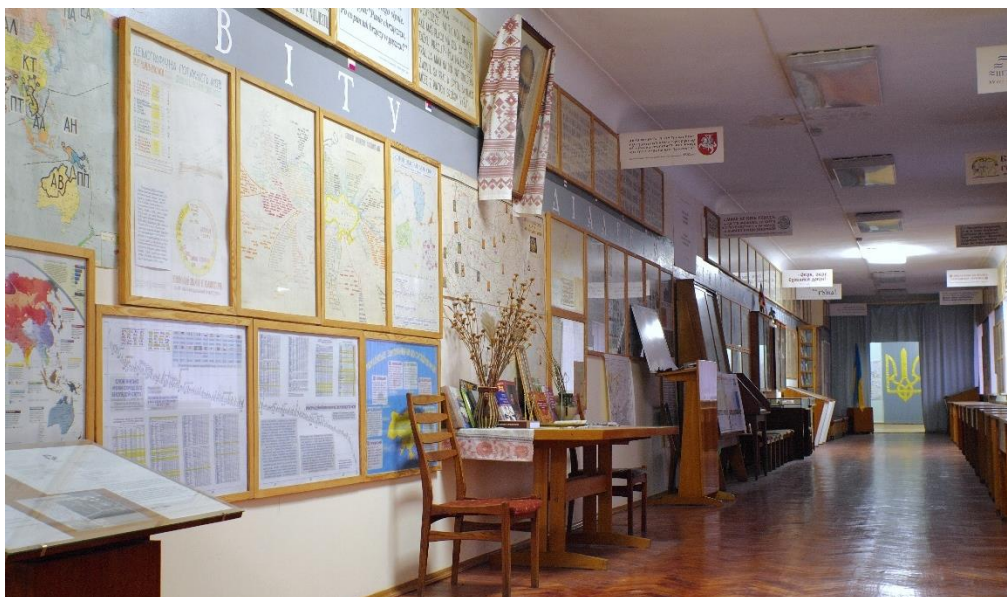
Phone +49 561 598 61 910

Die GRIMMWELT Kassel will das schöpferische Leben und Wirken der Brüder Grimm einem breiten Publikum zugänglich machen. Sie stellt dazu die lebendige Vermittlung von Sprache und Literatur in den Mittelpunkt. Das Publikum soll motiviert werden, sich Wissensinhalte aktiv zu erschließen und positive Lernerlebnisse zu sammeln.

Die GRIMMWELT Kassel arbeitet mit hervorragenden Künstlern, mit Kunst- und Medienvermittlern sowie mit kulturellen und sozialen Einrichtungen zusammen. Neben wertvollen Originalen sorgen Ton und Film, multimediale und interaktive Angebote sowie die künstlerischen Installationen für anregende Erfahrungen.

Die GRIMMWELT Kassel schlägt Brücken zwischen Kultur und Literatur in die Welt des Publikums. Die erlebnisorientierte Vermittlung lädt dazu ein, eigene Lösungswege und Ausdrucksmöglichkeiten zu finden, Trends und Veränderungen wahrzunehmen, Entwicklungen zu verstehen und einzuordnen.

Die GRIMMWELT Kassel wurde am 4. September 2015 eröffnet. Die Nutzfläche ist ca. 4000 qm, die Ausstellungsfläche 1.600 qm, und die Gesamtkosten für Bau und Einrichtung belaufen sich auf etwa 20 Millionen Euro.



## Linguistic Educational Museum (1992), Ukraine

Kyiv, Ukraine

<http://www.univ.kiev.ua/en/departments/ucfl>  
[lingmus@ukr.net](mailto:lingmus@ukr.net)

Linguistic Educational Museum, University of Kyiv, 64 Volodymyrs'ka St., UA-01033 Kyiv  
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The university professor and polyglot Kostiantyn Tyschenko was the founder of this first and only linguistic educational museum in the world in 1992 at Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. In the 1960s, the first sound library of language recordings was organized, later transformed into new media and expanded. In 1978, the first major exhibition of students' and teachers' graphic works on linguistic topics was opened. A stationary location for exhibitions and sound library was established from 1992. The museum conducts training, excursion and advisory work with a steady stream of new exhibitions.

The museum is organized in such a way that its exhibits reflect the knowledge of the languages of the world as well as the new scientific achievements in linguistics. The whole is systematized on a single metatheoretical basis, elaborated by Tyschenko in his book *Metatheory of Linguistics* (Метатеорія мовознавства, 1992, 2000). The main exhibition deals with seven fields of linguistic knowledge: languages of the world, dialects, idiolects, texts, words, origin of language and evolution of language. One of three halls of the museum is reserved for an exhibition on language contacts. A long frieze exhibits a 70-meter strip of the Gallery of world languages. Here, the visitors can get acquainted with samples of verbal communication in more than a hundred languages and hear and see texts in languages common and rare.

On view are the genetic predecessors of the modern writing; the ideographic systems (of China and ancient Assyria), consonant writings (of the Semitic peoples), alphabetical writings (of the Greeks, the Armenians, the Georgians). There are also samples of secondary types of graphic language expression. The museum presents Tyschenko's metatheory of linguistics as well as some of his new methods of linguistic investigation, e.g. for evaluating lexical distances between languages, for area contextualization in toponymics and others.



## Mundolingua (2013), France

Paris, France

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10 rue Servandoni, F-75 006 Paris

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Language is one of the fundamental abilities that make us human. It has played a key role in the evolution of people and modern society. In the heart of the Latin Quarter, between the Luxembourg Gardens and Saint Sulpice, Mundolingua invites you on a most unusual journey, in a fun and cozy setting, to discover this phenomenon.

Covering nearly 170 m<sup>2</sup>, the permanent exhibition explores many different themes, divided into 4 main areas:

- Language – the bricks common to all languages, such as sounds, meaning and grammar
- Learning – be it one's mother tongue or a foreign language, and problems that can arise
- Languages: the massive variety, families, writing, dialects, social factors ...
- Playing with language including lies, invented languages, slang and codes, amongst others

Key objects include a life size model of the Rosetta Stone, a facsimile of the Gutenberg Bible, a Chinese typewriter, a large head showing where we make consonants, a facsimile of the 7m Isaiah Dead Sea Scroll and a real Enigma Machine in the codes section.

There are about 40 interactive touchscreens, and the content is in the 6 languages of the UN: Arabic, English, Spanish, French, Mandarin and Russian. Each screen is surrounded by objects pertinent to the subject of the alcove, and people can choose how deep they want to go into each subject. Headphones enable visitors to listen to recordings, the languages quiz and videos in the different alcoves. Between the ground floor and the basement there is a micro-cinema with about 50 DVDs, half of them big cinema features connected in some way with language, and the other half subject specific documentaries. One can spend anywhere between an hour and 2 days enjoying the interactive exhibits.

Our space celebrates the variety and diversity of human language, so although the information is available in 6 languages, no one particular language is favoured.





## Museum der Sprachen der Welt (2013), Germany

Berlin, Germany

[www.linguaemundi.info](http://www.linguaemundi.info)

[info@linguaemundi.info](mailto:info@linguaemundi.info)

“Initiative für ein Museum der Sprachen der Welt e.V.”, Schwedenstr. 15 A, D-13357 Berlin

Phone +49 30 436 32 97

The aim is to set up a permanent museum that reflects daily life in multilingual and multicultural Berlin. In a city where more than one in three schoolchildren is growing up bilingually, this initiative wants to explore how language use informs the local and regional identities of new and lifelong Berliners, as well as the city’s temporary visitors. The museum will provide an engaging forum for dialogue on key aspects of a complex social phenomenon: debates around communication technology, language learning, Anglicisms and notions of purity, ways of expressing gender and identity; how language influences perception; how it can be a tool of inclusion or exclusion; how changes in usage can trigger fears of being left behind.

Germany has several museums celebrating the history of the German language, its literary heroes and long tradition of book-printing and the written word. While understanding the past helps to define the future, this is an unconventional museum in that the main focus is on critically examining language use in the present day. Addressing this ever-shifting and intangible subject-matter poses a creative challenge. They aim to create exhibits that the visitors themselves can contribute to, engaging in dialogue and open-ended learning outcomes.

The Initiative is a small group of language enthusiasts from a range of professional backgrounds, from students to pensioners and everything in between. The initiative began in 2013 and became a registered association in 2016. Through the website and monthly “Salon der Sprachen”, where guests meet to discuss a wide range of popular linguistic and niche topics, they are building up a network of supporters for the long-term goal of establishing a permanent museum. The ongoing search for funding, a location and a catchy name are further stepping stones towards becoming a well-loved and indispensable institution devoted to language in the heart of Berlin.





## **National Museum of Language (2008), USA**

[www.languagemuseum.org](http://www.languagemuseum.org)

[info@languagemuseum.org](mailto:info@languagemuseum.org)

Box 453 Greenbelt, MD 20768-0453, Maryland, USA

Phone +1 301 864 7071

The idea of establishing a national language museum in the national capital area began in 1971 among a group of expert linguists, language specialists, and language enthusiasts who were intrigued by the potential of a museum dedicated exclusively to language. After decades of feasibility studies, startup pains, and slow but steady incremental growth, the National Museum of Language opened its doors in 2008 in College Park, Maryland, sustained by a nearly all-volunteer governing board and roster of docents. The museum sought out and collaborated with numerous national, regional and local organizations and supporters similarly devoted to language education and appreciation. The museum's physical space in College Park was closed in September 2014.

The new National Museum of Language is a virtual, moveable, and outreach museum. Exhibits from the physical museum are temporarily on loan to institutions, libraries, schools, universities, and other public spaces. Online exhibits are being upgraded to provide an interactive educational experience for students, teachers, and adults. The web-based museum contains interactive exhibitions, and among its current on-line features are dialect research (A Dictionary of American Regional English), an ancient Greek language collection of jokes, and a series of interviews with prominent language experts.

The Amelia C. Murdoch Speaker Series (named after the Museum founder) features presentations on a variety of language-related topics, e.g., Esperanto and endangered languages. For many years, the museum has supported an annual Summer Language Camp to introduce school-aged children to languages and cultures – past languages have been Arabic, Chinese, French and Spanish. In 2008, the museum commemorated UNESCO's International Year of Languages by sponsoring a contest to design an International Flag of Language, a unique symbol representing by its shades of green past, present and future languages (above).



## Taalmuseum (2016), Netherlands

Leiden, Netherlands

<http://taalmuseumleiden.nl/>

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The Taalmuseum Leiden, an initiative from Leiden University, and supported by the municipality of the City of Leiden, was officially launched on 19 September 2016 after a preparatory phase of three years.

The Taalmuseum Leiden is not a traditional museum. It does not have its own building. It's a project organisation that organises exhibitions and activities to connect (knowledge about) language with audiences where these audiences already are: in the public space. The era of big museum projects is over. Smaller-scale initiatives and durability are becoming more important, also in the cultural sector. And not only that, the right place for language is at the heart of society: the city as the stage for a museum.

The aim of the Taalmuseum Leiden is to broaden people's interest in languages and to show what role languages play in societies and cultures. The museum ties in with other institutes and initiatives such as Leiden Global, in which Leiden museums participate, and Leiden City of Knowledge, an initiative to promote Leiden as an innovative learning platform.

The museum wants to communicate with as many people as possible. Its activities therefore focus on a new way of visualisation of language and must be interesting to both experts and the general public. The museum uses museum techniques such as exhibitions with images, objects and text, but is also developing new technologies and combines these with social media and more traditional forms of audience participation.

# **Museums of one language or group of languages**





## **Afrikaans Language Museum and Language Monument (1975), South Africa**

**Die Afrikaanse Taalmuseum**  
Paarl, South Africa

[www.taalmuseum.co.za](http://www.taalmuseum.co.za)  
[admin@taalmuseum.co.za](mailto:admin@taalmuseum.co.za)

Gideon Malherbe House, Pastorielaan, ZA-Paarl 7621  
Phone +27 21 872 3441

The Afrikaans language is one of the youngest languages compared to other languages of the world. It is a unique language, because its roots are spread over three continents, Europe, Africa and Asia, and it has mother tongue speakers across the boundaries of race, and culture.

The idea of constructing a monument to the Afrikaans language was raised in 1942, and by 1964 a competition was organised. Architect Jan van Wijk's design was selected as the winner, and The Afrikaans Language Monument was inaugurated in 1975. Three linked columns symbolise the contribution of the Western world to Afrikaans, three rounded shapes represent the contribution of Africa, and a wall for the contribution of the Malaysian people. A pillar soaring 57 meters above a fountain represents the continuing growth of the language.

The purpose of the Afrikaans Language Museum (inaugurated on 14 August 1975), is to pay tribute to the people of the Association of True Afrikaners that was founded in this double storey late Georgian house on the 14th of August 1875 for the purpose of advancing Afrikaans as a written and spoken language. They played an important role in the formal recognition of Afrikaans as an official language. Today it is also the purpose of the Museum to present various aspects of the language, its development, its variants and its character in the modern context, so that visitors can understand that it is indeed a living, growing language that is constantly adapting itself to the modern world.



## Alutiiq Museum (1995), USA

Kodiak, Alaska, USA

<http://alutiiqmuseum.org/>

[info@alutiiqmuseum.org](mailto:info@alutiiqmuseum.org)

215 Mission Road, First Floor, Kodiak, AK 99615 Alaska, USA

Phone +1 907 486 7004

The Alutiiq Museum grew from the Kodiak Area Native Association's (KANA) Culture and Heritage program. In 1987, the KANA Board of Directors resolved that the exploration and celebration of Alutiiq heritage was essential to the health of Alutiiq people. They initiated a set of heritage programs to promote awareness of Alutiiq history, language, and arts. In 1993 KANA received a \$1.5 million grant from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to develop a state-of-the-art repository and regional research facility. The Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository opened to the public in May 1995.

The Alutiiq Museum provides tours of its exhibits, laboratory and collections storage facilities to educational groups. All tours must be scheduled in advance and at the convenience of the museum's staff. Please contact us to schedule a group tour or to host your organization's next meeting in our gallery. Get started by downloading a copy of our tour request form.

The Qik'tarmiut Alutiit (Alutiiq People of the Island) language program documents and revitalizes the Kodiak Alutiiq Language. Working together fluent Alutiiq speakers, Alutiiq language learners, and linguists study Alutiiq, make recordings, create learning materials for all ages, and teach the language to a new generation of speakers.





## **Ateneo de Lengua y Cultura Guaraní (1985), Paraguay**

**Institute of Guaraní Language and Culture**

Fernando de la Mora, Paraguay

[www.ateneoguarani.edu.py/](http://www.ateneoguarani.edu.py/)

[davidgaleanoolivera@gmail.com](mailto:davidgaleanoolivera@gmail.com)

Julia Miranda Cueto 1721 e/ Ytororó y, R.I. 3 Corrales, PY-Fernando de la Mora, Paraguay

Phone +595 21 520 276

The Institute of Guaraní Language and Culture gathers researchers of Guaraní, as language and as culture. Its activities include research, recovery, promotion, spreading, valuation, protection and hierarchization of the Guaraní language and culture, as well as the traditional Paraguayan culture.

True to its educational and cultural values, this institution provides activities dedicated to promoting activities such as lectures, conferences, festivals, contests, seminars and conventions in order to strengthen and preserve the future of Guaraní language.

Among digital services related to the institute there is the blog *Lenguaguarani*  
<http://lenguaguarani.blogspot.no/>.



## Baile nan Gàidheal / Highland Village (1962), Canada

Iona, Canada

[www.highlandvillage.ca](http://www.highlandvillage.ca)

[highlandvillage@novascotia.ca](mailto:highlandvillage@novascotia.ca)

Baile nan Gàidheal / Highland Village, 4119 Highway / Rathad 223, Iona / Rubha Eachainn, NS / Alba Nuadh, B2C 1A3

Phone +1 902 725 2272 (1-866-442-3542)

The Baile nan Gàidheal / Highland Village is an outdoor living history museum that tells the story of Gaelic settlement in Nova Scotia. It is a part of the Nova Scotia Museum family of Museums and are operated by the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society. The museum is located on a 43-acre property overlooking the majestic Bras d'Or Lakes in Iona, the heart of central Cape Breton.

The 11 historic buildings are staffed by costumed animators who are passionate about sharing the Gaelic culture of their ancestors. The museum also hosts special events and programs throughout the year.

The vision of the Baile nan Gàidheal / Highland Village is to be internationally acknowledged for advancing research, fostering appreciation, learning and sharing authentic Gaelic language and heritage while serving a vibrant Gaelic cultural community.

The mission is to research, collect, preserve and share the Gaelic heritage and culture of Nova Scotia and represent it accurately and vibrantly.

The museum is focused on growing Gaelic language and cultural interpretive programming on site as well as working with the wider community to facilitate the reconstruction of Gaelic language in Nova Scotia.

Baile nan Gàidheal / Highland Village has 3000 artifacts in its collection that represent the life of the Gael in Cape Breton. The library has over 900 books with subjects ranging from Scottish and Cape Breton history, use of herbs, Mi'kmaq culture and information on care of artifacts. Gaelic books are collected to support the language together with Gaelic songs, oral history and stories to better interpret the Gaelic way of life in the museum.





## Basque Museum and Cultural Center (1985), USA

Boise, Idaho, USA

[www.basquemuseum.com](http://www.basquemuseum.com)

[dan@basquemuseum.com](mailto:dan@basquemuseum.com)

611 Grove St. in Downtown Boise, Idaho, USA

Phone +1 208 343 2671

The Mission of the Basque Museum and Cultural Center is to preserve, promote, and perpetuate Basque history and culture. The only Basque language preschool outside of the Basque Country, has been established as part of this mission.

Boise, Idaho has long been a central location. Basque immigrants first here congregated after coming to the United States from the Spanish Basque Region. As immigrants established their lives here, Basques became well known for their hard work and perseverance.

The institution provides a look into the Basque heritage through exhibits, collections, and tours. As a cultural center, it's a gathering place for events and educational opportunities - in which people of all backgrounds can participate in Basque activities.

The museum was established in 1985 as a small museum in the historic Cyrus Jacobs-Uberuaga House at 607 Grove Street. Now it provides a look into the heritage of the Basque communities of Idaho and surrounding areas. Through hard work and the support of many individuals, businesses, foundations, and Basque communities, the museum began to interpret the history of the Basques, their origins, and their new life in America.

The 611 Grove Street property became the primary facility for the museum's operations in 1993. Over the years, thanks to many dedicated people, the museum has grown tremendously in facilities and services and has become an Idaho cultural institution.

The collections include oral history archives, a library, a collection of records & tapes, manuscript materials, and numerous artifacts and photographs. It is the home of significant resources for anyone interested in Basque history and culture.



## Canadian Language Museum / Musée canadien des langues (2011), Canada

Toronto, Canada

[www.languagemuseum.ca](http://www.languagemuseum.ca)

[director@languagemuseum.ca](mailto:director@languagemuseum.ca)

Canadian Language Museum, Glendon Gallery, Glendon College, 2275 Bayview Avenue,  
Toronto ON M4N 3M6

Phone +1 647 785 1012

The Canadian Language Museum was established in 2011 to promote an appreciation of all of the languages spoken in Canada. Few countries can match Canada's rich and varied language heritage, which includes over 60 Indigenous languages from coast to coast, the official languages of French and English and their regional dialects, and the many languages brought to this country by immigrants from around the world. The museum encourages dialogue on language issues that are central to Canadian society, such as bilingualism, multilingualism, and language endangerment, preservation and revitalization.

The Canadian Language Museum's exhibit space is located in Glendon Gallery on the beautiful Glendon Campus of York University in Toronto. The museum creates and tours bilingual (English/French) exhibits, including: "Canadian English, eh?", "Le français au Canada", "Speaking the Inuit Way", "Cree: The People's Language", "A Tapestry of Voices: Celebrating Canada's Languages" and "Read Between the Signs: 150 Years of Language in Toronto". These exhibits are shown in rotation in the gallery space and have toured across Canada to universities, libraries, community centres and festivals.



## **Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich (1991), Northern Ireland**

Belfast, Northern Ireland

[www.culturlann.ie](http://www.culturlann.ie)

[oifigfaihte@culturlann.ie](mailto:oifigfaihte@culturlann.ie)

Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich 216 Falls Road, The Gaeltacht Quarter Belfast, BT12 6AH

Phone +353 028 9096 4180

An Chultúrlann on its three floors, contains space for artistic and theatrical expression, a café, a tourist information office, book and gift shop. A new extension officially opened in September 2011 added a new gallery space and a space in which to interact with the language through digital technology. The Cultúrlann is the jewel in the crown of Belfast's emerging Gaeltacht Quarter.

Live traditional and contemporary music sessions, exhibitions, poetry readings, céilí's, concerts, workshops and the children's arts programme are just some of the reasons why the Chultúrlann is recognised as the Belfast Irish Experience. At Cultúrlann we celebrate our cultural traditions and foster them through classes, workshops and performance.

From small beginnings in 1991, when Cultúrlann first opened to accommodate a nine pupil Irish-medium second level school, the centre has been the springboard for many Irish language initiatives and enterprises that subsequently spread out around the area to create what is now Belfast's Gaeltacht Quarter.

Today the centre produces a full programme of year round arts events and is also home to Bia, the café at the heart of Cultúrlann, Oifig Fáilte tourist information point, the Siobhán McKenna theatre, the Dillon Gallery, Na Ballaí Bána Gallery, An Ceathrú Póilí book/craftshop, Raidió Fáilte, Aisling Ghéar theatre company, the design company; Dúch Dúchais, Taca who support Irish medium education, The Irish Language culture and lifestyle magazine, Nós and Tobar, a television production company.





## Dante Alighieri Society (2011), Italy

Società Dante Alighieri  
Florence and Rome, Italy

<http://ladantefirenze.com>  
[info@firenze.ladante.it](mailto:info@firenze.ladante.it)

Via Gino Capponi, 4, 50121 Firenze  
Phone +39 055 2479014

<http://ladante.it>  
[info@ladante.it](mailto:info@ladante.it)

Piazza di Firenze, 27, 00186 Roma  
Phone +39 06 6873694

The Dante Alighieri Society promotes Italian culture and language around the world and is present in more than 60 countries. It was formed in 1889 and is named after Dante Alighieri (1265–1321), a pre-Renaissance poet from Florence and the author of *La Divina Commedia*. Dante is considered the father of the Italian language.

