

ATALM Members and Archives

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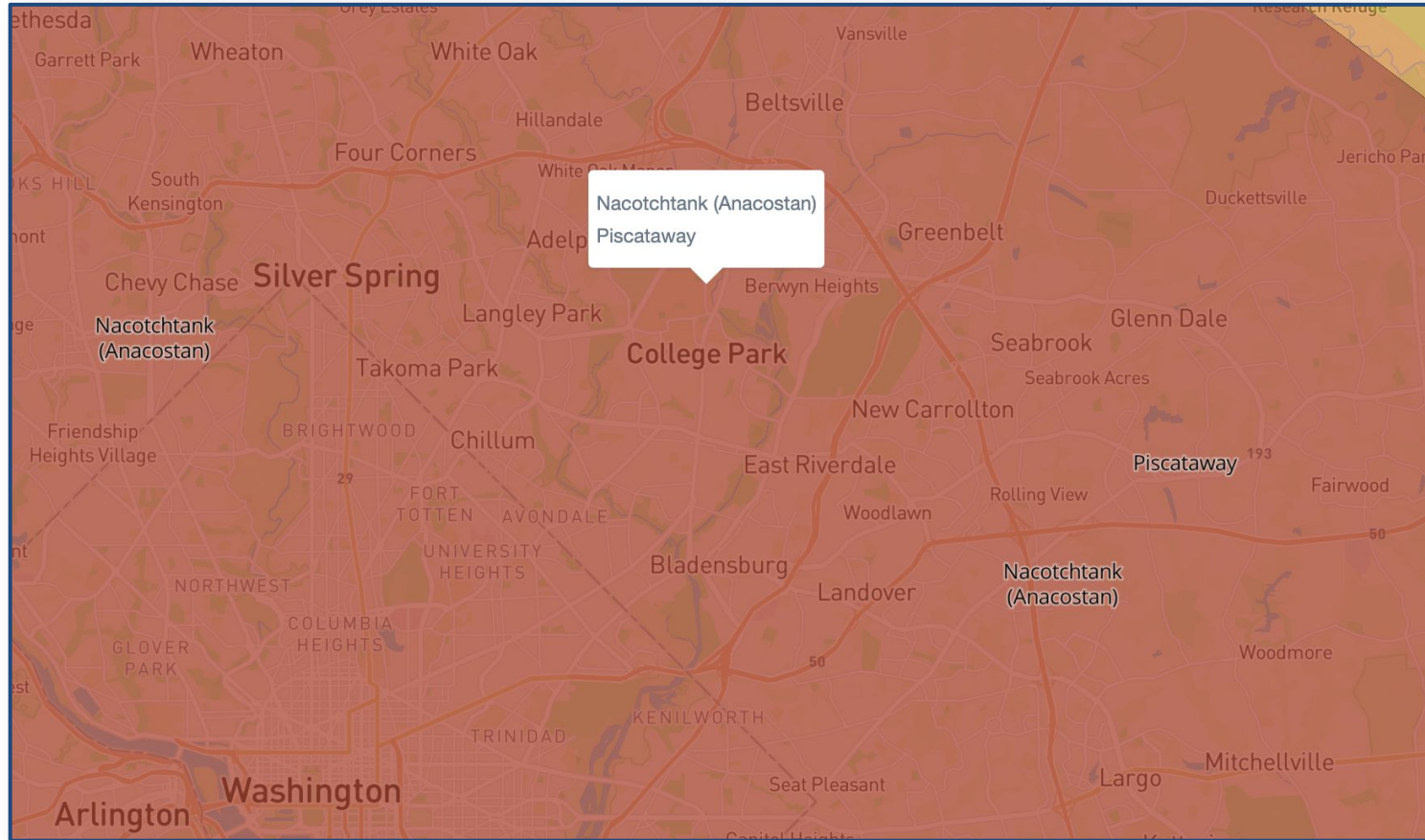
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Land Acknowledgment



Context: Indigenous Archival Diaspora



19th Century Anthropologists' Collection



“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



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ATALM Research Questions

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?



Ilse de Jean Charles Recovering Voices Visit in the National Anthropological Archives Reading Room, October 2017, Photo by Diana Marsh.



