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Subject: A Preface To My Presentation

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To all SignWriting researchers. I am not a programmer so that I do not have the day-to-day experience of searching massive amounts of data and fixing the coding so that one can churn out a dictionary with all the bugs fixed.

This effort is a work-in-progress so I hope you have many questions. It is not complete, it is not completely in depth, and there will always be questions about ordering dictionaries.

My effort is to use the basic structure of SignWriting for Everyday Use as a template for ordering dictionaries not by a spoken language but going back to when I first learned SignWriting by handwriting.

What did I see first? How can I look that up if I don't have a clue to the sign language but only a spoken language dictionary. In my work in Brazil, I found that educators were eager to have a dictionary with "signs" first and particularly bi-lingual textbooks comparing multiple signed languages. Not having the funding to do more than a basic start, I created this "proof of concept" dictionary. It is my hope that someone can work with me to fully explore ordering signs into comparative dictionaries starting with the signed languages themselves.

This effort can be done quickly and exhaustively with programmers but I do not know programming. I know signs, not math, I know the order I am looking for, I'm not looking to be bogged down in Java script and numeric codes but in a graphic input with a keyboard or hand-written that I can then order in an agreed-to order as a true alphabet of signed languages using the graphemes themselves, not the tons of encoding behind it. We will need both programmers and day-to-day linguists to accomplish this task, and lots of experiments, it won't be done overnight.

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