Many years ago, the Society announced plans to establish a Museo della lingua italiana (Museum of Italian Language), to be inaugurated in 2011, which would mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unification of Italy. Unfortunately, the project didn't come ahead, but instead, the society in 2011 produced an exhibition at Oblate Library in Florence, jointly with the Accademia della Crusca and the Association for History of Italian Language. The exhibition *Una di lingua. La lingua italiana nell'Italia unita* (One language. Italian language during united Italy) is now available in Florence's Committee of Dante Alighieri.

In Palazzo Firenze in Rome, where Dante Alighieri Society has its main headquarter, there is since 2014 a permanent exhibition on Italian language, titled *Dove il sì suona* with a verse from Dante's *Commedia*. The exhibition is composed of about 40 illustrated display panels. The history of Italian language is described, mainly related with Italian literature, music, art and cinema, even the relationship of Italian language with other European languages.



## Erlebniswelt Deutsche Sprache (2013), Germany

Köthen, Germany

[www.erlebniswelt-deutsche-sprache.de/index.html](http://www.erlebniswelt-deutsche-sprache.de/index.html)

[historisches-museum@bachstadt-koethen.de](mailto:historisches-museum@bachstadt-koethen.de)

Schloß Köthen, Schloßplatz 4, D-06366 Köthen (Anhalt)

Phone +49 3496 70099260

Die Erlebniswelt Deutsche Sprache ist Bestandteil des Historischen Museums Köthen. Sie erweitert die Ausstellung zur Geschichte der Fruchtbringenden Gesellschaft.

Die Erlebniswelt Deutsche Sprache wurde von der Neuen Fruchtbringenden Gesellschaft eingerichtet. Im Schloss Köthen lädt die Ausstellung ein, ausgehend von der Geschichte der ersten deutschen Sprachgesellschaft, der Fruchtbringenden Gesellschaft des 17. Jahrhunderts, sowohl einen Blick in die Geschichte der deutschen Sprache zu werfen als auch zahlreiche interessante Sprachphänomene zu erkunden.

In der Erlebniswelt Deutsche Sprache können Besucher die deutsche Sprache entdecken und sich über verschiedene Themen der deutschen Sprache informieren. Multimediale Animationen, Projektionen und Tonwiedergabe laden Erwachsene und Kinder in der Ausstellung zum Mitmachen ein.

Die Erlebniswelt Deutsche Sprache möchte Interesse für die deutsche Sprache wecken. Sie vermittelt Wissen über die deutsche Sprache, indem sie ihre Stellung in der Welt und ihre Geschichte sichtbar macht.

Die Erlebniswelt Deutsche Sprache:

- bietet einen Ort, an dem sich jeder, vor allem junge Menschen, mit der deutschen Sprache in vielfältiger Form auseinandersetzen kann,
- weckt die Freude an der deutschen Sprache,
- stärkt das Bewusstsein für den Wert und die Schönheit der deutschen Sprache,
- ermuntert den Einzelnen dazu, die deutsche Sprache zu pflegen.



## Esperanto Museum of the Austrian National Library (1927), Austria

Vienna, Austria

[www.onb.ac.at/museen/esperantomuseum](http://www.onb.ac.at/museen/esperantomuseum)

[esperanto@onb.ac.at](mailto:esperanto@onb.ac.at)

Esperanto Museum of the Austrian National Library, Palais Mollard, Herrengasse 9, A-1010 Wien

Phone +43 1 534 10 730

The Esperanto Museum of the Austrian National Library was founded in 1927 by Hugo Steiner as an association, then set up by contract in 1928 as a museum and technical library in the Austrian National Library and opened in 1929 by a solemn government ceremony.

After the annexation of Austria in 1938 by Hitler's Germany the institution was closed, and its book holdings were to be incorporated in a library of disapproved books planned for Berlin. But since the books were the property of the National Library it was possible to stop them from being transported.

In 1947 there was a new opening in the Hofburg in the area of the Michaelerplatz. In 2005 the institution was presented with a wholly new look after its transfer into Palais Mollard. For both the library, which had meanwhile grown to become the world's biggest of its kind, and for the museum items ideal holding conditions in secure and air-conditioned rooms had been created.

Since its founding by Hugo Steiner in 1927 the Esperanto Museum has had an extensive library, to which the title Department of Planned Languages was given in 1990. It is also a documentation site and archives, and a home to the world's biggest technical library on interlinguistics, documenting some 500 planned languages. Subdivided by document type, the library holds about 40,000 flyers, 35,000 printed volumes, 25,000 newspaper cuttings, 22,000 photographs, 10,000 handwritten texts and manuscripts, 3700 journals, 3000 museum artefacts, 1500 posters and 1200 sound recordings. In due time, large sections of the holdings may be made available on the internet.



## Esperanto Museum (2008), Czech Republic

Svitavy, Czech Republic

[www.muzeum.esperanto.cz](http://www.muzeum.esperanto.cz)

[svitavy@esperanto.cz](mailto:svitavy@esperanto.cz)

Náměstí Míru 81/1, CZ-568 02 Svitavy

Phone +420 461 532 704 or 777 247 437

Esperanto Museum in Svitavy is a part of the city museum in Svitavy and presents the history and current activity of the Esperanto movement. It was inaugurated in September 2008, marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Esperanto in Svitavy. Since 1996 Esperanto has been taught in elementary schools as an optional subject.

The museum can be found in the city's most beautiful building, in the Ottendorfer House, commissioned in 1892 by Svitavy born philanthropist Valentin Oswald Ottendorfer, living at the time in USA. The house is also known as The Red Library, because its walls have a red brick color.

At the time, the city was mostly inhabited by German speakers. The public library became the largest German-language library in Moravia with 7,400 German books, which later expanded into a collection of 22,000 volumes. The book collection was superb, since Ottendorfer wanted to make good quality literature accessible to a wider public, and he hoped other cities would follow his model.

During World War II, many books were stolen, then more during the communist period, until there were only 6,000 volumes left. Those are now conserved in the house across the plaza, in the City museum of Svitavy.

The story of Esperanto, as well as the language, is presented in a multimedia information panel with touch-screens. The information includes Esperanto audibly, so visitors can hear both spoken and sung examples of the language. The space for researchers is equipped with a computer with constantly updated sources of data.

From time to time, concerts, plays and lectures take place in the forum on the upper floor.





## Esperanto Museum (2013), China

Zaozhuang, Shandong, China

China's first Esperanto museum has officially opened after more than two years of construction to promote the "universal language."

The Esperanto Museum, in Zaozhuang University in east China's Shandong province, opened Saturday after hosting more than 7,000 visitors during a trial operation since May.

With a display area covering 680 square meters, the museum is the largest of its kind in Asia, said Sun Mingxiao, who is in charge of the facility.

It boasts more than 26,000 items, including books, newspapers, photographs and manuscripts. The majority of them were donated by Esperantonists from more than 40 countries or regions.

Chen Haosu, head of the All-China Esperanto League, said the mission of the museum is to record the history of Esperanto, promote the culture of the artificial language and its development.

The museum was jointly built by Zaozhuang University and the All-China Esperanto League at a cost of 3 million yuan (US\$ 490,000).

Esperanto-related activities began in the university in the 1980s. Esperanto became an optional course in the college in 2011, attracting more than 500 students so far.

Up till now, about 400,000 Chinese have learned Esperanto, according to Sun.





## Great Blasket Centre (1993), Ireland

Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir

Blasket Island, Ireland

[www.blasket.ie](http://www.blasket.ie)

[blascaod@opw.ie](mailto:blascaod@opw.ie)

The Great Blasket Centre, Dún Chaoin, Dingle, Co. Kerry, V92 TH73, Éire

Phone +353 66 9156444

The Blasket Centre on the mainland in Dún Chaoin on the tip of the Dingle Peninsula is a fascinating heritage centre/museum honouring the unique community who lived on the remote Blasket Islands until their evacuation in 1953.

The Great Blasket Island, lying 5 km off the West Kerry coast, was inhabited continuously for at least three hundred years. Because of its isolated location, the Blasket community retained its own culture and tradition, at the heart of which lay their continuing use of their native language of Irish (Gaelic). The Centre tells their story and celebrates their unique literary achievements.

The Blasket Centre tells the story of island life, subsistence fishing and farming, traditional life including modes of work and transport, home life, housing and entertainment. The Centre details the community's struggle for existence, their language and culture, and the extraordinary literary legacy they left behind- classics such as 'The Islandman', 'Twenty Years A-Growing' and 'Peig'. Their story is told using a variety of means - exhibits, interactive displays, artefacts, audio visual presentations and artworks.

The Great Blasket Centre (Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir), built in 1993 by the Office of Public Works, honours the unique heritage of the Blasket Island and celebrates the native Irish language.

The Great Blasket Centre also functions as a cultural and community centre, hosting artistic, dramatic, and musical events throughout the year. The renowned artists Liam O' Neill, Tomaisín Ó Cíobháin, and Marie Simonds-Gooding, as well as many local artists and photographers, have exhibited their work in the Centre, and it has hosted concerts by famous Irish acts such as Kila, Altan and Danú, and musicians Noel Hill, Tony MacMahon, Moya Brennan and Hugh Tinney.



## **Hungarian Language Museum (2008), Hungary**

**A Magyar Nyelv Múzeuma**

Széphalom, Hungary

[www.nyelvmuzeum.net](http://www.nyelvmuzeum.net)

[info@nyelvmuzeum.hu](mailto:info@nyelvmuzeum.hu)

Hungarian Language Museum, H-3988 Sátoraljaújhely-Széphalom, Kazinczy utca 275., Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén megye

Phone +36 47 521 236

In Széphalom, just outside of Sátoraljaújhely, in the northeastern part of Hungary the Museum of the Hungarian Language was opened in 2008. It can be found at the site of Ferenc Kazinczy's former fruit garden. Kazinczy is regarded "Father of the Modern Hungarian Language", who at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century had an instrumental part in bringing the Hungarian language into the modern times by reviving old words and creating new ones, to enable it to keep up with scientific progress. Kazinczy lived in Széphalom for 25 years and now his tomb can be found here. Széphalom is a national place of pilgrimage.

The idea of creating this museum was launched by Dr. Emil Pásztor. His initiative was adopted by the Kazinczy Ferenc Society which elaborated the thematic plan of the institution and later erected the building. The Hungarian Language Museum is a department of the Petőfi Museum of Literature in Budapest.

The museum is not only a collection of books, scripts, letters and dictionaries, but also has many exhibitions. The building contains three exhibition areas, a library, a room for seminars and a lecture-hall with 100 seats. It is suitable for many kinds of events, like concerts, cultural meetings and literary evenings. The museum has its own garden which is 5,4 hectares.

The themes of the exhibitions include the history of the Hungarian language and literature and dialects, the language of the present, writing, language games, language-awareness and the responsibility of the language use, the Hungarian language, reform and the life and work of Ferenc Kazinczy.



## Ivar Aasen Centre (1898), Norway

**Ivar Aasen-tunet**

Ørsta, Norway

[www.aasentunet.no](http://www.aasentunet.no)

[admin@aasentunet.no](mailto:admin@aasentunet.no)

Ivar Aasen Centre, Indrehovdevegen 176, N-6160 Hovdebygda

Phone +47 70 04 75 70

The Ivar Aasen Centre in Western Norway is the oldest language museum in the world and the only language museum in the Nordic countries in Europe.

Ivar Aasen (1813–1896) was the man who changed the future of Norwegian language history. As early as in 1836, only 22 years old, Aasen had a clear opinion on how the Norwegian language should be given a written standard. He claimed that all Norwegian dialects should be the starting point for a Norwegian written standard. This led to the linguist travelling 27 000 km within the borders of Norway to find the Norwegian language. Mr Aasen also wrote songs and poems which still are among the most popular in Norway. The Ivar Aasen Centre is situated on the farm where Aasen was born and raised.

The Norwegian parliament decided in 1885 that Norwegian Nynorsk and Norwegian Bokmål should be two equal languages in Norway. That makes Norway one of the first formally bilingual states in the world. Today Bokmål dominates, but Nynorsk is the most used language in parts of Western Norway. Nynorsk has become a natural part of everyday life and is today the first language of at least 550,000 Norwegians.

In its interactive exhibition “The willingness of language” the centre presents the story of Mr Aasen and Norwegian Nynorsk in international and historical perspectives. Every year the centre produces one travelling exhibition about language or literature. The centre also offers a varied cultural programme all year round for both children and adults. The highlight of the year is the Norwegian Festival of Language and Arts, an annual celebration of the Nynorsk written culture in the second weekend of June.

The foundation Centre for Norwegian Language and Literature owns the Ivar Aasen Centre, Olav H. Hauge Centre for all kinds of poetry, the Vinje Centre for non-fiction and journalism, three festivals, an edited on-line encyclopaedia Allkunne.no and eight other websites with more than 35 000 text documents. With 20 fulltime employees the foundation is probably the largest literary museum in the Nordic countries.





## Language Movement Museum (1989), Bangladesh

Bhasha Andolon Jadughar

Dhaka, Bangladesh

[www.banglaacademy.org.bd](http://www.banglaacademy.org.bd)

[info@banglaacademy.org.bd](mailto:info@banglaacademy.org.bd)

Bangla Academy, Burdwan House, 3 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Ramna, BD-Dhaka 1000

The Bhasha Andolon Jadughar (Language Movement Museum) and Jatiya Sahitya O Lekhak Jadughar (National Literature and Writer's museum) are two museums which were opened by then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed to highlight the history, struggle and achievement of the Bangla language and literature.

Located on the second floor of the Bangla Academy's Burdwan House, The Language Movement Museum is unique as there's no such museum in the subcontinent.

It has precious memorabilia such as language martyr Abul Barakat's educational certificates, Shafiur Rahman's spectacles, bag and coat, and photos of the entire language movement from 1948 and its aftermath. One such photograph shows the penultimate time of the movement, when students prepared at the historic Amtala (near the Arts Faculty Building of Dhaka University) to break the Section 144 on 21 February 1952. Several of the displayed photographs are by eminent researcher Professor Rafiqul Islam.

Photos along with brief bios of Language Movement martyrs Rafique, Jabbar, Salam and Barkat are also displayed at the museum. It also has rare documents such as memorandum that was given to the then Governor General of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, by Rashtro Bhasha Karmo Parishad. The memorandum highlights five points in favour of Bangla as the state language. The address of welcome – containing demands for Bangla as the state language and the overall grievances of the then East Pakistan – to the then visiting Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan by the students of Dhaka University is also at the museum. A couple of pages from the journal of Tajuddin Ahmed, written on February 21 and 22, 1952, have been showcased as well.

There are also paper cuttings from the Daily Azad, Ittefaq and Pakistan Observer newspapers which were the leading newspapers during that period. Covers of several books on the Language Movement are on display at the museum.



## Musée national de l'espéranto de Gray (1977), France

Nacia Esperanto-Muzeo

Gray, France

[www.naciaesperantomuzeo.fr](http://www.naciaesperantomuzeo.fr)

[michelinechateau@yahoo.fr](mailto:michelinechateau@yahoo.fr)

Maison Pour Tous, 19, rue Victor Hugo, F-70 100 Gray

Phone +33 6 21 51 38 69

The National Museum of Esperanto of Gray (Nacia Esperanto-Muzeo in Esperanto) was founded in 1977 and its official inauguration took place in 1987. It occupies a floor of the House For All (an old school renovated) and consists of 10 rooms, for a total of 230 m².

Its collection includes approximately 6,000 books and pamphlets in or on Esperanto, 1,400 magazines and newspapers, both old and new. Over the years the gifts of Esperantists or associations (archives and personal collections) have come to enrich its collections.

The museum also includes collections of various objects (postage stamps, postcards, promotional items, technical brochures) linked to Esperanto.



## **Museo de Esperanto de Subirats (1968), Spain**

**Museu d'esperanto de Subirats**

Sant Pau d'Ordal, Spain

<http://www.museuesperanto.org>

[info@museuesperanto.org](mailto:info@museuesperanto.org)

C/ Dr. Zamenhof, 12 (Sant Pau d'Ordal), E-08739 Subirats, Catalonia

Phone +34 938 993 499

The Museo de Esperanto de Subirats, formerly known as Hispana Esperanto-muzeo (Spanish Esperanto Museum), is a notable private collection of objects related to the Esperanto international language, located in the Catalan town of Sant Pau d'Ordal, in a province of Barcelona. The collection was developed over years by Lluís Hernández Yzal and his wife Teresa Massana.

The collection was inaugurated as a museum in 1968 as part of the dependencies of the town pharmacy, run by Luis Hernández. Due to the constant growth of the bottom and the insufficient space, in 1974 a land was bought on which the building that houses the museum is built today. With the death of the founder in 2002, the museum went through a period of inactivity. In 2010, it was officially reopened to the public.

The museum contains about 15,000 newsletters and magazines of Esperanto corresponding to about 400 different headers. The number of books is close to 8,000, the section of posters and brochures, mainly related to congresses, is estimated at about 1,500. The set of postcards collected add, between Esperantists and non-Esperantists, 150,000 copies.

Among the most curious objects can be found a film roll of format 9.5 mm showing the images of a Catalan congress held in Ripoll in 1935 and some handwritten notebooks by Luis Lázar Zamenhof corresponding to the translation of a work of Friedrich Schiller. Also interesting are a set of cava bottles labeled in Esperanto, the popular "ŝlosiloj" small pocketbooks to learn Esperanto, published in a multitude of languages, and some images when Zamenhof visited Barcelona in 1909.





## Museo de la Lengua (2012), Argentina

Museum of Language UNGS

Los Polvorines, Argentina

[www.ungs.edu.ar/ms\\_centro\\_cultural/?page\\_id=1507](http://www.ungs.edu.ar/ms_centro_cultural/?page_id=1507)

[museodelalengua@ungs.edu.ar](mailto:museodelalengua@ungs.edu.ar)

Museo de la Lengua, Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, Gutiérrez 1150, Los Polvorines, Argentina

Phone +54 11 4469-7795

The Museum of Language UNGS was opened in September 2012 as a result of an exchange with the Museum of the Book and Language of the National Library (opened in Buenos Aires in October 2011). It is located on the campus of the National University of General Sarmiento.

It is the result of the common participation and work of teachers, students and staff from different parts of the university, which was created in 1993. The university intends to contribute to democratisation of education and the access to knowledge to every sector of the society, and looks for academic excellence.

The museum involves a research team undertaking the investigation into the Spanish of Argentina and its varieties. Through various interactive and playful proposals, the museum wants to raise awareness among visitors about a number of issues involving language that often go unnoticed, not only because of lack of information, but also by prejudice strongly rooted in society.

The museum focuses on the Spanish of Argentina, from various aspects and angles. It highlights the relationship of language with various arts, including literature, film, music and humor, to reflect the different varieties of the country. Central themes are linguistic diversity, the historical formation of the Spanish of Argentina and the demystification of a series of topics or misleading platitudes about the language.

Linguistic diversity is shown from the phonological point of view and lexicon of dialects and different sociolects within the country and also from the contrast between domestic varieties and other Spanish-speaking countries. This also includes indigenous languages like Guarani, Quechua and Mapuche, and languages of immigration in Argentina, such as Oriental, Slavic, Semitic and African languages. Further more attention is paid to the identity varieties of Argentina, as the gaucho language and slang.



## Museo de la Tierra Guaraní (1978), Paraguay

Museum of the Guaraní Land

Hernandarias, Paraguay

[www.itaipu.gov.py/es/medio-ambiente/museo-de-la-tierra-guarani](http://www.itaipu.gov.py/es/medio-ambiente/museo-de-la-tierra-guarani)  
[info@portalguarani.com](mailto:info@portalguarani.com)

Phone +595 61 5998638 or 61 5998606

The Museum of Itaipu dates from 1978. In 2000, it was renamed “Museum of the Guaraní Land” with a new layout that aims to highlight science and human facts. It is a walk through history, a setting of 200 years of the Guaraní culture.

Itaipu has a museum that exhibits, holds and preserves the most representative of human culture as well as the biological and physical heritage of the region where the dam is settled. The Guaraní language is present all over the Museum.

The Museum of the Guaraní Land offers a space for research, conservation, education and spreading of Guaraní culture and of the environment of the region.

It is designed for education and tourism. It uses four languages: Spanish, Portuguese, English, as a tourist language, and highlights the Guaraní, which is present throughout the Museum's stories and microfilms.

The new hall speaks of the vision of the museum and has exciting educational tools. The museography – unique in its design – includes backgrounds with images and texts that take visitors on a journey through time through this territory. The course is complemented with plasma monitors featuring interviews. There are seven monitors that complement the information on the heritage of the Museum which are exhibited graphically and in display windows.





## Museo del Dialetto dell'Alto Lario Occidentale (2007), Italy

Dosso del Liro, Italy

[ambiente@cmalpilepontine.it](mailto:ambiente@cmalpilepontine.it)

Via alla Chiesa, Dosso del Liro, I-22010 Dosso Del Liro CO

Phone +29 344 85218 or 344 82572

Dosso del Liro, Lombard common in the province of Como, lies in the northernmost part of the province, on the border with Switzerland.

The municipality Alto Lario is very active in the field of art and care of the natural heritage: churches, palaces, but also footpaths, bridleways and chestnut. To safeguard the particular dialect of the place, in 2007, was then inaugurated the Museum of the Alto Lario Western dialect. This is a museum of the dialect of the language, mostly presenting sounds: speech, words, proverbs and idioms related to the different dialects still spoken in the valleys of Lario.

The collection consists of audio and video recordings, categorized according to the different backgrounds and illustrative of different dialects. The objects on display were donated by the families of Dosso del Liro, and they serve as vital "illustrations" in names and words that in some cases no longer exist. Among the themes of the exhibition are sounds, the names of places, the boats of the lake, the names of things, from words to proverbs, and dialect written.



## Museo della Lingua Greco-Calabra “Gerhard Rohlfs” (2016)

Bova, Italy

[www.casavacanzebovamarina.it/attrazioni-turistiche-nelle-vicinanze/bova/museo-della-lingua-greco-calabra-gerhard-rohlfs/](http://www.casavacanzebovamarina.it/attrazioni-turistiche-nelle-vicinanze/bova/museo-della-lingua-greco-calabra-gerhard-rohlfs/)  
[info@casavacanzebovamarina.it](mailto:info@casavacanzebovamarina.it)

Museo di Reggio Calabria, Via Umberto I, 83 Bova Marina (RC)

Phone +39 328 64 24 285

On 21 May 2016, The Department of Linguistic Minorities of the Province of Reggio Calabria opened this museum of the Greek-Calabrian language in Bova. The museum is dedicated to the German linguist Gerhard Rohlfs, honorary citizen of Bova from 1968 and devoted to the study of the Greek-Calabrian language, and aims to give voice to all the languages spoken in Calabria. Eckart Rohlfs, son of the linguist, attended the opening ceremony and donated some artifacts collected by his father during travels in Calabria from the first one in 1921 and later on.

