# Linguistic Data on Demand

John Huck & Anna Bombak
University of Alberta Libraries

Presentation at NEOS Miniconference, June 7, 2019

# A project...

...to improve access to
linguistics datasets
in the U of A Libraries' collection

1 - Struggling with the status quo

2 - Simplifying & updating our access model

3 - "Data delivery" services at UAL

# 1 - Struggling with the status quo

# Linguistic Data Consortium (LDC)

- Based at the University of Pennsylvania
- Publishes linguistic corpora (datasets)
- 40-50 new corpora each year
- 800 releases since 1993
- Data types include text, sound and video
- Datasets created by various researchers and initiatives

# Example of an LDC corpora

- **Title:** BOLT Arabic Discussion Forums (LDC2018T10)
- **Description:** ...consists of 813,080 discussion forum threads in Egyptian Arabic harvested from the Internet using a combination of manual and automatic processes.
- **Creators:** Jennifer Tracey, Haejoong Lee, Stephanie Strassel, Safa Ismael
- **File types:** HTML and XML files
- **Size:** 30 GB of zipped files
- **Released:** March 15, 2018

# LDC business model

- All corpora released on DVDs or hard drives
- Most corpora can be downloaded (***LDC Catalog***)
- Annual Membership for organizations
- Members:
  - receive hard copies
  - retain perpetual download access
  - manage download privileges for their users

# UAL access in 2017

- 570 corpora in U of A holdings
- Download access through ***LDC Catalog***
- Discs catalogued — in-person access through Data Team
- A common arrangement for libraries with LDC subscriptions

# But that meant...

- Two places to search
- No downloads for large corpora
- Two-year cataloguing backlog

