

Experiments in Natural Language Processing (NLP): User-Validated Approaches to Combining Computer Aided Techniques in the Service of Increasing Accessibility to Mass Digitized Records in the Indigenous Digital Archive

ANNA NARUTA-MOYA

The Indigenous Digital Archive has the ambitious goal of making the information and evidence in archival records as widely accessible as possible. In our second IMLS National Leadership Grant, we continue to work with mass digitized government records, now experimenting with computer aided processing, or Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques, plus the information encoded in traditional archival hierarchy to find the combinations of tools that provide results most effective for our audiences. Our focus is on what works; please join us and see if you'd like to sign up to get notice of opportunities to participate in one of our rounds of usability testing. (We compensate this time and effort with gift certificates to Red Planet Books & Comics, publishers of the award winning Native Realities titles.)

The Indigenous Digital Archive is a project of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture with the New Mexico State Library and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Thanks to an anonymous donor to the National Archives Foundation will soon be launching version 2.0 of our DigiTreaties.org portal for the National Archives Office of Innovation.

About the author:

Anna Naruta-Moya, PhD, is project director of the Indigenous Digital Archive and its DigiTreaties.org portal, an awardee of the SAA's C.F.W. Coker Award for innovative development in archival description. She is Research Associate Professor at the University of New Mexico and a Research Associate of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture. Thanks to an anonymous donor to the National Archives Foundation, DigiTreaties.org will soon be coming out with the first pack of the eagerly awaited Treaties Trading Cards co-authored by her, legal scholar Professor Sherri Thomas (Taos Pueblo and African American), and educator Dr. Lee Francis IV (Pueblo of Laguna), and featuring original art by Native artists to illuminate the content and context of the original treaty documents