For decades, he devoted his life not only to the Greek language, but all spoken language in Calabria. He published *Historische Grammatik der italienischen Sprache und ihrer Mundarten* (1949–54, new edition 1966–69). Rohlfs studied many Italian dialects and was especially concerned with the language contact between Greek and dialects of Calabria, Puglia and Sicily.

Rohlfs proved the link between Greek and Calabria that went beyond the written and spoken language, and which influenced traditions, customs and habits of those territories.

The museum is located right at the entrance of the village, at the exact spot where the English artist Edward Lear drew a glimpse of Bova during a travel 1842–46.



## Museu da Língua Portuguesa (2006), Brazil

São Paulo, Brasil

[www.museudalinguaportuguesa.org.br](http://www.museudalinguaportuguesa.org.br)

[museu@museudalinguaportuguesa.org.br](mailto:museu@museudalinguaportuguesa.org.br)

Museu da Língua Portuguesa, Praça da Luz, s/nº, Centro, São Paulo – SP

Phone +55 1 3326 0775

The Museum of the Portuguese Language is an interactive Portuguese language — and Linguistics/Language Development in general — museum in São Paulo. It is housed in the Estação da Luz railway station, in the urban district of the same name. 300 000 passengers arrive and leave the station every day, and it was mainly here that thousands of non-Portuguese speaking immigrants arriving from Europe and Asia into São Paulo via the Port of Santos got acquainted with the language for the first time. The idea of this museum was conceived by the São Paulo Secretary of Culture in conjunction with the Roberto Marinho Foundation. The 4,300 square meters of space on three floors cost around 37 million reais.

The objective of the museum is to create a living representation of the Portuguese language, where visitors may be surprised and educated by unusual and unfamiliar aspects of their own native language. The caretakers of the museum desire that the public has access to new knowledge and reflection in an intense and pleasurable manner, as it notices the relationship of the language with others, as well as its proto-languages. The museum targets the Portuguese speaking population, made up of peoples from many regions and social backgrounds, but who still have not had the opportunity to gain a broader understanding of the origins, the history and the continuous evolution of the language. It also presents the diversity of languages in Brazil, partly also in Latin America.

“The language speaks for you. The purpose of studying and interacting with a language in a museum, cultural and exchange programs, orthographic agreements, and the development of new words show how important it is. The language is our mother. This museum covers most, if not all, the aspects of the written and spoken language,” said the Minister of Culture and singer Gilberto Gil at the opening ceremony on March 20, 2006.

On 21 December 2015, a fire destroyed parts of the museum and killed a fireman. The temporary exhibition area that caught fire had only replica objects on display. A rebuilt museum may open in 2019.





## Museum Ladin Ćiastel de Tor (2001), Italy

St. Martin in Thurn, Italy

[www.museumladin.it/en/the-museum.asp](http://www.museumladin.it/en/the-museum.asp)

[info@museumladin.it](mailto:info@museumladin.it)

Torstr. 65, 39030 St. Martin in Thurn, Italy

Phone +39 0474 52 40 20

There are tausends of languages, in ladin: lingac ne ele di milesc. In the very heart of the Dolomites live more than 30,000 Dolomite Ladins whose identity may be characterised by the uniqueness of their language, derived from popular Latin, the heart of the southern Alps. Thanks to the physical characteristics of the landscape in thr southern Alps, the Ladin language has survived. It is the eldest of all languages spoken in this region and is restricted by the Italian and the German cultural and linguistic areas that surround it.

The way through the museum focuses on some significant aspects of the present and past lives of the Dolomite Ladins, highlighting the important influences of cross-regional events on the lives of the population and pinpointing the existing interrelations between landscape forms and lifestyles.

A consciousness of their language plays an important role in the identity of the Ladins. The Ladin language finds its roots in popular-Latin influenced by pre-Roman-Rhaetian elements. In the Middle Ages and in modern times, the geographical position of the Ladin areas, surrounded as they are by German and Italian speaking areas, influenced the further development of the language as well as the differences between the various valleys.

The Ladin language serves as a form of self assertion towards the outside, but also as a link between the five Ladin valley communities. Following the First World War, the subdivision of the valleys between three Italian provinces – Belluno, Trentino and South Tyrol – inhibited this process, and the division remained even after the Second World War. The recognition of the Ladins as a distinct ethnic and linguistic group therefore developed in a different way in each of the three provinces.



## Museum of the Basque language (2004), Basque Country, Spain

Euskararen Etxea

Bilbao, Spain

<http://www.azkuefundazioa.org/#!/euskararen-etxea/>

[info@azkuefundazioa.org](mailto:info@azkuefundazioa.org)

Azkue Fundazioa, Agoitz plaza 1, E-48015 Bilbao, Vizcaya

Phone +34 94 402 80 81

The Museum of the Basque language is in San Inazio, a quiet neighbourhood, not far from downtown Bilbao. This museum offers a nice approach to the traditions and culture of the Basque Country. This four-store building, committed to the study and understanding of the Basque language, is the perfect showcase to discover “Euskara”.

First floor looks like a railway station, and it represents the voyage of “Euskara” through the time (“Euskara” is the oldest language in Europe). Every single detail is included, wagons, locomotive, tunnel... Euskara has a bunch of different dialects, a complex history, and all that is included; the etymology of the main words, literature...

El Museo Euskararen Etxea o La Casa del Euskera funciona desde diciembre de 2004 abierto para todos los que quieran conocer la importante lengua del País Vasco en sus 4 plantas divididos en 2 espacios en los que se muestra el trabajo de asociaciones y entidades que trabajan con temas relacionados al Euskera como la Asociación de Escritores Vascos, Topagunea que es la Federación de Asociaciones de Euskera o la Asociación de Ikastolas de Bizkaia, entre otras.

En otro espacio, que se ubica en las primeras plantas del Museo, se estudian y muestran los diferentes usos y actividades del Euskera, como el Centro de Interpretación del Euskera que tiene la muestra de forma muy agradable los contenidos básicos de la lengua Vasca.

Dentro de este espacio, en la segunda planta, se encuentra el Archivo Multimedia del Euskera, el depósito de Libros Universitarios en Euskera, que contiene ejemplares desde el año 1990 hasta la actualidad y la Sala Polivalente.

Es un paso fundamental en su visita a Bilbao, para poder conocer a fondo su cultura y tradiciones, para respetarlas en sus paseos por la Villa y disfrutarlos mucho más conociendo, no sólo algunas palabras sino también el motivo por el cual esta bella lengua tiene fuerte presencia y es amada por los bilbaínos.



## **Museum of the Lithuanian Language (2006), Lithuania**

Vilnius, Lithuania

[www.lki.lt](http://www.lki.lt)

[Lituanistika@lki.lt](mailto:Lituanistika@lki.lt)

Institute of the Lithuanian Language, P. Vileišio g. 5, LT-10308 Vilnius

Phone +370 5 263 81 12

The Language Museum under the name of 'The Lithuanian Hearth' was founded in 2006 as a department of the Institute of the Lithuanian Language, which is the governmental research institute of Lithuania, founded in 1941.

The goals of the museum include raising awareness of language as a key factor for promoting national identity and citizenship; promoting the ideas about language as the main factor of creativity; promoting multilingualism and multiculturalism, linguistic identity and diversity; and disseminating the latest research knowledge in Lithuanian linguistics.

Level one is academic information and historical artefacts. Each topic has an interactive informational portal that displays encyclopaedic information. This informational level of the display also covers the artefacts available to the institute: historical documents, unique items, reconstructions. Every exhibit (artefact) conveys relevant historical, cultural, and linguistic contexts that are significant for the development and history of language, linguistics, and writing. The information is expanded through legends, references to other exhibits at the museum, and additional information in info portals.

The most exciting part of the museum is its interactive objects, the language toys. Interactive language toys are unique exhibits which can help visitors reach out and touch the language. These exhibits also reflect all 12 of the language topics displayed. Every object serves the purpose of raising awareness of the history, change, structure, variation, creative potential, communicational and other attributes of language, educate visitors, stir a creative spark in them, inspire and encourage them to take advantage of the opportunities language provides when it comes to self-expression, creative processes and communication. For example, there is The Tree of the Genetic Classification of Languages. Words as Fossils invites visitors to become language archaeologists. An interactive map shows the prehistory of the Lithuanian language and the ancestors of the nation. The House of Word Origin shows how words make their way into a language, and the Lithuanian alphabet is showcased by another interactive object.





## Nüshu Museum (女书) (2004), China

Puwei, Jiangyong, Hunan, China

[www.hnmuseum.com/hnmuseum/eng/main\\_index.jsp](http://www.hnmuseum.com/hnmuseum/eng/main_index.jsp)  
[web@hnmuseum.com](mailto:web@hnmuseum.com)

Hunan Provincial Museum, No.50 Dong Feng Road Chang Sha, 410005

Phone +86 731 84514630 or 731 84535566-8605

In 1990, Zhao visited Yang Huanyi, who was then 81 years old and was the only known genuine nushu speaker left in Jiangyong.

"Nushu is spread mostly among rural women who had their feet bound to a tiny size," Zhao said.

Yang started to read and write nushu as a little girl with her seven sworn sisters. Yang watched nushu's wax and wane in the past century, and would even write nushu on her knees, as only men were allowed to write on tablets.

On September 20, 2004, Yang passed away. Unfortunately, none of Yang's children and grandchildren inherited her proficiency in this unique language.

Experts said that Yang's death marked the end to the tradition in which women shared their innermost feelings with female friends through a set of codes incomprehensible to men.

Local authorities in the late 1990s started to attach importance to nushu's cultural value and tourism potential. In 2000, a free nushu training school was set up in Puwei Village in Jiangyong for women learning the language in their spare time.

With a total population of around 200 people, Puwei is one of the most famous villages for nushu culture. In 2004, the Nushu Museum was founded in the village, where visitors and villagers can take nushu classes. Meanwhile, tourists can also enjoy the unique female social life and cultural ecology.



## Sòn de Lenga Museum (1999), Italy

Museum of Occitan Language

Dronero, Italy

[www.espaci-occitan.org](http://www.espaci-occitan.org)

[segreteria@espaci-occitan.org](mailto:segreteria@espaci-occitan.org)

Espaci Occitan, Via Val Maira 19, I-12025 Dronero CN, Italy

Phone +39 0171 904075

The name Occitan was first used by Dante Alighieri. Today Occitan, a new Latin language, is spoken in regions of southern France, such as Gascony, Languedoc, Auvergne, Limousin and Provence. Occitan is also present in Aran valley in Spain. In Italy, the language is spoken in 120 villages inhabited by 180,000 people in Imperia, Cuneo and Torino provinces, as well as in Calabria, in Guardia Piemontese, a village populated in the 15th century by Waldensians coming from Piedmont. The Italian Parliament adopted a Protection Law for Linguistic Minorities, also called "Law 482", on 15th December 1999.

Espaci Occitan is an Association of Public Institutions which aims at promoting Occitan culture, language and tourism. Featuring the Institute of Occitan Studies, Sòn de Lenga Museum and an Occitan Library, Espaci Occitan is the first cultural centre dedicated to the Occitan world.

The Institute of Studies numbers thousands of books and CDs about language, culture and traditions of the Occitan territory; it also offers the opportunity to hear and watch music and movies. Moreover, it has an on-line linguistic service, offering translations, advices about linguistics and toponymy, frontal or on-line language courses, social reading.

Sòn de Lenga, a museum dedicated to the Occitan language, is a pleasant way to approach the Occitan culture. It illustrates literature, music, traditions, history, material and social life of the Occitan territory. The multimedia museum was created in 2002 and completely renovated in 2015 thanks to private and public funds. It features ten computerized stations dedicated to geography, history, art, literature and other main themes of Occitan culture, such as music. The workstations are available in Italian, Occitan, English and French.



## Sprachpanorama (2017), Switzerland

Laufenburg, Switzerland

[www.sprachpanorama.ch](http://www.sprachpanorama.ch)

[info@sprachpanorama.ch](mailto:info@sprachpanorama.ch)

Verein Sprachpanorama, Zeughausgässli 102, CH-5080 Laufenburg

Phone +41 062 558 55 22

Das Sprachpanorama Laufenburg wurde im Mai 2017 eröffnet und wird vom Verein Sprachpanorama betrieben. Das Museum liegt in der Laufenburger Altstadt in unmittelbarer Nähe zum Rhein. Die Besucherinnen und Besucher können in der Ausstellung im doppelten Sinne Sprache begreifen und vertiefte Einblicke in verschiedene Bereiche der Sprache und Kommunikation aus Forschung und Praxis erhalten. Auf rund 250m<sup>2</sup> Fläche gibt es viel zum Raten, Erkunden und Herausfinden durch Klappen, Drehen, Tippen, Einzeichnen, Klicken, Hören usw. Vier Themenfelder werden präsentiert:

- Sprachgeschichte: Zur Entwicklung der deutschen Sprache von den Anfängen bis ins 20. Jahrhundert.
- Sprachen der Welt: Zur Vielfalt der natürlichen Sprachen und Sprachfamilien rund um den Globus.
- Dialekt: Zur Schweizer Dialektvielfalt, deren Erforschung und deren Verwendung in Literatur und in (neuen) Medien.
- Lesen: Zum Lesen in früheren Epochen, Lesenlehren und -lernen anno dazumal und in verschiedenen Sprachen, aber auch dazu, wie wir diese komplexe Fertigkeit meistern.

In einem eigenen Raum werden Sprachprojekte von Schüler/-innen präsentiert.

Periodisch finden Veranstaltungen mit sprachlichem Bezug statt. Das museumspädagogisches Angebot für Schülerinnen und Schüler ermöglicht ausserschulisches Lernen über Sprache unter Berücksichtigung curricularer Vorgaben. Es soll gerade auch bei den Jugendlichen Interesse für historische, soziologische, kognitive und systematische Aspekte von Sprache geweckt werden.





## SprachRaum (2010), Germany

Buchen (Odenwald), Germany

[www.bezirksmuseum.de](http://www.bezirksmuseum.de)

[info@bezirksmuseum.de](mailto:info@bezirksmuseum.de)

Kellereistraße 25 & 29, 74722 Buchen (Odenwald)

Telefon: +49 160 905 68 244

Das Bezirksmuseum Buchen hat beschlossen, im Trunzerhaus im Areal der Kurmainzischen Kellerei in Buchen einen Raum einzurichten, in dem mit moderner Technik Mundarten erschlossen werden. Im Mittelpunkt stehen die Mundarten im Odenwald-/Baulandgebiet.

Seit Mitte 2010 werden raum-typische Dialekte elektronisch aufgezeichnet. Vorgegebene Texte und Texte aus den unerschöpflichen Quellen von Sagen und Geschichten in den Odenwald-/Baulandgebieten wurden und werden weiter von einheimischen Sprecherinnen und Sprechern in der Originalmundart des eigenen Wohnorts aufgesprochen.

Diese Aufzeichnungen werden im SprachRaum hörbar gemacht. Auf interaktiv programmierten Tafeln können die Sprachbeispiele geografischen Gebieten zugeordnet werden. Mit verschiedenen Eingabemöglichkeiten können die verschiedenen Dialekte erraten werden, auch in das Geflecht süddeutscher und anderer Gebiete.

Das Projekt SprachRaum versteht sich als Portal zu den Alltagssprachen in Süddeutschland. Natürlich kann der beschriebene SprachRaum nicht isoliert betrachtet werden. Er ist Teil der Sprachen, Mundarten und Dialekte, die im Lauf der sozio-kulturellen Entwicklungen in den deutschsprachigen Gebieten entstanden sind. Heutige Staats-, Landes-, Kreis- und Gemeindegrenzen spielen nahezu keine Rolle. Dazu vermitteln wir Informationen aus der Welt der Dialektologie.

Ergänzend gibt es den virtuellen SprachRaum [www.sprachraum.de](http://www.sprachraum.de).



## **wortreich (2011), Germany**

Bad Hersfeld, Germany

[www.wortreich-badhersfeld.de](http://www.wortreich-badhersfeld.de)

[info@wortreich-badhersfeld.de](mailto:info@wortreich-badhersfeld.de)

wortreich in Bad Hersfeld, Benno-Schilde-Platz 1, D-36251 Bad Hersfeld

Phone +49 6621 794890

The wortreich Museum, opened in October 2011, is exactly what its name implies: wortreich is German for “in many words”, but it is also an allusion to the “reign of words”: The wortreich is the main attraction in Schilde-Park, in a tall early 20th century industrial building, an industrial monument which is now considered a heritage building.

The project proposes an interesting combination of a restored old wrapper on outside of the building with a latest generation participatory museum inside: the museum’s focus is on language and communications. Konrad Duden, inventor of official German spelling, and as well as Konrad Zuse, inventor of the computer, lived and worked in Bad Hersfeld for some years.

The permanent exhibition is designed like a book, divided into chapters; visitors are guided through more than 90 interactive stations suitable for all ages. Temporary exhibitions usually focus on communications in one way or another, and often on language.



## Yazi Tarihi Müzesi (2003), Kazakhstan

### Museum of the History of Writing

Astana, Kazakhstan

<http://ff.enu.kz>

[zharkynbekova\\_shk@enu.kz](mailto:zharkynbekova_shk@enu.kz)

Eurasian National University, 010008 Astana, Satpayev st., 2, Kazakhstan

Phone: +7 (7172) 32209 ext.: 32209

L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University in Astana hosts a museum of the history of writing for scientific, educational and cultural matters. The museum was opened in 2003.

The oldest written monuments of Scandinavia reflecting the Slavic-Scandinavian communications of an era of Vikings are runic inscriptions. However, scientific research works have proved that it is Turkic writings. In 1893, the Danish linguist and Turkologist Wilhelm Thomsen deciphered texts found in the Orkhon valley in Mongolia and might have been the first ever to read the words “Turkoman” and “Tengri”.

The Turkic and the Kazakh people early applied the Arab writing system. In 1926, Ahmet Baytursynov reformed the Kazakh writing based on this system. He excluded all purely Arab letters not in use in the Kazakh language, and he added letters specific to the Kazakh language. During the Soviet period, the Kazakh alphabet was translated into Latin letters for political reasons, and then one more transfer to Cyrillics was carried out. Now the Kazakh language in Kazakhstan uses Cyrillics, however, there is a discussion about the possible return to the Latin alphabet.

May 19–20 in 2014, the international forum “Tyrki zhazuy kyni” (Day of Turkic writing), was held for the first time in Astana.

The exhibitions are focused on knowledge of history of writing, presenting samples of the letter which the Turkic people of the Eurasian region used. A special exhibition room has been opened for exhibitions from Mongolia, Xian and Altay.





## **Yugambeh Museum (1995), Australia**

**Language and Heritage research centre**

Beenleigh, Australia

[www.yugambeh.com](http://www.yugambeh.com)

[admin@yugambeh.com](mailto:admin@yugambeh.com)

Yugambeh Museum, Cnr Martens St and Plantation Rd, Beenleigh 4207, Queensland

Phone +61 7 3807 6155 or 7 3807 6229

Yugambeh Museum, Language and Heritage Research Centre is identified as the major source of information for researchers of Yugambeh cultural heritage including landscape, place and objects.

Vision: To tell the ongoing Yugambeh story, defining the spiritual and cultural traditions of the Yugambeh people, in a spirit of shared history through education programs, exhibitions and ceremonies.

Mission: To collect and maintain items and intellectual property that are evidence of the language, history and culture of the traditional Aboriginals of the Yugambeh Region and to use it for education, research and cultural enrichment of the Yugambeh community and the community in general.

The museum was opened in 1995 by Senator Neville Bonner, Australia's first Aboriginal Federal Parliamentarian, and is one of Australia's leading language and cultural organisations. In addition to promoting language and culture in the regions of Gold Coast, Logan and the Scenic Rim, the Museum also auspices funding and provides services for other Aboriginal communities through southern Queensland, extending to the Northern Territory border.

In 2012 the Museum completed construction of a new exhibition space and training complex. The Museum has offered mentoring and training opportunities for countless Aboriginal people. It continues to offer trainee positions to Aboriginal youth, and engage community members in ongoing language and cultural projects. The Yugambeh Museum offers a number of resources which are available to visitors. These include an extensive library and collection of artifacts, other collections, language resources, computers and photocopying facilities.



## **Museums of writing and written culture**







## **China Book Culture Exhibition Hall (2008), China**

Beijing, China

A new cultural institution showcasing the history of Chinese characters and books has made its debut in Beijing. The China Book Culture Exhibition Hall aims to show how this vital source of human knowledge has evolved.

Historical records show that China's earliest books date back to the Shang Dynasty, in 1700 B.C.

The forerunner to compiling complete books was the emergence of characters. Before characters Chinese ancestors used knots to mark their daily affairs. Eventually, they began to inscribe numbers and characters on slices of bamboo or wood.

China's earliest books were made of thin strips of bamboo linked together with threads. The technique can be traced to the Warring States Period, about 2,400 years ago. The ancient method was used by subsequent dynasties for more than 1,700 years. Some of these ancient books are now housed in the Shanghai Museum.

In today's society, it is important for people to pay attention to copyrights. The world's earliest copyright statement was inscribed on a book titled "Affairs of Eastern Capital" dating back to the southern Song Dynasty, about 900 years ago.

The publication of books relies on typography. Ancient Chinese invented two methods of printing – engraving and typing.

China's earliest engraving book was made during the Tang Dynasty, in the year 868.

Books with colour were first produced in China during the Ming Dynasty, about 600 years ago.

The exhibition puts on display many of these historical documents, as well as the electronic reading material of today.