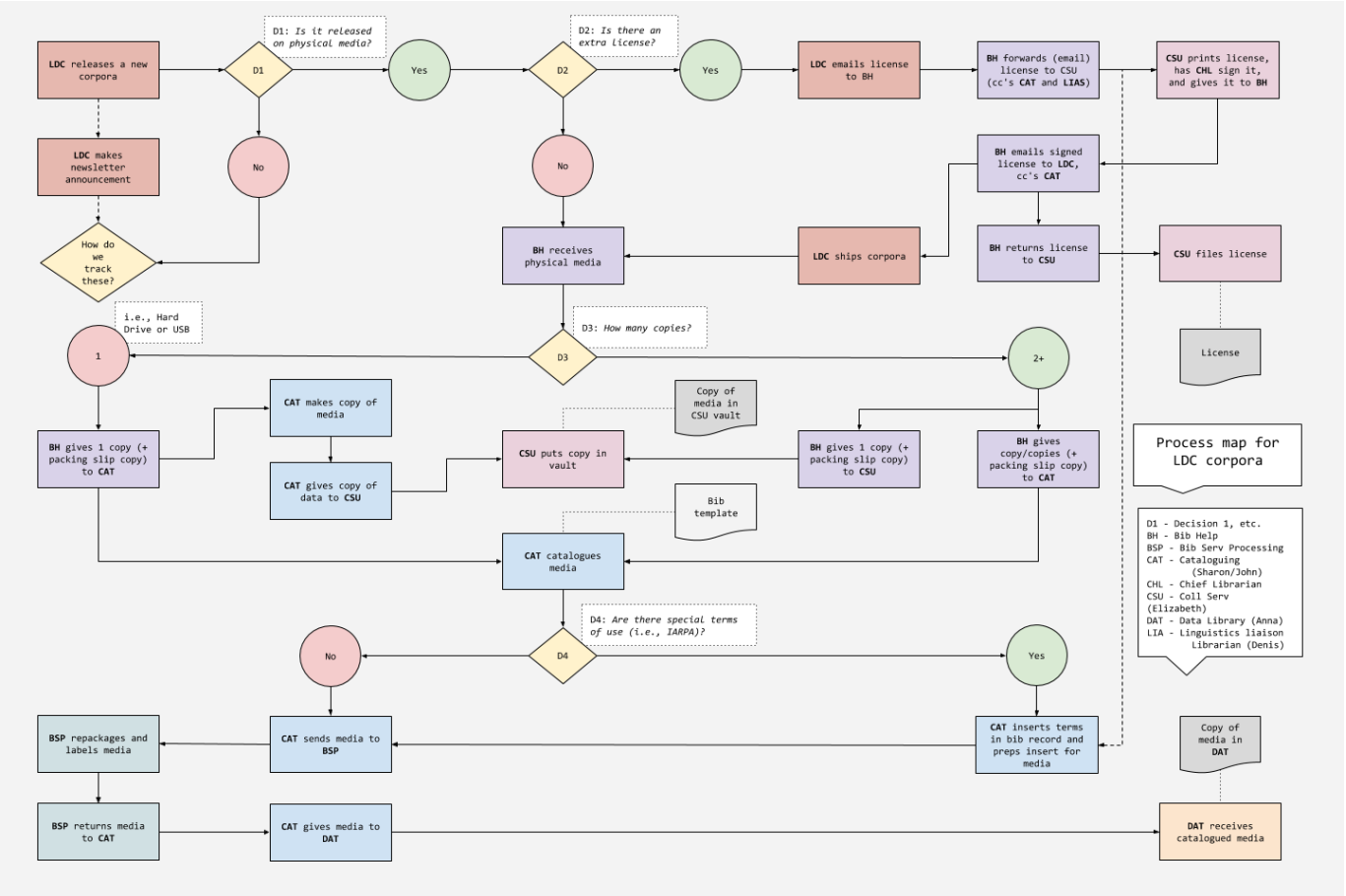
# Project goals

- Restart cataloguing workflow
- Catalogue download access
- Host large corpora locally for download


# Obstacles

- Local hosting not possible
- Couldn't easily link to download
- Could we justify continuing to cataloguing discs?

# Library processing for discs



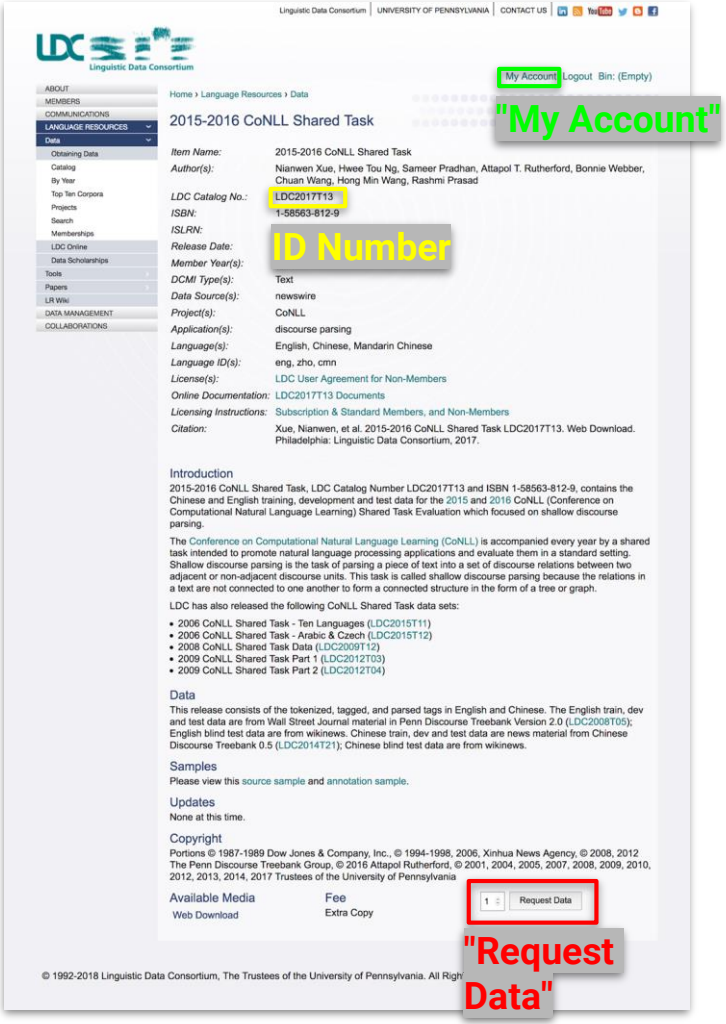
# Evaluating ***LDC Catalog***

*Users...*

- could order and pay for data
- forced to sign agreements
- could see other agreements and names of other users

# Conclusion

- ***LDC Catalog*** not appropriate for end-users in current form



# 2 - Simplifying the access model

# New project goals

*Make it simple!*

- One place to search
- Digital delivery
- Reduce complexity
- Eliminate the need to use ***LDC Catalog***

# Stakeholders

- Bibliographic Services — (Cataloguing)
- Data Team — (Public Services)
- Linguistics liaison librarian — (Public Services)
- Collections Strategies Unit — (Acquisitions)

