

## PLEASE HELP SUPPORT

### THE LINGUISTICS RESEARCH CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Austin, April 21, 2020

Dear colleagues:

I hope you and your families are doing well and are safe and healthy given the ongoing worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. I am writing to you because since 2013 I have had the great pleasure of hosting many visiting scholars from around the world at the [Linguistics Research Center](#) (LRC) at the University of Texas at Austin. We have collaborated on research projects and have learned a great deal from each other. This exchange has been very beneficial at both an academic and a personal level.

Unfortunately, this carefully instituted and nurtured long-term scientific exchange is now in danger. This is the last year of my second term as director of the LRC and we have a new Dean (an economist) who wants to cut our funding, which is “only” \$65 K per year, because she deems the LRC “non-essential” to the University of Texas. This imminent budget cut puts the LRC at risk of being shut down in September 2020. Even though I highly respect our Dean, I very much disagree with her view regarding the status of the LRC and am currently trying to prove her otherwise.

This financial crisis at the University of Texas is caused directly by the financial fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. This upcoming academic year, UT Austin is expecting the largest budget shortfall in its history. I have already worked hard on getting letters of support from colleagues from around the world who are all in favor of supporting the LRC, which since 2001 has created a set of FREE online lesson series for people interested in ancient languages and cultures, for specialists and non-specialists alike. I have also received a number of letters from colleagues, for which I am extremely grateful. These letters are proof of the LRC’s significance as well as the important role it plays in fostering scientific exchange between linguists in numerous countries.

At the heart of the LRC’s online presence is a set of freely available online resources to learn and teach ancient Indo-European languages. We cover 19 ancient languages and cultures in the [Early IndoEuropean OnLine](#) series, including [Old English](#) (which is widely used to teach the history of English), [Hittite](#), [Old Iranian](#), [Old Irish](#), [Old Russian](#), and [Sanskrit](#). We also have an online [IndoEuropean Lexicon](#), which is popular with researchers the world over. We have plans to expand to Semitic and Mayan languages, as well as the language families of East Asia. Besides that we have the completely restored [Rigveda](#), online [textbooks for historical linguistics](#), and a thriving [visiting scholars program](#).

The LRC is unique in the world because of its free online offerings. In the past month alone, our [number of users has increased by 25%](#), to almost 30 K users per month (over 28 days) from 136 countries. See the screen shot below I took this past Sunday morning.

Using google analytics we are constantly tracking where people are coming from and we then incorporate that knowledge to improve the learning experience of our users. Still, the Dean is [considering cutting our funding](#), which, given the fact that [more and more people rely on our online learning resources](#), especially in this time of crisis, is very unsettling. Thus, I have started a [fund-raising campaign](#) with the goal to raise \$65 K by May 4, 2020.

I am writing this statement to ask you directly to please consider [donating online](#) with your credit card (between 5 and 100 dollars) to help contributing towards the fundraising goal of \$65 K in order to keep the LRC's doors open for at least another year. All donations are, of course, tax-deductible, since UT Austin is considered non-profit. If you happen to know any wealthy individuals, businesses, organizations, or societies that would be interested in supporting

the LRC in this time of crisis, please let them know. If you know someone who has access to pertinent email lists or other social media capabilities, please ask them to spread the message widely. Thank you.

We have our own Facebook feed / info up too: <https://www.facebook.com/UTLRC>  
Every dollar counts.

You can donate in the following way. Go online to this website:  
<https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/utgiving/online/nlogon/?menu1=LALG>

To use your credit card to donate. Type in the dollar amount, click “one time gift” and then scroll down to the orange button “your info.” The enter your name and address, phone number, and email. Click on the “review” button and finally put in your credit card information.

With all best wishes from Texas,

Hans C. Boas, Ph.D. (<http://sites.la.utexas.edu/hcb/>)  
Raymond Dickson, Alton C. Allen, and Dillon Anderson Centennial Professor  
Director, Linguistics Research Center  
Chair, Department of Germanic Studies  
Department of Linguistics