*"New museum celebrates history of writing", CCTV.com, December 20, 2008*



## Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum (1884), Germany

Leipzig, Germany

[http://www.dnb.de/DE/DBSM/dbsm\\_node.html;jsessionid=87E10CE69FF09045940F70C1EE018689.prod-worker2dbsm@dnb.de](http://www.dnb.de/DE/DBSM/dbsm_node.html;jsessionid=87E10CE69FF09045940F70C1EE018689.prod-worker2dbsm@dnb.de)

Deutscher Platz 1, D-04103 Leipzig

Phone +49 341 2271 324

Das Buch hat wie kein anderes Medium unsere Kultur und Zivilisation geprägt: Seit Jahrhunderten wird unser Wissen über die Welt und über den Menschen in Büchern gespeichert, tradiert und fortgeschrieben. Die Sammlung, Ausstellung und wissenschaftliche Bearbeitung buch- und mediengeschichtlicher Zeugnisse ist die Aufgabe des Deutschen Buch- und Schriftmuseums. 1884 als Deutsches Buchgewerbemuseum in Leipzig gegründet und nach dem kriegsbedingten Verlust von Teilbeständen und Gebäude 1950 in die Deutsche Bücherei integriert, gilt es als das weltweit älteste und nach Umfang und Qualität der Bestände als eines der bedeutendsten Museen auf dem Gebiet der Buchkultur.

Im Fokus der heutigen Arbeit steht das Buch mit seinen zahllosen Gesichtern: als geniale Formfindung und als Produkt wirtschaftlicher und technischer Prozesse, als gesellschaftliche Ikone und wichtigster Kulturträger, ebenso das Buch als Kunstwerk und als zensierter und verbrannter Ideenspeicher. Das Anliegen des Museums ist, das zum einen die Funktion einer wissenschaftlichen Dokumentationsstätte für Buchkultur und Mediengeschichte wahrnimmt und zum anderen mit seinen Ausstellungen und museumspädagogischen Programmen als ein lebendiger Ort kultureller Bildung und Vermittlung einlädt.

Klimatisierte Depots, erweiterte Arbeitsflächen und großzügige öffentliche Bereiche bieten optimale Bedingungen für die Langzeitbewahrung und Nutzung des Bestandes. In einem modernen Lesesaal werden die Fachbibliothek und der museale Fundus von mehr als einer Million Objekte für Forschung, Studium und Praxis bereitgestellt.

Als Schaufenster der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek bietet die Dauerausstellung des Museums Einblick in 5000 Jahre Mediengeschichte der Menschheit. Unter dem Titel „Zeichen – Bücher – Netze: Von der Keilschrift zum Binärkode“ wird der Bogen von der Entstehung der frühen Schriftsysteme über den Buchdruck mit beweglichen Lettern bis zur digitalen Netzwelt gespannt und augenzwinkernd Ausblick in die Zukunft der Informationsgesellschaft gegeben.



## Gutenberg Museum (1901), Germany

Museum für Buch-, Druck und Schriftgeschichte aller Kulturen

Mainz, Germany

[www.gutenberg-museum.de](http://www.gutenberg-museum.de)

[gutenberg-museum@stadt.mainz.de](mailto:gutenberg-museum@stadt.mainz.de)

Gutenberg Museum, Liebfrauenplatz 5, D-55116 Mainz

Phone +49 6131 1226 40/44

The Gutenberg Museum is one of the oldest museums of printing in the world and attracts experts and tourists from all corners of the globe.

In 1900, 500 years after Gutenberg's birth, a group of citizens founded the museum in Mainz. They wanted to honour the inventor, today's "man of the millennium", and present his technical and artistic achievements to the public at large. They also aimed to exhibit the writing and printing of as many different cultures as possible.

To help launch the museum, a number of publishers, manufacturers of printing machines and printing houses donated books, apparatus and machines. These formed the basis of the collection. In its first few years the museum was part of the city library. In time the museum expanded to include sections on printing techniques, book art, job printing and ex-libris, graphics and posters, paper, the history of writing of all cultures of the world and modern artists' books.

The Gutenberg Museum was originally laid out in two rooms at the Kurfürstliches Schloß in Mainz, which also accommodated the city library. 1925 saw the installation of a reconstruction of Gutenberg's workshop which soon became one of the museum's main attractions. Type founding, typesetting and printing could now be demonstrated visually. In 1927 the museum was able to move into the Römischer Kaiser (1664), one of the most beautiful buildings in Mainz. In 1962, the year Mainz celebrated its 2,000<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the restoration of the Römischer Kaiser was complete and the building ready for use again. A new, modern exhibition building was also opened, constructed with money donated by a number of generous sponsors.

A century after its founding, on the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gutenberg's birth the old museum building was restored and extended. The museum exhibits are now in a more up-to-date, lively setting.





## JAARS Museum of the Alphabet (1961), USA

Waxhaw, North Carolina, USA

[www.jaars.org/museum/alphabet](http://www.jaars.org/museum/alphabet)  
[museum\\_of\\_the\\_alphabet@jaars.org](mailto:museum_of_the_alphabet@jaars.org)

JAARS Alphabet Museum, Box 248, Waxhaw, North Carolina 28173  
Phone +1 704 843 6066

The Museum of the Alphabet contains a colorful and impressive array of displays and artifacts depicting the history and development of inscribed languages. Where did writing begin? How did alphabets develop? Are there still languages today without a written form? These questions and many more are graphically answered as the Museum of the Alphabet traces the history of alphabets and other writing-systems from the beginning to the present. The world's writing systems are artistically unfolded, as both ancient and modern alphabet-makers are highlighted in the picturesque settings of the museum displays.

The Museum of the Alphabet was proposed by William Cameron Townsend, founder of SIL International. His purpose in such a museum was to focus on the gift of written language. Richard Pittman came up with two guidelines in developing the museum: "Focus on the alphabet makers, and select the stories first, not the artifacts." With a 4,900 square-foot multimedia exhibition, the museum vibrantly tells the story of alphabet makers from ancient history to modern times.

A web site highlighting some of the points of interest of the Museum of the Alphabet, with excerpts from the book *The Alphabet Makers* has been created independently as a public service. This site presents several tours of the museum from different perspectives: the museum galleries, significant people in the development of writing systems, and samples of a variety of scripts from around the world. The initial goal is to disseminate to a broader audience what the museum has to offer, as depicted in the book.





## Klingspor-Museum Offenbach (1953), Germany

**Internationale Buch- und Schriftkunst**

Offenbach am Main, Germany

[www.klingspor-museum.de](http://www.klingspor-museum.de)

[klingspormuseum@offenbach.de](mailto:klingspormuseum@offenbach.de)

Klingspor-Museum Offenbach, Herrnstraße 80, D-63065 Offenbach am Main

Phone +49 69 8065-3511

Am 7. November 1953 öffnete das Klingspor-Museum zum ersten Mal für seine Besucher die Türen. Die Stadt Offenbach am Main hatte in den armen Nachkriegsjahren ein kleines Museum zur modernen Buch- und Schriftkunst gegründet. Den Grundstock des Museums bildete die kostbare Privatsammlung von Dr. h.c. Karl Klingspor (1868–1950), der in der ersten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts in Offenbach am Main mit seinem Bruder eine Schriftgießerei betrieb.

Hier geht es zu einer mehrseitigen Chronik der Schriftgießerei Klingspor und einer Liste aller bei der Schriftgießerei Gebrüder Klingspor gegossener Schriften

Die Schriftgießerei Gebrüder Klingspor in Offenbach am Main hatte Weltruf. Die private Büchersammlung von Dr. Karl Klingspor wurde im Jahre 1927 bei der internationalen Buchausstellung in Leipzig als „Zimmer eines Bibliophilen“ gezeigt und viel bewundert. Seine hundert Ledereinbände des Buchbinders Ignatz Wiemeler sind bis heute ein unschätzbares Schmuckstück des Klingspor-Museums.

Die Sammelgebiete des Museums umfassen: Illustrierte Bücher, Pressendrucke, Malerbücher, Künstlerbücher, Schriftmusterbücher, Schriftproben, Handschriften und kalligrafische Blätter. Die reichhaltige Fachliteratur zur Buchkunde, Geschichte des Buchdrucks und der Schrift, zur Typographie und Kalligraphie, zu den grafischen Techniken und zur Papierkunde stehen jedermann nach vorheriger Anmeldung in der Bibliothek zur Verfügung. Alle Bestände des Museums sind durch ein Katalogsystem erschlossen.

Ständig wechselnde Ausstellungen mit wertvollen Exponaten aus den eigenen Sammlungen sowie mit Leihgaben von Künstlern und Sammlern zeigen die Vielfalt der Buch- und Schriftkunst des 20. Jahrhunderts auf internationaler Ebene.

Seit 1965 wird jährlich in den Wintermonaten Dezember bis Februar die internationale Bilderbuchausstellung „Bunte Kinderwelt“ gezeigt. Die Eröffnungen jeweils am 1. Adventssonntag sind für Kinder und Erwachsene immer ein Fest für Augen und Gaumen: Die Verlage nehmen unaufgefordert diese Gelegenheit wahr, ihre Publikationen einem interessierten Leserkreis, Kindern wie Erwachsenen, zu präsentieren.



## Musée Champollion – Les Écritures du Monde (2007), France

Champollion museum – writings of the world

Figeac, France

[www.musee-champollion.fr](http://www.musee-champollion.fr)

[musee@ville-figeac.fr](mailto:musee@ville-figeac.fr)

Musée Champollion, place Champollion, 46100 Figeac, France

Phone +33 05 65 50 31 08

Established in the native house of Jean François Champollion, the man who deciphered the Egyptian hieroglyphics, this museum of writing takes the visitors on a journey following Champollion's footsteps and gives them the opportunity to take part in the adventure of the written word and consider its place in a future world. From Champollion's work on ancient writings and languages, the collection tells the story of the invention of writing in various places around the world

The oldest graphic inscriptions go back some 50,000 years, however it was only 5,300 years ago that mankind transposed his thoughts into signs that fixed his words, enabling him to communicate in a permanent fashion with his fellow beings. Champollion's museum tries to give answers to questions such as how were the first signs written? What were the consequences of this fabulous invention? Are there still writing systems waiting to be deciphered?

Documents from around the world, interactive touch pads and the shapes of enigmatic scripts are displayed. Visitors are given the opportunity to take part in the adventure of the written word and to be confronted with the earliest scripts invented by civilisations throughout the world. The visitors discover how the first Mesopotamian's tablets were inscribed in cuneiform script with details of economic exchanges and administration. Travelling along the bank of Nile, they learn how the Egyptians painted, drew and engraved hieroglyphs in order to perpetuate their existence. Observing works of art written in Chinese ideograms, which are still in use today, and Maya Glyphs from Central America, complete the journey.

Archaeological artefacts with alphabets invented around the Mediterranean sea are also displayed to prove how a writing system using a limited number of symbols was a true revolution allowing much more people to learn reading and writing. Finally, many books from medieval parchment to e-book are also displayed to show how we have kept our memory in Europe since the middle ages.



## Museo del Libro y de la Lengua (2011), Argentina

Museum of Book and Language

Buenos Aires, Argentina

[www.bn.gov.ar/museo-del-libro-y-de-la-lengua](http://www.bn.gov.ar/museo-del-libro-y-de-la-lengua)

[museodelibro@bn.gov.ar](mailto:museodelibro@bn.gov.ar)

Av. Gral. Las Heras 2555, Buenos Aires, C1425ASC CABA, Argentina

Phone +54 11 48 080 090

The Museum of Book and Language was initiated by the National Library and opened its doors to the public at 10 October 2011. It is designed as a tour of the national culture and the experience of Argentinian speakers and readers.

The museum occupies two buildings and covers 1,500 square meters on three floors. The construction cost 12.3 million pesos, including the completion of the work of the National Library. There is a permanent exhibition dedicated to the book and the history of publishing in Argentina. The language part mainly deals with the tension between Spanish and indigenous languages, the heterogeneity of the forms of speech in Argentina and the need autonomy of language in the Rio del Plata against the Spanish in Spain.

There will be a strong presence of artists putting the axis of the book and the language in art works. In addition, the museum will have a fun character for adults and kids, so the director Maria Pia Lopez said before the opening. This means that the museum wants to be an artistic space with playful experience and educational commitment. Here, and across different devices (panels, showcases, games and multimedia content), the language spoken by the Argentines in their regional heterogeneity and its transformations language unfolds.

The collections include art, technology, pedagogies and reflections from different disciplines, offering visitors an interactive relationship and inviting them to be the creators and custodians of a common treasury.

The exhibitions may be experienced by the visitors on their own, but guided tours are also offered. Interaction with school institutions is not limited to a visit, because the museum offers a series of educational proposals to be evaluated and carried out by professors and teachers at its homepage.





## Museum für Kommunikation (1898), Germany

Berlin, Germany

[www.mfk-berlin.de/](http://www.mfk-berlin.de/)

[mfk-berlin@mspt.de](mailto:mfk-berlin@mspt.de)

Leipziger Straße 16, D-10117 Berlin-Mitte

Phone +49 030 202 94 0

Das Museum für Kommunikation Berlin bringt Vergangenheit und Zukunft unter ein Dach: Mit der Dauerausstellung macht es die Herkunft, die Entwicklung und die Zukunftsperspektiven der Informationsgesellschaft erleb- und begreifbar. Attraktive Wechselausstellungen richten den Blick auf die unterschiedlichen Aspekte von Kommunikation.

Das Museum für Kommunikation Berlin versteht sich als Ort der Begegnung, des Austauschs, der Unterhaltung, kurz der Kommunikation. Im Vordergrund stehen dabei der veränderte Umgang mit Zeichen, Codes und Medien und die daraus entstehenden Veränderungen im privaten wie im öffentlichen Leben. Dabei bietet das Museum auch eine klassische und umfangreiche Sammlung von historischen Objekten. In seiner Schatzkammer präsentiert das Museum kostbare Exponate, allen voran die Blaue und die Rote Mauritius.

Die Dauerausstellung des Museums veranschaulicht die Vergangenheit, Gegenwart und Zukunftsperspektiven der Informationsgesellschaft. Ausgehend vom Lichthof als architektonischem Schlüsselraum, erschließt sich das gesamte Haus über die Galerien.

Seit seiner Eröffnung im Jahr 1898, in einem Gebäude mit prachtvoller Architektur, durchlief das Museum eine wechselvolle Geschichte. Während der Schließung im Zweiten Weltkrieg wurde der überwiegende Teil der Sammlung ausgelagert und nach Kriegsende nach Hessen gebracht, wo er den Grundstock für das „Bundespostmuseum“ in Frankfurt bildete. Das Gebäude in Ostberlin wurde 1958 behelfsmäßig in stand gesetzt und als Postmuseum eröffnet. Westberlin gründete 1966 das „Berliner Post- und Fernmeldemuseum“ in der Urania. Die Wiedervereinigung im Jahr 1989 brachte auch für die Museen eine Wende: Seit März 2000 sind die beiden Berliner Museen wieder an einem Standort vereint.



## Museum für Kommunikation (1907), Switzerland

Bern, Switzerland

[www.mfk.ch](http://www.mfk.ch)

[communication@mfk.ch](mailto:communication@mfk.ch)

Museum für Kommunikation, Helvetiastrasse 16, CH-3000 Bern 6

Phone +41 031 357 55 55

The Museum of Communication is unique in Switzerland because of its collections and exhibitions. Based on this strong grounding in its thematic material in the future it will be able to operate as a competence centre, addressing questions of the social and cultural effects of communication and its technologies.

The museum does not put technology, but rather people in the centre of its focus. In its position as a transmitter of information its orientation is based on the needs and experiences of its visitors. The museum's interactive exhibitions aim to promote an intensive and eventful analysis of the topics shown.

Transfer (museum education, consulting) and market orientation (marketing / PR) are thus as much integral elements of the museum's policy as the traditional functions of collecting, conservation, exhibiting and research. Within the framework of its cultural mission the museum thus operates with business standards.

The Museum of Communication wants to be a catalyst for the involvement with the history – but also with the present and future – of communication. The main focus of attention lies within the relationship between communication and culture. From this perspective the museum's collections on telecommunication and information science, on radio and television, post, transportation, tourism and philately allow it to serve a broad spectrum of the public.

The museum also particularly focuses on new developments, especially in the areas of information and communication technologies, and on the new media. In this way it contributes to the discussion of current and linked issues.

The invention of script over 5,000 years ago allowed people to record information on appropriate surfaces, transport these "messages" and thus communicate over great distances – from stone tablet to SMS: Several workshops and games serve to heighten visitors' experiences of the permanent exhibition "so near and yet so far: People and their Media".





## Museum of Writing (1999), England

London, England

[www.ies.sas.ac.uk](http://www.ies.sas.ac.uk)

[ies@sas.ac.uk](mailto:ies@sas.ac.uk)

Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, Senate House,  
Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

Phone +44 0207 862 8675

The museum's collections are an acknowledged resource for information through written and electronic articles, consultancy, exhibitions, loans and as an image provider. Negotiations are currently in progress to establish the museum in central London, England, initially as a research and education centre and, in the near future, available for public viewing.

The Museum of Writing is focused on matters central to the historical and theoretical understanding of writing from its invention to the present. The repository showcases materials housed at the Senate House Library at the University of London. The online environment will provide interpretative exhibits and an interface for browsing the museum's collections as digital images and descriptive record while pointing to the existence of the analogue artifacts available for more advanced research.

The notion of writing around which the museum's programmes are built is defined as a set of technologies for the production of written forms through inscription, handwriting, print, or any other means. Thus, the museum's mission extends to the history of books, scripts, notation systems, and materials for their production. But the museum's research and educational mission also includes attention to basic questions of literacy and communication in their many cultural dimensions. The museum's goal is to create a networked environment for information about the history and theory of writing as a material form, by promoting scholarship, pedagogy, and public interest in this important area of cultural activity.

The original collection of artifacts was assembled by Alan Cole over a period of several decades and consists of upwards of 80,000 individual artifacts. The collection also contains reference materials to the history of writing and has special clusters of items around areas of interest to the original collector, such as writings and autographical materials by individual authors. A full index of these materials is not available at this time.



## National Hangeul Museum (2014), Korea

Seoul, Korea

[www.hangeul.go.kr](http://www.hangeul.go.kr)

139, Seobinggo-ro, Yongsan-gu, Seoul 04383

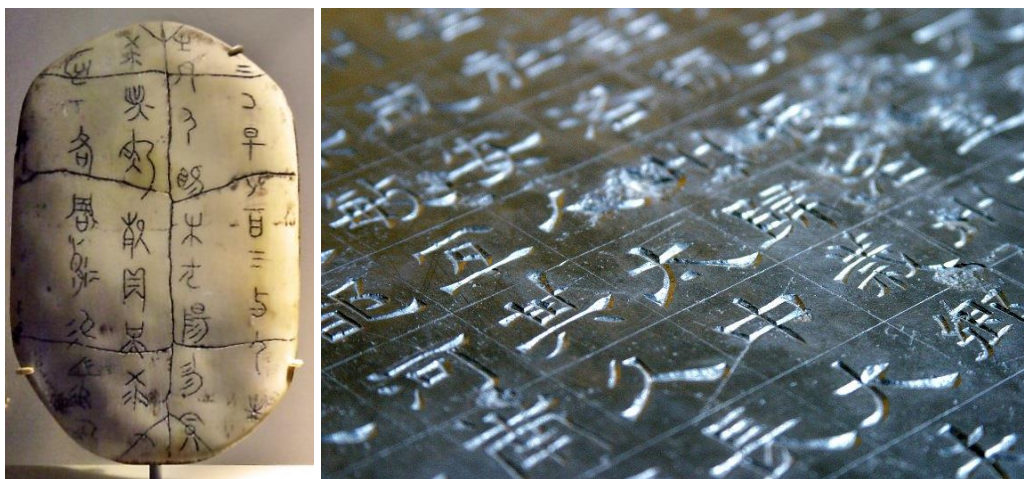
Phone +82 2 2124 6200

In 2009, a report was presented to the President of Korea on “Constructing National Hangeul Museum as a National Symbol”. Five years later, it was opened on the annual Hangeul day with several comprehensive collections. In 2017, the number of visitors reached 600,000.

The National Hangeul Museum showcases the history and value of Korean orthography, Korean’s most-valued cultural asset, through exhibitions, activities, and education. Occupying over 11,322 m<sup>2</sup>, the museum has one basement level and three ground levels, along with an outdoor grass field and resting area perfect for cultural events, exhibits, and education.

The museum is comprised of the Hangeul library on the first floor, a permanent exhibition hall and cafe and cultural product shop on the second floor, and a planned exhibition hall and a Hangeul playground for children and foreigners on the third floor.

The permanent exhibition hall presents “Footprints of Hangeul” – the history and the globalization of Hangeul, a special exhibition hall covers diverse and compelling topics relating to Hangeul and other linguistic characters of the world, a Hangeul activity hall offers an array of fun hands-on activities to help children learn the fundamentals of Hangeul and express themselves through Hangeul. There is also a learning center for people from all countries and different cultures who want to learn Korean.



## National Museum of Chinese Writing (2009), China

Anyang, Henan, China

[www.wzbwg.com/english/](http://www.wzbwg.com/english/)

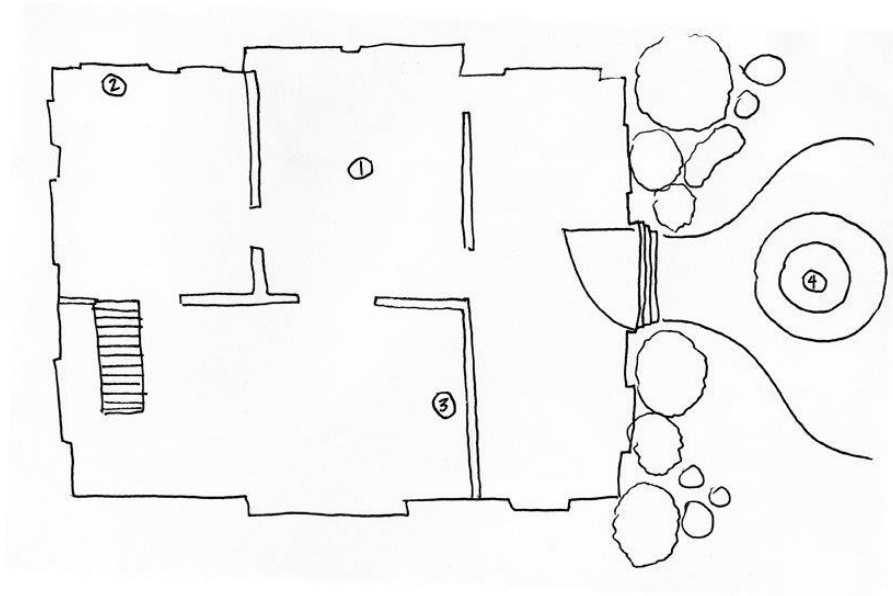
National Museum of Chinese Writing, Mr. Zhang Xuliang, 188# Haiyantang Rd., Jiaxing  
Phone +86 0573 82534309

National Museum of Chinese Writing is a state-level museum constructed upon the approval of the State Council for preserving, showcasing and studying the cultural relics. November 16, 2009 witnessed the grand opening ceremony of the museum.