Procedures, Methods, & Data Analysis

1. Institutional Review Board

- Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program Social & Behavioral Research training
- Smithsonian IRB application & approval



Smithsonian
Institution
IRB

2. Collaboration & Participation

- Designed and tested at NAA, NMAI, NAISA
- Distributed by ATALM, 129 respondents

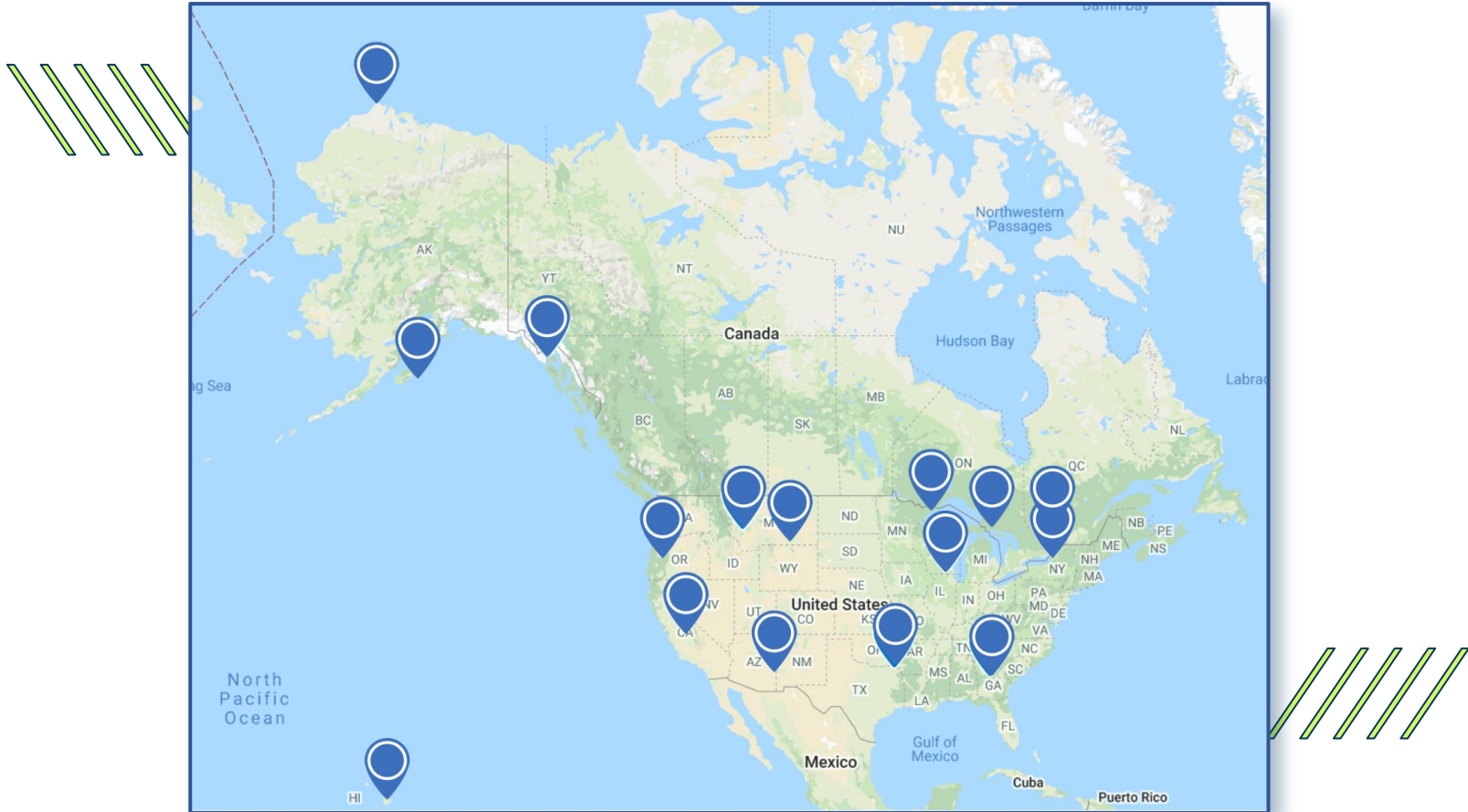
3. Analysis

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



* = in process

Participant Affiliations



