Creation of online resources for language revitalization requires many technical and design decisions. As part of a project to provide access to a corpus of recordings of Northern Pomo, a dormant indigenous language of California, we designed mobile-accessible resources. In this talk, we will (a) provide details about the resources, intended to address the needs of many kinds of learners, and (b) offer access to beta versions of electronic templates and instructional materials for these resources, adaptable to other languages.

Community members may have different goals for reclaiming and revitalizing the language. Some seek only to know key words for cultural terms, or everyday expressions they can share with friends. Others want to hear recordings of stories, with accessible translations. Finally, some are energized to make a commitment to learning and then teaching the language. Ideally, an on-line resource featuring edited recordings could support all of these goals.

The website we will demonstrate includes a Sounds and Letters page that provides the usual matrix of sounds in isolation, but will include approximately 32 brief (1 to 2 minute) videos training learners to hear the differences between linguistically significant sounds. There is a Talking Dictionary, searchable in Northern Pomo, and a Phrasicon that contains phrases and sentences in interlinear gloss format, along with sound files, searchable via English and Northern Pomo. Dictionary entries contain links to a Phrasicon record that features the dictionary head word in context. Conversely, each word in a Phrasicon record links to a dictionary entry of that word.

The website also contains a page called Everyday Expressions. Each of these is accompanied by a short (1-2 minute) video displaying an example, encouraging repetition, and explaining the meaning of each element. The Stories and Texts page includes a video of each text featuring the voice of a fluent speaker, while the text in both languages appears on the screen. Basic Sentence Structures contains more advanced grammatical sketch information.

Technical issues include the format of these XML databases, and the retrieval of relevant entries. The Talking Dictionary is searchable in English by selecting a letter (A-Z) category, or using a search bar (e.g. search using English “went” should return the entry “go,” which includes all tense forms. Our approach does not rely on a lemmatizer). The Phrasicon is searchable in English and Northern Pomo by selecting a letter category, or using a search bar. Searching the English looks through the gloss and translation fields, while searching in Northern Pomo looks through the sentence and morpheme fields.

Other design issues include the overall layout, and the interaction between the talking dictionary and the phrasicon. Computational tools are also used to facilitate the data entry process. One of these tools is the auto-fill function that predicts the gloss, according to the morpheme and its context. HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, and XML databases form the building blocks of our implementation. We hope these digital tools will promote access to data gathered from language documentation efforts, and support the needs of many learners.

(500 words)