



Linguistic Society of America

NEWS RELEASE

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Linguistic Society Explores Diverse Publishing Models

(Washington, DC) – The Linguistic Society of America (LSA), the nation’s oldest scholarly society dedicated to advancing the scientific study of language, is experimenting with a new publishing model that builds on the lessons learned from its groundbreaking efforts to freely disseminate linguistics research to a broad international audience.

The LSA recently concluded a multi-year open access publishing project via [eLanguage](#), an online platform established to incubate new peer-reviewed journals and other forms of scholarly linguistics content. The platform included eight peer-reviewed journals, an archive of proceedings from three prominent linguistics conferences, and a forum for posting short book reviews. A number of pre-existing linguistics journals also housed their back files on eLanguage. During this five-year project, the LSA published more than 3000 files on the eLanguage platform, and the site has been visited by thousands of linguists from around the world.

Following careful evaluation of the project, the LSA has made the following decisions: 1) to continue publishing the former eLanguage journal [Semantics and Pragmatics](#) as a free-standing platinum open-access publication; 2) to greatly expand the digital offerings found in its flagship journal, [Language](#), with new online-only sections and open access policies; 3) to expand its publication of conference proceedings to include a new offering in the sub-field of phonology; and 4) to host an online archive of all content published within the eLanguage platform. The LSA also made the decision to discontinue some of the nascent eLanguage journals and book notices published on that site.

Since making these decisions, the Society has been busy working to implement these new elements of its publishing program in conjunction with its existing partners: Project MUSE, JSTOR, the Sheridan Group, Open Journal Systems, MIT, UT Austin, and various sponsors of external conferences. The LSA is now pursuing a hybrid business model of publishing, which includes elements of open access, paid subscriptions, advertising, charitable contributions, institutional sponsorships, inexpensive article processing charges, and organizational subsidies.

As always, the LSA continues to publish the best research in the field of linguistics. In recent months, new research has been published in *Semantics and Pragmatics* highlighting emerging developments relating to American Sign Language, the role of deception in “strategic conversations”, and the interaction between linguistic interpretation and moral judgments. Recent articles published in *Language* have focused on the discovery of a new language in Australia, changes to the Philadelphia regional dialect, and the role of television in influencing language change.

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