PRESERVING TRIBAL LANGUAGE, MEMORY, AND LIFEWAYS: A CONTINUING EDUCATION PROJECT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

2009-2013

Final Report

This constitutes the Final Report for *Preserving Tribal Language, Memory, and Lifeways: A Continuing Education Project for the 21st Century*, a four-year project administered by the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums with funding awarded to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (award number RE-06-09-0106-09).
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Table of Contents

Preface .................................................................................................................................................. 2
Why Culturally Specific Programs are Needed .................................................................................. 3
Summary of Project Achievements ..................................................................................................... 4
Project Impacts .................................................................................................................................... 5
Target Audience Impacts/Outcomes .................................................................................................... 6
Leadership and Volunteer Support ..................................................................................................... 9
National Needs Assessment of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums ...................................... 13
Researching Tribal Heritage Fellowship Program ............................................................................. 19
Tribal Programming at the 2010 AASLH Conference .................................................................... 31
Caring for Indigenous Materials Institute ......................................................................................... 35
Working Together to Move Forward International Conference ..................................................... 37
No Cost Extension Activities – 2013 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums ......................................................................................................................... 44
Appendix B: Evaluation Report – Working Together to Move Forward ......................................... 54

Cover Photo: Opening session of the 2012 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums in Tulsa, OK. Pictured left to right are Don Stroud, leader of the Cherokee Veteran’s Color Guard, Walter Echo-Hawk, Honorary Conference Chair, Letitia Chambers, ATALM Board Chair, and the Red River Drum Group/Singers. In the background are 38 flags representing Oklahoma tribes. Photo credit: Bill Young, Public Information Officer, Oklahoma Department of Libraries.
Preserving Tribal Language, Memory, and Lifeways: A Continuing Education Project for the 21st Century

PREFACE

Since the initiation of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) tribal museum and tribal library grant programs, IMLS has provided essential funding to several hundred American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native libraries and museums. This support has been instrumental in helping tribal nations establish and maintain archives, libraries, and museums.

In addition to supporting individual tribal cultural programs, IMLS also has supported culturally appropriate continuing education opportunities through the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program. These opportunities are helping to ensure that the federal government’s investment in tribal museums and libraries is matched by a well-trained workforce.

This Final Report summarizes activities of the latest IMLS grant in support of continuing education activities for tribal archive, library and museum staff. From July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2013, these activities were funded with a $890,970 grant from IMLS, matched by $1,122,436 in cash and in-kind services by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) and its partner, the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM). In all, 244 unique continuing education training opportunities were provided to 6,857 people.

Results of an independent evaluation report indicate that IMLS-funded continuing education programs tailored to the culturally-specific needs of tribal library and museum staff members are considered by 95.1% of participants to be better at meeting their needs and expectations than other training opportunities.

Tribal archives, libraries, and museums are valued for their role in helping to preserve and nurture distinct cultural practices and for their role in providing educational opportunities for tribal members. Unlike most mainstream organizations, tribal archives, libraries, and museums may operate under culturally specific practices while providing an expanded scope of services. For example:

- Tribal nations frequently structure their archives, libraries, and museum functions like state-sponsored historical societies, incorporating archives, libraries, and museum functions under one roof and/or under a common authority. Each component functions independently, but with the shared objectives of providing educational and culturally-relevant services.

- In addition to providing typical services associated with archives, libraries, and museums, tribal facilities may also provide resources for language revitalization, instruction in cultural life ways, historic preservation, cultural tourism, health care services, literacy services, economic development, job training, and other services.

- Many tribal centers of culture employ tribal members with invaluable cultural knowledge but little formal training in archive, library and/or museum practices.
SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2009 IMLS granted $890,970 to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries for the purpose of:

1) Sponsoring five national educational opportunities, including a Tribal History/Digital Storytelling Institute (2010), a tribal track at the American Association for State and Local History National Conference (2010), a Library Leadership Development Institute (2011), a Museum Services Institute (June 2011), and a National Conference of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (2012).

