

# Digitizing Native American Collections

Nora Stewart

*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>.

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## Digitizing Native American Collections: Home

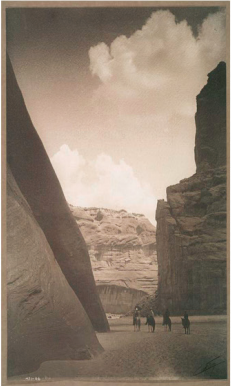
Prepared as part of the course LI838XI Government Resources (Summer 2016) at Emporia State University, School of Library and Information Management - By Nora Stewart

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Introduction


This guide is designed for tribal librarians in New Mexico who serve Navajo, Pueblo, and Apache communities. It provides examples of digital collections from various organizations, offers guidance on digital project considerations, and addresses the importance of indigenous knowledge.

Cañon del Muerte, Navajo



The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Photography Collection, The New York Public Library. (1906). *Cañon del Muerte, Navajo*. Retrieved from <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47da-7b36-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

Pueblo of Cochiti, New Mexico



The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Photography Collection, The New York Public Library. *Pueblo of Cochiti, New Mexico*. Retrieved from <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e0-9534-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

Apache Warriors

Reference and Information

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**Articles**


- ["Access and Control of Indigenous Knowledge in Libraries and Archives: Ownership and Future Use" - Dr. Jane Anderson](#)

Dr. Jane Anderson produced this 2005 document for the ALA and MacArthur Foundation. Its highlights include the following: intellectual property and indigenous knowledge issues; the importance of cultural materials to knowledge, power, property, and access; case studies from libraries and archives in Australia, particularly the renowned Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies; digital technology and innovation; and protocols and best practices. Anderson's findings also put the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) work in context.
- ["Indigenous/Traditional Knowledge & Intellectual Property" - Dr. Jane Anderson](#)

Anderson published this 82-page Issues Paper in 2010 for Duke University School of Law's Center for the Study of the Public Domain. It argues that indigenous peoples must navigate and develop appropriate frameworks for complex issues that arise with the access and use of indigenous knowledge and its practices. Here you will find examples of use and misuse of indigenous knowledge, opportunities and challenges of current proposals, and ideas for the future, including the participation, collaboration, and partnership of indigenous peoples. Finally, Anderson includes a "Further Resources" section offering a sampling of literature produced from 2003-2009.
- ["Perceptions of Digital Libraries with Indigenous Knowledge: An Exploratory Study" - Debra Lynn Capponi](#)

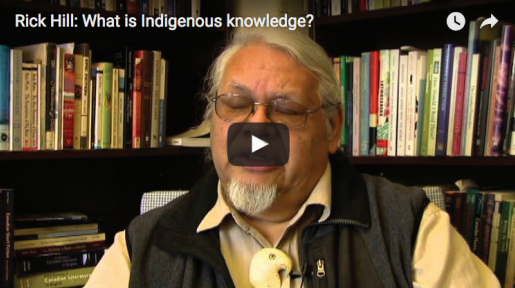
**Videos**

**Indigenous Knowledge Series UCCS Apr 13 2016 Margu...**



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?**



Rick Hill (Tuscarora), artist, writer, and curator who lives at the Six Nations Community of the Grand River Territory in Ontario, Canada, presents a brief description of indigenous knowledge. Mr. Hill has been involved in indigenous knowledge efforts in many capacities over the years, including that of Director of the Indian Museum at the IAIA in Santa Fe, New Mexico and Assistant Director for Public Programs at the NMAI. He also has been involved in the management of the Six Nations Virtual Archives Project.

**Websites**

- [Center for World Indigenous Studies \(CWIS\)](#)

The CWIS was founded in 1984 by members of the Cowliwz Tribe and Shuswap Nation in response to requests by the Conference of Tribal Government in

## Indigenous Knowledge

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**Introduction to Online Resources**

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.

**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 networks on valuable federal efforts for these libraries. Some projects include digitization, preservation, reference services, cataloging, event and training opportunities, and promoting access to extant federal resources.
- [American Indian Records Repository \(AIRR\)](#)

The AIRR, within the DOI's Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) 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 BIA inactive records to conduct research.

Clicking on "Records Management," under the "What We Do" tab, will take you to a "Tribal Records Management" link at the bottom of the page. Here you can learn how the federal government is supporting preservation of tribal cultural and governmental history.

Upon request you can also reach out for support and training in records management services for tribal communities. Staff at the Office of Trust Responsibilities (OTR), with a branch office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, can offer technical support and general guidance for tribes interested in creating their own records management systems.
- [Department of the 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 Gale Virtual Reference Library and JSTOR, on topics such as American Indian biographies, culture, history, and tribes. These resources are only available at DOI locations.

The library also contains valuable links to digital collections, websites from governmental and nongovernmental organizations, guides to federal records, and legal sources.
- [Library of Congress \(LOC\) - Edward S. Curtis Collection](#)

This collection includes over 2,400 silver-gelatin prints that were acquired by the LOC from 1900-1930. A significant portion of these prints were initially unavailable and not part of Curtis's multi-volume work, *The North American Indian*. This diverse collections includes individual and

**New Mexico Organizations**

- [Fray Angelico Chavez History Library - Palace of the Governors](#)

The Chavez 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.

Clicking on "digitized collections" will take you to the Photo Archives within the Palace of the Governors. This resource allows you to search by topic, particularly by Apache, Navajo, or Pueblo peoples.
- [Indian Pueblo Cultural Center \(IPCC\) - Library and Archives](#)

As the only special collections and research library devoted specifically to the preservation of the Pueblo people's 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 Ysleta del 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 Arts and cultures. 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 "Collections and Assets" and "Digital Assets" offer more information on resources provided by the Archives.
- [Institute of American Indian Arts \(IAIA\) - Museum of Contemporary Native Arts \(MoCNA\)](#)

## Online Resources

- New York Public Library (NYPL) - Digital Collections**  
 NYPL's Digital Collections offer nearly 700,000 digitized 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," "Pueblo," or "Apache" yields multiple results.
- Simon Fraser University - Indigenous Collections**  
 Simon Fraser University Digitized 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 Hannon Library - Southern Oregon Archives (SODA)**  
 SODA contains rich digital archives on various subjects. The Dean and Mary Collins Collection holds 100 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 Siskiyou-Cascade-Klamath bioregion. Materials pertinent to tribes of southwestern Oregon and northern California, including the Coos, Hupa, Karuk, Klamath, Takelma, Shasta, Modoc, Siuslaw, Yahooskin, 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 Papers Project (YIPP)**  
 Though the YIPP focuses on documenting the history of Native Americans in New England, tribal librarians in New Mexico can learn from this example. Significant collaboration between institutional, contributing, consortial, and tribal partners has taken place to implement and maintain the project. By clicking on "Collection," followed by "How to Search the Collection," you will gain access to nearly 400 years of New England Native American primary source materials. In doing so, the YIPP gives multiple audiences, 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.

Navajo woman weaving on upright loom with family



puts Native American issues and histories in a larger framework, particularly as they relate to indigenous knowledge.

Videos



The LOC recently provided the above video that presents information on FEDLINK's AILI. Here you will find a panel of American Indian historians and cultural experts talking about regional and federal culture and history and be given a demonstration of the Indigenous Tribal Law Project, a free, online resource to increase access and discoverability of tribal law through tribal listings, websites, and online primary source materials.



This YouTube video gives an overview of the AIRR, an underground storage facility in Lenexa, Kansas.

Additional Online Resources