# Piecing it together

1. LDC metadata in XML
2. Script to generate MARC
3. Data Team's service model
4. Openness to unorthodox records

```
<olac:olac xmlns:olac="http://www.language-archives.org/OLAC/1.1/"
        xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/"
        xmlns:dcterms="http://purl.org/dc/terms/"
        xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
        <dc:contributor>Du Bois, John W.</dc:contributor>
        <dc:contributor>Chafe, Wallace L.</dc:contributor>
        <dc:contributor>Meyer, Charles</dc:contributor>
        <dc:contributor>Thompson, Sandra A.</dc:contributor>
        <dc:date xsi:type="dcterms:W3CDTF">2000</dc:date>
        <dcterms:issued xsi:type="dcterms:W3CDTF"
                >2000-01-01</dcterms:issued>
        <dc:description>*Introduction* The Santa Barbara Corpus of
                Spoken American English is based on hundreds of
                recordings of natural speech from all over the
                United States, representing a wide variety of
```

*LDC Metadata*

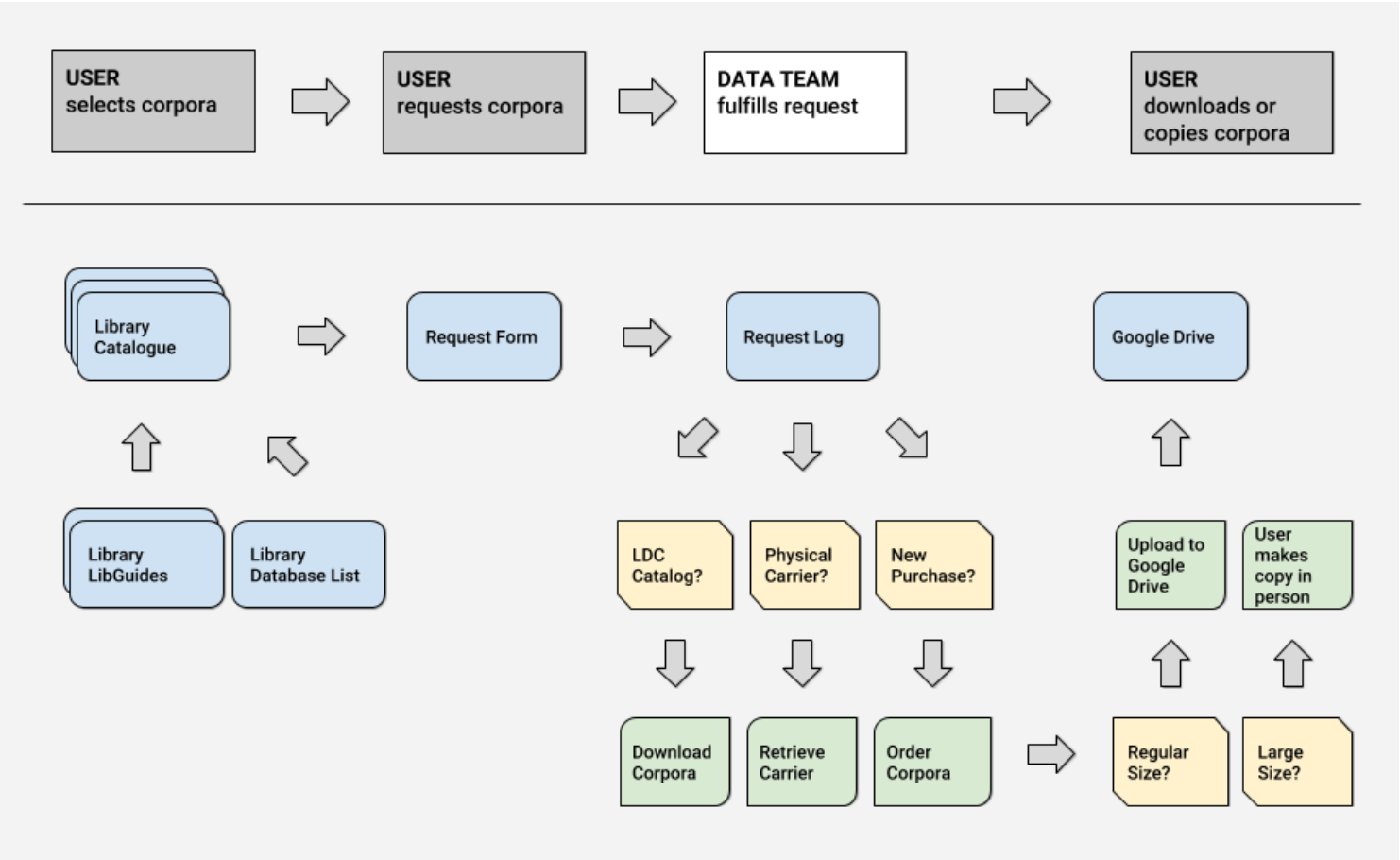
# Plan for a new access model

- Generate MARC records from metadata
- Add a link to request form
- Deliver data to users with Google Drive

