Digitizing Native American Collections

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Note from the editor: DttP has been featuring student papers for a number of years at this point—I remember talking about it in my documents class in library school. (For the record, I did not get nominated, which was probably the right choice, even if I did find my paper about the Nuclear Regulatory Commission fascinating.) But as technology changes the work of libraries, so has it changed the products that our students are producing. What follows is an example of a libguide created by a Nora Stewart, student from Emporia State University. Although my presentation of this work is somewhat clumsy, I highly recommend that all of you visit the page (http://libguides.emporia.edu/c.php?g=531631&p=3637209) and look through the resources Nora has collected and placed into context.

Prepared as part of the course LI838XI Government Resources (Summer 2016) at Emporia State University, School of Library and Information Management. Available at http://libguides.emporia.edu/digitizingnativeamericancollections.
### Indigenous Knowledge

#### Online Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction to Online Resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This section of the LibGuide presents a broad overview of organizations that digitize indigenous collections. Because the guide’s purpose is to serve New Mexico tribal librarians wanting to digitize their collections, there is a subsection devoted to New Mexico organizations. Examples of other organizations with digital indigenous collections and government resources are also included.</td>
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#### Government Resources

- **American Indian Library Initiative (AILI) - FEDLINK**
  - Since 2014 the AILI has been a standing working group for American Indian Libraries. The AILI strives to identify and establish relationships with federal agencies for these libraries. Some projects include stipends, preservation, reference services, cataloging, event and training opportunities, and promoting access to relevant federal resources.

- **American Indian Records Repository (AIRR)**
  - AIRR, within the local office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (STAI) and in collaboration with NARA, is charged with preserving Indian affairs records. AIRR is the first partnership in history between NARA and the DOI. It gives tribes, federal employees, authorized researchers, and contractors secure access to IRA baseline records to conduct research.

- **Records Management**
  - Clicking on “Records Management” will take you to the “Tribe Records Management” link at the bottom of the page. Here you can learn how the federal government is supporting preservation of tribal cultural and historical history.

- **Department of Interior (DOI) - Library**
  - The DOI’s Library offers useful resources for Native Americans and those interested in resources relevant to these diverse populations. Here you will find a number of electronic resources, through Gate Virtual Reference Library and EASTOR, on topics such as American Indian biographies, cultures, history, and tribes. These resources are only available at DOI locations.

- **Library of Congress (LOC) - Edward S. Curtis Collection**
  - This collection includes over 2,400 silver gelatin prints that were acquired by the LOC from 1906-1923. A significant portion of these prints were initially unavailable and not part of Curtis’s multi-volume work, The North American Indian. This diverse collection includes individual and collaborative works by Edward S. Curtis, a noted ethnographer and photographer.

#### New Mexico Organizations

- **Fray Angélico Chaves History Library - Palace of the Governors**
  - The Chaco History Library is a non-circulating, closed stack facility that holds hours by appointment only. It contains a variety of historical materials in multiple formats related to New Mexico and the Southwest.

- **Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) - Library and Archives**
  - As the only special collections and research library devoted specifically to the preservation of the Pueblo peoples’ history and culture, the IPCC is a logical choice for tribal librarians interested in digitizing indigenous collections. The Center works diligently toward the cultural preservation and indigenous knowledge development of the 19 New Mexico Pueblos and “Yatla de Sur” in El Paso, Texas. Though the materials at the Library and Archives are non-circulating, tribal librarians in New Mexico can gain valuable knowledge about the diverse lives, traditions, cultures, and histories of the Pueblo people.

- **Some materials contained in these collections include postcards, photographs, federal and Pueblo government documents, AV materials, manuscripts, official reports, and personal papers.**

- **Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) - Archives**
  - As a higher education organization, the IAIA supports lifelong learning, outreach, and the cultivation of creativity and leadership in Native and Arts culture. It is a land-grant institution that provides training and outreach to promote tribal sovereignty and self-determination. The Archives collect, preserve, interpret, and provide access to the documentary history of IAIA, the contemporary Native art movement, and American Indian Education. The Archives aim to collect and preserve permanent and historically relevant records related to college and museum materials. The Archives serve as educational tools for faculty, staff, students, and the public.

- **Clicking on “Collective and Assist” and “Digital Assist” offer more information on resources provided by the Archives.**

- **Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) - Museum of Contemporary Native Arts (MoCNA)**

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This video contains footage from the Indigenous Knowledge Series in April 2016 at the University of Colorado - Colorado Springs.

Rick Hill: What is Indigenous knowledge?

Center for World Indigenous Studies (CWIS)

The CWIS was founded in 1994 by members of the Cowichan Tribe and Shawnee Nation in response to requests by the Conference of Tribal Government in the Pacific Northwest.
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Additional Online Resources

- **New York Public Library (NYPL) - Digital Collections**
  
  NYPL's Digital Collections offers nearly 750,000 digital items. By browsing their digital collections, using the keyword search “American Indian,” you can find a variety of digitized items, including photos, postcards, and drawings. Likewise, using the terms “Navajo,” “Yavapai,” or “Apache” yields multiple results.

- **Simon Fraser University - Indigenous Collections**
  
  Simon Fraser University's Indigenous Collections includes the extensive Indigenous Collections, some of which contain the British Columbia Multicultural Photography Collection from the Vancouver Public Library, the Bill Reid Centre Collection of images related to the art and architecture of native peoples of the Pacific Northwest, the Northern Justice Society Native Crime Bibliography that highlights research, policy, and programs on Native involvement with the criminal justice system in the U.S. and abroad, and the White Mountain Apache Collection that includes U.S. government and legal documents on land claims and other issues related to the White Mountain Apache Tribe in Arizona.

- **Southern Oregon University Hannah Library - Southern Oregon Archives (SOA)**
  
  SOA contains rich digital archives on various subjects. The Dean and Mary Collins Collection holds 105 digital versions of material objects representing Native American artifacts from the Southwest. The First Nations Collection covers books, articles, and documents related to the Indigenous peoples of the Stikine-Cascade-Klamath-Siouan. Materials pertinent to tribes of southeastern Oregon and northern California, including the Coos, Hupa, Karuk, Klamath, Shasta, Modoc, Shoshone, Yakima, Yurok, and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua, are represented. This collection serves as an educational resource on the Indigenous peoples of the region. Collection owners have collaborated with tribes and tribal representatives to create a more comprehensive database that includes treaties, Congressional hearings, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) publications, tribal language dictionaries, and much more.

- **Yale University - Indian Receipt Project (YRP)**
  
  Through the YRP, focuses on documenting the history of Native Americans in New England, tribal identifiers in New Mexico can learn from the example. Significant collaboration between institutional, contributing, consultative, and tribal partners has taken place to implement and maintain the project. By clicking on “Collection,” followed by “How to Search the Collection,” you can gain access to nearly 400 years of New England Native American primary source materials. In doing so, the YRP gives a multifaceted audience, including educators, students, researchers, tribal members, and the general public, increased access to significant historical knowledge. Strict adherence to best practices and scholarly, archival, and technical standards is followed and serves other organizations wanting to begin their own digital projects.

- **American Indian Records Repository - Native Report**
  
  The YouTube video gives an overview of the AARR, an underground storage facility in Lenexa, Kansas.