**Native Stories, Native Peoples: Opportunities for Library Engagement** <https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/native-stories-native-peoples.html>

The history and current experiences of Indigenous peoples and Tribal Nations are complex, rich and diverse. Libraries can play an important role in counteracting damaging myths and narratives about Native peoples, as well as exploring contemporary struggles and joys. This webinar will highlight opportunities for libraries to connect their communities to accurate and respectful information, fostering understanding and support of Indigenous peoples past and present. Resources for learning about treaties, Tribal Nations and lands, as well as insights into the experiences of Native communities today will also be shared. With a better understanding of these distinctive histories and cultures, library staff can promote learning and knowledge, support engagement with Native issues and peoples, and better serve all individuals in their community.

Presented by: **Naomi Bishop**, Health Sciences Librarian, University of Arizona’s Phoenix Biomedical Campus, and Akimel O’odham (Pima) from the Gila River Indian Community

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Demographics, History and Governance** |
| Along with reviewing in more detail the information shared in the webinar about demographics, history, and governance, discuss or consider how this narrative is missing from your community’s discourse. * How can you learn more about Native peoples in your community?
* What are local, state, or national resources for local demographic data?
* Who can you connect with in your community or region to build relationships and partnerships with Native community members and organizations? Create opportunities to listen to and acknowledge their stories, and look for ways to tear down barriers.

**Key Resource:** [Tribal Nations & the United States: An Introduction](https://www.ncai.org/about-tribes), developed by the National Congress of American Indians  |

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| **Tribal Crit and Role for Libraries** |
| Review the nine tenets of Tribal Critical Race Theory (TribalCrit), created by Bryan McKinley Jones Brayboy, and shared in the webinar (see also [pdf summary](https://nepc.colorado.edu/sites/default/files/publications/Newsletter%20tribalcrit.pdf)).Now consider or discuss the role you and your library can play to address harm done:* Reflect on your own standpoints, bias, attitudes, policies, and the need for change.
* How do libraries continue to contribute to harmful stereotypes, misrepresentations,assimilation, and erasure of American Indians?
* How can you move away from deficit perspective that frequently characterizes Native children and families?
* How can you reconsider policies and service systems that perpetuate trauma and harm?
* How can you advocate for more engagement and support with American Indian tribes, organizations, businesses, non-profits?

Considerations informed by [*Trauma and Resilience in the Lives of Contemporary Native Americans*](https://worldcat.org/en/title/1060191116), Hilary N Weaver |
| **Visibility and Acknowledgement of Native Nations**  |
| Imagine someone saying to you, “Learning about Native Americans isn’t very important. They’re mostly gone anyway.” What would you tell them to change their understanding? How can you improve the visibility and acknowledgement of Native Nations and Peoples in your library?1.
2.

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| **Considering Criteria for Collections and Programming** |
| Naomi shared steps for teachers and librarians to consider as you take action to make collections and programs more welcoming to the whole community. Review these activities below and circle those your institution already has in place, and check those you would like to prioritize for your team in the coming year:* Collection Development policy that reviews books for stereotypes and misrepresentations.
* Invite local tribal communities, to be guest speakers or a part of school programs.
* Discuss, display, and learn about Indigenous knowledges and environments.
* Think critically and evaluate and weed your collections.
* Buy, promote, and read own voices books written and illustrated by American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander authors and illustrators.
* Educate yourself and students about the Native communities.
* Join and support [American Indian Library Association](https://ailanet.org/) and other Native American non-profit organizations.
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| **Action Plan: (include next steps, when, who, etc.)** |

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