

Read Me File for works associated with the “Central Mali geography photos” collection.
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Background:

These jpg images of villages from east central Mali were taken as part of the mapping element in the Dogon/Bangime languages project during the period 2006 to 2017. The primary focus of the project was documenting the languages of the Dogon family, plus the language isolate Bangime. The primary documents from that work have been published by De Gruyter (as a part of the Mouton Grammar Library series)

Heath, J. (2008). A Grammar of Jamsay. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Mouton.
McPherson, L. (2013). A Grammar of Tommo So. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter
Heath, J. & Hantgan, A. (2018). A Grammar of Bangime. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Mouton.

Primary documents on several of the Dogon grammars have also been published electronically in the “Language Description Heritage Library” <http://ldh.clld.org/>.

Information about the Photographs:

The file names within each work contain some basic information about the village in question. An example is this:

Dogon_DogulDom_Dongossoro_70175_N14_38_W03_35_village_04_2011_JH

The first element in the file name refers to the language family (ex. Dogon).

The second element is the language itself (ex. DogulDom).

The third element is the village name where the photo was taken (ex. Dongossoro).

The fourth element is the identifier, a five digit code that we used in the project to distinguish similarly-named villages from each other (ex. 70175).

The fifth element is the north latitude (degrees and minutes) and then west longitude (degrees and minutes) of the village (ex. N14_38_W03_35_village).

The sixth element is the month and year the photograph was taken (ex. 04_2011).

The seventh element lists the initials of the copyright holder, Jeffrey Heath (ex. JH). As per the Creative Commons license (CC-BY 4.0), use of the images is permissible provided that the copyright holder is given attribution.

Information about the Geography and the Maps:

The mapping work initially took the form of a spreadsheet including GPS coordinates and some basic information about each village, plus one or two (rarely more) images mainly designed to show the topographic setting (plateau, rocky prominence, cliff side, base of cliffs, or open plains). Indeed the primary topographic features in the area is the large Dogon (or Bandiagara) plateau, the sandy plains that surround it on most sides, the isolated inselbergs that rise out of the plains to the northeast of the plateau, and the cliffs and rocky slopes that define the transitions from the plateau and inselberg tops down to the sandy plains. There are no

significant bodies of year-round standing water, or year-round rivers, in the zone studied, though the Niger River and its extensive seasonal floodplains are not far away (to the west).

The geographical information as this is written (2018) is more accessibly presented on the “villages” page of the project website, www.dogonlanguages.org, designed and administered by project member Steven Moran. The geography page has some interactive features and is based on an underlying relief map showing the contours of the main Dogon plateau and of the inselbergs. Dogon languages are represented by color-coded triangles, other ethnicities by color-coded circles. At this time the Tengou/Guimini/Woru dialects are listed under “other” rather than combined with “Togo Kan” (which includes Tene Kan), since we have not yet studied the Tengou/Guimini/Woru group and are unsure whether it, or some subset, constitute a separate language.

The Dogon Languages website, including the geography page, will continue to evolve as errors are corrected and as new information is gathered and added.

Information about this Collection and the Works that comprise it:

This collection contains our jpg images (shot by Prof. Jeffrey Heath and by project assistant Minkailou Djiguiba) for villages associated with Dogon languages and Bangime. We also include images for villages of other ethnicities that occur in the vicinity of Dogon and Bangime. For nearby montane Songhay (Humburi Senni, Tondi Songway Kiini) our mapping is equally detailed. We have also included villages representing another Songhay variety (Fulankiriya), Tamashek, two Mande languages, and Moore, but these are outliers from the perspective of the main territories associated with these languages. We have generally not included images of cosmopolitan, multiethnic cities and large towns (Mopti, Sevare, Douentza, Boni, Bandiagara, San).