2) Designing and implementing a comprehensive national needs assessment/current condition study of tribal cultural institutions, with baseline information used to plan future programs and evaluate effectiveness of programs; and

3) Developing a long-term management plan to establish a framework to sustain the project activities beyond 2012.

With remaining funds generated through earned income and financial support from non-IMLS institutions, the grant was extended through June 2013. The extension enabled the production of an international convening in New Mexico, thereby significantly extending the impact of IMLS funding.

Listed in order of occurrence, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and its project partners:

- Worked with the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development to conduct a groundbreaking National Needs Assessment Study of Archives, Libraries, and Museums.
- Formed the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) and incorporated it as a 501(c)3 organization.
- Developed a Strategic Plan to help guide the activities of ATALM.
- Developed a project/organizational website (www.atalm.org) and social media networks.
- Provided tribal programming at the 2010 American Association of State and Local History Annual Conference.
- Supported the work of 20 Tribal Heritage Research Fellows.
- Provided six Researching Tribal History Webinars.
- Developed a Researching Tribal History Toolkit.
- Developed a Researching Tribal History Wiki that continues to serve as a resource for others.
- Conducted a week-long Research and Using Tribal History Fieldtrip to Washington, DC.
- Conducted a four-day 2010 Caring for Indigenous Materials Institute in Durango, CO.
- Conducted a 3.5 day 2011 Working Together to Move Forward Joint Conference with the Western Museums Association, Pacific Islands Museums Association, and Alu Like in Honolulu.
- Conducted a 3.5 day 2012 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- Conducted a 4.5 day 2013 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico.

Matching funds of $1,122,436 were generated.
Preserving Tribal Language, Memory, and Lifeways: A Continuing Education Project for the 21st Century

**Project Impacts**

The project period of 2009-2013 marked an important turning point for indigenous cultural organizations in America and globally.

Acting on recommendations in the 2010 *Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums: Education for Professional Growth and Field Sustainability* report referenced earlier, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) worked with a confederation of organizations and individuals to form the non-profit Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM).

Envisioning that this new organization had the potential to provide the continuity lacking in previous years when the IMLS-funded training events were sponsored by a variety of state agencies and non-tribal associations, ODL nurtured the new organization and helped build its brand. ODL’s commitment to creating a sustainable organization is a reflection of its support of Oklahoma’s tribal communities and its recognition that cultural preservation and sustainability are good for the state and the nation.

Over the project period, ATALM evolved into a respected organization that now is seen as a leader in providing professional development opportunities, improving communications, encouraging collaboration, and elevating the role of tribal archives, libraries, and museums. Its successes have resulted in an ever-expanding base of diversified support from foundations and individuals, including the establishment of a small endowment fund. In 2012, it received a $500,000 grant from IMLS to continue providing professional development opportunities.

In addition to establishing a sustainable foundation, ODL and its partners were successful in meeting or exceeding the objectives stated in the proposal. Impacts of project activities include:

1. Through 224 distinct continuing education opportunities and events, the project:
   - Improved the skills of more than 6,857 library, archival and museum staff;
   - Provided an environment in which tribal cultural institution staff drew inspiration and validation from their peers;
   - Improved and enhanced the quality of services offered by tribal cultural institutions;
   - Enabled non-tribal staff members to gain a greater understanding of cultural sensitivities and learn new ways to meet the needs of American Indian patrons; and
   - Forged relationships between librarians, archivists, and museum staff.
2. Through the national survey/needs assessment study, the project:
   - Gathered and analyzed baseline information as to the status and needs of tribal libraries and museums across the nation;
   - Identified and promoted model programs and best practices;
   - Increased awareness on the part of tribal leaders/decision makers as to the needs of tribal cultural institutions;
   - Established a systematic approach to gathering future information for analysis and evaluation purposes; and
   - Provided factual information that is helping guide the development of programs that are responsive to the unique needs of tribal cultural institutions.

