The Oregon Tribal Archives Institute: Providing a Professional Development and Networking Opportunity for Oregon’s Tribal Communities

Panel: Developing and Organizing Professional Development Gatherings for Tribal Communities
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ATALM Conference, Albuquerque, NM
June 12, 2013
What is the Oregon Tribal Archives Institute?

OTAI was a week long Institute held in August 2012 designed as an affordable, accessible, in-depth archives training for Oregon’s nine federally recognized tribes.
Project Background:
Previous Work with the Tribes

Project Background:
LSTA Grant Development and Goals

Grant Development:

Year 1 Goals

• Conduct Needs Assessment
  Pre-Surveys
  Site Visits

• Begin Curriculum Development

• Build and Strengthen Relationships

Year 2 Goals

• Finalize Curriculum
  Identify Trainers
  Plan Field Trips

• Plan and Host OTAI

• Conduct Assessment
Site Visits to Oregon’s 9 Tribes:
July-September, 2011

In-person needs assessments with each of the tribes’ archivists, record managers, museum curators, and any other interested staff members.
Curriculum Development:  
Fall 2011-Spring 2012

Our Objectives:

• Formulate a List of Topics Based on the Site Visits

• Brainstorm Sessions and Schedules

• Identify Trainers

• Share Information with Project Collaborators
Curriculum Development: Formulate a List of Topics

Grant Funding and Grant Writing
Archives 101
Content Management Systems
Facilities Planning
Disaster Planning
Collections Maintenance and Care
Digitization Best Practices
Sound Recordings, Best Practices
Digital Asset Mgt Systems & Metadata

Born Digital Records
Exemplary Digitization Projects
Digital Preservation
Reference and Access
Records Retention
Researching Elsewhere
NWA Discussion
Outreach and Social Media
Model Programs
Curriculum Development: Brainstorm Sessions and Schedules
Curriculum Development: Identify Trainers
Curriculum Development:
Share Information with Project Collaborators
Institute Planning

Lodging & Meals and Conference Arrangements

University Housing & Dining Services

Conference Materials  |  Special Event  |  Field Trips

- Oregon State University
- Libraries
- Spirit Mountain Casino
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Benton County Historical Society & Museum
The Institute
Sunday August 19th – Friday August 24th

Sunday Night ~
Opening Dinner

Monday ~
Sessions at the Valley Library
The Institute
Sunday August 19th – Friday August 24th

Tuesday ~ Field Trip to Siletz and BCHS

Siletz Tribal Community Archives

Benton County Historical Society
The Institute
Sunday August 19th – Friday August 24th

Wednesday ~
“All Things Digital” Day

Thursday ~ Field Trip to Grand Ronde
and Closing Dinner

Grand Ronde Tribal Community Archives

Friday ~
OTAI’s Last Day!

George Wasson,
Closing Dinner Speaker
Assessment

**Institute Assessment**

Evaluation of each specific session

“Reflection” Session

- Paper-based questionnaire re: OTAI as a whole
- Group discussion re: plans for the future

**Follow Up Assessment**

January 2013

Phone Interviews

- Application of content learned
- Thoughts on future gatherings
Moving from Institute to Network

The network is designed to facilitate communication among tribal archivists, records managers, and culture keepers in order to ask questions, share resources, and celebrate their work.
Challenges & Lessons Learned

Things to Keep in Mind

• Building Relationships

• Varied attendee skill level and job duties

• Project Timeframe (grant cycles)

Ideas for the Future

• Tribal community act as host

• Shorter, more frequent gatherings

• More in-depth and hands on trainings on just a few topics

Next Step:

Acquire grant funds for more trainings, potentially regional
The Oregon Tribal Archives Institute (TAI) is the culmination of a two year grant project developed by the Oregon Multicultural Archives dedicated to assisting Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes with their archives and records management needs. TAI took place in August of 2012 with the goals to provide Oregon's tribal archivists and records managers with professional development and networking opportunities through a week long training.

TAI Information
- Project Overview
- Year 1 - The Site Visits and Curriculum Development
- Year 2 - The Institute
- Publications and Presentations about TAI
- Oregon Tribal Archives Network
- Acknowledgements
- Contact Information