Lunch and Learn Thursday series #3 will feature UH Maui College instructor Keola Donaghy who will share information about the Hawaiian language resources that are available on or for Mac OS, Windows, iOS and Android, and discuss the different font systems that have been used and why, how to select fonts that will work on both platforms when exchanging documents, and using the Hawaiian diacritics on web pages and in Laulima as well.

Participants can bring their laptops, phones, iPads and other devices to learn how to activate and use them. Attend this exciting opportunity to integrate Hawaiian language on your electronic devices on April 11, 2013, 12-1 pm, Nursing Portable classroom.

Read more about Keola and his dynamic project. http://hilo.hawaii.edu/keaohou/2012/04/24/kawaiaca-donaghy-hawaiian-language/

A decade ago, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo assistant professor Keiki Kawai‘a e‘a and education specialist Keola Donaghy, at Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikolani College of Hawaiian Language, had a shared vision to create a digital archive of Hawaiian language materials. Kawai‘a e‘a came up with the concept and Donaghy had the expertise in computer and telecommunications technologies necessary to execute the project. Joining the two principals at the inception was Robert Stauffer, formerly of the non-profit Alu Like and serving as project manager to this day.

The result of this collaboration is Ulukau, or the Hawaiian Electronic Library, and its companion site, the Hawaiian Digital Library, launched in 2004 and still growing. The comprehensive website is a repository of Hawaiian language source material — not recycled translations — available for the use, teaching, and revitalization of the Hawaiian language and for a broader and deeper understanding of Hawai‘i.

“The idea to create two seamless libraries, Ulukau and the Hawai‘i Digital Library, as a one-stop digital center that was easily accessible from any location, that had access to the world wide web as an educational tool and free service, supported through community
partnerships, filled a huge public access need for teachers, students, families and the broader community,” says Kawai‘ae‘a.

With 1.4 million hits a month on the dictionary section of the site (wehewehe.org), coming in from all over the world, the creators say Ulukau is likely the largest and most used digital repository of indigenous language knowledge in the world.

Ulukau contains an extensive collection of Hawaiian language books, historic and contemporary dictionaries, newspapers from the 1800 and 1900s, music, photos, Hawaiian curriculum materials, a database of place names, and more.

“It is the first Hawaiian electronic library that can be viewed through a Hawaiian or English browser,” says Kawai‘ae‘a. “Individuals, teachers, students and families are able to easily access the resources found on Ulukau and its sister site the Hawai‘i Digital Library through its many wings like the genealogy, land documents, school curriculum, story books, photographs and its many other resources at the convenience of the user from any place that has access to the world wide web.”

Original source materials like Hawaiian newspapers, genealogy, 18th century texts, and the māhele documents are all crucial for Hawaiian studies, says Donaghy, and access to these materials strengthens knowledge about the Hawaiian language and Hawaiian society of that era.

“Because of this access, and the number of people who have and are achieving fluency in Hawaiian, we are no longer dependent on translations, sometimes dubious, of these source materials, or non-Hawaiian accounts of events of that era,” he says. “It is helping to broaden the base of Hawaiian knowledge, which provides a firmer foundation to move into the future.” The Ulukau project is made possible through many collaborations and partnerships.

“Ulukau is a community endeavor,” says Kawai‘ae‘a. “It contains a wealth of Native Hawaiian language and cultural resources contributed by its many community partners.”

The building of Ulukau was co-sponsored by Hale Kuamo‘o, the Hawaiian Language Center within the College of Hawaiian Language, and Alu Like, a private, non-profit service
organization assisting Native Hawaiians in their efforts to achieve social and economic self-sufficiency. Initial funding came from the Administration for Native Americans and the Hawai‘i Department of Education in addition to several other grants.

A glimpse into the complex behind-the-scenes collaborative work on building, upgrading and running the site can be found on Donaghy’s blog. Ulukau uses Greenstone, a suite of software for building and distributing digital library collections, an Apple operating system, Apache web application, MARC21 bibliographic format, and XML web display format. UH Hilo provides and maintains the server.

It also took collaboration to synthesize and build on previous digitization projects. Prior to Ulukau, says Donaghy, many source materials were inaccessible to people outside of O‘ahu who couldn’t go directly to Bishop Museum, the UH Mānoa libraries, or places like the Mission House Museum. For example, the newspapers in Hawaiian, which began publication in 1834 and ran continuously until 1948, were already available on microfiche at many libraries, but not in complete sets (Donaghy estimates that there are about 125,000 pages total). Hamilton Library at UH Mānoa began digitizing the newspapers in 1997, though it was a very limited project.

“Ulukau partnered with Alu Like and Bishop Museum to expand the digitization work about 10 years ago, and a lot of significant work is being done by Awaiaulu, a private non-profit,” he says. “We’ve all worked together to make it happen.”

Ulukau has inspired many other indigenous peoples to both document and strengthen access to their ancestral knowledge as well, whether in print, audio, or video. But there are challenges.

“There are always issues, not all knowledge is meant to be shared with everyone, so the ability to restrict access is sometimes necessary as well,” says Donaghy. “We have had to deal with that issue, too, but not to the extent that some other indigenous peoples have. But [Ulukau] definitely shows them what is possible in allowing easy access to this kind of knowledge for cultural and language revitalization.”

~Keaohou

Keola Donaghy collaborated with programmers in Microsoft’s Local Languages Program for several years to develop resources and see that they were included in the new Windows 8 operating software.

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Keiki Kawaiʻaeʻa is an assistant professor of Hawaiian studies at UH Hilo, and program coordinator for the Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education Program. She is the recipient of the 2011 Koichi and Taniyo Taniguchi Award for Excellence and Innovation. She has been instrumental in the development of the Na Honua Mauli Ola Hawaiian cultural pathways and the Moenaha culture-based curriculum design and instructional method that impact native learners in culturally healthy and responsive ways. She is a published author on Hawaiian education, language revitalization and has written numerous children’s books and songs. She received her bachelor of arts in Hawaiian studies and master of education from UH Mānoa, and doctor of philosophy in indigenous education from Union Institute and University, Cincinnati, Ohio (to be conferred July 2012). Contact info.

Joseph “Keola” Donaghy II is an education specialist at UH Hilo. In addition to his work at the university, he is very active in the Hawaiian music community. He is the webmaster of Nahenahe.net, a Hawaiian music news site, a voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (“Grammy Awards”) and a member of the Board of Governors of the Hawai‘i Academy of Recording Arts (“Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards”). He received a bachelor of arts in Hawaiian studies from UH Hilo, a graduate certificate in telecommunications and information resource management from UH Mānoa, a master of arts in Hawaiian language and literature from UH Hilo, and doctor of philosophy in music (ethnomusicology) from the University of Otago in Dunedin, Aotearoa, New Zealand.