1 Information & Material Interests

2 Search Behaviours & Experiences

3 Barriers to Access & Use

4 Archival Training & Experience

5 Community Suggestions for Improvement

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

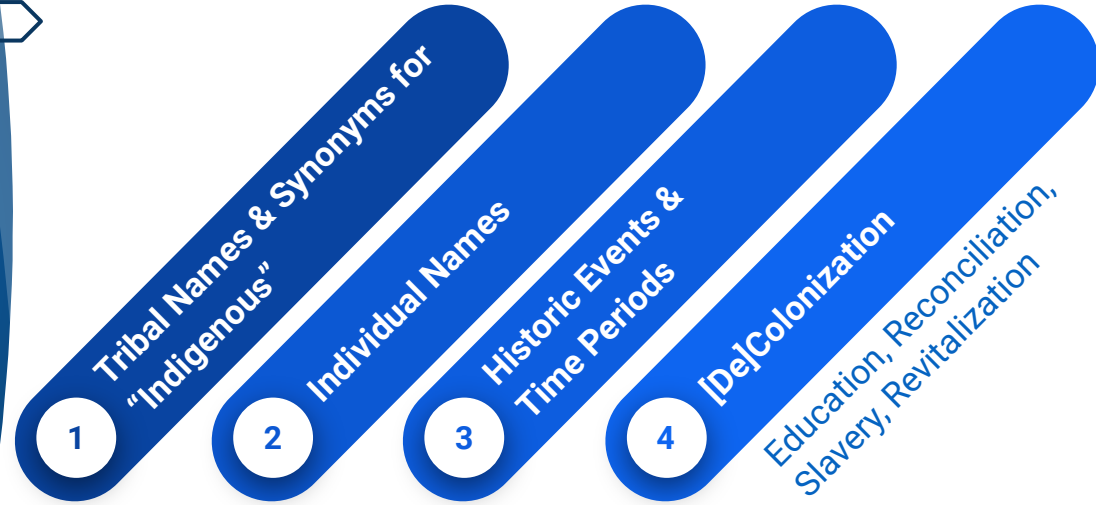
2 Search Behaviours & Experiences

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Search Term Behaviors



1 Information & Material Interests

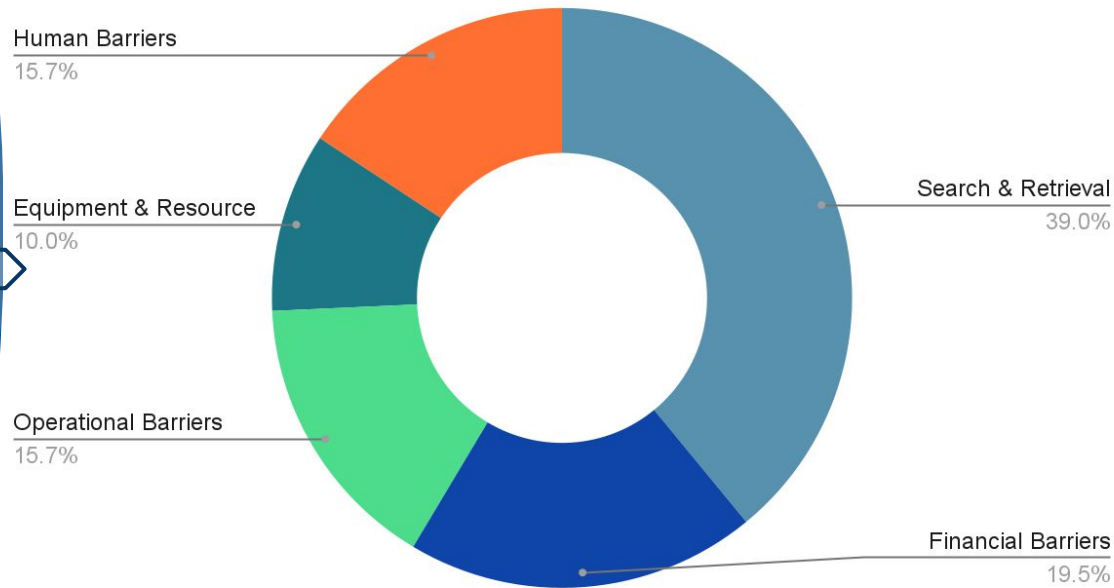
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Barriers to Archival Access



