Robert E. Johnson Papers on the Coeur d’Alene and Makah Languages, 1969-1971

**Biographical Note:** Robert E. Johnson, an anthropological linguist, received a B.A. in psychology from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in anthropology from Washington State University. As a doctoral student he conducted field research on the Coeur d’Alene language on the tribe’s reservation in Idaho (1969 and 1970). In 1971, he did fieldwork on the Makah language in Washington state.

Johnson began teaching at Gallaudet University’s Department of Linguistics in 1981. While there, he engaged in research on the phonetic, phonological, and morphological structures of signed languages. He studied the structures of American Sign Language, Argentine Sign Language, and the sign language of a Yucatec Maya community. He also worked with Scott Liddell on a phonetic notation system for signed languages and co-authored with Liddell and Carol Erting *Unlocking the Curriculum: Principles of Achieving Access in Deaf Education*. In addition, he provided consulting services as an expert witness on Miranda rights for deaf suspects.

Johnson retired from Gallaudet University in December of 2011.

**Sources Consulted**
http://www.gallaudet.edu/faculty-staff/linguistics/johnson_robert_e.html

http://www.mendeley.com/profiles/robert-johnson2/

**Scope and Content Note:** This collection documents the research Robert E. Johnson conducted for his dissertation on the Coeur d’Alene language, as well as his fieldwork on the Makah language. Johnson’s papers consist of field notes, audio recordings, index cards, and transcripts concerning both languages. The Coeur d’Alene recordings are of Lawrence Nicodemus. The Makah recordings were done with several of the last remaining speakers of that language, most of whom were over eighty years old when the recordings were made.

**Arrangement:** The collection is organized into two series: 1) Coeur d’Alene Language, 1969 and 2) Makah Language, 1971.

**Language Note:** English, Coeur d’Alene and Makah.

**Restrictions on Access:** No restrictions on access.

**Restrictions on Use:** Contact repository for terms of use.
Extent: The total extent of the collection is 2.7 linear feet (consisting of 4 document boxes, 2 boxes of index cards and 16 sound recordings) and 1 oversize box.

Provenance: These papers were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Robert E. Johnson upon his retirement from Gallaudet University in 2011.

Related Collections: The Human Studies Film Archives holds Robert E. Johnson’s Mayan sign language video tapes and related notebooks.

Processing Note: Robert E. Johnson’s papers were received organized by language. The original folder titles and arrangement were retained. Folder titles assigned by the archivist are indicated by square brackets. Files have been rehoused in acid free folders. Oversized materials were separated and placed in oversize boxes. Original and new locations of separated materials have been indicated with separation sheets.

Processed by Richelle Brown, May 2013.

Repository Information:

National Anthropological Archives
Smithsonian Institution
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746
301-238-1329
www.nmnh.si.edu/naa
Series Description and Container List

1.17 linear feet

This series contains field notes, index cards, and audio recordings from Johnson’s doctoral research on the Coeur d’Alene language. The audio recordings were made with Lawrence Nicodemus on the Coeur d’Alene reservation in Idaho.

Box 1

Coeur d’Alene Suffixes 1969
B. Johnson N-F-A [Coeur d’Alene and English word and phrase lists] 1969
Prefixes [1 of 2] 1969
Coeur d’Alene::: Cooccurrences in Reichard’s Prefixes. Biom 1 – 1969
Type Data Sheets

Box 2

F. Coeur d’Alene Final Forms 1969

Sound Recordings
[Sound Recording 01] – C d’A #1 Field 1969
  5” audio reel 3¾ IPS
  Coeur d’Alene Field Tape #1; Lawrence Nicodemus -1969;
  recordings of “F” notebook begin at approx. 144 + (Hitachi)
[Sound Recording 02] – C d’A #2 Field 1969
  5” audio reel 3¾ IPS
  #2 C d’A LN Field Notes 1969
  Complete 9/23/69
[Sound Recording 03] C d’A N-Fa [Coeur d’Alene field recording] 1969
  7” audio reel
[Sound Recording 04] Master N: C d’A  
7” audio reel  
Coeur d’Alene  
MASTER TAPE  
Lawrence Nicodemus

Box 3

F. Coeur d’Alene Index Cards 1969  
Bibliographies and linguistic notes

1.54 linear feet

This series contains field notes, index cards, audio recordings, and transcripts from Johnson’s research on the Makah language in Washington state. He worked with some of the last surviving speakers of the language, most of whom were in their eighties at the time.

Box 4

Neah Bay Rough Notes [1 of 3] 1971  
Neah Bay Rough Notes [2 of 3] 1971  
Neah Bay Rough Notes [3 of 3] 1971  
Makah Suffices 1971

Box 5

Sound Recordings

[Sound Recording 05] – NB I 1971  
5” audio reel  
Neah Bay  
JL: Side I Sept 3, ’71 ethn/on Ozette  
JL: Side II Sept 2, ’71 text on dance

[Sound Recording 06] – NB II 1971  
5” audio reel  
LC + RC Both Side

[Sound Recording 07] NB III 1971  
5” audio reel
[Sound Recording 08] NB IV
   5” audio reel
   1971
[Sound Recording 09] NB V
   5” audio reel
   1971
[Sound Recording 10] NB VI
   5” audio reel
   1971
[Sound Recording 11] NB VII
   5” audio reel
   1971
[Sound Recording 12] NB VIII
   5” audio reel
   1971
[Sound Recording 13] NB IX
   5” audio reel
   July 28 274 I
   July 30 335 I
   1971
[Sound Recording 14] NB X
   5” audio reel
   1971
[Sound Recording 15] NB XI
   5” audio reel
   1971
[Sound Recording 16] NB XII
   5” audio reel
   Side I Jack Lachester August 12, 1971
   Makah Text of Dentalium +[writing illegible]

Box 6

[Makah Index Cards]
   Vocabulary and phrases
   1971