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Facilitating Research : The IRIS Database

1) What is IRIS?

Instruments for **R**esearch **I**nto **S**econd Languages

IRIS is:

- a **huge repository of material for collecting data**
- **contains tools for** a **wide range of research areas**
- **online** and **freely accessible**
- **easily searchable** by author, instrument type, research area, languages, date, etc.
- **independent**, **sustainable** and **transparent**

2) Why use IRIS?

1. **Transparency and sharing**
2. **Impact**
3. **Visibility and evaluation facilitating replication**
4. **Quality of meta-analyses and methodological synthesis and review**
5. **Upload, search, download and request instruments.**

3) Example instruments

A) Picture description

Philp & Iwashita (2013)

B) Self-paced reading stimuli

SSS AND SPS CONDITIONS

The slogan on the poster(s) was designed to get attention.
The picture on the postcard(s) was of a village church in the south of France.
The mistake in the program(s) was disastrous for the small software company.

The label on the bottle(s) was a warning about the toxic effects of the drug.
The problem in the school(s) was solved by firing the superintendent.
The name on the T-shirt(s) was of a prominent local politician.
The crime in the city(ies) was a reflection of the violence in today's society.
The defect in the car(s) was unknown to consumers and government regulators.
The message from the company(ies) was deleted by accident.
The evidence from the lab(s) was questioned by several scientists.
The key to the cabinet(s) was kept in the main office.
The letter from the lawyer(s) was received in San Francisco in late March.
The entrance to the laboratory(ies) was hard to locate on the diagram.
The warning from the expert(s) was a shock to the residents of the city.
The bridge to the island(s) was about ten miles off the main highway.
The gift from the boy(s) was a box of chocolate.
The attorney for the victim(s) was invited to attend the press conference.
The report from the agency(ies) was not very encouraging.
The lady by the palm tree(s) was asked to leave the scene.
The offer to the manager(s) was accepted without any further discussion.

Jiang (2004)

C) Preposition priming task (Conroy & Antón-Méndez, 2015)

Language acquisition experiment: Object descriptions
PART 1

- In part 1 you will see 12 familiar objects, and see the first half of a sentence which describes each object. The sentence begins with the object's name. You must complete this sentence. *For example:*

  A helmet is something you ...*wear on your head*

- Do not dwell too long on any one sentence; just use the first sentence that you can think of.
- You can practice before you start. When you are ready to begin the practice, press the 'enter' key.

Practice 1

A helmet is something you .....

4) IRIS statistics

Since IRIS was launched in 2012:

1400 instruments held on IRIS

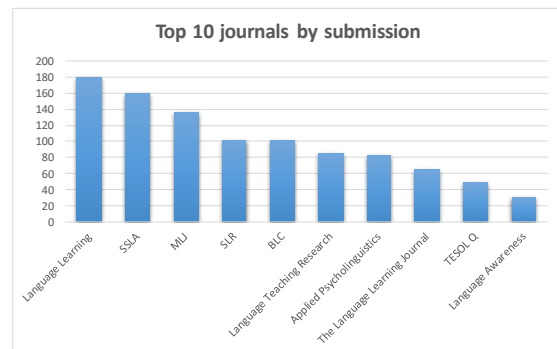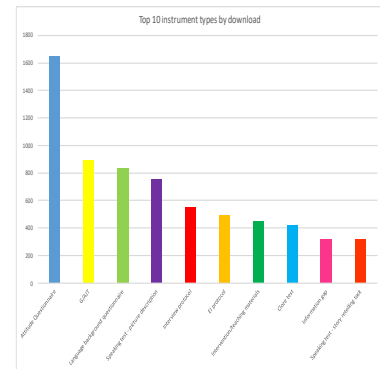**15000 downloads** (over 5000 in 2016 alone)

Over **29000 hits**

161 journals

109 types of instrument

Over **30 L2s**

Over **60 L1s**

Top 10 instrument types by download

Top 10 journals by submission

5) Developments and challenges

NEW! *Special GJT and SPR collections on IRIS.*

NEW! *Open Science badges and IRIS*

IRIS NEEDS YOU, always*!*

Under represented areas:

- **Learning theories**: processability theory, efficiency driven processor, attention blocking, socio-cultural perspectives

- **Methodological approaches:** 'prompts' used in qualitative research, stimuli for ERP studies

- **Research areas:** CALL; teacher education; intervention materials; task-based activities; figurative language

*For more information check out the **new IRIS FAQs** on the website*

IRIS
A digital repository of data collection instruments for research into second language learning and teaching

ESRC
ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

BRITISH ACADEMY