Archival Creative Friction: Indigenous Peoples’ Existence and Resistance in the Archival Multiverse

NAISA Conference
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Archival Activism and Resilience

- Laws and Regulations
- Professional Organizations
- Collaboration with non-tribal repositories
- Tribal Communities
Foundational Laws, Regulations, International Responses

- 1978: American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA)
- 1982: Working Group on Indigenous Populations established by the UN
- 1990: Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)
- 2007: UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is adopted by the UN General Assembly
Publications

- **Native American Archives**, by John Fleckner (Society of American Archivists, 1984)
- **Keepers of the Treasures: Protecting Historic Properties and Cultural Traditions on Indian Land** (National Park Service, 1990)
Training and Education

- Knowledge River, University of Arizona
- Circle of Learning, San Jose University (Partnership between SJU and AILA)
- University of Washington (iSchool)
Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums Conferences

- 2007: Oklahoma City (Oklahoma Department of Libraries; Oklahoma Museum Association)
- 2009: Portland, OR (Oregon State Library)
- 2011: Oahu, Hawaii (Western Museum Association)
- 2012: Tulsa, OK (Oklahoma Department of Libraries)
Local Community Training

- Convening Culture Keepers (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- Oregon Tribal Archives Institute
- Society of Southwest Archivists
Society of American Archivists: Native American Archives Roundtable (NAAR)

- 2005: Grant for Native American Archivists to attend SAA for two years
- 2005: Native American Archives Roundtable (NAAR) officially created
- David George-Shongo, Seneca Nation Archivist, first NAAR Chair (2005-2007)
Protocols for Native American Archival Materials

- Group of 19 began in April 2006 at Northern Arizona University; coordinated by Karen Underhill (Head, Special Collections and Archives) with generous support 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*
- [http://www2.nau.edu/libnap-p/index.html](http://www2.nau.edu/libnap-p/index.html)
Protocols: Main Concepts and Issues

- Foundation: Native American communities are sovereign governments
- 10 Sections address issues in the collection, ownership, preservation, handling, access, and use of American Indian archival resources.
- Guidelines for both the non-tribal repository and the tribal community.
- Building relationships, balancing different approaches to knowledge management, and 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 Case Studies

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

- 2010 White House Tribal National Conference Progress Report (Respect for Cultural Rights)
- UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
QUESTIONS?

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