Each language corresponds to a “work” inside this “collection.” The works can be grouped as follows:

Dogon languages and dialect clusters (alphabetical)

- Ampari
- Bankan Tey
- Ben Tey
- Bunoge
- Donno So or Kamma So
- Jamsay
- Mombo (exonym Kolu So)
- Najamba, Kindige, Bondu (dialect group)
- Nanga
- Penange
- Tebul Ure
- Tengou Kan, Togo Kan, Guimini Kan, Woru Kan, Tene Kan (cluster)
- Tiranige (exonym Duleri)
- Tommo So
- Tomo Kan
- Toro So (dialect cluster)
- Toro Tegu
- Yanda Dom

Bangime language (isolate)

Fulfulde language (Atlantic family)

Tamashek language (Berber family)
Songhay languages
 Humburi Senni
 Tondi Songway Kiini
 Fulankirya dialect of Koyraboro Senni (Songhay of Gao)
Mande languages
 Manding (Bambara)
 Bozo (Jenaama)

Observations about the specific ethnic and linguistic groups represented in this Collection:

Fulfulde is spoken by a) true Fulbe cattle herders, b) former Fulbe slaves known as Rimaïbé, and c) Fulbe merchants (mostly in large towns like Douentza). The cattle herders are transhumant. The Rimaïbé occupy a number of settled villages, mainly in the plains to the east and especially to the west of the main Dogon plateau. There are a number of small Fulbe hamlets scattered among Dogon villages, especially in the east and northeast parts of Dogon country. There are also some Fulfulde-speaking villages on the main plateau whose residents claim to be ethnic Dogon and have Dogon surnames, to the north(-east) of the Dogul Dom villages. Ongoing ethnic fighting in 2018 between Dogon and Fulbe, especially in the open plains between the eastern cliffs of the plateau and the international border with Burkina Faso (e.g. around Koro) may have long-term consequences for Fulbe villages.

Fulankiriya is the name of ethnic Fulbe who speak a variety of Koyraboro Senni, the Songhay language of Gao and several towns along the Niger River well to the north of Dogon country. Fulankiriya villages are mostly found near Hombori but there is one village (Amba) that has been established on the highway between Severe and Douentza.

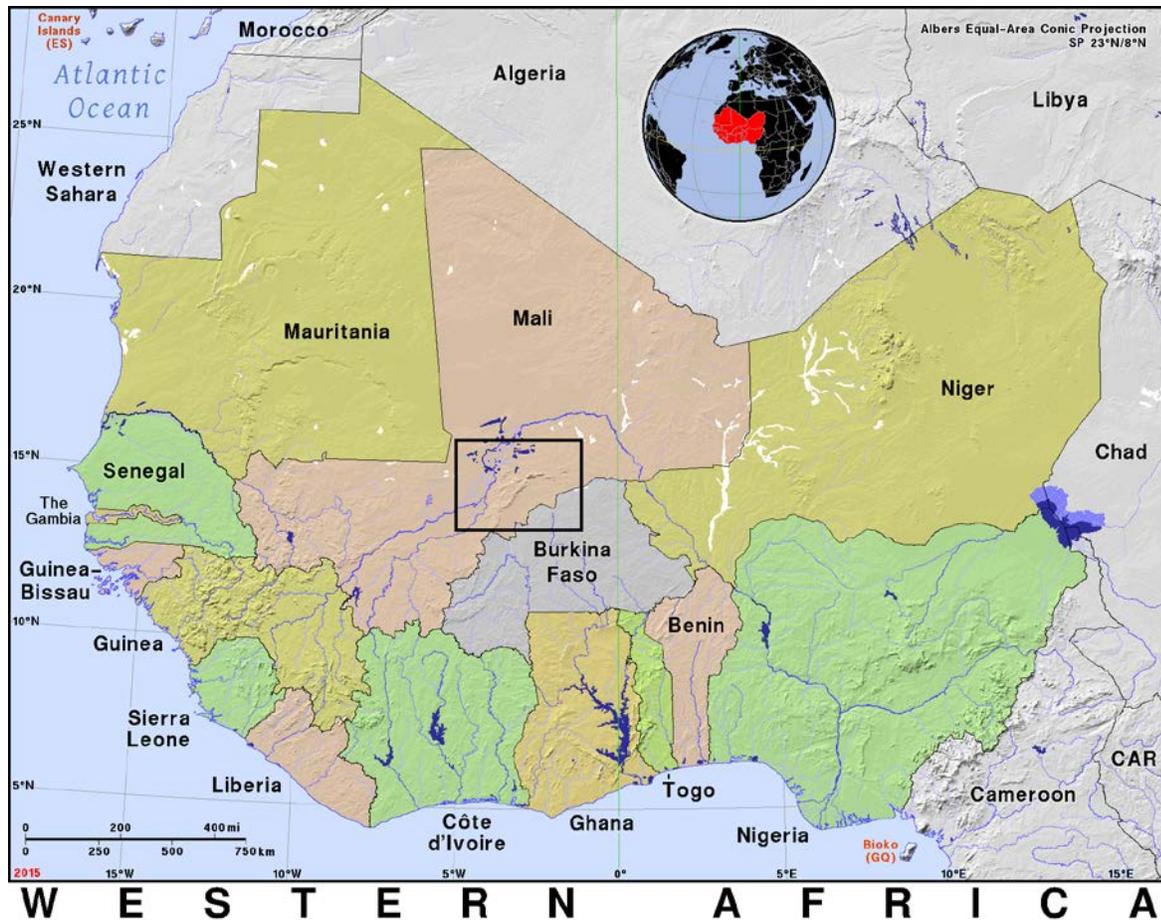
Two Mande languages are represented here. The first is Jenaama, a Bozo language (or language cluster) whose variety is spoken in villages located at the mouth of the valley occupied by Bangande (speakers of Bangime). The second is classified here as Bambara, but the varieties in question are divergent dialects or separate languages in comparison to mainstream Bambara as spoken in southern Mali. There is one Bambara dialect spoken in a few villages including Bore on or near the highway between Severe and Douentza. There is another “Bambara” cluster in the southeast of Dogon country; this variety has several names but is probably what linguists identify as “Marka” (though that term is also applied locally to other Mande varieties, including Bozo Jenaama).