1 Information & Material Interests

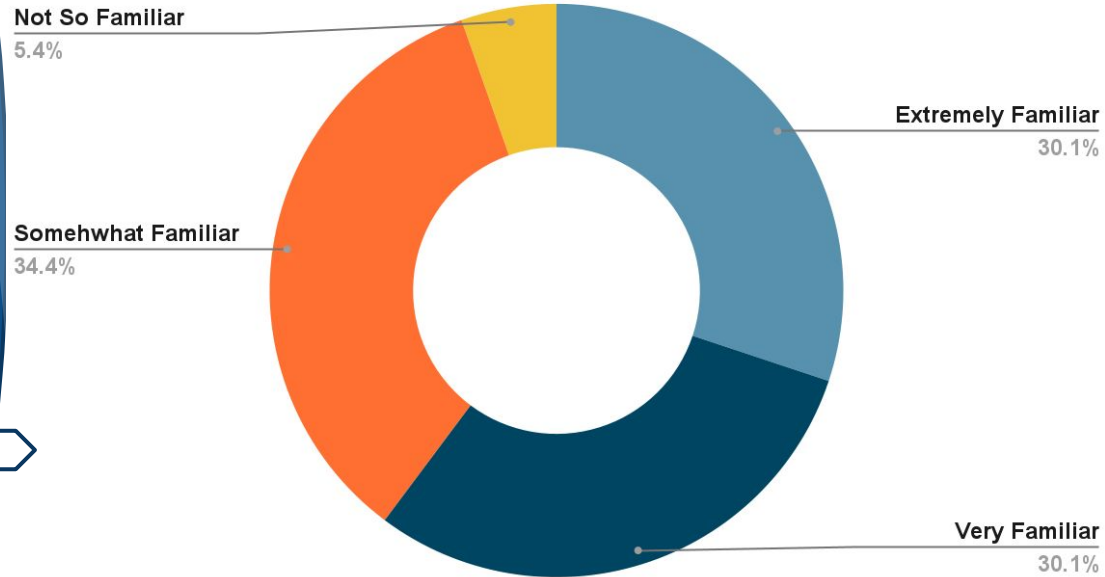
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Rate your familiarity with archives and archival collections



1 Information & Material Interests

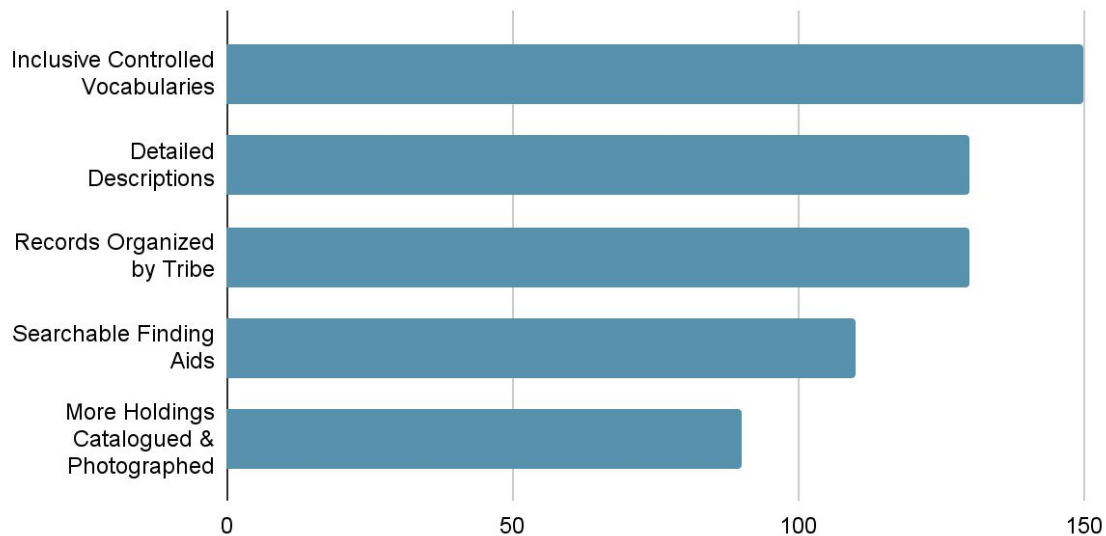
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What would you like archival collections or their related catalog records to contain?



1 Information & Material Interests

2 Search Behaviours & Experiences

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5 Community Suggestions for Improvement

What could archival institutions do to improve their accessibility?

Community Outreach & Relationships

Increase Cataloging & Digital Content

Improve Search & Searchability of Finding Aids

Acknowledgements



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National Museum of the American Indian

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[Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian](#)
CRC staff

[NAISA](#) Council

[ATALM](#) Members and Leadership

All survey participants