Digital collections at your library: Community, culture, and connection

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We would like to acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish. We honor with gratitude the Duwamish People past and present, in appreciation of their enduring care of these lands and waterways.

Learn more: https://www.duwamishtribe.org/

Photo by Andrew Bain, unsplash
Agenda

- Welcome
- Digital collections at your library
- Project background
- Practitioner stories
- Digital collections at small libraries
- Digital Collections Stewardship courses
- Q&A
We'd like to hear from you!

Go to link in chat to answer: pollev.com/oclc

Which of these have you done at your library?

- Recorded oral histories or interviews
- Digitized newspapers, photos, or documents
- Collected already digital photos or videos
- Digitized physical objects
- Collected or archived web content
- I haven’t started yet!
Digital collections at your library

- Special collections in digital form
- Unique, valuable, local
- Meaningful to community, culture
- Stewardship – plan, create, manage, preserve, share

Sustainable Heritage Network

Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield Story Project
Digitization at small public libraries


• 91% unique, locally significant materials
• 42% had done some digitization
  – 67% of those had no digitization strategy
• 67% identified insufficient staff training/expertise as a major barrier
Digitization in Tribal Archives, Libraries, Museums (TALMs)

- Dr. Kimberly Christen
- Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation
- Responding to unique training needs
- Sustainable Heritage Network

Image courtesy Kimberly Christen
Tribal Digital Stewardship Cohort Program

- Respect unique histories and contexts
- Culturally appropriate approach to access

Images courtesy CDSC
TALM digital stewardship needs

• Access to training
• Tailored to small, under-resourced organizations

Maureen Wacondo (Pueblo of Jemez)
Katie Lee and Jason Wesaw (Pokagon Band of Potawatomi)
Ashley Sexton (Catawba Nation)
Arlan Sando (Pueblo of Jemez) and Marilyn Decker (Iñupiaq)

Images courtesy CDSC
SELENA ORTEGA-CHIOLERO

Museum Specialist, Chickaloon Village
Traditional Council

Nay’dini’aa Na Kayax (Chickaloon Native Village)
CVTC PERMANENT COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES – DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

- Historical photographs
- Photographs of the ethnographic collection
- Documents
- Maps
- Periodicals
- Ahtna language recordings
- Oral history interviews
- Video recordings
NAY’DINI’AA NA’S CULTURAL RESOURCES ENDEAVORS TO INFORM THROUGH CURATED DIGITIZATION BY UNEARTHING OUR PAST, AND ILLUMINATING OUR PRESENT, SO THAT WE MAY PROTECT, PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS.
A New Approach

“Digital and visual repatriation is paramount in **restoring traditional cultural knowledge**. It allows for cooperation and understanding between archivists and Indigenous communities while ensuring access and control is given back to those source communities.”

ackle,”

°O’Neal, Jennifer. “The Right to Know: Decolonizing American Archives,” *Journal of Western Archives*, special issue of *Native American Archives*, vol. 6, Iss. 1, Article 2, 2015, pp. 1-17.
The Chickaloon Information We Share online digital database, supported through the Mukurtu CMS, is a means of connecting our Tribal citizens with their culture, history and one another while illustrating the interconnectedness of the Ahtna Dene of Alaska.
Selena Ortega-Chiolero, CVTC Museum Specialist
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https://cultural-heritage-steward.squarespace.com/

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Slide 2: CVTC Permanent Collections & Archives
Slide 3: CVTC Permanent Collections & Archives
Slide 4: Selena Ortega-Chiolero
Slide 5: CVTC Ugheldze Le Cilaes website https://ugheldzelecilaes.libraries.wsu.edu/
The histories and needs of the communities are distinctive and different, but digital stewardship can preserve community history, represent community voices, foster community connection/appreciation/knowledge.
Shared needs & circumstances

- Limited financial resources
- Limited staff, technical skills & support
- Geographical isolation
- Low confidence is common
- Have access to unique local history/stories to preserve—materials/stories that communities are at risk of losing
- Digital collections can help represent histories, perspectives, voices of the community
Distinct cultures & institutions

- Each tribe a sovereign nation
- Archives and museums
- Appropriate access
- Impact of history on collections
- Importance of language
- Cultural repatriation

ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES, AND MUSEUMS
Sustaining and Advancing Indigenous Cultures

https://www.atalm.org/
The Remembering Benzie Oral History Project was made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services Accelerating Promising Practices for small libraries grant. The project began September 2019 and ran through June 2021.
Remembering Benzie Student Interns

Year one intern cohort

Year two intern cohort
Why Oral Histories?
Veterans History Project

The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

Library of Congress Veterans History Project page: https://www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html
Remembering Benzie Resources

Remembering Benzie YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_pflhLYW1ouH1VkJ8MI9-Q

Benzonia Public Library website Remembering Benzie:
https://www.benzonialibrary.org/remembering-benzie.html

Amanda McLaren: benzonia@library@gmail.com

Photo Credits: all photos provided by Benzie Public Library, used with permission
Photo of a young woman and two boys on horseback

Item Description

Title: Photo of a young woman and two boys on horseback

Topics: Horse; Soda houses

Description: Photo of a young woman and two boys on horseback in front of a soda house

Holding Institution: Nossaman Private Collection

Local institution identifier: 2020.4.19

Place(s): Pella, Iowa

Time Period: 1880-1890

Language(s): English

Place of Publication: Pella, Iowa;

Unidentified Status: Unknown

Type: Print, Photographic

Pella Public Library

https://www.cityofpella.com/190/Library
Digital Collections Stewardship

A series of 7 free, online, on-demand courses based on the Tribal Digital Stewardship Cohort Program.

Made for staff at libraries, archives, and museums

At WebJunction and Sustainable Heritage Network.
Adapted from cohort training

- Reach and access of on-demand
- Multiple audiences
- 9 Practitioner voices
- Learning group support
Course series

- Updated digital stewardship lifecycle model
- Support planning, decision making
- Policies
- Create your action plan

**PREPARE**

- Creating digital stewardship goals and getting buy-in from stakeholders.
- Aligning your goals with your Tribal or organizational mission, strategic plans, or goals.
- Identifying policy and documentation needs.
- Identifying staffing, funding, and resource needs.
- Creating project plans and determining what you’ll prioritize.
- Connecting with community members and building relationships.
First 2 courses available now

WebJunction Course Catalog – Digital Collections Stewardship

Coming soon…

- 5 more: Gathering, Digitizing, Enhancing, Sharing, Saving

- WebJunction in May

- Coming next to The Sustainable Heritage Network

https://sustainableheritagenetwork.org
Gratitude

Thank you to all those who have supported this work, including the Institute of Museum and Library Services; participants of the TDSCP 2015-2020; TDSCP advisory board; CDSC leadership and staff; WSU Native American Programs; our public library interviewees; the project team, especially Rebecca McGuire; and OCLC.
Questions?

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For more information

https://sustainableheritagenetwork.org

oc.lc/digital-stewardship

learn.webjunction.org/course/index.php?categoryid=61