Title: Creating a Digital Archive of Texas Czech: Applied Documentation for the Community, Education, and Research

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Texas Czech vernacular is an endangered immigrant dialect which uniquely blends archaic Moravian dialects, literary Czech, and English spoken in Texas. The language will most certainly die in the next fifteen years, making its documentation paramount. This paper reports on the first phase in establishing the *Texas Czech Dialect Archive* (TCDA) at the University of Texas (UT) at Austin, an online repository of audio recordings gathered from ethnic Czech Moravians in Texas over a 40-year period which includes (1) Svatava Pirkova-Jakobson's recordings from the 1970s–80s, (2) the presenter's collection from the late 1990s, and (3) a graduate student's collection from the early 2000s (Tomecek, 2008).

Inspired by the *Texas German Dialect Project* (http://www.tgdp.org), this rare archive of a dying *immigrant* dialect features cultural events, interviews, and responses to language tasks, linked to speaker metadata, and a geographical map matching recordings with locations. Ultimately, integration of multimedia for teaching and research (e.g., photographs, letters, and newspapers) will offer a fuller picture of this population's sociolinguistic diffusion. Also of importance, this archive will serve as a community resource searchable for oral histories and language features, as well as a genealogy tool, and will strengthen ties between UT and the Texas Czech community.

After introducing the TCDA, we consider its value for education and research in both the US and the Czech Republic. First, we review a recent survey gauging the level of interest in the project among UT students in Czech I–II and the Czech Diaspora classes (Spring 2012). Then sample recordings and transcripts from the Archive are used to demonstrate the Archive's potential for use in independent research on ethnic Czech Moravians in Texas, as well as in the communities themselves, and to show its value for heritage learners of Czech who wish not only to learn "proper" Czech, but also to better understand their ancestral dialect.