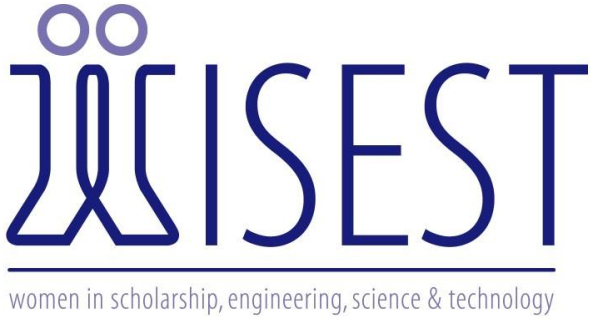
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

WISEST SRP 2020
Sharing a Cree Corpus Through the Web

Caitlyn Deslauriers - Computer Science



Introduction

Only about 20% of Indigenous people in Canada can speak an ancestral language (2017).

High resource languages, like English, are often the main focus of natural language processing. These tools can help with the revitalization of Indigenous languages like Cree.

Easy access to resources in Cree can be useful to academics and community members alike.

EdTeKLA

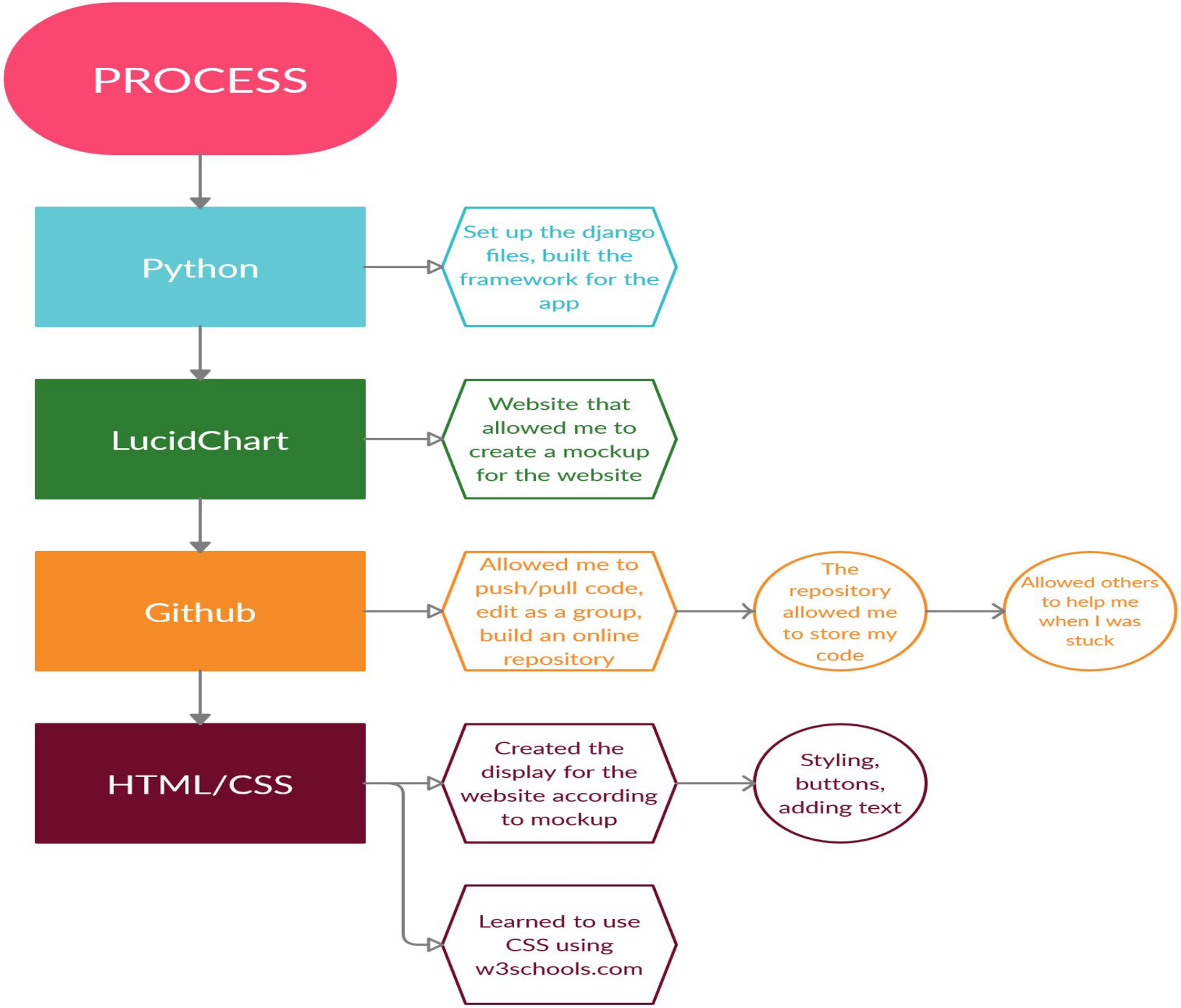
Primary Objective: Make Cree Language Resources Accessible