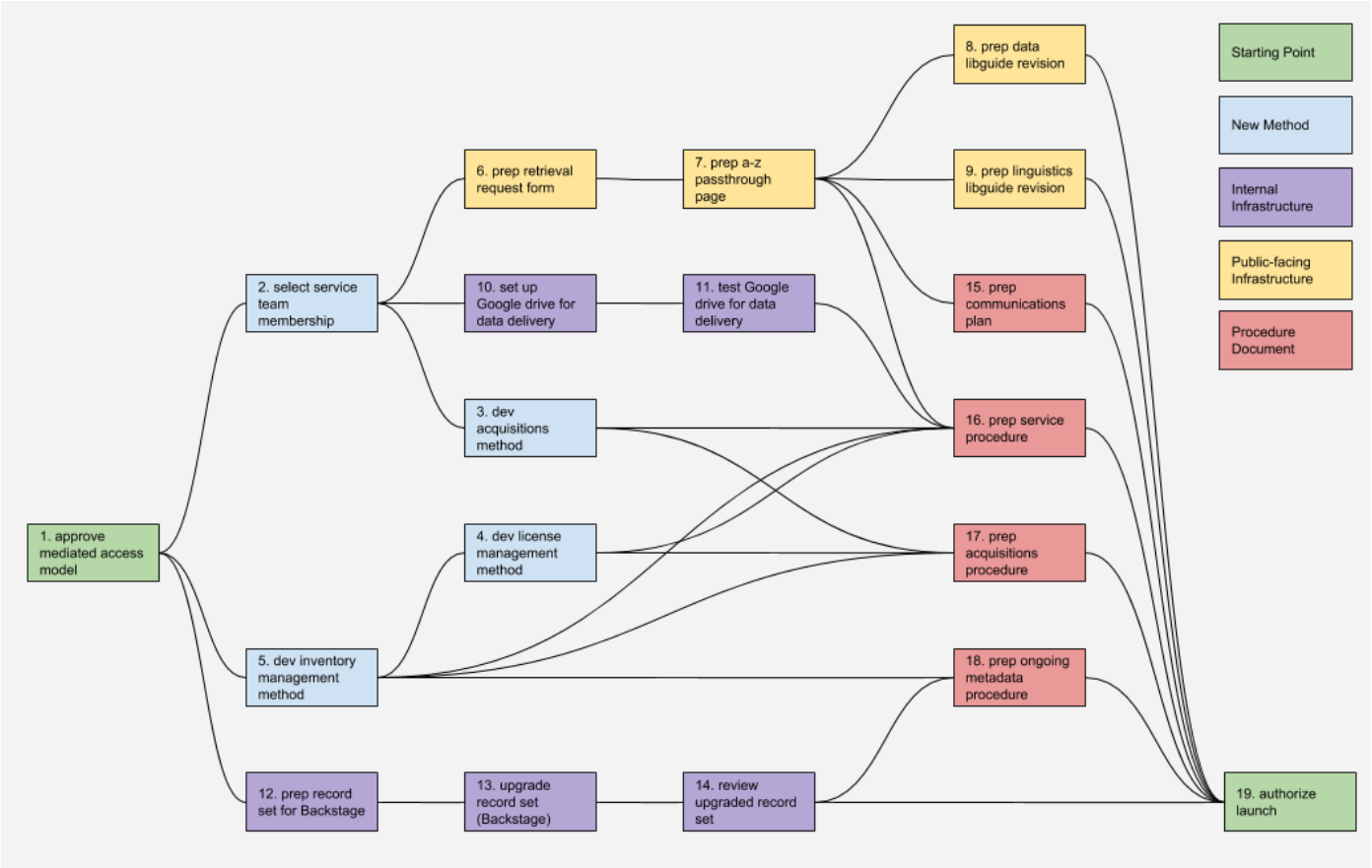
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| LEADER 03337nmm a22005173i 4500 | | | |
| 001 8587995 | | | |
| 006 m o u | | | |
| 007 cu \|\|\|\|\|\|u\|\|\|\| | | | |
| 008 190313s2000 pau u eng d | | | |
| 020 | | | a\| 1585631647 |
| 020 | | | a\| 9781585631643 |
| 024 | 8 | | a\| LDC2000S85 |
| 024 | 8 | | a\| 4077318196684 q\| ISLRN |
| 035 | | | a\| on1090038764 |
| 039 | | | a\| exclude |
| 040 | | | a\| AEU b\| eng e\| rda c\| AEU d\| AEU |
| 042 | | | a\| dc |
| 043 | | | a\| n-us--- |
| 050 | | 4 | a\| PE2808.8 b\| .S26 2000 |
| 090 | | | a\| Internet Access b\| AEU |
| 245 | 0 | 0 | a\| Santa Barbara Corpus of Spoken American English Part I. |
| 264 | | 1 | a\| [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania] : b\| Linguistic Data Consortium, c\| [2000] |
| 300 | | | a\| 1 online resource. |
| 336 | | | a\| computer dataset b\| cod 2\| rdacontent |