Phase I, with a building area of 22,700 square meters and gross investment of 398 million yuan, consists of a main hall, a square and a Character Archway, mainly for cultural collection and presentation. Phase II, with a building area of 32,000 square meters and a budgetary investment of 320 million yuan, mainly consists of a Scientific Research Center, a Science Popularization and Exchange Center, the world most authoritative language, information and data center, a Hall for Learning Oracle-Bone Inscriptions, the Character Culture Show and Exhibition Center and culture and art parks including the “Sea of Learning” and the “Mountain of Characters”, focusing on academic exchanges and scientific researches.

Character Archway, an icon building of the museum, will catch your eyes immediately upon access into the museum. This is one of the important building modes in ancient China. As a scenic landmark, it is a typical symbol of Chinese culture. The Character Archway, measuring 18.8m in height and 10m in width, is presented in the shape of “字 (zi, meaning character)” in the style of inscriptions on bones and bronzes and decorated with the Taotie (a mythical ferocious animal in ancient China) pattern, showing a primitive and solemn pose to harmonize itself with the overall architectural style of the museum as an indicative symbol of the museum. On both sides of the archway stands a cooper-made golden phoenix. The sculptures borrow the familiar phoenix patterns in bronze ware of the Shang and Zhou dynasties.

The building both implies the connotation of Chinese character culture and highlights the critical position of character throughout the great civilization history of China. The brilliant appearance of the main hall unites itself with the picturesque surroundings, showcasing a great harmony between culture and nature.



## Sydney Museum of Words (2013), Australia

Sydney, Australia

[www.sydneymuseumofwords.org](http://www.sydneymuseumofwords.org)

[info@sydneymuseumofwords.org](mailto:info@sydneymuseumofwords.org)

29 Challis Ave, Potts Point, Sydney

Curator of the Museum, Charles Firth ("The Chaser"), says the new museum is a "world first", generously supported by the City of Sydney's cultural grants program, in conjunction with the Sydney Writers' Room.

The Museum will feature words mounted and hung around the rooms, in a museum-style format.

Charles Firth said: "The idea is to encourage people to spend time reflecting on words outside of their every day use. We're taking words out of their normal context."

"The exhibition will provide locals and tourists a collection of only the best words that Australia – and Sydney – has to offer,"

"We will be showcasing words on loan from some of the great names of our generation."

The Museum also includes an audio tour, which describes each word's etymology, and tells the story of its significance to Australia. "It's a great for a day out with the kids. Who knows, they might even learn something about the Australian language?"





## The Word (2016), England

South Shields, England

<https://theworduk.org>  
[enquiries@theword.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@theword.org.uk)

The Word, 45 Market Place, South Shields, NE33 1JF, England  
 Phone +44 191 427 1818

The Word is a national centre for the written word on 4115 m<sup>2</sup> downtown South Shields. The building is brimming with experiences, activities and facilities for people of all ages to engage and enjoy, from a digital media wall and FabLab to an immersive storytelling experience and interactive touch-tables. The library offers 70,000 books, and in nits com prehensive programme of events the center offers topics as lost dialects.

The architectural idea for the façade is likened to fanning out the pages in a book with the entrance overlooking the Market Place being book-ended by two vertical spine walls. The entrance to The Word opens up into a triple height atrium. There is a large exhibition space and display pod hosting a rolling programme of exhibitions.

At its core The Word will celebrate the written word in all its forms through a rolling programme of events, exhibitions and workshops. Look out for wooden pages of a book that form a trail around The Word. These are a collection of stories known as Tyne Voyages by Michael Chaplin. StoryWorld is a magical world of fun, fantasy and adventure. Through an immersive storytelling experience incorporating stunning backdrop projections and sound effects, families and children will be able to lose themselves in the depths of a jungle, under the sea or in outer space.





## **Verbum – Casa das Palabras (2003), Spain**

**Verbum – House of Words**

Vigo, Spain

[www.verbum.vigo.org](http://www.verbum.vigo.org)

[verbum@vigo.org](mailto:verbum@vigo.org)

Avenida de Samil, 17, 36212 Vigo

Phone + 33 986 240 130

Verbum – Casa das Palabras (House of Words) was opened in April 2003 and is located on the sea front opposite Samil beach in Vigo, Galicia. The total built area is more than 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> on four levels, structured around a great light box through which the sunlight shines on the different indoor spaces during the day.

Verbum is an interactive museum and cultural space related to all human communication through the different aspects that define it: science, technology, language and communication and literature. The museum is presented in Galician and Spanish.

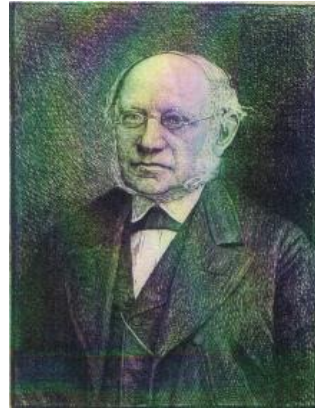
The permanent exhibition is the central component of Verbum. It is based on 29 wooden cubes placed randomly around the room, as if dices had been thrown. Each cube is identified by a letter, and the whole set covers all aspects related to words in the broadest sense: from the physiology of communication (mouth, vocalisation, hearing, how we speak and how we listen) to the media. During the tour, visitors will be able to discover the history and different kinds of communication, the origins and evolution of writing, the world of words and languages, word games (palindromes, tongue twisters), the history of books, etc.



## **Museums in memory of persons**







## Daniel Sanders Haus (2011), Germany

Neustrelitz, Germany

[www lese-ferienwohnung.de/index.html](http://www lese-ferienwohnung.de/index.html)

[danielsandershaus@web.de](mailto:danielsandershaus@web.de)

Müritzer Literatur- & Märchenkreis e. V., Sievertstraße 2, D-17235 Neustrelitz (Strelitz Alt)

Phone +49 3981 200547

Häuser für die deutsche Sprache sollen Anlaufstellen für Sprachpflege bieten. Vor einigen Jahren kam der Wunsch nach einem „Haus der deutschen Sprache“ auf. Verschiedene Sprachverbände haben sich diesen Traum zu eigen gemacht. Gegenwärtig gibt es neben dem Daniel Sanders Haus in Köthen /Anhalt (die Neue Fruchtbringend Gesellschaft) ein solches Haus.

Den inhaltlichen Mittelpunkt unseres Hauses soll die aktuelle Verwendbarkeit Daniel Sanders Werke für den heutigen interessierten Sprachteilhaber bilden. Es geht, als Erben Sanders, um Beiträge zu Problemen der Lexikographie und Sprachpraxis. Im Mittelpunkt steht das Wort als wichtiges Element der Sprache, aber auch der Gedanke, aus einer ehemaligen Sanders Stiftung (1914–1954) Erholungsbedürftigen ein "Hüsung" zu geben (in unserer Lese Ferienwohnung). Das ehemalige Grundstück Sanders (bis 1954 Stiftung) in Alt Strelitz steht dafür nicht mehr zur Verfügung.

Das Projekt ist Name mit Programm. Mit dem museums-pädagogischen Begleitprogramm soll besonders bei der Arbeit mit Schülerinnen und Schülern ein Beitrag zu ihrer historischen und politischen Bildung geleistet werden. Am „außerschulischen Lern Ort“ soll in Zusammenarbeit mit den Schulen und unter Beachtung curricularer Elemente bei den Jugendlichen Interesse für Geschichte, im konkreten Fall für die deutsche Sprache und ihre Entwicklung geweckt werden.

Ziel ist die Entwicklung von Schlüsselqualifikationen und fachbezogenen Kompetenzen, aber auch von Begeisterungsfähigkeit für das Originallexponat und seine Aussagekraft. Als Ort der Begegnung, der Inspiration und des Austausches zwischen Menschen verschiedener Herkunft und Kultur soll das Sanders Haus Symbol werden für Weltoffenheit und kulturelle Vielfalt, für Gestaltungsfreiheit und gesellschaftliche Transparenz.



## Dr. Johnson's House (1911), England

London, England

[www.drjohnsonshouse.org](http://www.drjohnsonshouse.org)

[celine@drjohnsonshouse.org](mailto:celine@drjohnsonshouse.org)

Dr Johnson's House, 17 Gough Square, London, EC4A 3DE

Phone +44 020 7353 3745

Dr Johnson's House is a charming 300-year-old townhouse, nestled amongst a maze of courts and alleys in the historic City of London. Samuel Johnson, the writer and wit, lived and worked here in the middle of the eighteenth century, compiling his great Dictionary of the English Language in the Garret.

Today, the House is open to the public with a collection relating to Johnson, a research library, restored interiors and a wealth of original features. Often described by visitors as a hidden gem, 17 Gough Square is a tranquil spot in the midst of the bustling City.

Dr Johnson's House was built at the end of the seventeenth century by a City wool merchant, Richard Gough. The timber-framed, brick townhouse, was part of a development in Gough Square, of which Dr Johnson's House at number 17 is the only one to survive.

The four-storey building has retained many of its period features, which include historic panelling, a fine open staircase, wooden floorboards, a quirky cellarette cupboard, coal holes and even the original door handles. The eighteenth-century front door still has its historic anti-burglary devices intact, including a heavy chain with corkscrew latch and spiked iron bar over the fanlight. Visitors can enter all the rooms in the House and sit down on the chairs and window seats to soak up the atmosphere.

Dr Johnson was a tenant at 17 Gough Square, and following his departure in 1759, the house went through a variety of different uses. It had other lodgers, was used as a small hotel and bed and breakfast and was even a printers' workshop and studio. By 1911 it had fallen into a sad state of disrepair, with water leaking through the roof. At this point it was saved and restored by Cecil Harmsworth, a Liberal MP.



## House Museum of Neofit Rilski (1981), Bulgaria

Bansko, Bulgaria

[www.bansko.bg](http://www.bansko.bg)

[mk\\_bansko@mail.bg](mailto:mk_bansko@mail.bg)

Neofit Rilski House Museum, 17 Pirin Str., BG-Bansko

Phone +359 749 88272

The House Museum of Neofit Rilski (1793–1881), the founder of secular education in Bulgaria and the first Bulgarian encyclopaedist, is situated next to the Holy Trinity Church in Bansko. The building is also known as Beninata kashta (Benin's House) and was constructed in the 18th century.

Benin's House is located in a large yard surrounded by stone walls and a solid wooden gate. The building is a typical representative of the Bansko fortified houses. It was declared a monument of architecture and construction by virtue of publication in State Gazette, issue No 87 of 1967. The ground floor of the house consists of a hiding place, knead-room and farm premises, while the living-room, the monastery school, and the anteroom are on the second floor. A huge veranda connects the house with the former farm buildings by an outside terrace.

Today an exhibition including chronologically-arranged materials that give account of the life-long work of Neofit Rilski can be seen at the house. A special place among exhibits is given to Bulgarian Grammar compiled in 1835, parts of a Greek-Bulgarian dictionary, and books that belonged to Neofit Rilski.

The Neofit Rilski House Museum was opened in May 1981 at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the death of Neofit Rilski. The house was managed by relatives of Neofit Rilski until its official opening as a permanent museum exhibition.





## Ján Kollár Museum (1983), Slovakia

Mošovce, Slovakia

<http://www.muzeum.sk/?obj=muzeum&ix=mjk>  
[info@muzeum.sk](mailto:info@muzeum.sk)

Municipal Office, SLO-038 21 Mosovce

Phone +421 43 49 44 244 or 43 494 41 00 or 43 494 43 32

John Kollar Museum in Mosovce is the original place where stood the birthplace of Jan Kollar.

When municipal fire, in 1863, residential part of birthplace and the economic part burned. preserved only granary, which since 1983 has served as a memorial room. In 2009, began with the construction completion birth house of Jan Kollar, which would be a replica of the original house.

In August 2010, a new section opened to public exposure. Museum exhibition was created with the help of the Municipal Office in Mosovce and literary Slovak National Museum in Martin. Scriptwriter and curator of the museum exposition is Mgr. Joseph Beňovský.

Entry to the exhibition begins in the original granary, where visitors can see what this space has been used in the past (storage crops - cereals, vegetables and fruits, but also served as a granary storage space for mutelnicu, wooden šechtáre etc.)

This leads to the next section where the right small kitchen installed by contemporary drawings of the native house of John Kollar from John Bibzu st. On the left side there is a panel of life captured John Kollar from birth, studies to priestly work in the German lobed.

Another room depicts the creation of John Kollar from the first edition of poems by John Kollar, daughter of Fame in 1824 and the 1832 edition of National spievaniek, Labour literary reciprocity to kázňovú formation. Panel portion concludes action Kollár in Budapest in the years 1819–1849.

The last room is on the panels reflect the most recent period Jan Kollar life in Vienna, his death, burial and the remains to Prague in 1904. From 1863, here are photos of a visit to the great-granddaughter of John Kollar Mosovce the unveiling of a statue of Jan Kollar by Fran Štefunku the square in Mosovce.





## Konrad-Duden-Museum (1999), Germany

Bad Hersfeld, Germany

[www.nordhessen.de/de/konrad-duden-museum](http://www.nordhessen.de/de/konrad-duden-museum)  
[touristikinfo@bad-hersfeld.de](mailto:touristikinfo@bad-hersfeld.de)

Konrad-Duden-Museum, Neumarkt 39, D-36251 Bad Hersfeld  
 Phone +49 6621759 32

Das Konrad-Duden-Museum informiert über das Leben und Wirken des Erfinders des bekannten Rechtschreibbuches, Dr. Konrad Duden (1829–1911). Von 1876 bis 1905 lebte er als Direktor des königlichen Gymnasiums in Bad Hersfeld, der heutigen Konrad-Duden-Schule. In dieser Zeit erschien erstmals 1888 sein *Vollständiges orthographisches Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache*, ein Vorläufer des heutigen *Duden*.

Sein ehemaliges Wohnhaus steht in Bad Hersfeld und bietet Einblicke in sein Leben.

Er unterrichtete über 30 Jahre und setzte sich sein Leben lang für die Vereinheitlichung der Deutschen Rechtschreibung ein.

Bereits 1872 war sein Buch *Die deutsche Rechtschreibung, Abhandlung, Regeln und Wörterverzeichnis für die oberen Klasse der höheren Lehranstalten und zur Selbstbelehrung für Gebildete* erschienen. Das Orientierungs- und Nachschlagebuch wurde immer wieder überarbeitet und erlebte schon zu Dudens Zeit neun Auflagen.

Konrad Duden starb 1911 in Wiesbaden-Sonnenberg, ist aber auf dem Bad Hersfelder Hauptfriedhof beerdigt.

In seinem ehemaligen Wohnhaus am Neumarkt 31 neben der Alten Klosterschule wurde 1999 ein Konrad-Duden-Museum eröffnet, das an Leben und Werk Dudens erinnert.



## **Ljudevit Gaj Museum (1966), Croatia**

**Muzej Ljudevita Gaja**

Krapina, Croatia

[www.krapina.net/muzej\\_ljudevita\\_gaja.asp](http://www.krapina.net/muzej_ljudevita_gaja.asp)

[galerija@krapina.net](mailto:galerija@krapina.net)

Ljudevita Gaja 14, 49 000 Krapina

Phone +385 49 370 810

Ljudevit Gaj created the grounds for the Croatian language 150 years ago. Up to then, the literary language of the Croatian people had been Latin, German, Hungarian or the dialect spoken in a particular area.

Ljudevit Gaj was born in Krapina, and from a very young age he listened to the language of the people. He was a thinker in the Enlightenment vein in the most literal meaning of the word. In line with his efforts, libraries and reading rooms were opened in many towns, books were printed, and theatre plays performed. He became one of the front figures in the Croatian nationalist movement from the 1830s. With the works of the Serb Vuk Stefanović Karadžić as the basic construction, Gaj wanted to develop a written language unifying the Serbs and the Croats.

Today, the house in which Ljudevit Gaj was born, which still stands in Ljudevit Gaj Street, houses a Memorial Museum. The museum displays paintings, pictures of Gaj and his family, copies of manuscripts and anything that his work was published in. There is a nearby statue dedicated to him.



## Ľudovít Štúr Museum (1965), Slovakia

Múzeum Ľudovíta Štúra Modra

Modra, Slovakia

[www.snm.sk](http://www.snm.sk)

[mls@snm.sk](mailto:mls@snm.sk)

PhDr. Viera Jančovičová, Štúrova 84, 900 01 Modra

Phone +421 033 647 27 65 or 090 571 92 73

Ľudovít Štúr was an exceptional personality in the Slovak national history. He became an initiator and a driving force of the birth of the modern Slovak nation in the mid 19th century. He had chosen the awakening of the national, political and spiritual life of the Slovaks and their step forward towards national independence as his mission. Prior to that, however, there was a need to rescue the nation and achieve its recognition within Hungary and the Habsburg monarchy. The standard language was a strong evidence of the national independence of the Slovaks. In his linguistic works Štúr had justified and elaborated it.

Ľudovít Štúr Museum in Modra is a part of the Slovak National Museum. It is located in the centre of the town of Modra in the house, where Ľudovít Štúr died. This building houses the main exhibition called Ľudovít Štúr and modern Slovakia that gives its visitors an overview of the life and works of Ľudovít Štúr with respect to the historical context. Testimonials from Ľudovít Štúr's contemporaries present him from the personal angle, while the current views of experts are not omitted, either.

Ľudovít Štúr's commemorative room marks the last years of his life in Modra and the circumstances surrounding his tragic death.





## Museum of Vuk and Dositej (1949), Serbia

Belgrade, Serbia

[www.narodnimuzej.rs/](http://www.narodnimuzej.rs/)

[vukidositej@narodnimuzej.rs](mailto:vukidositej@narodnimuzej.rs)

Gospodar Jevremova, 21, RE-Belgrade 11000, Serbia

The Museum of Vuk and Dositej is a memorial museum dedicated to two great personas of Serbian culture: Dositej Obradović, the member of the Enlightenment Movement and first Serbian Minister of Education, and Vuk Stefanović Karadžić, the reformer of Serbian language and creator of Serbian literary language.

The older and richer Vuk's collection was formed at the end of the 19th century when his daughter, Mina Karadžić-Vukomanović donated his legacy to the Kingdom of Serbia. This collection was the first collection of the National Museum to receive a holistic catalogue, Description of objects from Legacy of Vuk Stefanović Karadžić, written by Mihajlo Valtrović in 1900. Vuk's legacy was first exhibited at the National Museum as a part of the Memorial Room of Vuk and later as a part of the Department of History at the museum. A part of Vuk's legacy, especially the furniture, went missing or was destroyed during the Austrian occupation of Belgrade in the World War I. Today the Collection holds personal and family belongings of Vuk Karadžić, portraits and art legacy, first editions of his books and numerous archival documents.

Unlike the legacy of Vuk, the legacy of Dositej Obradović does not include personal belongings since they were destroyed in a fire in 1813. Therefore, the part of the Museum collection that relates to Dositej consists of paintings, archival documents, Dositej's correspondence and books that include first editions of his works.

In 1949 Vuk's collection has been separated from the National Museum collection and joined the small legacy of Dositej Obradović. On February 28, 1949 Museum of Vuk and Dositej was formed and opened. It was given a building that for a while hosted the Higher School where Vuk was one of the first twenty students and Dositej one of its founders. The Museum of Vuk and Dositej became a part of the National Museum in 1979. Along with the rich exhibition activity, the museum hosts scientific and research activities that are in connection to Vuk and Dositej and the period they lived in. Since 1958 the Museum publishes its yearly Little Treasure Chest (Kovčežić) with materials and scientific studies that are the result of the scientific and research work of the museum.





## **Native House of Ľudovít Štúr and Alexander Dubček (1965), Slovakia**

**Rodný dom Ľudovíta Štúra a Alexandra Dubčeka**  
Uhrovec, Slovakia

[www.muzeumtn.sk](http://www.muzeumtn.sk)

[info@muzeumtn.sk](mailto:info@muzeumtn.sk)

Rodný dom Ľudovíta Štúra a Alexandra Dubčeka, 956 41 Uhrovec, Slovakia

Phone +038 769 42 47

Uhrovec is situated among the mountains in the north-east part of "Nitrán Hill-country". In 1295, Uhrovec was a part of the castle estate that consisted of nineteen villages. Uhrovec Castle, whose ruins overtop the village Uhrovske Podhradie, was built in the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The first written reference of the castle comes from 1258.

The birthplace of Ľudovít Štúr and Alexander Dubček was originally a Hungarian school with a teacher's residence and was announced as a national cultural heritage. First exposition was opened here in 1965 on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of the most important figures in the history of the nation Ľudovít Štúr. The exposition captures the real destiny, works and messages of Ľudovít Štúr – thinker politician and cofounder of the official Slovak language. The outstanding European politician Alexander Dubček was born in the same house in 1921. After reconstruction of the house in November of 1995 a larger exhibition was opened to the public - memorial room of Alexander Dubček, capturing important milestones of his life.

The museum is a part of Trenčianske múzeum v Trenčíne, The Museum of Trenčín.



## Noah Webster House (1966), USA

West Hartford, Connecticut, USA

[www.noahwebsterhouse.org](http://www.noahwebsterhouse.org)

[comments@noahwebsterhouse.org](mailto:comments@noahwebsterhouse.org)

Noah Webster House 227 South Main St. West Hartford, CT 06107

Phone +1 860 521 5362

The Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society is located in the restored 18th-century birthplace and childhood home of Noah Webster, the creator of the first American dictionary and "Blue-Backed Speller", a teacher, lawyer and early abolitionist. The home was restored by the Noah Webster Foundation, a private organization, and opened to the public as a museum in the late 1960s.

In 1970, the West Hartford Historical Society merged with the Foundation. Today, the museum building includes the historic house, the Jodik Education Center with a working reproduction open hearth, two exhibition galleries, a newly renovated Visitor Reception Center, and the Hamilton Gallery. The center includes a museum shop, a one-room schoolhouse theater, and a long-term exhibit on Noah Webster. The museum holdings also include a diverse collection of decorative arts, manuscripts, books, and ephemeral artifacts related to Noah Webster as well as to the local community.

Each year the Noah Webster House serves approximately 10,000 school children and thousands of general visitors from around the world. An important part of our school services is the many free-of-charge experiences that we offer to at-risk children. The Noah Webster House also provides numerous workshops, summer camps, and a history club for young people.

