

LORELAD

The Problem

We are in the middle of a language extinction, with 90% of the world's languages at risk of dying by 2100. Loss of language can lead to loss of culture and history as well.



LOW-RESOURCE LANGUAGE SPEAKER

Kim Liang, 31 years old

Native Taishanese speaker

Primary goal is to connect with other Taishanese speakers and revitalize her speaking. Pain points include not meeting many fellow speakers and a lack of motivation to persist in speaking Taishanese.

The Solution

An intelligent storage device for low-resource language translations – a place to aggregate existing language data, and accumulate more as they're available.

Value Proposition

LORELAD caters to the recording of low-resource languages—languages with little documentation—many of which are orally spoken, while many other online tools are lexicographically based.

Customer Personas



LANGUAGE RESEARCHERS

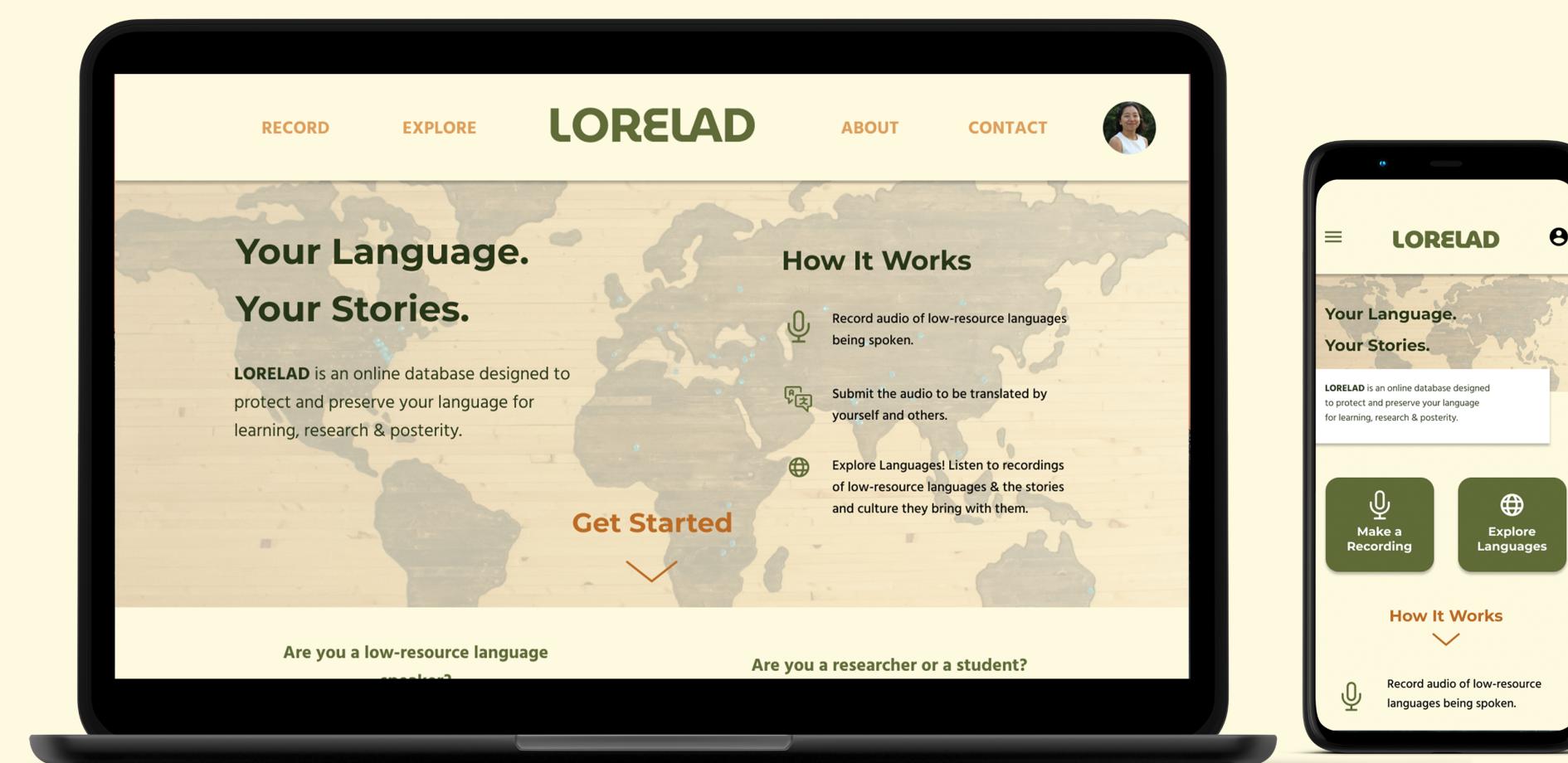
Wyatt Lakin, 55 years old

Linguistics Professor & Researcher

Primary goal is to study a low-resource language, but several pain points hinder that process, such a lack of data, particularly on oral languages. Rarity of native LRL speakers is also difficult to contend with.

Key Features

- Language Database:** explore and download recordings of spoken languages from around the world.
- Recording Functions:** users are able to create their own recordings, on their own or with a built in recorder, to upload to the LORELAD database
- Accessibility:** If a language speaker has issues accessing the internet, the **Send a Kit** function lets users ship audio kits to them to create recordings.



Innovation Journey

Ideation

We found that while demand for social language communities was high, those needs were already being met by competitors. We chose to instead focus on the long term goal of aggregating data to create a better translation tool through machine learning, with LORELAD as the first step.

Interviews

Many low-resource language speakers stop speaking their language when it has lost its usefulness in their lives, and were more likely to speak their native tongue if they found a community of native speakers.

Conception

In order to stand out from competitors, it was essential that our site was visually engaging and distinctive, while achieving its function as a database.

What's Next?

- Social Communities:** integrating social and communities aspects into LORELAD
- Machine Language Learning** built off of LORELAD recordings, to build a better translation tool

Made with

Next.js, React, Django, AWS

Ethics Audit

LORELAD is focused on ensuring rights to their audio recordings. While recordings are downloadable for research and study purposes, they should be protected by a terms of service.

LORELAD is intended to be a global service, and therefore must consider the differences in privacy and copyright law in different parts of the world.

Our Team



Yuhao He
BU'21, Computer Science



Laurina Saint Fleur
BU'21, Computer Science



Jonathan Hall
BU'21, Computer Engineering & Statistics



Tsubasa Morita
BU'21, Computer Science, Asian Studies



Thuy-An Nguyen
BU'22, Journalism, Visual Arts