

The Indigenous Digital Archive: Effective Access to and Collaboration with Mass Digitized Historic Documents

ANNA NARUTA-MOYA, PhD

Abstract: This talk presents preliminary results from the Indigenous Digital Archive project funded by an IMLS National Leadership Grant for Libraries (2016-2019) and a Knight Foundation prototyping grant. The Indigenous Digital Archive is a collaborative project of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (Santa Fe), the New Mexico State Library Tribal Libraries Program, and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, an organization of all Pueblo tribes, to address the question of how to create effective access to information in large repositories to tribal and other widely distributed communities. We developed the opensource IDA toolkit, taking advantage of technological benefits of the International Image Interoperability Format (IIIF) and Open Annotation standards, to build an interface that allows people to add access points or additional information by tagging or annotating at the level of the specific place on the page of a document.

Our use case begins with records related to the early government boarding schools and Native rights to land and water and policy that includes thoughtful selection of series as well as sampling and policies around the toolkit's enabling people to propose (and automatically enact) redactions of portions of pages. We see the efficacy of the system on records typical of government operations of the later 1800s and first half of the 20th century. Our pilot project of annual Fellows draws from tribal members and supports them technologically, financially, and through mentoring to help foster online collaboration among wide audiences and creating counternarratives to original material when necessary.

About the Author:

Anna Naruta-Moya, PhD, is project director of the Indigenous Digital Archive, an IMLS National Leadership Grant for Libraries project of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (Santa Fe) in collaboration with the New Mexico State Library Tribal Libraries Program and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. She is an Associate Research Professor at the University of New Mexico, prototyping grant awardee from the Knight Foundation, and with her husband, Daniel Moya (Tewa, P'ó Suwae Ge Owingeh) is a 2017-8 Digital Knowledge Sharing Fellow of the American Philosophical Society. She also conducts research for the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition to search out records of the Indian boarding schools. Anna received her Masters and PhD from University of California, Berkeley.