



arts and culture

Department:
Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LWAZI: A Telephone-based Speech-driven Information System for South Africa.

What is the Lwazi project?

The Lwazi project aims to develop a telephone-based speech-driven information system. It was commissioned by the Department of Arts and Culture.

The project will provide South Africans with an opportunity to access government information and services in any of South Africa's eleven official languages using either landline telephones or mobile telephones, free of charge.

Project Lwazi is being developed because more and more South Africans have access to and use telephones as a means to communicate. At the same time, not all South Africans have access to the Internet or printed media. This makes a telephone an alternative tool for accessing important information.

Benefactors and Users

The benefactors of this project are the South African Government Departments and their related institutions. They will use the technologies developed during Project Lwazi to provide information services.

Users of Lwazi will be all those seeking to access government information.

How can you get involved?

We would like to interact with you to gain knowledge about the information and services your end-users would typically require from you:

- What information needs to be provided?
- How we can make the service easy to use for your end-users?

We are striving to develop a system that will assist your organisation to improve the quality of life of your end-users by giving them easy access to information.

Based on the information we obtain, we will select a number of pilot information services to implement. If your service is selected, we will assist in implementing your service free of charge.

Your response is gratefully anticipated!

Should you wish to contact us, please send an e-mail to lwazi@meraka.csir.co.za, visit www.meraka.org.za/lwazi or call us on (012) 841 2352.

Kind Regards,
The Lwazi Research Team

LWAZI

A Telephone-based Speech-driven
Information System for South Africa.

Human Language Technologies Research Group

The Human Language Technologies (HLT) Research Group forms part of the Meraka Institute, a national research centre managed by the CSIR.

The main aim of the HLT Research Group is to develop and apply speech and language technologies for societal benefit. HLT can assist industry and government to make services and documents available in any of South Africa's official languages.

ENQUIRIES:

www.meraka.org.za/lwazi
E-mail: lwazi@meraka.csir.co.za
Tel: (012) 841 2352

RELATED LINKS:

www.meraka.org.za/hlt
www.dac.gov.za

Other initiatives of the Meraka Institute:

The **National Accessibility Portal** makes technology more accessible to persons with disabilities.

Digital Doorway makes computer technology available in rural communities around South Africa.

Human Language Technologies makes information and technology accessible using speech and language technologies.

Wireless Africa brings internet connectivity to rural and semi-rural communities, using affordable materials.

ICT for Education investigates how day to day technologies can be integrated into the learning environment.

Other Research Groups:

Open Source Centre
ICT for Earth Observation
Remote Sensing
High Performance Computing