The museum also offers a broad range of family and adult programs. These include our Kids' First Saturday program which makes the museum a destination for families on the first Saturday of each month, with topics ranging from New England folklore to historic games and music. For an adult audience we provide lectures, book discussions, popular Tavern Nights (raucous evenings with food, drink, folk music, and colonial games), hearth-cooking classes, and our thrilling Halloween program West Hartford Hauntings.





## Primož Trubar House (1986), Slovenia

Velike Lašče, Slovenia

[www.trubarjevi-kraji.si](http://www.trubarjevi-kraji.si)

[info@trubarjevi-kraji.si](mailto:info@trubarjevi-kraji.si)

Javni zavod Trubarjevi kraji, Rašica 1315 Velike Lašče

Phone +386 1 788 10 06 or 41 905 513

Am Bach unterhalb des Ortes Rašica steht die so genannte Temkov-Mühle (Rašica 31) an einem Ort, wo zuvor das Geburtshaus von Primož Trubar (9.6.1508–28.6.1586) gestanden haben soll. Trubar, protestantischer Reformator und Prediger, hat mit seinen Werken "Abecedarium" und "Katechismus" die Grundsteine für die slowenische Schriftsprache gelegt.

Das Dorf und die alte Mühle sollen 1528 von den Türken niedergebrannt worden sein. Die Temkov-Mühle wurde wiederaufgebaut und erhielt im 19. Jahrhundert ihr heutiges Aussehen. Die Mühlräder drehen sich zwar, der Innenbereich ist jedoch nicht vollständig saniert. An der Mühle stehen ein großes Wirtschaftsgebäude und eine Säge, die bis 1965 in Betrieb war.

Anlässlich des 400. Todestages von Primož Trubar wurde im sanierten Obergeschoss der Temkov-Mühle eine Gedenkausstellung eingerichtet. Gezeigt werden der Lebensweg von Primož Trubar, sein Werk und mehrere Gemälde verschiedener Künstler, die Trubar gemalt haben. Die Wirtschaftsgebäude beherbergt einen kleineren Imbiss und eine lokale Galerie.

Im Dorf, unweit der Mühle, wurde 1952, anlässlich des 400. Jahrestages der ersten slowenischen Druckerei, ein Trubar-Denkmal enthüllt. Das Denkmal besteht aus einem pyramidenförmigen Körper auf einem Sockel und ist mit Reliefs geschmückt (Architekt Vinko Glanz, Bildhauer Vlado Stoviček).





## **Digital museums and information**



# Digital museums

## **Antalya Dil Muzesi**

A language museum in Antalya on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Antalya-Dil-Muzesi-Ingilizce-Ispanyolca-Rusca-Japonca-Arapca-Turkish-192076150873752/>  
[alexantalya@gmail.com](mailto:alexantalya@gmail.com)

Phone: 0537 665 6107

## **Beijing Language and Culture Digital Museum, Beijing, China**

By the end of 2016, Beijing Language and Culture Digital Museum was supposed to open, developed by Beijing Language Network at Beijing Language and Culture University. Updated information of 31 January 2018 confirmed this.

<http://www.138490.xyz/viewnews-1391395.html>

## **Bibliotheek met digital Taalmuseum Tesi Samanunga, Bilzen, Belgium**

<http://bilzen.bibliotheek.be>

[bibliotheek@bilzen.be](mailto:bibliotheek@bilzen.be)

The Dutch language seems to have emerged in Bilzen. The oldest known books in Dutch language, such as *Wachtendonckse Psalmen* (10<sup>th</sup> century) and the poem “Tesi samanunga was edele unde scona” (1130) are associated with places in this region. Taalmuseum «Tesi Samanunga» was opened in the townhall of Bilzen in 2000. It was closed some years ago and turned into adigital museum in the library of Bilzen.

## **Digitale bibliotheek voor de Nederlandse letteren**

<http://www.dbnl.org>

The digital library of the Dutch Language is a website on the Dutch language, literature and cultural history. On this site, one can find literary texts, secondary literature and additional information, like biographies, portraits and hyperlink alongside primary sources on the Dutch cultural history. The Digital Library was established back in 1999.

## **Haus der deutschen Sprache**

[www.hausderdeutschesprache.eu](http://www.hausderdeutschesprache.eu)

Planned as an ambitious language museum in Berlin several years ago, Haus der deutschen Sprache became a virtual museum with information about language and literature in German, and the diversity of languages, also presenting the poem of the month.

## **Language Museum**

[www.languagesmuseum.com](http://www.languagesmuseum.com)

The Language Museum is a linguistic website which offers the samples of 2000 languages in the world. It gives insight into the relationships between different languages and shows that it is not hard to learn another language if you already know a related one. The website was inspired by the book *The Loom of Language*, which was written by the linguist Frederick Bodmer in 1944. The museum is constructed and maintained by Zhang Hong, now in Bellevue, Western Austria.

## **Lingo**

[www.languagewriter.com](http://www.languagewriter.com)

The Dutch language writer Gaston Dorren has produced the app *Language Lover's Guide to Europe* and published several books on language, such as *Taaltoerisme. Feiten en verhalen over 53 Europese talen* (2012), with the revised English edition *Lingo. A language spotter's guide to Europe* (2014). His web site includes vivid and well-informed blogs in English and Dutch on language.

## **LingvoInfo**

<http://lingvo.info>

This multilingual website about the languages of Europe consists of the parts: Lingvopedia (the languages in short), Babylon (general information about linguistics), Lingvopolis (links) and GeoLingvom (game). 28 of the European languages are presented in many ways in 19 different languages. The project is based on "Lingva prismo" which was launched in 2003, and the old website may be reached at <http://old.lingvo.info>.

## **Musée de Parole la en Ardenne**

[www.museedelap parole.be/fr/accueil.html](http://www.museedelap parole.be/fr/accueil.html)

The museum was founded in Bastogne in 1982 and is for years a virtual museum. It aims to collect linguistic data of spoken Walloon in Ardennes, also covering Luxembourg. It is available on Internet, and a multimedia document collection is presented at Michel Francard Museum and the Word in the Ardennes at the Library of Bastogne.

## **Museo Virtual de la Lengua Zapoteca**

<http://museo-zapoteco.orgfree.com>

A virtual museum of the zapotec language, not updated since 2014.

## **SprachRaum virtuell**

<http://www.sprachraum.de> / [info@sprachraum.de](mailto:info@sprachraum.de)

A virtual language museum of the southwest German dialects, especially of the Baden-Frankonian language.

## **Sprog museet / The Language Museum**

<http://sprog museet.dk/>

A blog on language, written and edited by Ole Stig Andersen in Danish since 2009. The blog was a part of the preparing work for a planned language museum in Denmark. From 2015 it has been limited to a news feed about language.

## **Turkish Language Foundation / Türk Dil Kurumu**

<http://yazmalar.tdk.org.tr/>

Digital collection of handwritten documents going back very far in history and in many languages. Visitors may click on the tab "Katalog Tarama" (Catalogue Search), click on the language they wish to see and then on catalogue entries for handwritten documents in that language, and then download and view high-quality digital images of the documents. In 2011, plans for a language museum were announced, which has not been established

## **Virtual museum of the indigenous languages of Mexico**

<http://www-01.sil.org/MEXICO/museo/0i-Index.htm>



There are over 150 important variants of the indigenous languages spoken in Mexico today. This virtual museum introduces these languages and the people who speak them.

**Wortmuseum (2004), Germany**

[www.wortmuseum.de](http://www.wortmuseum.de)

Das Wort und die Sprache sind prägend für Kultur, für Identität. Im Wortmuseum wird jede Woche ein Wort in der „Ausstellung“ zu sehen sein. Die Bedeutung wird jeweils dazugestellt. Nach Ablauf einer Woche kommt es in die „Sammlung“ und kann dort weiterhin eingesehen werden.

# Websites

## A world of languages

[www.scmp.com/infographics/article/1810040/infographic-world-languages](http://www.scmp.com/infographics/article/1810040/infographic-world-languages)

[www.lucasinfografia.com/Mother-tongues](http://www.lucasinfografia.com/Mother-tongues)

For the newspaper South China Morning Post, Alberto Lucas López made an infographic that compares the number of people (all together 4.1 billion) that speak the top 23 languages in the world as their primary language, based on information from Ethnologue 2015: “We represent each language within black borders and then provide the numbers of native speakers (in millions) by country. The colour of these countries shows how languages have taken root in many different regions.”

## Ethnologue

[www.ethnologue.com](http://www.ethnologue.com)

An encyclopaedic reference work cataloguing all of the world’s 7,097 known living languages (updated 2018). This is a main source for most of the websites about languages in the world. Since 1951, Summer Institute of Linguistics in Dallas, Texas, USA has published language documentation connected with Bible translations. No other research institute disposes more knowledge about the language situation in the world.

The 17<sup>th</sup> edition, the last one in print, was presented in four volumes 1 November 2014. The 21<sup>th</sup> edition on-line was published in February 2018.

## About World Languages

<http://aboutworldlanguages.com/>

The site provides a wide variety of information about world languages. To get started, select from the drop-down menu to the right or simply explore the website. It is well edited and updated, with an interesting feature “Did you know?” which gives the readers some surprises.

In 2005 as part of America’s celebration of the Year of Languages, The Technology Development Group initiated the development of a comprehensive website dedicated to the description of the world’s most populous and important languages as well as other relevant information about world languages and language study. The project was intended to be part of an effort to educate the American public about the variety of the world’s languages, to get them excited about studying foreign languages, and to ultimately help create a more language-capable America ready to meet its pressing foreign language needs. Since then, the Technology Development Group team has continued to work diligently on the development of the website.

## Langscape

<http://langscape.umd.edu>

Langscape is a gateway to language diversity. It is a resource that allow users with a wide array of interests, from recreational to academic, to discover the world’s languages via interactive tools and access to established research. The centerpiece of Langscape is an interactive map that lets users click on any geographic location to see the languages spoken there. Selecting a language allows users to access a growing variety of resources for that language, thanks to the efforts of our partners and others in a range of fields and specialties. Langscape has been a project of the Maryland Language Science Center since January 2014.

### **Language Facts / Språkfakta 2015**

[http://www.aasentunet.no/iaa/no/sprakfakta\\_2015/](http://www.aasentunet.no/iaa/no/sprakfakta_2015/)

The 4<sup>th</sup> and most comprehensive edition of language data from Norway was published in September 2015 as a story about language in Norway and the world by 867 tables. Written in Norwegian, it is only published online. The former editions from 1998, 2005 and 2010 contain 652 tables and charts, which probably makes Norwegian Bokmål and Nynorsk the best statistically documented languages in the world. An updated English summary was planned for 2018 and the 5<sup>th</sup> edition for 2020.

### **CIA World Handbook: Languages**

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2098.html>

This entry provides a rank for each country ordering of languages starting with the largest and sometimes includes the percent of total population speaking that language, partly up-to-date.

### **Endangered Languages**

[www.yourdictionary.com/elr/index.html](http://www.yourdictionary.com/elr/index.html)

This section of YourDictionary.com highlights world-wide efforts to slow the loss of endangered languages, e.g. the world's living languages by country. UNESCO Red Book of Endangered Languages is a main source.

### **Forvo**

<http://www.forvo.com/>

This is the largest pronunciation guide in the world. Ever wondered how a word is pronounced? Ask for that word or name, and another user will pronounce it for you. You can also help others by recording your pronunciations in your own language. This service is available in many languages.

### **Freelang – Language families**

[www.freelang.net/families](http://www.freelang.net/families)

A nice and well edited selection of tables and maps, mostly updated, developed since 1997. Information about sources is scarce.

### **Geographic language museum**

<http://www.foreignlanguageexpertise.com/museum2.html>

On this page you can listen to 20-25 hours of clear textual recordings in 528 languages organized geographically so that you can compare the sounds of the languages spoken in a particular region of the world. Many if not most of the languages presented here are endangered and have little or no other documentation. Thus, these recordings of a comprehensible text can serve as a resource to study them as well as to document their existence in the event of their extinction. Last updated 2011.

### **Internet World Stats: Usage and Population Statistics**

[www.internetworldstats.com/stats7.htm](http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats7.htm)

Statistics updated systematically for years.

### **L'aménagement linguistique dans le monde**

[www.tlfq.ulaval.ca/axl](http://www.tlfq.ulaval.ca/axl)

These pages written by Jacques Leclerc present the specific language situations and policies in 355 states or autonomous territories in the 194 (recognized) countries of the world. It is a comprehensive website with presentation of many languages, developed at Université Laval Québec since 2007.

#### **Language Statistics by country**

[www.nationmaster.com/cat/lan-language](http://www.nationmaster.com/cat/lan-language)

Nation Master presents statistics in tables, charts and maps for choes languages. There is no information of sources or of year of information.

#### **Languages of the World**

<http://languagesoftheworld.info/>

Exploring the diversity of human languages, this site is a discussion forum dedicated to exploring the rich diversity of human languages and the peoples who speak them. Comments and criticism from informed readers are always welcome, but this is not a forum for venting political or ideological frustrations. The website is written and edited by Asya Pereltsvaig, who has published *Languages Of The World: An Introduction* (2012).

#### **Linguist List**

<http://linguistlist.org/>

The LINGUIST List is a large collection of information about language and linguistics. It is dedicated to providing information on language and language analysis, and to providing the discipline of linguistics with the infrastructure necessary to function in the digital world. The LINGUIST List is operated by the Institute for Language Information and Technology (ILIT) at Eastern Michigan University.

#### **LL-MAP: Language and Location**

<http://llmap.org/>

LL-MAP is a digital mapping project that integrates language data and information from the physical and social sciences. Users can browse over 700 maps or create and share their own. LL-MAP is a project designed to integrate language information with data from the physical and social sciences by means of a Geographical Information System (GIS). The most important part of the project is a language subsystem, which relates geographical information on the area in which a language is or has been spoken to data on resources relevant to the language. LL-MAP is a joint project of Eastern Michigan University and Stockholm University. It is based on World Language Mapping System, see below.

#### **Omniglot: writing systems & languages of the world**

[www.omniglot.com](http://www.omniglot.com)

Omniglot is an encyclopaedia of more than 180 writing systems and 840 languages. It also contains tips on learning languages, language-related articles, quite a large collection of useful phrases in many languages, multilingual texts, a multilingual book store and an ever-growing collection of links to language-related resources. Omniglot was set up in 1998 by Simon Ager, and he has been maintaining and developing the site since then.

#### **Sprachkulturen in Osteuropa**

[www.forost.lmu.de/forosthope/fo\\_db\\_sprachen\\_box.htm](http://www.forost.lmu.de/forosthope/fo_db_sprachen_box.htm)



This database on the languages of Eastern Europe is a project supported by the Forschungsverbund Ost- und Südosteuropa (Research Network Eastern and Southeastern Europe) based in Munich. The online database is in German and is based on the relevant articles from the international handbook *Sprachkulturen in Europa*, published by Nina Janich and Albrecht Greule in 2002. There are 52 languages and dialects comprised in the database.

### **Språkförsvaret / Th Language Armed Forces**

[www.språkförsvaret.se](http://www.språkförsvaret.se)

A web site in Swedish from 2002, building a network to defend and strengthen the Swedish language.

### **The archives of the world languages**

<http://www.chikyukotobamura.org>

Website in Japanese.

### **The Linguistics Research Center**

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/lrc/>

The Linguistics Research Center (LRC), founded in 1961 at the University of Texas, is an organized research unit in the College of Liberal Arts. For more information about the LRC, including staff and associates, publications, current projects, a brief history mentioning past projects, and contact information including our office address and phone number, see: About the LRC. This site contains thousands of web pages, most of them devoted to ancient Indo-European languages and cultures, and the history of these languages.

### **The Rosetta Project**

[www.rosettaproject.org](http://www.rosettaproject.org)

The Rosetta Project is a global collaboration of language specialists and native speakers working to build a publicly accessible digital library of human languages.

The Rosetta Disk fits contains over 13,000 pages of information on over 1,500 human languages. The pages are microscopically etched and then electroformed in solid nickel, a process that raises the text very slightly – about 100 nanometers – off of the surface of the disk. Each page is only 400 microns across, about the width of 5 human hairs, and can be read through a microscope at 650X as clearly as you would from print in a book. Individual pages are visible at a much lower magnification of 100X. The outer ring of text reads “Languages of the World” in eight major world languages.

### **The World Atlas of Language Structures**

<http://wals.info/>

The World Atlas of Language Structures (WALS) is a large database of structural (phonological, grammatical, lexical) properties of languages gathered from descriptive materials (such as reference grammars) by a team of 55 authors.

The first version of WALS was published as a book with CD-ROM in 2005 by Oxford University Press. The first online version was published in April 2008. The second online version was published in April 2011. The 2013 edition of WALS corrects a number of coding errors especially in Chapters 1 and 3.

### **UCLA Center for World Languages**

<http://www.international.ucla.edu/cwl>

The UCLA Center for World Languages coordinates language research, teaching and evaluation programs. We develop innovative methods of second language education, advocate for their implementation and facilitate their transfer into formal classrooms and informal settings. *The UCLA Language Materials Project* is an online bibliographic database of teaching and learning materials for over 100 Less Commonly Taught Languages.

### **UNESCO Data Centre**

[www.uis.unesco.org/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.uis.unesco.org/Pages/default.aspx)

Access data and build your own statistical tables related to UNESCO's fields of action. The Data Centre contains over 1,000 types of indicators and raw data on education, literacy, science and technology, culture and communication. The UIS collects the data for more than 200 countries from member states and international organizations.

### **Wikipedia: List of languages by number of native speakers**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_languages\\_by\\_number\\_of\\_native\\_speakers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_languages_by_number_of_native_speakers)

The tables list languages of the world with the largest number of native speakers, as estimated in various ways at different times by various sources. Since the definition of a single language is to some extent arbitrary, some mutually intelligible idioms with separate national standards or self-identification have been listed together, including Indonesian and Malay; Croatian, Bosnian, and Serbian; etc. *Ethnologue*, 19<sup>th</sup> edition 2016, is the main source.

### **World Language Mapping System**

<https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/collections/geospatial-data/world-language-mapping-system>

The World Language Mapping System (WLMS) is the most comprehensive, up-to-date, and trusted geographic dataset of the point and area (polygon) locations of the world's 6,900 languages (in 2016). The WLMS is the result of over 20 years of collaborative work between GMI and SIL International (SIL), to map the languages described in SIL's 16th edition *Ethnologue*. The data is provided in ESRI shapefile (.shp) format for GIS systems with substantially all the data from the 16th edition *Ethnologue* in a .DBF data table for use in further analysis.

# International institutions and networks

## **Council of Europe: Language policy division**

[www.coe.int/T/DG4/Linguistic/Default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/T/DG4/Linguistic/Default_en.asp)

The Council of Europe's activities to promote linguistic diversity and language learning in the field of education are carried out within the framework of the European Cultural Convention, (1954) ratified by 49 states.

The Language Policy Unit (Strasbourg) implements intergovernmental medium-term programmes with a strong emphasis on activities and tools to support policy development. The Unit's programmes are complemented by those of the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML - Graz, Austria) with a particular focus on implementation of policy.

## **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**

[www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/minlang/textcharter/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/minlang/textcharter/default_en.asp)

Among the fundamental aims of the Council of Europe today are the protection and promotion of the wealth and diversity of Europe's cultural heritage. Regional or minority languages are very much part of this heritage.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, drawn up on the basis of a text put forward by the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, was adopted as a convention on 25 June 1992 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and entered into force on 1 March 1998.

## **Foundation for Endangered Languages**

[www.ogmios.org](http://www.ogmios.org)

The Foundation for Endangered Languages supports, enables and assists the documentation, protection and promotion of endangered languages. The foundation holds an annual conference, in different locations around the world and with up-to-date themes reflecting the latest issues affecting the world's endangered languages.

## **Gesellschaft für bedrohte Sprachen**

[www.uni-koeln.de/gbs](http://www.uni-koeln.de/gbs)

The Society for Endangered Languages (Gesellschaft für bedrohte Sprachen) was founded in November 1997 by a group of German linguists together with the members of the "Endangered Languages" work group of the German Society for Linguistics in Cologne. The goal of this non-profit organization is to further the use, preservation, and documentation of endangered languages and dialects.

## **Girona Manifesto on Linguistic Rights**

<http://www.pen-international.org/who-we-are/translation-linguistic-rights/girona-manifesto/>

Developed by the translation and Linguistic Rights Committee, the Girona Manifesto is a ten point document designed to be translated and disseminated widely as a tool to defend linguistic diversity around the world. At PEN International's 77<sup>th</sup> annual Congress in Girona 15 September 2011 the PEN General Assembly approved the Manifesto. By 2016, it was translated into 72 languages.

### **International network of language museums**

[admin@aaasentunet.no](mailto:admin@aaasentunet.no)

By an initiative from Centre for Norwegian Language and Literature in October 2015, 11 museums agreed to establish International network of language museums. The inaugural meeting was held in Milan, Italy, 3 July 2016, where the museums also approved the platform for the network (see below).

### **Linguapax**

<http://www.linguapax.org/english>

Linguapax International is a non-governmental organization dedicated to the appreciation and protection of linguistic diversity worldwide. Linguapax, created by UNESCO in 1987, is headquartered in Barcelona since 2001. It has the support of public and private institutions of Catalonia and operates as an international network. The Linguapax International Network was officially set up on 21 February 2006 in Barcelona.

### **Linguasphere Observatory / Observatoire linguistique**

<http://www.linguasphere.info/lcontao/bienvenue-welcome.html>

The Linguasphere Register of the world's languages and speech communities belongs to the Observatoire linguistique. This is a largely voluntary transnational research organisation, created in Quebec in 1983 and subsequently based in Normandy and Wales. The Observatory completed and published the first fascicules in French in 1993, and its entire Linguasphere Register in English in December 1999/January 2000. From November 2012, the Observatoire linguistique launched the first systematic online publication of the entire text of its 1999/2000 Register of the World's Languages and Speech Communities, including geolinguistic classification, coding and alphabetic indexing of the world's languages.

### **Living tongues**

[www.livingtongues.org/hotspots.html](http://www.livingtongues.org/hotspots.html)

The Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages is a non-profit organization dedicated solely to the documentation, maintenance, and revitalization of endangered languages globally. It develops and manages linguist-aided, community-led projects that promote the use of digital video, computers, and other modern information technology.

