

Distant Lightning:
Documentation from a Distance
in a Lightning Round

Sahaptin research at a distance

Joana Jansen, University of Oregon
Sharon Hargus, University of Washington

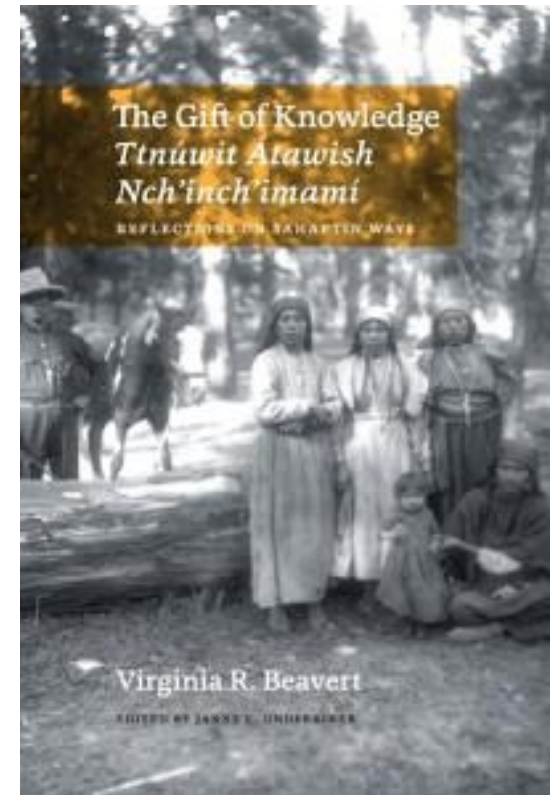
Distant Lightning: Documentation from a Distance
in a Lightning Round

SSILA 2021

Virginia Beavert



- Átawit
sapsikw'ałá
- L1 Sahaptin
speaker, 1921-
- PhD, University
of Oregon, 2011



Virginia receiving Ken Hale prize, January 2008



Textual and lexical research

- Goals
 - Prepare texts from archival audio
 - Update 2009 dictionary



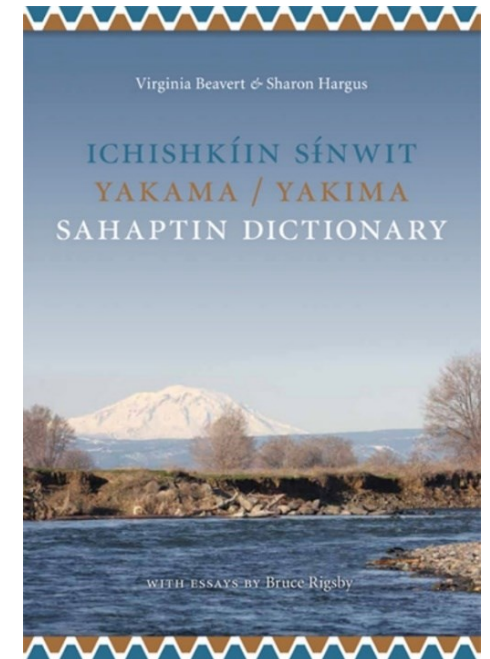
Mussie Charley Reynolds



Ellen Saluskin



Alex Saluskin



Textual documentation methods

1. Obtain free translation
2. Transcribe and translate
3. Format, print out, review
4. Lexical check
5. Final review, dissemination



Lexical check

37. Wá'an—
Nakálas chaw itk'ixinxana
kw'isnat náyshnan áyatnan.
awkú níwít páwa'inéntxana
pinmíkinik chimmyanashma-
-ki. Nakálas inátxanaxana:
Chawíyatnash awiipát'axana,
"íi, wáa'awtya mash wá imínk'."

Nakálas chaw itk'ixinxana kw'imát náyshnan áyatnan.

My maternal grandmother never used to like to talk to a certain woman.

Awkú níwít páwa'in-intxana pinmíkinik chimmyanashmamíki.

Right away she would cast aspersions on her children.