3. Through the development and initial implementation of a long-range strategic plan, the project:
   - Engaged tribal cultural institution staff and stakeholders in creating sustainable programs;
   - Provided greater consistency of operations through the development of project management plans; and
   - Assured funders, sponsors, donors, stakeholders, and others that efforts to provide quality programs are ongoing.

Target Audience Impacts/Outcomes

The most profound and rewarding outcome of this project is the positive impact it has had on individuals. With each new training opportunity, participants become more engaged and there is an ever-growing sense of accomplishment and understanding. Individuals are starting to recognize their essential role as stewards of tribal history, artifacts, language, art, and cultural practice. Of equal importance, they report increased professionalism and greater awareness of cultural competencies.

Impact statements gathered through evaluation surveys and the scholarship application process have resulted in more than 750 testimonials on the lasting impact of project activities. Excerpted below are statements gathered at various intervals throughout the project:

“I was so inspired to come back to my museum and work harder. I not only learned about label making and grant writing, but I learned that my work and job is important. After listening to Walter Echo-Hawk deliver his speech on opening day, I realized that I am the “keeper of a greater treasure” and that because of the work that I do, it’s so important that I continue to work harder at preserving the culture, language, tradition and so much more, that is what makes my people who they are.”

“The experience I have acquired from these meetings has been very beneficial for me as a cultural educator and oral historian. First, the dialogue and networks created just by being present at the conference has allowed for me to form new relationships and partners who are interested in the same research areas that I am working on, this has been especially true in the Indigenous communities. Secondly, through attendance of a variety of sessions made available, included those not directly related to my research, has assisted me in looking beyond my own work and therefore, finding new ways of seeing and applying new research. Overall, being a part of the ATALM family has been a blessing for me as a minority, female educator, researcher and artist as I have been inspired and have found vast support to continue to do what I have a passion for: collecting oral histories of the Eastern Navajo people.”
“Being a novice library assistant I lacked training and skills in all aspects of library management. The conference session in regard to building a good foundation for the library enabled me to work with the Hopi Public Library staff to establish a master plan providing support, guidance, and continual development; providing quality public library services essential to quantitative usage of the mobile library. The sessions in regard to library administration provided valid governing control and support to the library staff for implementing library policies and procedures, (i.e. Board roles & responsibilities, personnel operations, financial management, standard library patron services, and marketing). The acquired knowledge in the services portion enabled the library staff to properly circulate library materials, provide adequate assistance in recommending appropriate reading materials to meet patron needs. The acquired knowledge and skills for collection development enabled library staff to continue to evaluate, expand, and improve the mobile library collection. The technical services knowledge acquired improved my skills in cataloging, classification, processing, and assisting patrons. All acquired knowledge has enhanced my management skills for the Hopi Public Library.”

“I had been hired just five months earlier to care for photographs and audio recordings and to assist Tribal members with access to their cultural heritage. The sessions at the Conference were very informative and inspiring, and I especially benefited from the time spent with a community of like-minded individuals--I have learned a lot about cultural sensitivity and sovereignty of Native nations. Since then, I have advocated for best practices in preservation of Tribal materials, as well as voiced concerns about ethical issues surrounding access to Native American sound recordings, many of which have culturally sensitive content. I have taken initiative to promote the Ishi recordings to the National Registry status.”

“I felt energized and excited to return to the Tribal Library; to begin discussions in partnership with other Tribal Departments, and members of the community, on how best the Library would continue serving its mission, as well becoming a new tool for cultural preservation and language revitalization.”

“Before the conference I was stuck just doing a routine. But from the workshops I attended it gave me a new outlook on my job and gave me ideas on how to promote and also how to do some things differently and more effectively at my work place.”

“Our archive is small with only three full-time employees, so it is hard to implement big projects. I was able to receive great information for organizing volunteers and building our own exhibit displays.”

