

The Digital Notebook Method - Overview

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Background

The Digital Notebook Method streamlines the linguistic elicitation session, employing automated and semi-automated processing without the need of high-level programming skills. Through this method, the data are entered digitally, not in a physical notebook, and the output can be immediately incorporated into a database and is ready for archiving.

4 Stages of the Digital Notebook Method

1. Preparation

- Make a plan for your elicitation session and the type of data you hope to collect
- Create a session folder and session-specific digital notebook spreadsheet

2. Elicitation

- Work with a speaker to create transcriptions and add metadata into the digital notebook spreadsheet.
- Feel free to ask the speaker for additional meta-linguistic information about elicited data
- You can optionally create an audio(-visual) recording of this stage for your reference.

3. Recording

- Using the digital notebook spreadsheet as a foundation, create a recording spreadsheet that is designed specifically for a structured elicitation.
- Ask the speaker to practice repeating elicited items multiple times and/or pausing between elicited items.
- Create an audio(-visual) recording of the speaker producing all of the items in the recording spreadsheet in the same order in which they appear in the spreadsheet, with no discussion or other metalinguistic information in the recording.

4. Processing

- Backup your recordings on multiple storage devices and optionally cloud storage.
- Using Praat, open your recording and automatically segment the audio by using Annotate → To TextGrid (silences)...
- Save the TextGrid as a text file.
- Copy the Digital Notebook Data Merger script to the same folder as your recording spreadsheet and TextGrid file.
- Run the script to create time-aligned annotations in .EAF, .TextGrid, and .TXT formats.