Nakálas inátxanaxana

My grandmother would say

"Chaw wíyat nash awiinpát'axana,

"I almost wanted to answer her,

"íi, wáa'awtya mash wá imínk'."

'Yes, yours are worse.'"



the
endangered
language
fund

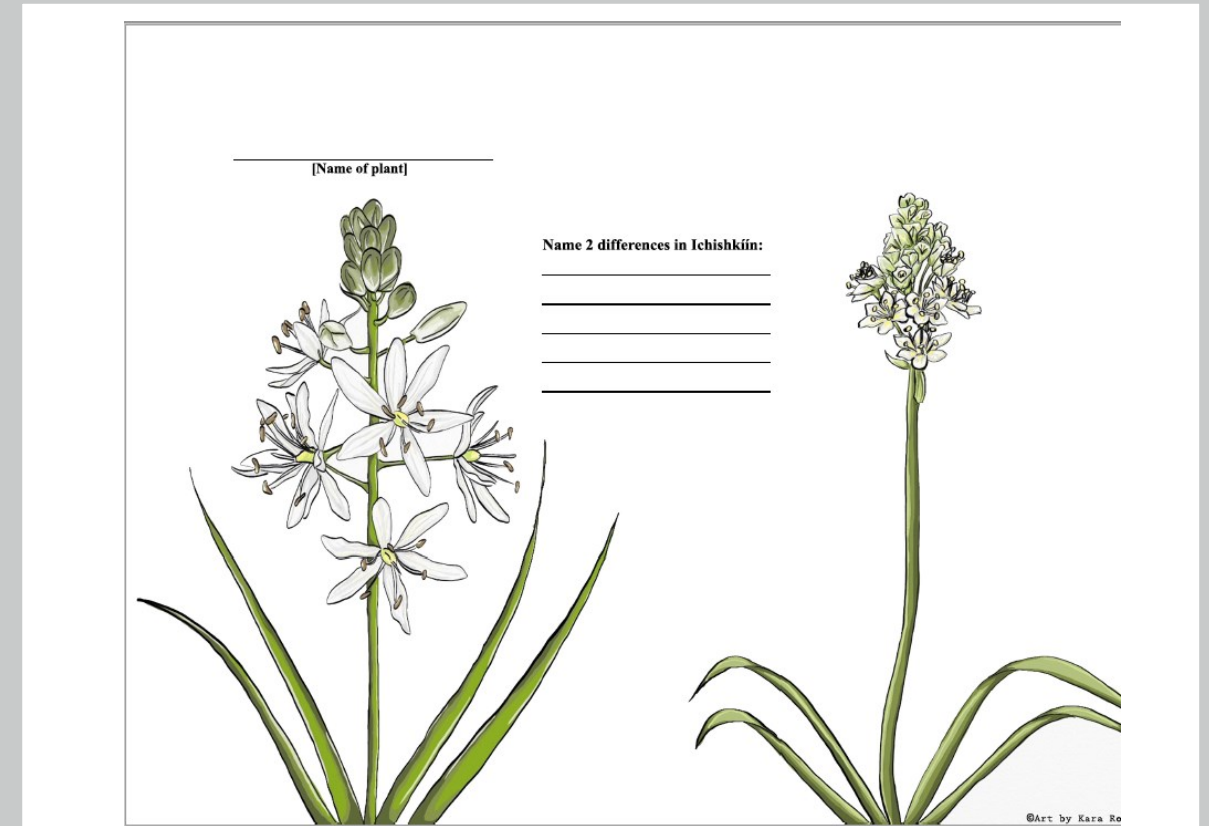
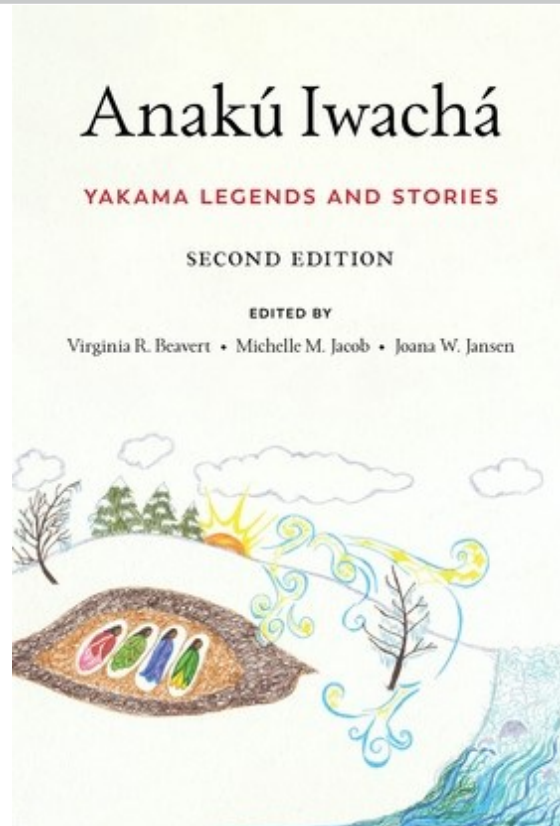
Remote → in-person again



