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Analog technology helps preserve languages

World Watch, Sept-Oct, 2005

See "Last Words: The Dying of Languages," May/June 2001, p. 34

The Rosetta Project, begun by The Long Now Foundation to preserve disappearing languages, has selected an almost old-fashioned technology for the job: nickel disks. The three-inch disks are micro-etched with key information about 1,000 of Earth's 7,000 languages. Each disk has a storage capacity equal to about 30,000 pages of text. Unlike digital media, the disks resist decay, corruption, and obsolescence, and require only good optical equipment to read. Mass production will enable thousands to be distributed around the globe.

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