Tamashek (Tamasheq and other spellings), a major language farther north extending into Algerian, is represented in the Dogon-Bangime zone by several small villages near Hombori, and by one outlier (Aliou Haidara) located near the Bambara-speaking enclave around Bore. All of these villages are inhabited by Bella, former slaves of Tuaregs who adopted their language.

When we began collecting the geographical information including images, the only maps available were outdated ones from the colonial period. We are happy to see that as of 2017 new series of maps have been published by the Institut Géographique du Mali (ING) in Bamako. One issue is that the official names of villages in the Dogon-Bangime area that appear on the maps (both colonial and new series) are generally those used by Fulfulde.

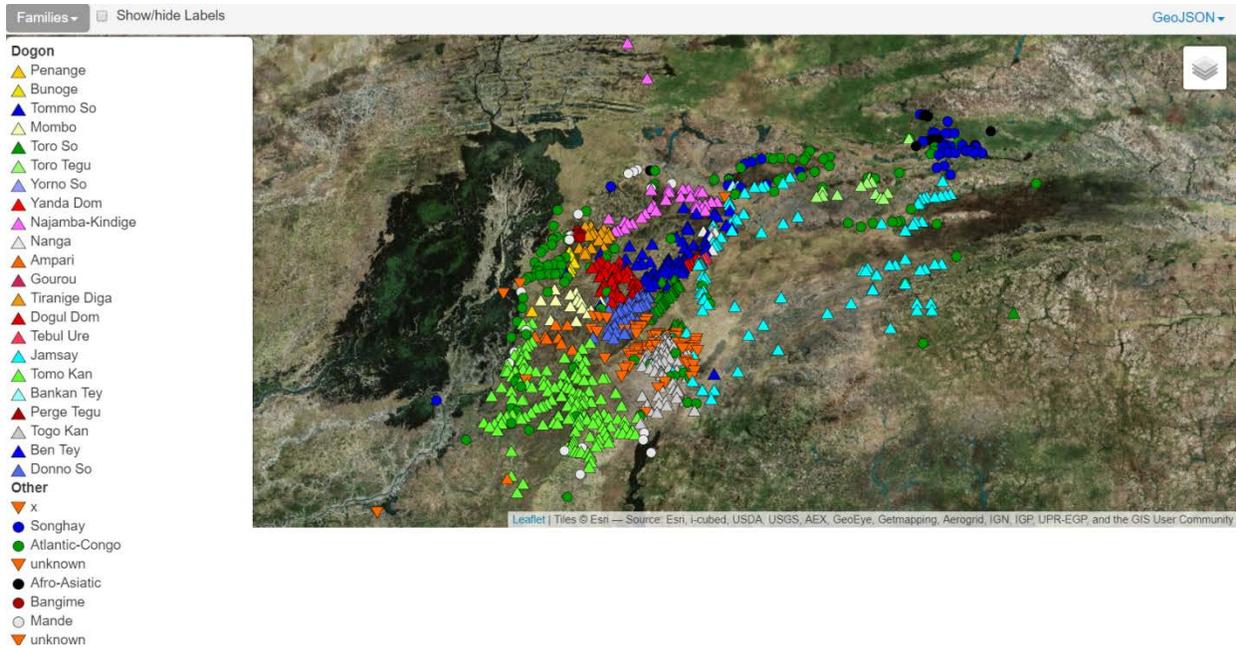
Maps:

An interactive map is accessible from the villages tab of www.dogonlanguages.org. All of the photos were taken within the black box of the map below.

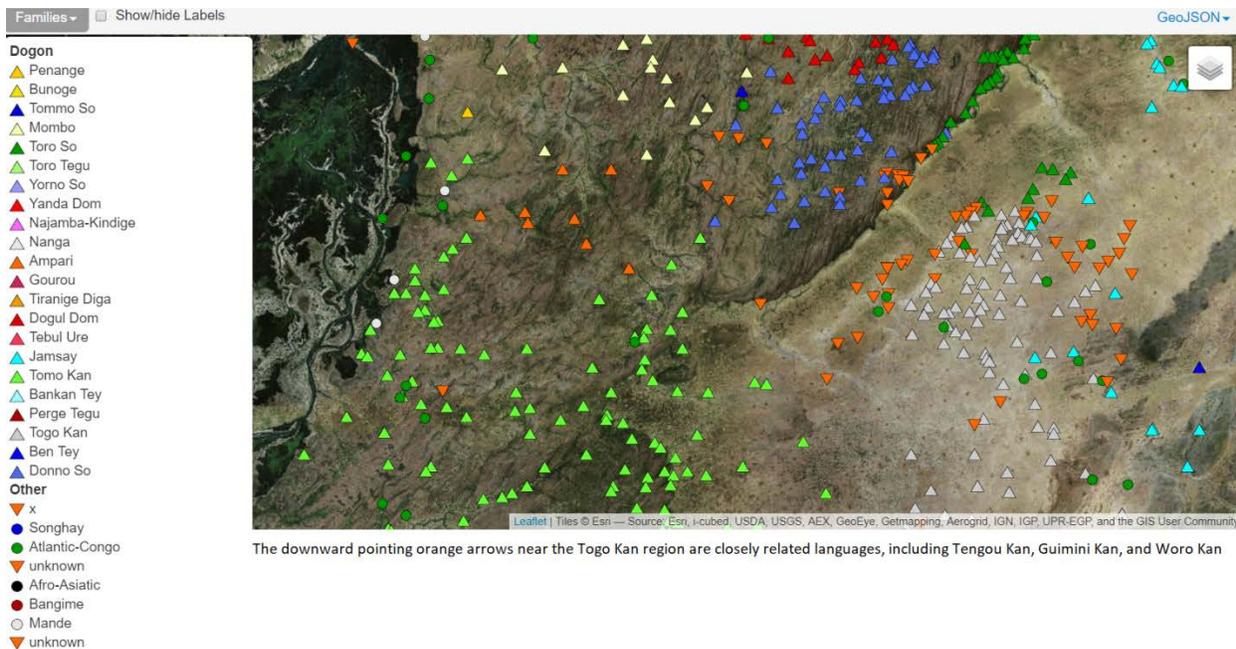


Several maps will be supplied below which show the villages and languages of the Dogon region in case the website should be unavailable. Areas with a high density of villages have been enlarged to better see the locations of the villages. The interactive map is continuously being updated, so the maps in this document might have some errors or outdated information by the time this document is accessed.