Documentation

Preparing legends

Student documentation and materials creation



The Way It Was

(Anaku Iwacha)
(Yakima Indian Legends)

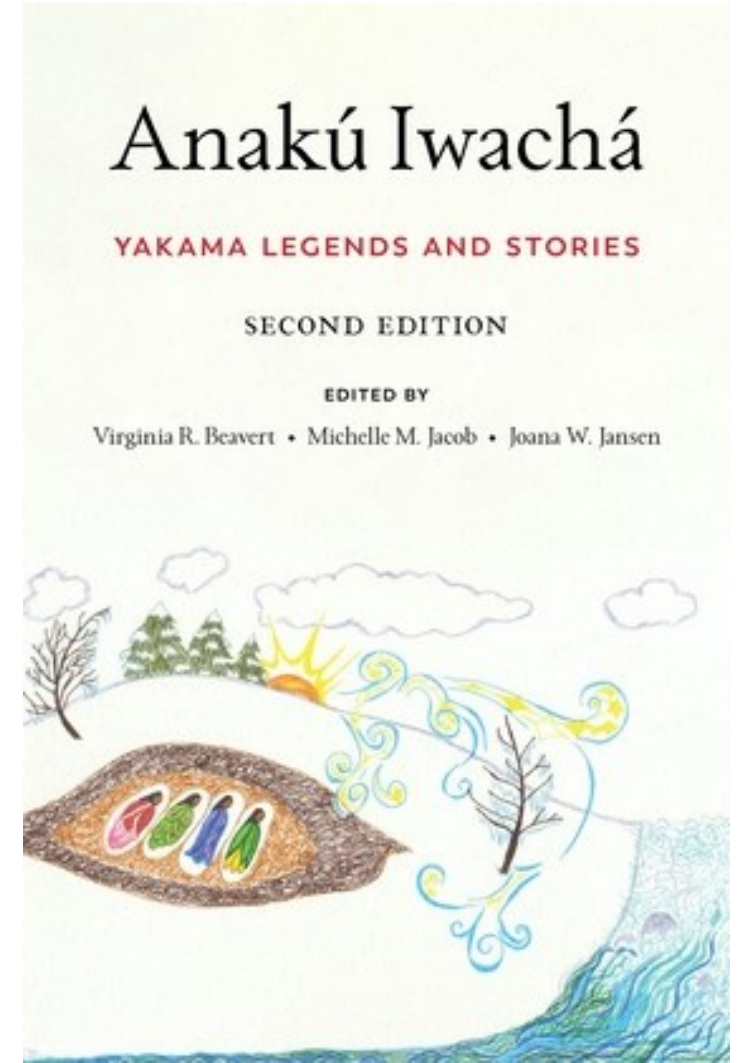
THE CONSORTIUM OF
JOHNSON O'MALLEY COMMITTEES
OF REGION IV
STATE OF WASHINGTON

Process:

