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Title: Technology for African Languages

With thousands of languages, our world has a wealth of linguistic diversity. As more and more people around the world purchase smartphones and gain access to the internet, products like smartphone keyboards also need to support more languages, so people can use technology to communicate and find information in their own languages. Africa, with more than 2,000 languages, poses particularly interesting challenges for language technology, and I'll talk about the research and logistical challenges involved in building technology for African languages. I'll also describe some progress made so far in terms of mobile input (keyboards, speech recognition) and machine translation, and outline promising future directions.