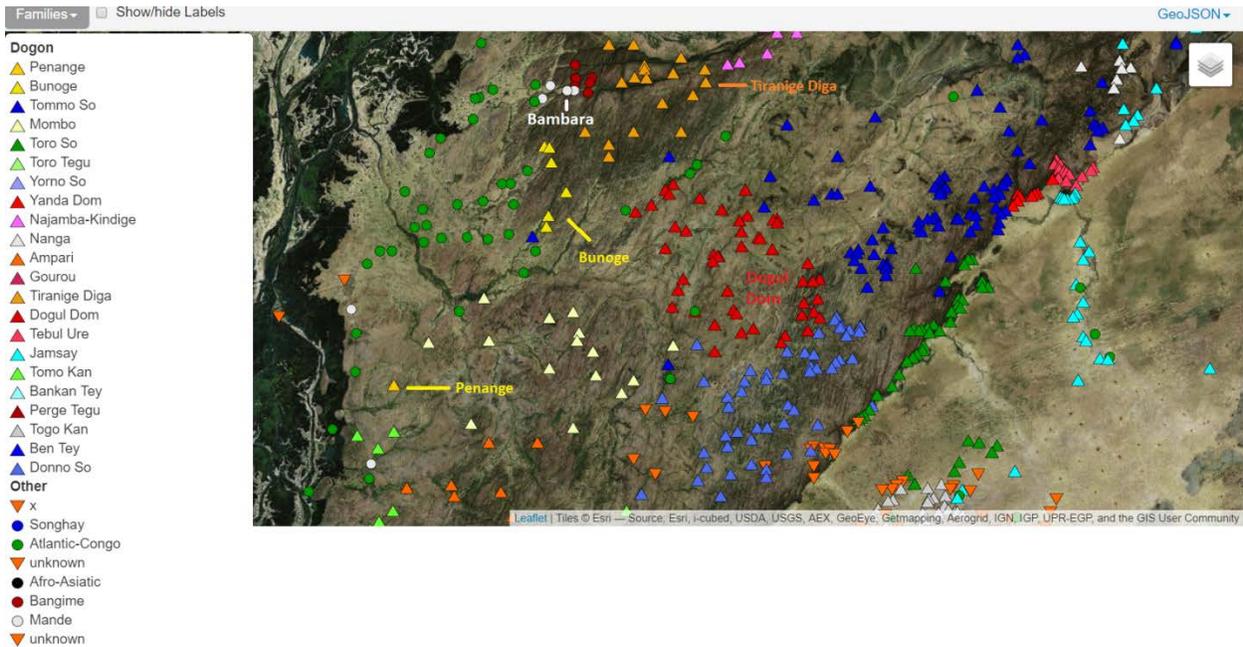
The map below shows every village mapped in the region. All Dogon languages are represented by triangles pointing upwards, languages of other language families are represented by circles, and unknown languages are represented by triangles pointing downward.



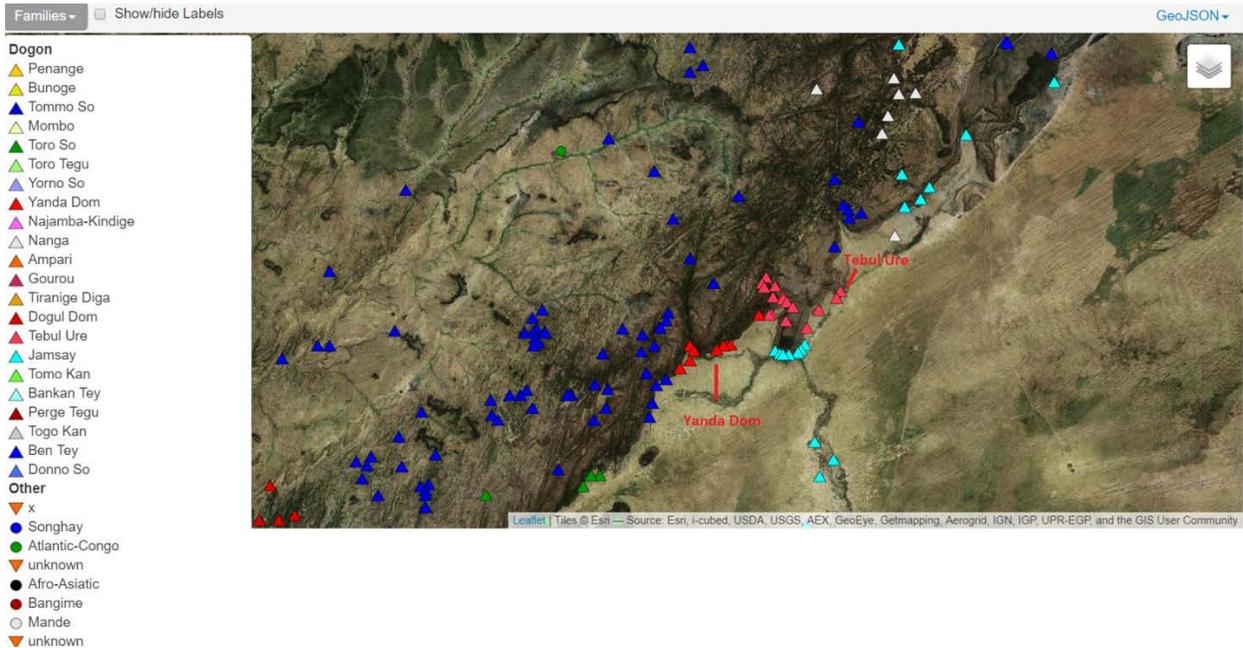
This region is the southwestern portion of the Dogon area. It highlights the languages Tomo Kan, Donno So, Ampari, and Togo Kan, which are surrounded by the closely related languages Tengou Kan, Guimini Kan, and Woro Kan, currently labelled 'unknown.'



