ATALM Members and Archives Survey Report

DANIELLE DAVIS AND DIANA E. MARSH

Abstract

This presentation will describe the results of a survey facilitated by the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) as part of an NSF-funded project to explore discovery, use, and access in anthropological archives at the National Anthropological Archives (National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution). The national survey received 129 responses and included community members from ~50 tribal affiliations across the United States and parts of Ontario, Canada. The scope of survey topics ranged from uses of archival materials in community contexts and types of archival materials sought by users to suggestions for improvements to research, access, and use as well as barriers in conducting archival research. Preliminary findings suggest that many users are concerned with institution-community relationship building, fees and paywalls, travel limitations, and digital access. Additionally, many users express research interests involving oral histories and storytelling, language preservation, and material culture.

About the authors:

Diana E. Marsh is an Assistant Professor of Archives and Digital Curation at the University of Maryland's College of Information Studies (iSchool), and at SAA is Past Chair of the Native American Archives Section, and Member of the Archival Repatriation Committee. Her current research focuses on improving discovery and access to colonially-held archives for Native American and Indigenous communities. Her recent work has appeared in *The American Archivist*, *Archival Science*, *Archivaria,* and *The Public Historian,* and her book, *From Extinct Monsters to Deep Time* was released in paperback in 2022 with Berghahn Books.

Danielle Davis is the Reference Archivist at the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution. As a graduate researcher at the University of Maryland's College of Information Studies (iSchool), she worked with UMD's Center for Archival Futures (CAFe) and Recovering and Reuse of Archival Data (RRAD) lab to analyse the results and qualitative data derived of the 2019 ATALM Members survey.