

Archival Advocacy, Inside Out:
*The Protocols for Native American
Archival Materials*



JENNIFER R. O'NEAL
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

ATALM CONFERENCE
JUNE 7, 2012

Reasons For *Protocols*

- Native American collections held in non-tribal repositories
- Improve existing relationships and build new relationships
- Collaboration
- Advocate for our values and perspectives to provide culturally appropriate context and understanding



Protocols for Native American Archival Materials



- ❑ Group of 19 met in 2006 at Northern Arizona University; coordinated by Karen Underhill (Head, Special Collections and Archives) with funding from numerous groups and foundations
- ❑ Goal: Identify best professional practices for culturally responsible care and use of American Indian archival material held by non-tribal organizations
- ❑ Model Document: *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols*
- ❑ Final Document completed April 2007
- ❑ Published Online: <http://www2.nau.edu/libnap-p/index.html>
- ❑ Work in Progress (subject to revision and enhancement)

Protocols: Main Concepts



- ❑ Native American communities are sovereign governments
- ❑ Each tribe, community, and band is unique
- ❑ 10 Sections address issues regarding collections, ownership, intellectual and cultural property, preservation, handling, access, and use of American Indian archival resources
- ❑ Guidelines (non-binding) for both the non-tribal repository and the tribal community
- ❑ Adopt and adapt the culturally responsive recommendations to suit local needs

Protocols: Major Goals



- ❑ Building relationships, balancing different approaches to knowledge management
- ❑ Mutual respect and reciprocity through shared stewardship and consultations
- ❑ Expand the nature of the information professions to include Native American perspectives and knowledge.
- ❑ Challenges western European norms of study and traditions that often privilege the rights of mainstream culture, values, and practices

Protocols: Ten Sections



1. Building Relationships of Mutual Respect
2. Striving for Balance in Content and Perspectives
3. Accessibility and Use
4. Culturally Sensitive Materials
5. Providing Context
6. Native American Intellectual Property Issues
7. Copying and Repatriation of Records to Native American Communities
8. Native American Research Protocols
9. Reciprocal Education and Training
10. Awareness of Native American Communities and Issues

Protocols: Endorsement



- American Association for State and Local History
- First Archivists Circle
- Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs
- Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs Resource Centre
- Cline Library, Northern Arizona University
- National Museum of the American Indian



NATIONAL
MUSEUM
OF THE
AMERICAN
INDIAN



AASLH
American Association
for State and Local History



NORTHERN
ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY

Society of American Archivists Response



- ❑ Authors asked SAA for an endorsement in 2007; SAA created a Task Force to review the document and gathered feedback from membership and other interested parties; Report submitted in 2008—**Protocols were not endorsed**
- ❑ SAA Council created the **Native American Protocols Forum Working Group** to hold three open membership forums at the 2009, 2010, and 2011 annual meetings to create a formal structure through which SAA members can express thoughts and share opinions about the Protocols
- ❑ SAA **Cultural Property Working Group** formed in March 2010
- ❑ NAAR will now guide the Protocols through the process of endorsement as an External Standards

Perceptions Outside Indian Country



- Repatriation
- Access Restrictions
- Traditional Knowledge Management
- Joint Stewardship

Protocols Case Studies

- National Museum of the American Indian
- National Anthropological Archives
- Northern Arizona University
- Washington State University
- American Philosophical Society
- Yale University



Smithsonian



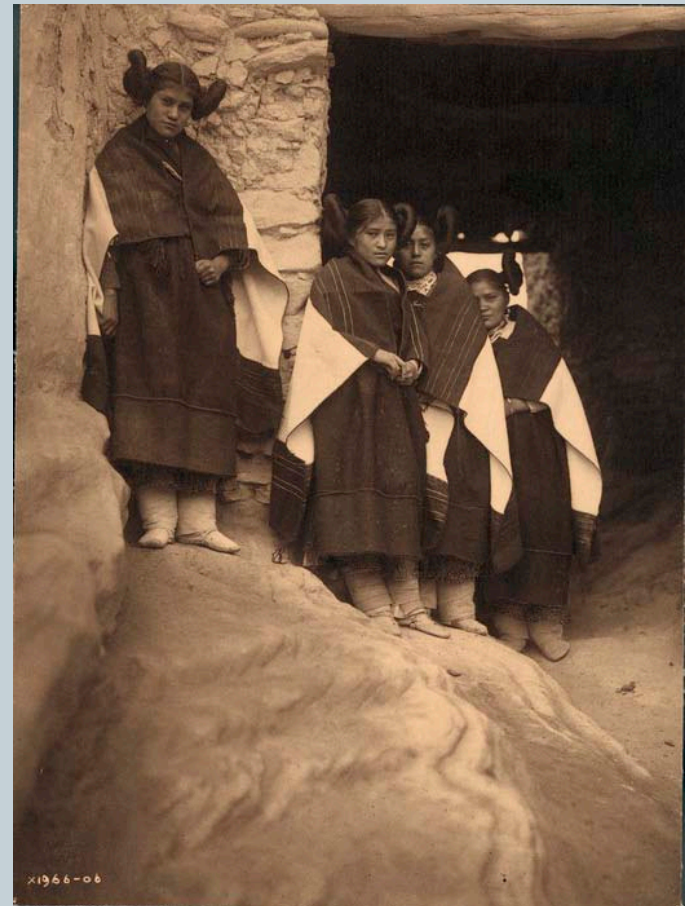
NAU and Hopi Cultural Preservation Office



