



The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Fieldwork

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CHAPTER

1 Audio and Video Recording Techniques for Linguistic Research

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Abstract

This article gives an account of practical issues with audio and video recordings in a fieldwork setting, based on real-life experiences. In addition to some standard recommendations, it includes points learned through mistakes, happy accidents, and trial and error. Comments about specific equipment will be out of date by the time this volume is published. Nevertheless this article gives specifications for at least some items in the hope that this will help to identify types of equipment that have been found to be worthwhile. This article first addresses some general points about what to record in a field situation, outlines the workflow of data processing, and provides notes on managing equipment. It then discusses audio and video recordings and raises the question of energy supply and useful auxiliary equipment. The appendix provides suggestions for a basic field equipment kit. This article also elaborates upon what to record for linguistic analysis followed by the workflow that would allow some of the data to be fully processed during the fieldtrip.

Keywords: [audio recording](#), [video recording](#), [linguistic analysis](#), [field equipment kit](#), [workflow](#), [data processing](#)

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1.1 Introduction

This account of practical issues with audio and video recordings in a fieldwork setting is based on our own experience and on that of friends and colleagues.¹ In addition to some standard recommendations, it includes points learned through mistakes, happy accidents, and trial and error. Comments about specific equipment will be out of date by the time this volume is published. Nevertheless we give specifications for at least some items in the hope that this will help to identify types of equipment we have found worthwhile.