### **The Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project**

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/linguistics/research/research-clusters/documentation-and-description-of-endangered-languages.html>

Endangered Languages Project aims to document endangered languages, train language documenters, preserve and disseminate documentation materials, and support endangered languages. It operates from a donation of £20 million from Arcadia and based at SOAS, University of London.

### **UNESCO Atlas on endangered languages**

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/languages-atlas/>

UNESCO's Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger has been published in three editions in 1996, 2001 and 2010. The online edition of the Atlas is complementary to the print edition. It does not reproduce the regional and thematic chapters of the print version, but it offers additional information on the listed endangered languages.



## **Universal Declaration of Linguistic**

[www.linguistic-declaration.org](http://www.linguistic-declaration.org)

Official web site for the declaration of 1996. June 6–8 1996, the World Conference of Linguistic Rights was held in Barcelona with the assistance of 66 NGO's, 41 PEN Centres and 41 experts in linguistic legislations from all over the world. The Assembly of Participants approved the Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights by acclamation in the ceremony held the 6 June at the Paranimph of the University of Barcelona.



## **Plans and projects for new museums**





## English Language Museum, England

Winchester, England

[www.englishproject.org](http://www.englishproject.org)

[info@englishproject.org](mailto:info@englishproject.org)

The English Project, University of Winchester, Sparkford Road, Winchester, SO22 4NR

The English Project was launched in 2005. The aim is to promote awareness and understanding of the unfolding global story of the English language in all its varieties past, present and future. By 2016, it is a vivid web site with much information, and several books have been published.

The English Project plans to open the world's first English language museum. We will do that in Winchester, Hampshire, England, and our aim is to provide a showcase of the language.

The mission of such a place should be to explore and explain the English language in order to educate and entertain the English speaker. That sets some clear parameters. The museum must be international; it must cover the globe; it must reach into the future; it must reach back to the past; it must focus on speakers; it must work with sounds; it must be intellectually first-class; it must amuse people; it must be accessible to all.

At the moment this place does not exist, but when it does exist, it will be a space where people can engage with the infinite possibilities of English, gaining a better understanding of its development and the way it serves its users – whatever their class or ethnic background and wherever in the world they live. Above all such a place should enable English speakers to gain a better understanding of their own personal version of English.

They have the basis of a business plan, a management team, and a growing number of volunteer supporters.

## Eurotales, Italy

Rome, Italy

<http://digilab2.let.uniroma1.it/eurotales/?lang=en>

[eurotales2020@uniroma1.it](mailto:eurotales2020@uniroma1.it)

Eurotales, Facoltà di Lettere, Piazzale Aldo Moro, 5, I-00185 Roma

Phone +39 06 491919, 06 49913417

Monuments and cities are set confidently in a given space, and they carry a date usually established with certainty. There are however other, no less fundamental components of our cultural heritage, such as language and narratives which are harder to pin down. They often function as justification of a community's existence or claim to independence, and they may be used to state exclusive rights over a territory at the expenses of others.

However immaterial cultural heritage happens in a continuum, stretching across time and space. Its most fundamental component, shared by everyone without exception, with no discrimination of gender, class, origin or status are languages.

Europe is made up by this chorus of voices which define identity and are yet the result of complex processes and identity negotiations which are in constant flux. Common knowledge goes that each nation has its own language. However, it is not possible to define exclusive

boundaries where a language happens. The languages of Europe are dynamically displaced across the continent. We figure rather easily their position across space. Less easily figured is, however, their making across time and the overlap between them across both time and space.

The project, which seeks to reconnect the intangible heritage of language with tangible objects, consists in 1) an interactive map-based digital platform that will store and sort relevant data relating to the languages of Europe in time and space 2) themes extracted from these maps that serve as objects of stable installation in appropriate exhibiting spaces (e.g. Museums, academies, and cultural heritage sites across Europe) and 3) digital apps guiding potential visitors along linguistic itineraries connected to specific sites.

Eventually they expect to interconnect these three 'tools' with a single itinerant exhibiting space that possesses the flexibility to change its content based on geographical location, a Museum of the Voices of Europe.

Eurotales also publish *Voices in transit: The Eurotales Journal*.

## **Lingnan Language Museum, China**

Guangdong, China

The Guangdong authorities announced in September 2017 a plan to build a language museum People's Daily Online reported. The museum will collect linguistic materials of several dialects spoken in China's southeastern provinces, in an effort to tackle the country's rapidly shrinking linguistic diversity. The museum is jointly established by Guangdong authorities and a local language protection center.

It will feature dialects spoken in China's Lingnan Area, which covers Guangdong, Guangxi, and Hainan provinces. Known for its linguistic diversity, the region is famous for several dialects that maintain some phonetic and phonological characteristics of ancient classic Chinese, and it has been hailed by linguists as a treasure chest of linguistic history.

"Though China has already done a lot in protecting dialects, minority language or dialect planning remains faintly visible. Most people have given up their non-mandarin indigenous dialects for social or economic benefits, losing their cultural identity. The museum has offered the public a linguistic alternative, allowing them to remember their local dialects while using mandarin as a lingua franca," said Emily Sun, a linguistic PhD candidate from Beijing Foreign Studies University.

"We want to provide a home for the region's colorful dialects. By promoting the linguistic value of the languages, we hope to raise awareness of protecting and inheriting dialects," added Chen to the newspaper.

## **National Museum of the Hebrew Language, Israel**

Jerusalem, Israel

<http://hebrew-academy.huji.ac.il>  
[ivrit@hebrew-academy.org.il](mailto:ivrit@hebrew-academy.org.il)

A National Museum of Hebrew will be founded in the new campus of the Academy of the Hebrew Language. In its new seat the Academy will increase and intensify its research activity in the Historical Dictionary Project and in new research institutes that will be established.

The Museum will tell the story of the Hebrew language – its history over more than three thousand years and its amazing revival as a vibrant spoken language today. It will contain a permanent exhibition as well as temporary exhibits. It will offer innovative design and will make use of the most advanced technologies. Alongside the museum a Learning and Cultural Center will offer an array of learning opportunities including a continuing education program, conferences and seminars. The center will enable the general public to establish a deeper connection with its language and its culture. It will be possible to combine participation in the center's activities with a museum visit.

The Academy of the Hebrew Language's internet site contains a wealth of information concerning questions of language. This site, together with the internet site of the Historical Dictionary Project (which presents Hebrew literature throughout the ages), as well as new sites currently under development, will serve as the largest and most authoritative information center for Hebrew.

Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, often called the Father of Modern Hebrew, and other grammarians, scholars and teachers established in 1889 the Language Committee, which turned into the Academy of the Hebrew Language soon after the establishment of the State of Israel.

The furniture and library of Eliezer Ben Yehuda are shown in the Academy of the Hebrew Language and will be transferred to the museum.

The Government of Israel's decision of 2012 to promote the status of the Hebrew Language in Israel and throughout the world and to establish a national center for the Hebrew language in Jerusalem helps the Academy to strengthen the ties with the lovers of Hebrew.

## **National Museum of World Writing, Korea**

Incheon, Korea

The National Museum of World Writing will exhibit and study data and information on the characters of the world, meant to become an international hub for writing research and policy exchange. It will strive to understand the fundamentals of humanity's culture with writings related artifacts and various production media. It seeks to become an avenue of rich cultural activity for understanding and respective cultural diversity.

The building area counts 15,650 m<sup>2</sup>, located within Central Park of Songdo International City, a city built on reclaimed land. Central Park is a park with a vast artificial lake where citizens frequently visit for relaxation. The museum will not only be a space for professional exhibition and research, but also a cultural space for the people. Aiming to become a landmark, the new museum plans on realizing diverse social, cultural, and educational values by developing and supplying creative cultural contents.

An international design competition was announced in 2017.

## **Planet Word, USA**

Washington D.C., USA

<https://www.planetwordmuseum.org>

[connect@planetwordmuseum.org](mailto:connect@planetwordmuseum.org)

The philanthropist Ann B. Friedman will develop Planet Word as a linguistics museum in the historic Franklin School building in Washington D.C., “dedicated to all things linguistics”, City Lab reported in January 2017. The museum plans to open by winter 2019.

The museum will take the visitors on an immersive journey that will awaken a love of language that will last a lifetime. It will show every visitor the fun of words and language everywhere they look – from the menu in the café to the walls in the bathrooms to the floors and the stairwells. And by welcoming readers of all ages and at all language levels, including non-English speakers, Planet Word is meant for everyone.

Visitors will engage in activities that make words and language exciting with delightful programming and playful, interactive exhibits. Opportunities for self-expression and intense listening ensure that no one will leave Planet Word without finding the fun in how we joke, sing, speak, read, and write every day. Visitors to Planet Word will realize that words really do matter, and that they can be humankind’s most powerful tools.

## **Sprach Lust, Austria**

Seekirchen, Austria

[www.sprachlust.at](http://www.sprachlust.at)

[info@kunstbox.at](mailto:info@kunstbox.at)

Kulturverein KunstBox, Anton-Windhager-Strasse 7, A-5201 Seekirchen

Phone +43 664 2302196

SprachLust ist das Konzept zur Errichtung eines Erlebnismuseums für Sprache und Dialekt. Im Fokus dieses Ansinnens steht das zielorientierte Vermitteln von sprachwissenschaftlichen Themen sowie die Bewusstseinsbildung für regionale Sprache und Dialekte für eine breite Öffentlichkeit.

Während es Museen für nahezu alle Themen gibt (naturwissenschaftliche, völkerkundliche, technische, kunst- und kulturgeschichtliche, historische usw.), ist ein solcher Ort der Vermittlung für das breite Feld der Sprache noch überfällig. Vielleicht ist eine solche Idee früher angesichts der Abstraktheit des Mediums Sprache nicht realisiert worden. Heute aber ist vieles durch aktuelle digitale Techniken sehr gut darstell- und vermittelbar. Das führt zu einer neuen Ausgangssituation und neuen Chancen.

Im Februar 2013 wurde dem Kulturverein Kunstbox der Große Preis der Landesausschreibung „Wahre Landschaft“ für das Konzept einer Vision verliehen.

Wir benötigen mindestens eine Netto-Nutzfläche von 3500 qm. Die dafür veranschlagte Investitionssumme beläuft sich auf 26 Mio. Euro, da ist alles inkludiert. Der jährliche Aufwand wird mit 3,4 Mio. Euro veranschlagt, wobei hier die größte Position die Personalkosten sind - bei einem errechneten Personalstand von 34 Mitarbeitern.

Seit Mai 2014 gibt es mehrere Veranstaltungen und Ausstellungen über das Projekt, u.a. in der Stadtbibliothek Salzburg. Im 2018 gab es doch keine neue Information.

# **Vigdís International Centre of Multilingualism and Intercultural Understanding, Iceland**

**Vigdísarstofun – alþjóðleg miðstöð tungumála og menningar**

Reykjavík, Iceland

[http://vigdis.hi.is/vigdis\\_international\\_centre\\_for\\_multilingualism\\_and\\_intercultural\\_understanding](http://vigdis.hi.is/vigdis_international_centre_for_multilingualism_and_intercultural_understanding)

[infovigdis@hi.is](mailto:infovigdis@hi.is)

Stofnun Vigdísar Finnbogadóttur, Háskóla Íslands, Nýja Garði, IS-101 Reykjavík

Phone +354 525 4191

The Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages at the University of Iceland aims to contribute to intercultural understanding between individuals and nations with regards to language competences, knowledge about other cultures, and translations.

The Vigdís International Centre of Multilingualism and Intercultural Understanding will be a research and knowledge centre about language and culture. An agreement between UNESCO and the Icelandic government was signed in 2013, establishing that the Centre will work under the auspices of UNESCO. The main objectives of the Centre will be to:

- promote multilingualism in order to further understanding, communication and respect between nations and cultures;
- raise awareness of the key role of languages as a basic aspect of the human cultural heritage and contribute to the preservation of languages;
- promote translations and translation studies in order to enhance the respect for and enjoyment of cultural diversity and intercultural understanding;
- contribute to worldwide monitoring of the implementation of language policies and language planning in the field of mother-tongue-based multilingualism;
- promote research and education in foreign language and culture studies;
- support and promote research into the role of the mother tongue as a human right.

The cornerstone for new building of some 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> housing the activities of the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute and the Vigdís International Centre was laid 19 June 2016, and the construction was finished in 2017.





## **Beginnings and endings**



# Initiatives for new museums

## **Hezhou University Language Museum, Hezhou, Hunan, China**

There have been a lot of theories about construction of a language museum, but practices mainly go on in other developed countries and regions such as Europe and the United States. Domestic language museums are mainly based on websites or network digital forms. Hezhou University has started the construction of a language museum which preserves and exhibits the living languages, urgently needs an organization to implement.

## **Museo della lingua italiana, Lecco, Italy**

At a meeting in April 2016, Councillor Simona Square in Lecco presented the idea of a museum for the Italian language at Villa Manzoni in Lecco, 60 km north of Milan. Former Minister of Culture, Massimo Bray, supported the idea: "Manzoni is part of your history, why not build a museum here in Lecco of the Italian language?"

## **Museum der deutschen Sprache, Mannheim, Germany**

The Institute of German language in Mannheim employs a staff of about 230. In 2014, President of the institute, Ludwig Eichinger, proposed to develop a museum for the German language in connection to the institute. Students of architecture in Mannheim were invited to participate in a competition for the design of such a museum, and the winners were presented in February 2015. The further development is not known.

## **Museum for African Languages (Chama Lugha), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

A student of architecture, Stacey Leader, presented in 2010 a very ambitious and detailed plan for a language museum. It should be located in the Mnasi Mmoja Park in Dar es Salaam, near by the Freedom Monument. The museums would cover the languages of Africa. If built, it would become the largest language museum in the world, 9,300 m<sup>2</sup>, but the idea is still just an idea.

## **Museum for the Portuguese language, Bragança, Portugal**

In May 2009, the Portuguese government decided to build a museum for the Portuguese language in Belém, Lisboa. The plan was to open the museum in October 2010, at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Portuguese republic, but it failed. At a visit to Bragança, the Portuguese president Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, announced on 5 July 2016 that he supported the idea of a museum for the Portuguese language and culture in Bragança. There are already statutes for the museum, a board of trustees and an executive committee, and a funding of 3.5 million euros.

## **Pop-up museum of languages, Cambridge, England**

The University of Cambridge has been given a large grant from the government to do an interdisciplinary research project to promote modern languages in the United Kingdom and reach the general public and demonstrate the value of languages across a range of fields. In Cambridge there has been a very successful museum for science which is underpinned by Cambridge research but with lots of fun activities for children and families. A first step will be to do something similar for languages, renting some shop space on high streets around the

United Kingdom and having a 'pop-up' museum. If this is successful, then the pop-up museum could become the basis of a permanent collection.

#### **Shanghai Language Museum, Shanghai, China**

Linguistics at Shanghai International Studies University work on a plan for a language museum.

#### **Virtual Museum of Language, Oxford, England**

In November 2015, Martin Wynne, a digital research specialist at the University of Oxford wrote about a pilot project for a new virtual museum "The collections of the virtual museum would start by creating exhibits which draw together existing materials, and then be built up over time with a series of new online exhibits created by guest curators. Exhibits could feature digital images of artefacts in museums, opportunities for exploring language resources online, interactive language games, podcasts and blogs about research in the University."

#### **World Center for Hebrew, Rishon LeZion, Israel**

In the news in 2013: Near Tel Aviv, The World Center for Hebrew will be built at the city of Rishon LeZion, thought to be the first where the entire curriculum was taught in Hebrew. The museum intends to tell the history of the language and to make it accessible to the wider public, including linking with universities around the world where Hebrew is taught.



# Museums closed

## **Brüder Grimm-Museum, Kassel, Germany (1959–2014)**

The museum opened in 1959 in a house that the Grimm brothers visited on several occasions. It was closed in 2014, leaving the arena for the new museum Grimmwelt (2015).

## **Schriftmuseum J.A. Dortmond, Anmsterdam, Netherlands (1976–2008)**

This script and writing museum was opened in 1976 and closed and dismantled in 2008. The collection is maintained at the Special Collections department of the University of Amsterdam.

## **Museum Scryption, Tilburg, Netherlands (1988–2011)**

Museum Scryption for written communication was opened in 1988. After 22 years, the museum was closed in 2011 because the municipality of Tilburg cut its subsidy.

## **Musée des Lettres et Manuscrits, Paris, France (2004–2014)**

## **Musée des lettres et manuscrits de Bruxelles, Belgium (2011–2015)**

Buth museums were owned by Gérard Lhéritier. The museum in Paris was opened in 2004. It contained nearly 136,000 original manuscripts and letters, including the cease-fire order signed by Dwight D. Eisenhower on May 7, 1945, letters from Napoleon and poems of Paul Éluard. Nearly 250 documents were exhibited. It was closed in November 2014 and its contents impounded after its owner and his company Aristophil came under formal investigation allegedly running the museum as a pyramid scheme fraud. Foir the same reason, the museum in Brussels was closed in January 2015.

# Projects halted

## **Città della Parola, several sites, Italy**

Vittorio Bo presented the idea of *City of the word* in 2003, but it still seems to be a mere idea. Several sites were mentioned – Venaria Reale (near Turin), Genoa or Milan. The range of activities included Italy, extending then to Europe and other continents.

## **Danmarks Sprogmuseum, Århus, Denmark**

In August 2006 the initiative was taken to build a language museum, a modern interactive language exploration activity center, in Aarhus. The plan was to open the new museum when Aarhus is Cultural capital of Europe in 2017. In lack of money, it stopped in February 2013.

## **Línguamon / Casa de les Liengües, Barcelona, Spain**

This was meant to promote the world's languages as a vehicle for communication, civilisation and dialogue, and the rights of individuals and of linguistic communities. Due to financial and administrative problems, the project was closed in May 2012.

## **Museum der deutschen Sprache, München, Germany**

Die damalige Präsidentin des Goethe-Instituts, Jutta Limbach, plädierte in 2006 für die Gründung eines Hauses der deutschen Sprache. Geschehen ist jedoch seither nichts.

## **Museum of maltese language, Vittoriosa, Malta**

The government of Malta announced in April 2004 that a *Musew Nazzjonali ta' Istorija Sociali ta' l-Ilsi* was to be opened in Vittoriosa. No updated information has been available.

## **Museum of the Turkish Language in Karaman, Turkey**

In 2009, reports of a projected museum in Karaman, Anatolia in Turkey were lodged with the Anatolian News Agency and published in various online outlets. The project was supported by the Municipality of Karaman and would be sited in the Piri Reis Culture Centre, and comprise both a museum and a library. Already in 2010, the national newspaper Cumhuriyet announced that the museum would soon open. No further information can be found and today; it seems that this ambitious project never came to fruition.

## **Museum of the Written Word, USA**

It was the long-term goal of Cardome Academy Association to create a Center for the Written Word at Cardome in Georgetown, Kentucky. It was meant to be an extensive literary community devoted to the exploration and comprehension of language and text. By 2017, the it was put away.

## **Orthografikum, Schleiz, Germany**

Anfang 2009 versuchte der Geschichts- und Heimatverein in Schleiz ein „Haus zur Pflege der deutschen Sprache“ aufzubauen, mit einer Ausstellung „Die Sprache Deutsch“. Diese Ausstellung war 2009 im Deutschen Historischen Museum in Berlin zu sehen. Es hat gescheitert.

## **International network of language museums**



# Platform

Established in Milan, 3 July 2016

## § 1 Background

As an initiative from The Centre for Norwegian Language and Literature in October 2015, this network was established in Milan July 3 2016, approved by the institutions signed below.

## § 2 Aims

The International network of language museums will promote the understanding of the role of language in society, the values of multilingual societies and the importance of language museums.

The network will concentrate its work on these matters:

- A. Exchange of experiences, information, newsletters, etc.
- B. Help each other with questions about exhibitions, web sites, language issues etc.
- C. Discuss issues connected to our work with intangible cultural heritage
- D. Exchange of publications dealing with global language matters or issues in specific countries
- E. Develop possible international projects over some time

## § 3 Membership

Every museum is free to join the International network of language museums. By joining the network, the institution agrees to this platform.

Each member institution decides how many persons from the board and/or the staff that will represent the institution in the network.

## § 4 Connection to ICOM

The network will cooperate with International Council of Museums (ICOM), International Committee of Literary Museums (ICLM), and the national committees of ICOM in the respective countries.

## § 5 Organization

The network will mainly work by e-mail and social media.

All information is sent to the institutional e-mail address and to the persons participating in the network on behalf of the institution.

Every second year the network meets at one of the member institutions. All papers for these meetings are sent to the members at least eight weeks in advance.

By all decisions in meetings or otherwise, each member institution has one vote.

## § 6 Leadership

The biannual meeting elects a leader of the network and two other members of the network board for two years.

No institution or person may have such positions for more than eight years.



### **§ 7 Transparency**

All papers for the biannual meetings are public.

### **§ 8 Working language**

English is the working language of the network.

### **§ 9 Logo**

Each member institution indicates the membership in the network at its own website(s).

### **§ 10 Finances**

Each member institution covers all its expenses by participating in this network.

An annual fee paid to the institution in charge of the network is to be decided at the 2018 meeting. For the years 2016 and 2017 no annual fee is paid.

### **§ 11 Changes**

This platform may be changed by two third majority at the biannual meetings in the network.

