

# In Others' Words

*Editor's Note: In this department, we point you to resources outside of the IJFM that we hope you'll find helpful: other journals, print resources, DVDs, web sites, blogs, YouTube videos, etc. We welcome suggestions, but cannot promise that we will publish each one we receive. Standard disclaimers on content apply. Due to the length of many web addresses, we sometimes just give the title of the article and the main web address or a suggested Google search.*

## Endangered Languages: Digital Media (and Hip-Hop) to the Rescue?

What do YouTube, Facebook, texting and hip-hop have in common? For one thing they may actually help save endangered minority languages from dying out, according to the following reports by the BBC ([bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-17081573](http://bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-17081573)) and [McClatchy \(mcclatchydc.com/2011/06/27/116595/hip-hop-texting-may-help-save.html\)](http://mcclatchydc.com/2011/06/27/116595/hip-hop-texting-may-help-save.html).

In addition to YouTube, videos from National Geographic's Enduring Voices project to preserve such languages for posterity can be found at [languagehotspots.org](http://languagehotspots.org). The interactive map of "language hotspots" on this site is worth exploring, as are their Talking Dictionaries. For more on language endangerment, see SIL's [ethnologue.com/endangered-languages](http://ethnologue.com/endangered-languages). Finally, [scoop.it/t/world-languages](http://scoop.it/t/world-languages) has yet more links on this and other language topics, including a fun one that depicts the most "unendangered" languages of the world as a Tube Map (not YouTube, but the London Tube).

## Save Maryam or Save Udin?

Here's an interesting window into the use of social media in Indonesia. Last year a Muslim group concerned about evangelism in Indonesia launched a campaign called "Save Maryam." The campaign's well-done video begins: "This is Maryam. She is sixteen years old, an Indonesian Muslim living with her parents and younger brother. In the next fifteen seconds, she is going to leave Islam." Then as church bells begin to ring, the narrator continues:

"This is why." The video claims that over 2 million Muslims are converting to Christianity every year, an assertion explained in a second video, both of which are available in [YouTube's #Save Maryam channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...).

Save Maryam has not been without critique. Some Indonesians unhappy with the campaign's message and (mis)use of statistics have launched a counter-campaign entitled Save Udin ([www.saveudin.org](http://www.saveudin.org)).

## Pew Studies Aplenty

[Pewforum.org](http://Pewforum.org), the web site of the Pew Forum on Religious and Public Life, offers readers access to scores of Pew studies related to religion and American society/world affairs, such topics ranging from issues with a religious component (e.g., abortion, gay marriage, bioethics, social welfare, and government) to beliefs and practices, religious affiliation (e.g., Christian, Jew, Muslim, etc.) and demographics.

Interested in demographic trends in the Muslim world? You can access a short summary at [pewforum.org/The-Future-of-the-Global-Muslim-Population.aspx](http://pewforum.org/The-Future-of-the-Global-Muslim-Population.aspx), download an 18 page executive summary, or even the entire 221 page report. All for free. Other reports include "Resources on Islam and Christianity in Sub-saharan Africa," "Religious Affiliation of Asian Americans," "Sikh-Americans and Religious Liberty," "The World's Muslims: Unity and Diversity" and many, many more.

## Fun with Statistics: Gapminder

For a different kind of demographic experience, check out Dutch sociologist Hans Rosling's TED Talk on "Religions and Babies" at [gapminder.org/videos/religions-and-babies](http://gapminder.org/videos/religions-and-babies)—the results may surprise you. And if you enjoy his highly visual approach to displaying data using animated statistics, you can have some fun yourself offline by downloading his free Gapminder software at [gapminder.org/world-offline](http://gapminder.org/world-offline). **IJFM**

*Note: Our thanks to Leith and Andrea Gray for alerting us to some of the sites mentioned in this In Others' Words.*