To distribute language resources and educational tools in order to share the Cree language.

"Knowing your language gives you an inner strength and pride in your heritage."

Freda Ahenakew, Muskeg Lake First Nation (Language)

Tools & Process



The Corpus Website

- When the server is running, users are brought to the home page.
- It has the organization name (EdTeKLA), an introduction message, and a credit area.
- There is a non-functional input for future email collection and two buttons.

EdTeKLA

Welcome to the CreeTutor Plains Cree Corpus

This project has received funding from the NRCC and NSERC. We thank our collaborators for their contributions to this project. This corpus is indented for community, academic and educational uses. It is licensed under Creative Commons X. Source code for this site is available at https://github.com/EdTeKLA/CorpusWebsite

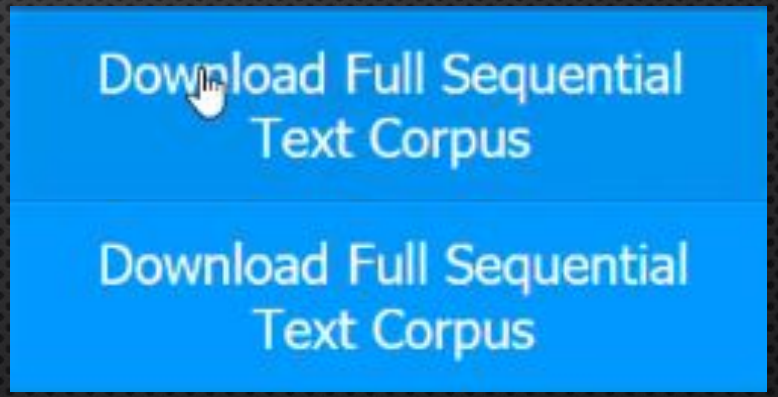
Enter your email: Submit Query

Download Full Sequential Text Corpus

Audio Resources

The Corpus Website

- When the user hovers over the buttons, they change colour slightly.
- When the top button is clicked, it starts a download.
- If the download cannot be completed, the website returns an error message.



Buttons with and without hovering cursor.

EdTeKLA

How Can This Make an Impact?

There is a shortage of resources in Cree, so this corpus can help those who are looking to develop technologies in the language.

It is useful for people teaching/learning Cree: they now have access to more material in the language for practice and reading.

The design is simple so anyone can use it.

Future Work

If I had more time, I would…

- Make it so the user can search for a certain file and download it
- Track usage and site activity
- Add emails to create a mailing list for when new resources become available

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the EdTeKLA team for their help and support, as well as for the opportunity to join their team.

I would like to thank WISEST for the opportunity to take part in the SRP and for the numerous opportunities and experiences they have given me.

I would like to thank my fellow SRP researchers for their continued support and encouragement.

I would like to thank my sponsors, Motorola and Threshold Impact, for making this opportunity possible.

Bibliography

Statistics Canada. *Census in Brief: The Aboriginal languages of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit* (2017, October 25). Retrieved July 28, 2020, from https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/as-sa/98-200-x/2016022/98-200-x2016022-eng.cfm

Language. (n.d.). Retrieved July 29, 2020, from https://sicc.sk.ca/plains-cree-elders-quotes/