



Oregon Tribal Archives Institute (OTAI) 2012

Oregon Tribal Archives Institute

In August of 2012, the Oregon Multicultural Archives (OMA) at Oregon State University, with assistance from various partners, hosted the Oregon Tribal Archives Institute (OTAI), a weeklong Institute designed to address the need for in-depth archives training for Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes to support the development, preservation, and use of their community archives.

Over the course of two years, the project included: site visits during the summer of 2011 to each of the tribes to conduct an archives needs assessment, the development of the curriculum and planning of the Institute, and hosting the Institute. This project is a potential model for other institutions to assist their local tribal communities in their professional development through archival education.



Map of Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes

Project Background

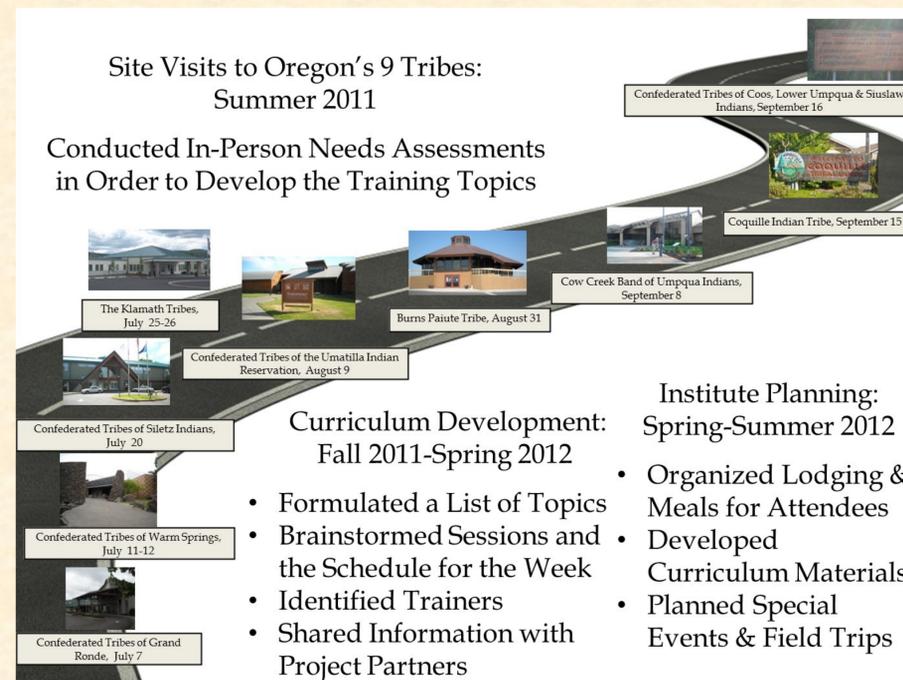
Establishing and developing formal and sustainable archives and records management programs by Oregon's tribal communities has been challenging in part due to the lack of affordable and location accessible training opportunities for tribal members. In conversations with tribal archives and records management staff, the consensus was that they wanted to maintain their own records and what they needed was the education and training to do so. In 2010 the OMA applied for a two-year state funded grant through the Oregon State Library LSTA (Library Services & Technology Act) grant program to develop an archives and records management training for all of Oregon's tribal communities to specifically address their archival education needs.

Project Objective

To assist Oregon's tribal communities by offering them an opportunity for professional development and networking through an affordable, location accessible, and in-depth archives and records management training.

Project Planning

- Site Visits
- Curriculum Development
- Institute Planning



Oregon Tribal Archives Institute

Sunday August 19 – Friday August 24, 2012

Field Trips to the Siletz Tribal Community Archives and the Benton County Historical Society



Sessions at the OSU Valley Library



Grand Ronde Community Archives and Site of the Closing Dinner



Closing Dinner Speaker Dr. George Wasson

Project Outcomes

- ~ 18 attendees: at least one representative from each tribe
- ~ Costs: lodging, meals, and travel covered by the grant
- ~ Session Recordings: OTAI content is available online
- ~ Networking: creation of Listserv and Facebook page
- ~ Extra Grant Funds: offered \$775 in archival supplies and equipment to each of the nine tribes

Language Archives within Tribal Archives

Language related materials require special care due to the possibility of physical degradation and technological obsolescence. Tribal archives and non-tribal repositories can collaborate to preserve, migrate, and manage content.

The OTAI included a session on the care and management of sound recordings and invited the Oregon Folklife Network, an organization that supports Oregonian communities, to share information regarding its services.



Oregon Folklife Network & the Warm Springs Sound Archives

In 2013 a collaborative grant project began to preserve over 40 hours of tribal sound recordings. A preservation workstation was installed, and a librarian trained a tribal archivist in preservation techniques during a one-week recording project that included the creation of policies and procedures. Then, the newly-trained Warm Springs archivist consulted with the librarian while continuing to preserve the recordings (<http://ofn.uoregon.edu/>).

Project Assessment

OTAI attendees were asked to assess the Institute itself and were called about six months later to follow-up on the applicability of what they learned.

Oregon Multicultural Archives (OMA)

The OMA assists in preserving the histories and sharing the stories that document Oregon's African American, Asian American, Latino/a, and Native American communities

<http://scarc.library.oregonstate.edu/oma/>

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<http://scarc.library.oregonstate.edu/oma/tai/index.html>

OTAI Project Website