## **Members 1 January 2018**

Academy of the Hebrew Language, Jerusalem, Israel  
Canadian Language Museum, Toronto, Canada  
Centre for Norwegian Language and Literature, Ørsta, Norway  
Dr Johnson's House, London, England  
Esperanto Museum of the Austrian National Library, Vienna, Austria  
Eurotales, Rome, Italy  
Initiative für ein Museum der Sprachen der Welt, Berlin, Tyskland  
Institute of the Lithuanian Language, Vilnius, Lithuania  
Language museum, Cambridge, England  
Mundolingua, Paris, France  
Museu da Língua Portuguesa, Sao Paolo, Brazil  
Museum of Vuk and Dositej, Belgrade, Serbia  
National Museum of Language, Greenbelt, USA  
The English Project, Winchester, England

## **Board 2016–2018**

Ottar Grepstad, Centre for Norwegian language and literature (chairman)  
Mark Oremland, Mundolingua  
Elaine Gold, Canadian Language Museum

## **Events and places of memory and celebration**



# Years, days and weeks

1960	Year of Language, Italy
1975	Afrikaans Language Year, South Africa
1990	Year of the Hebrew Language, Israel
2001	European Year of Language, Europe
2005	The Year of Languages, USA
2007	National year of the Russian language, Russia
2008	UN International Year of Languages
2013	The Year of Language / Språkåret 2013, Norway
2013–2014	Chinese-German Year of Language, Germany and China
2015	The year of Lithuania's regional dialects and ethnography, Lithuania
2016	The United Kingdom–Russia Year of Language and Literature
2019	UN International Year of Indigenous Languages
Jan 15	Chosŏn'gŭl Day, North Korea
Jan 25	Robert Burns Night, Scotland and Northern Ireland, 1802–
Feb 6	Day of the Sami people, Norway and Sweden, 1993–
Feb 13	World Radio Day, 2011–
Feb 21	Language Movement Day, Bangladesh, 1963– International Mother Language Day, 2000–
Feb 24	Day of the Sweden Fins
Mar 1–17	Irish Gaelic Language Week, to weeks celebration before St. Patrick's Day on March 17, 1903–
Mar 11–17	Croatian Language Week, 1991–
Mar 12	Republic of Jamtland Day, Sweden, with Jamska Language, 1963–
Mar 13	Native Language Day, Estonia National Language Day, Latvia
Mar 16	Kven Peoples' Day, Norway and Sweden, 2014–
Mar 20	UN French Language Day, 1998– International French Language Day, 2010–
Mar 21	World Poetry Day, 2000–
Mar 25	Tolkien Reading day, 2003–
Mar 31	Indigenous Day, Canada, 1989–
Apr 8	International Romani Day, 1972–
Apr 9	Day of the Finnish Language
Apr 14	Georgian Language Day, 1990–
Apr 15	National American Sign Language Day, 2014–
Apr 16	Erzya Language Day, 1993–
Apr 20	UN Chinese Language Day, 2010–
Apr 23	World Book and Copyright Day, 1996– UN English Language Day, 2010–
May 3	World Press Freedom Day, 1993–
May 5	Lusophone Culture Day, 2005–

May 17	Galician Literature Day, 1963–
May 24	Slavonic Literature Day, Bulgaria, 1863–
Jun 6	UN Russian Language Day, 2010–
Jun 16	Bloomsday in Dublin, 1954–
Jun 21	National Aboriginal Day, Canada, 1996–
	International Pashto Day, 2012–
Jul 29	National Thai Language Day, Thailand, 1999–
Aug	National Eisteddfod of Wales, the first week of August, 1861–
Aug	Linggo ng Wika, national language week, Philippines, first week in August, 1954–
Aug 9	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, 1994–
Aug 25	Guaraní Language Day, Paraguay, 1967–
Aug 20	Manipuri Language Day, 1992–
Aug 31	National Language Day, Moldova, 1989–
Sep	Belarusian Written Language Day, first Sunday in September, 1994–
Sep 8	International Literacy Day, 1966–
Sep 14	Maori Language Day, 1972–
	Maori Language Week, New Zealand, 1975–
Sep 23	Kyrgyz Language Day, 1989–
Sep 26	European Day of Languages, 2002–
	German Language Day, 2001–
Sep 30	International Translation Day, 1953–
Sep	International Day of Sign Languages, last Sunday in September, 1958–
Oct 5	Tajik Language Day, Tajikistan, 2009–
Oct 9	Ukrainian Language and Literature Day, 1997–
	Hangeul Day, South Korea, 1926–
Oct	Indigenous Peoples' Day in USA, second Monday in October, 1992–
Oct 12	UN Spanish Language Day, 2010–
Oct 13	International Plain Language Day, 2012–
	English Language Day, 2009–
Oct 14–20	World week of Italian Language, 2001–
Oct 21	Uzbek Language Day, 1989–
Oct 28	National Language Day, Indonesia, 1987–
Oct	International Creole Day, Last Sunday, 1984–
Nov 1	National Author's Day, USA, 1949–
Nov 6	Finnish Swedish Heritage Day, 1908–
Nov 16	Icelandic Language Day, 1995–
Nov 21	World Television Day, 1997
Nov	Gaelic Language Day, Scotland, 2012–
Dec 3	International Day of the Basque Language, 1947–
Dec 7	Language Politics Day, Sweden, 2007–
Dec 18	UN Arabic Language Day, 2012–



# A selection of language festivals

March	<b>International Languages Festival, England (2010)</b> University of Sheffield
Mar / Apr	<b>Tamil Language Festival, Indonesia (2000)</b> Singapore, Indonesia Annually, promoting the Tamil language amongst Singapore Indians. <a href="http://tamil.org.sg">http://tamil.org.sg</a> <a href="mailto:tamilanguagecouncil@moe.gov.sg">tamilanguagecouncil@moe.gov.sg</a>
Mar/Apr	<b>Little Karoo National Arts Festival, South Africa (1994)</b> Karoo, Oudtshoorn Annual Afrikaans language arts festival, the largest arts festival in South Africa. <a href="http://kknk.co.za/">http://kknk.co.za/</a> <a href="mailto:info@kknk.co.za">info@kknk.co.za</a>
April	<b>Native American Language and Culture Festival, USA</b> Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA Annual, to foster, encourage, and promote bilingualism. <a href="http://nmabe.net/about/">http://nmabe.net/about/</a> <a href="mailto:nmabe@suddenlink.net">nmabe@suddenlink.net</a>
May	<b>Japanese Language Festival, Malaysia (2007)</b> Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Annually, for Japanese language learners on Japanese culture and language <a href="http://jlfest.weebly.com/">http://jlfest.weebly.com/</a> <a href="mailto:jlsn.enquiries@gmail.com">jlsn.enquiries@gmail.com</a>
May/June	<b>Beijing Foreign Language Festival, China (2002)</b> Beijing, China Annually, uniting the multilingual citizens of Beijing <a href="http://www.bjenglish.com.cn">www.bjenglish.com.cn</a> (Chinese)
May/June	<b>Sydney Language Festival, Australia (2012)</b> Sydney, Australia The purpose is to show the great linguistic diversity of languages in existence. <a href="http://sydneylanguagefestival.org.au/">http://sydneylanguagefestival.org.au/</a>
June	<b>The Arabic Language Festival, Lebanon</b> Beirut, Lebanon Celebrating the Arabic language, culture and history. <a href="http://arabiclanguagefestival.com/">arabiclanguagefestival.com/</a> (Arabic) <a href="mailto:contact@vazola.com">contact@vazola.com</a>
June	<b>Norwegian Festival of Language and Arts, Norway (1992)</b> Ørsta and Volda, Norway Annual celebration of Norwegian Nynorsk and dialects <a href="http://www.festspela.no">www.festspela.no</a> <a href="mailto:admin@aasentunet.no">admin@aasentunet.no</a>

June	<b>Tafwyl Festival, Wales (2006)</b> Cardiff, Wales Annual, weeklong celebration of the use of the Welsh language. <a href="http://www.tafwyl.org/en">http://www.tafwyl.org/en</a> <a href="mailto:llinoswilliams@mentercaerdydd.org">llinoswilliams@mentercaerdydd.org</a>
July	<b>Riddu Riddu, Norway (1991)</b> Kåfjord, Norway The major festival for Sami cultural tradition and language in Norway. <a href="http://riddu.no/en">http://riddu.no/en</a> <a href="mailto:riddu@riddu.no">riddu@riddu.no</a>
August	<b>Waanyi Language Festival, Australia</b> Old Doomadgee, Queensland Get together and celebrate your knowledge of the Waanyi Language. <a href="mailto:community@waanyi.org.au">community@waanyi.org.au</a>
August	<b>Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival, Australia</b> Old Toowoomba, Queensland Annual celebration of the diversity and languages and cultures. <a href="http://www.tims.org.au/TLC-Festival">www.tims.org.au/TLC-Festival</a> <a href="mailto:info@tims.org.au">info@tims.org.au</a>
August	<b>Turkish Language Festival (2015)</b> Istanbul, Turkey Organized by Yunus Emre Institute in connection with Turkish Summer School
September	<b>CHS Language Festival, South Africa (2003)</b> College of Human Sciences (CHS), Mbombela, South Africa Celebrating the linguistic and cultural diversity and heritage of South Africa. <a href="http://www.unisa.ac.za/chs/news/index.php/2012/11/chs-annual-language-festival-celebrating-diversity-through-language-and-culture/">www.unisa.ac.za/chs/news/index.php/2012/11/chs-annual-language-festival-celebrating-diversity-through-language-and-culture/</a>
Sep	<b>Waverley Language Festival, Australia (2016)</b> Waverley, Australia Celebrates language diversity and raise awareness about endangered languages. <a href="http://www.languagefestival.org/waverley/">www.languagefestival.org/waverley/</a>
Sep/Oct	<b>IMRAM – Irish Language Literature Festival, Ireland (2004)</b> Dublin, Ireland Annually, within a modern, energetic and multicultural framework. <a href="http://imram.ie/">http://imram.ie/</a> <a href="mailto:liamog62@mac.com">liamog62@mac.com</a>
October	<b>Festspiel der Deutschen Sprache, Germany (2006)</b> Bad Lauchstädt, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany Kontemplativ über die deutsche Sprache als schützenswerte Kulturleistung. <a href="http://www.goethe-theater.com/festspiel/">www.goethe-theater.com/festspiel/</a> <a href="mailto:info@goethe-theater.com">info@goethe-theater.com</a>
Oct/Nov	<b>Cooish festival, England (early 1990's)</b> Isle of Man, England

Annual celebration of Manx language, culture and heritage.  
[www.learnmanx.com](http://www.learnmanx.com) [cooish@manx.net](mailto:cooish@manx.net)

- Oct/Nov      **National Language Festival, United Kingdom (2013)**  
London and several places  
Celebrating the diverse cultural variety in UK and benefits of language learning.  
[www.theguardian.com/language-festival](http://www.theguardian.com/language-festival)
- November    **Indian Languages Festival (2011)**  
New Delhi, India  
Annual promotion of collaboration within and among Indian languages and cultures, with exhibitions  
<http://ilfsamanvay.org/>
- Various      **Lingvo Festivalo / Festival of language, several countries (1995)**  
<http://lingvafestivalo.org/node/1>  
Festivals for mutual understanding, held by Esperanto organizations
- Various      **International festival of language and culture (2003)**  
Annual showcase for the diversity of linguistic talents, in different cities.  
<http://www.intflc.org/>

# Language monuments by country

In general, statues of persons are not included.

## **Australia**

Ashfield Park, Sydney: Mother Language Monument, in honour of the Shaheed Minar (2006)

## **Bangladesh**

Dhaka: Shaheed Minar / Language Martyrs (1963, rebuilt 1972)

## **Belarus**

Polatsk: Monument for the Belarusian Letter ⟨ў⟩ (2003)

## **Canada**

Scarborough, Ontario: Language Monument (2013)

Surrey, British Columbia: Lingua Aqua Mother Language Monument

Toronto, Ontario: International Mother Language Day Monument

Winnipeg, Manitoba: Shaheed Minar / Language Martyrs (replica)

## **England**

Birmingham: International Mother Language Monument

Tower Hamlets, London: Shaheed Minar / Language Martyrs (replica)

Westwood, Oldham, Manchester: Shaheed Minar / Language Martyrs (replica)

## **Estonia**

Kadrina: Emakeel Monument / Monument for the Estonian language (1994)

## **Mali**

Bamako: Obélisque des idéogrammes (2000)

## **Norway**

Ørsta: Obelisk in honour of Ivar Aasen (1898)

## **Romania**

Chisinau: Romanian language monument (2014)

## **Russia**

Belgorod: Monument of the Russian Language (2007)

Kitai Gorod, Moscow: Statue of Sts Cyril and Methodius Klykov (1992)

## **South Africa**

Burgersdorp, Eastern Cape: Dutch Language Monument (1893)

East London, Eastern Cape: Afrikaans Language Monument (1975)

Kroonstad, Free State: Afrikaans Language Monument (1960)

Petrus Steyn, Free State: Afrikaans Language Monument (1975)

Reddersburg, Free State: Afrikaans Language Monument (1975)  
Reitz, Free State: Afrikaans Language and History Monument (1975)  
Ventersburg, Free State: Afrikaans Language Monument (1975)  
Welkom, Free State: Afrikaans Language Monument (1960)  
Johannesburg, Gauteng: Afrikaans Language Monument (1975)  
Louis Trichardt, Limpopo: Afrikaans Language Monument (1975)  
Belfast, Mpumalanga: Afrikaans Language Monument (1975)  
Ermelo, Mpumalanga: Afrikaans Language Monument (1975)  
Ohrigstad, Mpumalanga: Afrikaans Language Monument (1975)  
Delareyville, Noordwes: Afrikaans language and history monument (1975)  
Lichtenburg, Noordwes: Afrikaans Language Monument (1975)  
Paarl, Western Cape: Afrikaans Language Monument (1975)  
Touws River, Western Cape: Afrikaans Language Monument (1976)  
Worcester, Western Cape: Afrikaans Language Monument (1975)

### **Ukraine**

Odessa: Ludvic Zamenhof





## Indexes



# Museums by country

## **Argentina**

Museo de la Lengua (2012), Los Polvorines

Museo del Libro y de la Lengua (2011), Buenos Aires

## **Australia**

Sydney Museum of Words (2013), Sydney

Yugambah Museum (1995), Beenleigh

## **Austria**

Esperanto Museum of the Austrian National Library (1927), Vienna

## **Bangladesh**

Language Movement Museum (2010), Dhaka

## **Brazil**

Museu da Língua Portuguesa (2006), Sao Paolo

## **Bulgaria**

House Museum of Neofit Rilski (1981), Bansko

## **Canada**

Canadian Language Museum (2011), Toronto

Baile nan Gàidheal / Highland Village (1962), Iona

## **China**

China Book Culture Exhibition Hall (2008), Beijing

National Museum of Chinese Writing (2009), Anyang

Esperanto Museum (2013), Zaochuang

Nüshu Museum (2004), Jiangyong

## **Croatia**

Ljudevit Gaj Museum (1966), Krapina

## **Czech Republic**

Esperanto Museum (2008), Svitavy

## **England**

Dr. Johnson's House (1911), London

Museum of Writing (1999), London

The Word (2016), South Shields

## **France**

Mundolingua (2013), Paris

Musée Champollion (2007), Figeac

Musée national de l'espéranto de Gray (1977), Gray

**Germany**

Daniel Sanders Haus (2011), Neustrelitz  
Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum (1884), Leipzig  
Erlebniswelt Deutsche Sprache (2013), Köthen  
Grimmwelt (2015), Kassel  
Gutenberg Museum (1901), Mainz  
Klingspor-Museum Offenbach (1953), Offenbach am Main  
Konrad-Duden-Museum (1999), Bad Hersfeld  
Museum der Sprachen der Welt (2013), Berlin  
Museum für Kommunikation (1898), Berlin  
SprachRaum (2010), Buchen  
wortreich (2011), Bad Hersfeld

**Hungary**

Hungarian Language Museum (2008), Szephalom

**Ireland**

Great Blasket Centre (1993), Blasket Island

**Italy**

Dante Alighieri Society (2011), Rome  
Museo del Dialetto dell'Alto Lario Occidentale (2007), Dosso del Liro  
Museo della Lingua Greco-Calabra “Gerhard Rohlfs” (2016), Bova  
Sòn de Lengua Museum (1999), Dronero  
Museum Ladin Cíastel de Tor (2001), St. Martin in Thurn

**Kazakhstan**

Yazi Tarihi Müzesi (2003), Astana

**Korea**

National Hangeul Museum (2014), Seoul

**Lithuania**

Museum of the Lithuanian language (2006), Vilnius

**Netherlands**

Taalmuseum (2016), Leiden

**Northern Ireland**

Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich (1991), Belfast

**Norway**

Ivar Aasen Centre (1898), Ørsta

**Paraguay**

Ateneo de Lengua y Cultura Guaraní (1985), Fernando de la Mora  
Museo de la Tierra Guaraní (1978), Hernandarias

**Serbia**

Museum of Vuk and Dositej (1949), Belgrade



**Slovakia**

Ján Kollár Museum (1983), Mošovce

Ludovít Štúr Museum (1965), Modra

Native House of Ludovít Štúr and Alexander Dubček (1965), Uhrovec

**Slovenia**

Primož Trubar House (1986), Velike Lašče

**South Africa**

Afrikaans Language Museum and Monument (1975), Paarl

**Spain**

Museo de Esperanto de Subirats (1968), Subirats

Museum of the Basque language (2004), Bilbao

Verbum – Casa das Palabras (2003), Vigo

**Switzerland**

Museum für Kommunikation (1907), Bern

Sprachpanorama (2017), Laufenberg

**Ukraine**

Linguistic Educational Museum (1992), Kyiv

**USA**

Alutiiq Museum (1995), Kodiak

Basque Museum and Cultural Center (1985), Boise

JAARS Museum of the Alphabet (1961), Waxhaw

National Museum of Language (2008), Greenbelt

Noah Webster House (1966), West Hartford

# Museums by year

Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum	1884	Leipzig	Germany
Museum für Kommunikation	1898	Berlin	Germany
Ivar Aasen Centre	1898	Ørsta	Norway
Gutenberg Museum	1901	Mainz	Germany
Museum für Kommunikation	1907	Bern	Switzerland
Dr. Johnson's House	1911	London	England
Esperanto Museum of the Austrian National Library	1927	Vienna	Austria
Museum of Vuk and Dositej	1949	Belgrade	Serbia
Klingspor-Museum Offenbach	1953	Offenbach am Main	Germany
JAARS Museum of the Alphabet	1961	Waxhaw	USA
Baile nan Gàidheal / Highland Village	1962	Iona	Canada
Ľudovít Štúr Museum	1965	Modra	Slovakia
Native House of L. Štúr and A. Dubček	1965	Uhrovec	Slovakia
Ljudevit Gaj Museum	1966	Krapina	Croatia
Noah Webster House	1966	West Hartford	USA
Museo de Esperanto de Subirats	1968	Subirats	Spain
Afrikaans Language Museum and Monument	1975	Paarl	South Africa
Musée national de l'espéranto de Gray	1977	Gray	France
Museo de la Tierra Guaraní	1978	Hernandarias	Paraguay
House Museum of Neofit Rilski	1981	Bansko	Bulgaria
Ján Kollár Museum	1983	Mošovce	Slovakia
Ateneo de Lengua y Cultura Guaraní	1985	Fernando de la Mora	Paraguay
Basque Museum and Cultural Center	1985	Boise	USA
Primož Trubar House	1986	Velike Lašče	Slovenia
Language Movement Museum	1989	Dhaka	Bangladesh
Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich	1991	Belfast	Northern Ireland
Linguistic Educational Museum	1992	Kyiv	Ukraine
Great Blasket Centre	1993	Blasket Island	Ireland
Alutiiq Museum	1995	Kodiak	USA
Yugambeh Museum	1995	Beenleigh	Australia
Konrad-Duden-Museum	1999	Bad Hersfeld	Germany
Sòn de Lenga Museum	1999	Dronero	Italy
Museum of Writing	1999	London	England
Museum Ladin Ćiastel de Tor	2001	St. Martin in Thurn	Italy
Verbum – Casa das Palabras	2003	Vigo	Spain
Yazi Tarihi Müzesi	2003	Astana	Kazakhstan
Museum of the Basque language	2004	Bilbao	Spain
Nüshu Museum	2004	Jiangyong	China
Museu da Língua Portuguesa	2006	Sao Paolo	Brazil
Museum of the Lithuanian language	2006	Vilnius	Lithuania
Musée Champollion	2007	Figeac	France
Museo del Dialetto dell'Alto Lario Occidentale	2007	Dosso del Liro	Italy
China Book Culture Exhibition Hall	2008	Beijing	China
Esperanto Museum	2008	Svitavy	Czech Republic
Hungarian Language Museum	2008	Szephalom	Hungary
National Museum of Language	2008	Greenbelt	USA
National Museum of Chinese Writing	2009	Anyang	China

SprachRaum	2010	Buchen	Germany
Daniel Sanders Haus	2011	Neustrelitz	Germany
Dante Alighieri Society	2011	Florence	Italy
Museo del Libro y de la Lengua	2011	Buenos Aires	Argentina
wortreich	2011	Bad Hersfeld	Germany
Canadian Language Museum	2011	Toronto	Canada
Museo de la Lengua	2012	Los Polvorines	Argentina
Erlebniswelt Deutsche Sprache	2013	Köthen	Germany
Esperanto Museum	2013	Zaozhuang	China
Mundolingua	2013	Paris	France
Museum der Sprachen der Welt	2013	Berlin	Germany
Sydney Museum of Words	2013	Sydney	Australia
National Hangeul Museum	2014	Seoul	Korea
Grimmwelt	2015	Kassel	Germany
Museo della Lingua Greco-Calabra	2016	Bova	Italy
Taal Museum	2016	Leiden	Netherlands
The Word	2016	South Shields	England
Sprachpanorama	2017	Laufenberg	Switzerland





# Language museums of the world

**65 museums in 31 countries on five continents**  
**15 digital museums, 39 websites, 35 monuments**  
**104 events and places of memory and celebration**

**Anyang** China **Astana** Kazakhstan **Bad Hersfeld** Germany **Bansko** Bulgaria **Beenleigh** Australia **Beijing** China **Belfast** Northern Ireland **Belgrade** Serbia **Berlin** Germany **Bern** Switzerland **Blasket Island** Ireland **Boise** USA **Bova** Italy **Braunschweig** Germany **Buchen** Germany **Buenos Aires** Argentina **Dhaka** Bangladesh **Dosso del Liro** Italy **Dronero** Italy **Fernando de la Mora** Paraguay **Figeac** France **Florence** Italy **Gray** France **Geenbelt** USA **Hangyong** China **Iona** Canada **Hernandarias** Paraguay **Kassel** Germany **Kyiv** Ukraine **Krapina** Croatia **Laufenberg** Switzerland **Leiden** Netherlands **Leipzig** Germany **London** England **Los Polvorines** Argentina **Mainz** Germany **Modra** Slovakia **Mošovce** Slovakia **Neustrelitz** Germany **Offenbach am Main** Germany **Paarl** South Africa **Paris** France **Rome** Italy **Sao Paulo** Brazil **Seoul** Korea **South Shields** England **St. Martin in Thurn** Italy **Subirats** Spain **Svitavy** Czech Republic **Sydney** Australia **Szephalom** Hungary **Toronto** Canada **Uhrovec** Slovakia **Velike Lašče** Slovenia **Vienna** Austria **Vigo** Spain **Vilnius** Lithuania **Waxhaw** USA **West Hartford** USA **Zaozhuang** China **Ørsta** Norway

Language is a city to the building of which every human being brought a stone.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1863*