*MARC record*

# Mediated access model

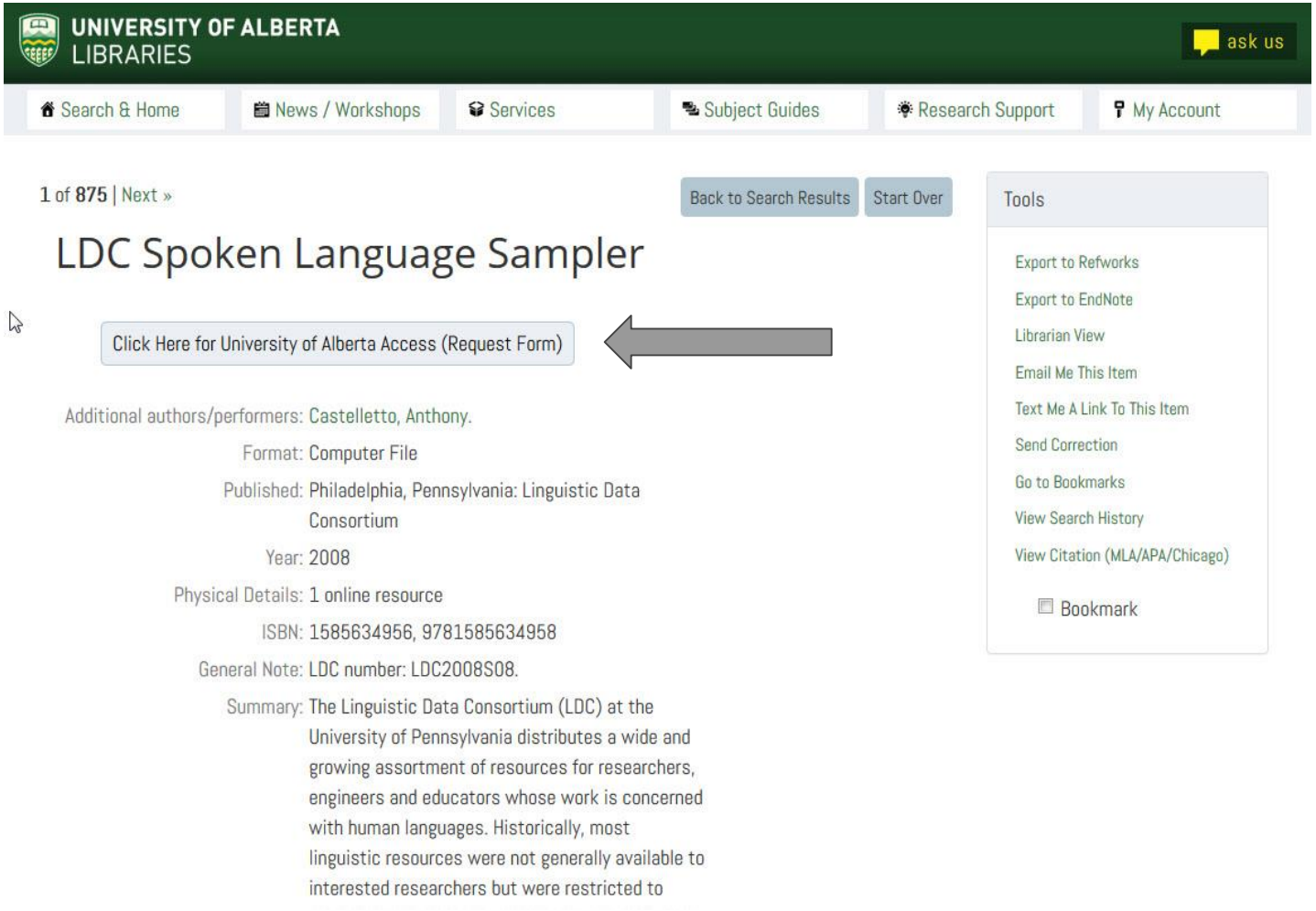


# Launched in May, 2019

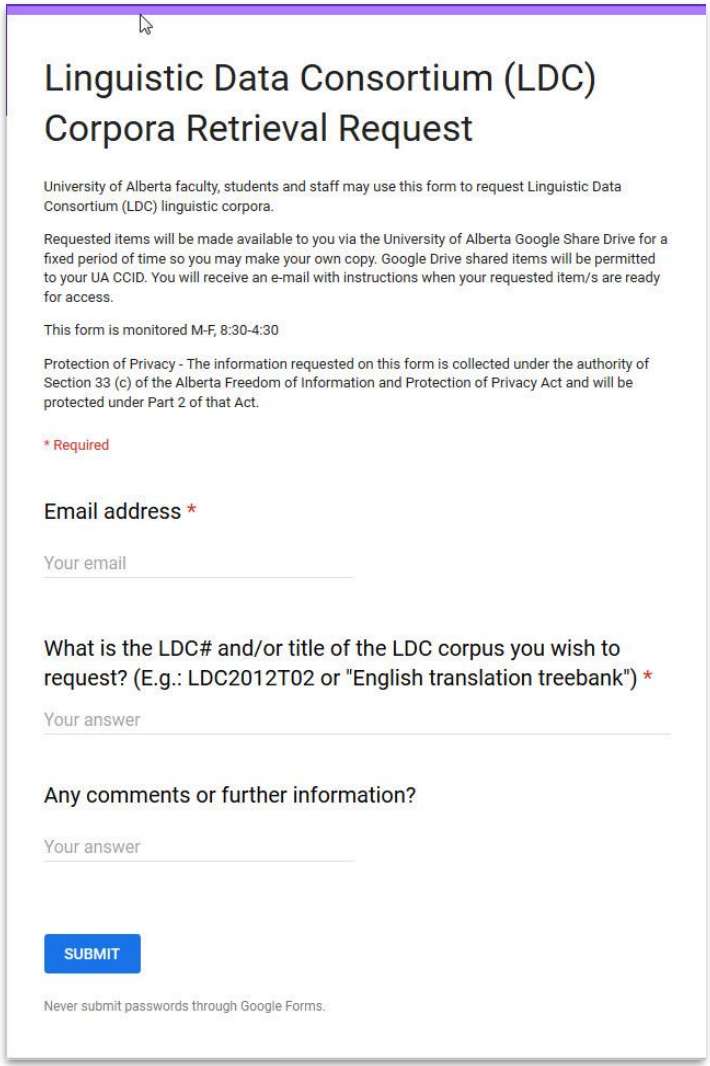


# 3 - “Data delivery” services at UAL

# Sample LDC Catalogue Record



# LDC Request Form



## Linguistic Data Consortium (LDC) Corpora Retrieval Request

University of Alberta faculty, students and staff may use this form to request Linguistic Data Consortium (LDC) linguistic corpora.

Requested items will be made available to you via the University of Alberta Google Share Drive for a fixed period of time so you may make your own copy. Google Drive shared items will be permitted to your UA CCID. You will receive an e-mail with instructions when your requested item/s are ready for access.

This form is monitored M-F, 8:30-4:30

Protection of Privacy - The information requested on this form is collected under the authority of Section 33 (c) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be protected under Part 2 of that Act.

* Required

Email address *

Your email

What is the LDC# and/or title of the LDC corpus you wish to request? (E.g.: LDC2012T02 or "English translation treebank") *

Your answer

Any comments or further information?

Your answer

SUBMIT

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

# Thank you.


john.huck@ualberta.ca

abombak@ualberta.ca

**References**

https://bit.ly/2UprJdy