ATALM Members and Archives
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Land Acknowledgment
“The colonial collecting project was a destructive mechanism by which Indigenous cultural materials were removed from communities and detached from local knowledge systems.”

- Christen (2015)
Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian

NAISA

Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums

National Science Foundation

National Anthropological Archives

University of Maryland

College of Information Studies
1. What information and materials are Indigenous community users seeking?

2. What are the dominant search behaviors and search experiences?

3. What barriers to access and use do Indigenous community researchers identify?

4. What, if any, archival training or experience do Indigenous community respondents have?

5. What suggestions do respondents have for improved access?
Procedures, Methods, & Data Analysis

1. Institutional Review Board
   ➔ Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program Social & Behavioral Research training
   ➔ Smithsonian IRB application & approval

2. Collaboration & Participation
   ➔ Designed and tested at NAA, NMAI, NAISA
   ➔ Distributed by ATALM, 129 respondents

3. Analysis
   ➔ Imported qualitative data from SurveyMonkey & into NVivo
   ➔ Iteratively coded using a grounded theory approach (*Charmaz 2008; Glaser 1967*)
   ➔ *Writing up coding findings

* = in process
Research Interests & Materials Sought

➔ Anthropology & Archaeology
  ◆ Language materials
  ◆ Field Notes & ethnographies
  ◆ Photographs

➔ Community & Cultural Histories
  ◆ Oral histories; sound & film recordings
  ◆ Art & material culture
  ◆ Ephemera

➔ Cultural Preservation
  ◆ Acquisitions & provenance records
  ◆ Object preservation & conservation records
1. Information & Material Interests
2. Search Behaviours & Experiences
3. Barriers to Access & Use
4. Archival Training & Experience
5. Community Suggestions for Improvement

Search Term Behaviors
1. Tribal Names & Synonyms for "Indigenous"
2. Individual Names
3. Historic Events & Time Periods
4. [De]Colonization, Education, Reconciliation, Slavery, Revitalization
1. Information & Material Interests
2. Search Behaviours & Experiences
3. Barriers to Access & Use
4. Archival Training & Experience
5. Community Suggestions for Improvement

Barriers to Archival Access

- Search & Retrieval: 39.0%
- Financial Barriers: 19.5%
- Operational Barriers: 15.7%
- Equipment & Resource: 10.0%
- Human Barriers: 15.7%
1 Information & Material Interests
2 Search Behaviours & Experiences
3 Barriers to Access & Use
4 Archival Training & Experience
5 Community Suggestions for Improvement

Rate your familiarity with archives and archival collections:
- Extremely Familiar: 30.1%
- Very Familiar: 30.1%
- Somewhat Familiar: 34.4%
- Not So Familiar: 5.4%
What would you like archival collections or their related catalog records to contain?

- Inclusive Controlled Vocabularies
- Detailed Descriptions
- Records Organized by Tribe
- Searchable Finding Aids
- More Holdings Catalogued & Photographed

Barriers to Access & Use

Archival Training & Experience

Community Suggestions for Improvement

Search Behaviours & Experiences

Information & Material Interests
What could archival institutions do to improve their accessibility?

1. Information & Material Interests
2. Search Behaviours & Experiences
3. Barriers to Access & Use
4. Archival Training & Experience
5. Community Suggestions for Improvement

- Community Outreach & Relationships
- Increase Cataloging & Digital Content
- Improve Search & Searchability of Finding Aids
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**Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian** CRC staff

**NAISA** Council

**ATALM** Members and Leadership

*All survey participants*