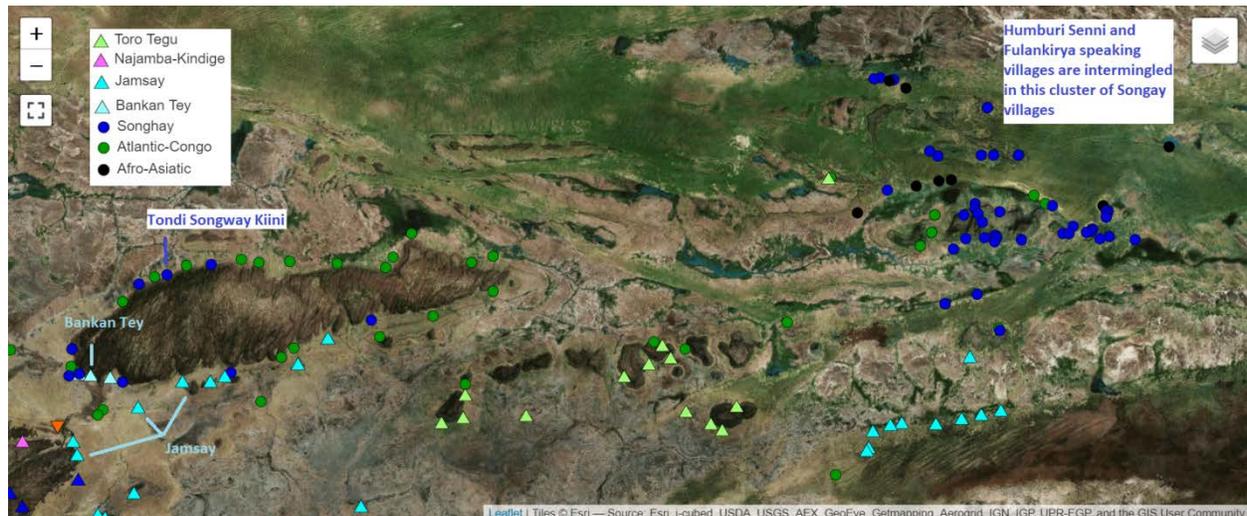
This map shows the northwest portion of the Dogon region, with villages that speak the following languages: Mombo, Yorno So, Dogul Dom, Tebul Ure, Tommo So, Penange; Bangime



The map below shows the center of the Dogon region, where the languages are concentrated alongside a series of cliffs. The languages here are Yanda Dom, Tebul Ure, Ben Tey, and Nanga, all of which are Dogon.



This final map is at the northeast edge of the Dogon region, where several non-Dogon languages are spoken. The Dogon languages spoken in this region are Jamsay, Bankan Tey, Toro Tegu, and Najamba-Kindige. Several varieties of Songhay are spoken here, including Humburi Senni, Tondi Songway Kiini, and Fulankiryra. There are several villages inhabited by Berber Tamashek speakers to the very northeast of this region. Finally, there are intermittent Fulbe villages scattered throughout this area, as there are across all the Dogon region.



Additional Collections of Related Materials:

In addition to photographs, we have created audio files of people from this region speaking their native language and have shot brief documentary videos of practical activities and cultural events of Dogon.

The collection of audio files can be found at:

<https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/data/collections/sx61dm295?locale=en>

The collection of video clips can be found at:

<https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/data/collections/9019s315v?locale=en>