- Relationship and Protocols developed over 20 years
- Sacred and Ceremonial photographs
- Requests for use of images require written permission from HCPO

NMAI Collaborative Curation: Film Preservation

- MAI/Heye Foundation Films (29 Total)
- 2010—National Film Preservation Foundation Grant: *Zuni Indian of New Mexico* (Support from A:shwi A:wan Museum and Cultural Heritage Center)
- 2010—Save America's Treasures Grant (5 Films)



NMAI Collaborative Curation: Photo Archives

- Plateau Peoples' Web Portal
- NMAI Partnership via MOU
- Sponsored by Washington State University Special Collections, Center for Plateau Cultural Studies, and The Northwest Museum of Arts
- Plateau region tribal communities (ie. Umatilla, Warm Springs, Walla Walla)



Plateau Peoples' Web Portal

This portal is a gateway to the cultural materials of Plateau peoples that are held in Washington State University's Libraries, Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections (MASC), the Museum of Anthropology and by national donors. The collections represented here have been chosen and curated by tribal consultants working in cooperation with University and Museum staff. Click on the "About" tab for more details.



Explore
Main Archive



Login
Existing User



Register
New Account



About
Learn More

Coeur d'Alene



hu, ku ch-n'u'khw. The ancestral territory includes almost 5,000,000 acres of what is now north Idaho, eastern Washington and western Montana. Coeur d'Alene Indian villages were numerous and permanent, each village and the people there had a distinct name in the ancestral language. Collectively, members today call themselves, "Schitsu'umsh," meaning "Those Who Are Found Here."



Listen
to Coeur d'Alene welcome



Explore
Coeur d'Alene tribal path



Tribal Links
Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Colville



The Colville Confederated Tribes are comprised of 12 bands which include, the Moses-Columbia, San poil, Nespelem, Methow, Entiat, Colville, Lakes, Wenatchee (Wenatchi), Chief Joseph's Band of Nez Perce, Palus, Southern Okanogan, and Chelan. Our ancestral lands incorporated approximately thirty nine million acres in Central Washington and Southern British Columbia. Our ancestors made their living off the land, following the seasons and the resources. We govern our people in unity, maintain our ancestral ways, and strive to document our history.



Explore
Colville tribal path



Tribal Links
Confederated Tribes of the
Colville Reservation

Spokane



sqeliz – The People. The Spokane Tribe is comprised of five bands: sntu'tuliz, snzmeme/, scqesciOni, sl'otewsi, hu, sDmqeni. Our traditional homelands span most of present day Eastern Washington: north to Canada, east to Idaho, south to the Columbia River, and as far west as the Cascades. We shared this land and resources with the many tribes of the Plateau region and beyond. We honor our ancestors as we continue to practice traditional lifeways and customs that have been passed down through the knowledge and experiences of our tribal elders.

Advocacy Suggestions



- *Begin a conversation*
- Pick up the phone and meet face to face (building relationships of trust takes more than one meeting!)
- Share your tribal community perspective for care and handling
- Flexibility in archival practice can be simple and inexpensive (ie. Arrangement of material by clan, family, gender, etc. rather than by original order)
- Develop joint stewardship practices
- Collaborate on projects
- Codify relationships in written formal agreements (ie. MOU)

QUESTIONS?



JENNIFER R O'NEAL
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN
ARCHIVE CENTER
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
[HTTP://NMAI.SI.EDU/EXPLORE/COLLECTIONS/ARCHIVE/](http://nmai.si.edu/explore/collections/archive/)
ONEALJ@SI.EDU