1. First transcription
2. Transcription check and free translation
3. Print and review
4. Prepare version for written presentation
5. Print and review
6. Publication preparation

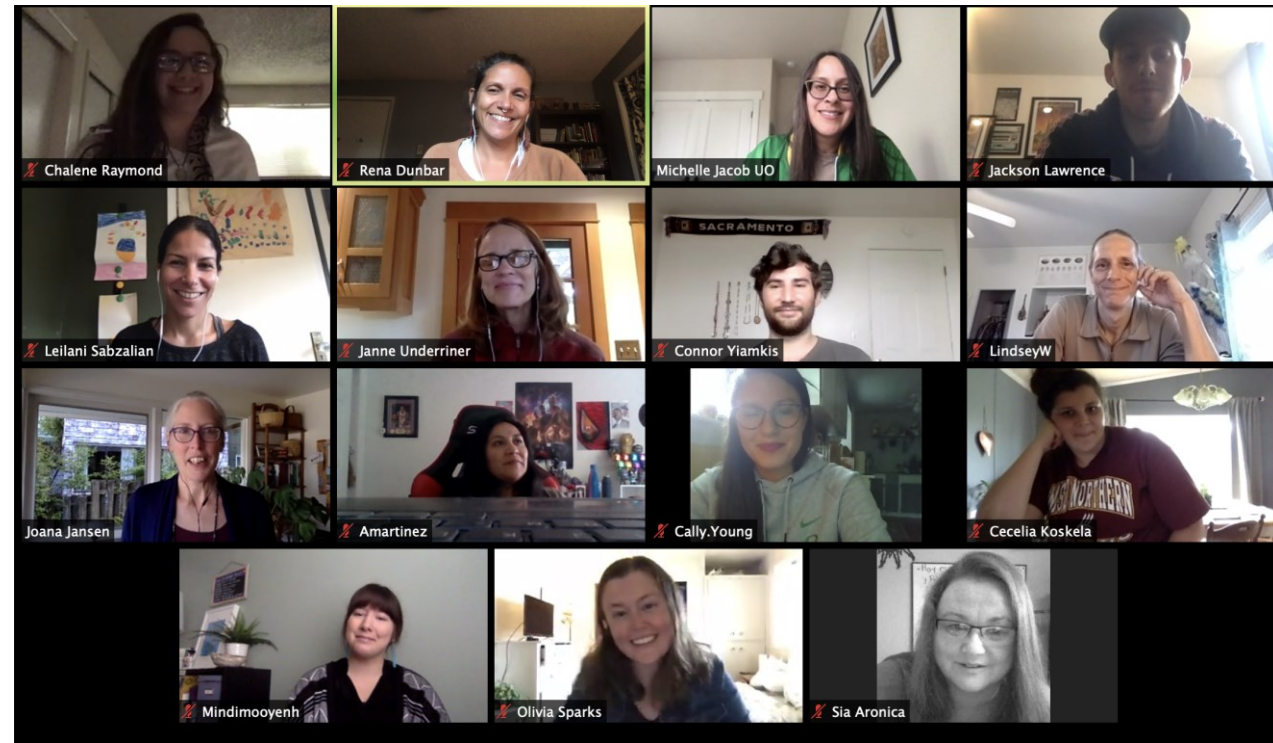


NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES





Spring 2020 ICH 203 Instructors:
Regan Anderson with Virginia Beavert



Student documentation: Reclaiming home domains

document language, develop materials intended to support language research, learners and Yakama community members.

Drawbacks

- Unable to do immediate follow up
 - Lack of a visit deadline
 - Time not protected/dedicated
 - Not possible to record adequately
- Hardware and software issues
 - Audio quality
 - Need for tech helper
 - Lack of in-person confirmation of “final” version



Advantages

- established process
- hard copy format
- consistent progress
 - real time editing
 - fit with elder's schedule
 - less travel time for linguists
 - safest/only option for our colleague