“As a result of my participation, I REALLY take time to apply the much needed updates in archiving materials and in management of cultural items in the workplace. I appreciate the opportunity to share a concern I had about another point of view that should be addressed via a session or assembly presentation on cultural perspectives (do’s and don’ts) of handling, looking, listening, and documenting Native American cultural materials.”
“I have implemented a number of functions that allow for better management and presentation of information within our data system. Through last year’s presentation (Digitally Preserving and Perpetuating Historically Significant Materials) OHA demonstrated the efficiency and effectiveness of a digital archive (Papakilo Database) and discussed the challenges and successes in the digitization of materials, facilitating collaborations between community organizations and the importance of digitally preserving documents for future generations.”

“My knowledge in how to maintain items and documents has come from the ATALM training I have received. I was also trained in 'weeding' the various items, books and documents available to ensure there are up-to-date and culturally accurate materials available for our village patrons to do research with or just to view. I succeeded in creating a tree with information (names) provided by participants of Port Graham Village Council's yearly Elder/Youth Conference and I am proud to say it now holds over 1200 names of our people (and some photo's too!) dating back as far as the 1800's. Both projects are available to community members to view and/or participate in updating through our library. Had I not been introduced to the ATALM training information, I would not have learned what to look for or how important certain information is to obtain on items and/or documents.”

“Being able to listen to and meet other indigenous professionals from the field motivated me to continue in my library school studies. We were also inspired to start a Native Hawaiian student organization under the library and information science program.”

“From the Pacific Islands, Ralph Reganvanu, MP, Minister of Justice and Community Services of Vanuatu, shared how the Vanuatu Cultural Centre has a programming focus on intangible living culture and heritage. While most museums in the U.S. are focused on preserving physical objects, museums and cultural centers abroad have programs to encourage communities to continue practicing their cultural traditions, such as language, music, dance, customary gatherings, economic practices, and environmental stewardship. Reganvanu's presentation made me think about ways the Alutiiq Museum can not only continue to encourage the participation of remote communities in managing their physical cultural heritage, but ways the museum can support people in expressing their culture in their daily lives.”

“Attending the pre-conference workshop, Care of Folded and Rolled Documents, was also beneficial. I learned how to make humidity chambers. Back in Kodiak, staff then made a humidity chamber to unroll oversized photographs. I then used skills acquired at the workshop to make sleeves and a specialty box for the photographs.”
LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY PROJECT STAFF

- Susan Feller, Project Director (2009-2013)
- Melissa Brodt, Project Manager (2009-2012)
- Jan Davis, Administrative Archivist/Project Advisor (2009-2013)
- Franci Hart, Project Manager (2013)
- Kristi Kawkins, Business Manager (2009-2013)
- Susan McVey, Director/Project Oversight (2009-2013)
- William Struby, Graphic Design (2009-2013)
- Bill Young, Public Information Officer (2009-2013)

ATALM BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADVISORS

Governing Board

- Letitia Chambers, Chair
  Past Director, Heard Museum
- Susan Feller, President/CEO
  Development Officer, Oklahoma Department of Libraries
- Mary Ellen Meredith, Treasurer
  Board Chair Emerita, Cherokee National Historical Society
- Teresa Runnels, Secretary
  American Indian Resource Center Coordinator, Tulsa City-County Library
- Melissa Brodt, Project Manager, Oklahoma City Beautiful

Advisory Council

- Claudia Arnold, Vice Chancellor, Pepperdine University
- Jaime Arsenault, Working Group on International Repatriation
- Jeanne Brako, Curator, Fort Lewis College
- Jameson Brandt, Coordinator, Canadian Museum of Civilization
- Amanda Cobb-Greetham, Publisher, Chickasaw Press
- Walter Echo-Hawk, Attorney and Author
- Kevin Gover, Director, National Museum of the American Indian
- Sven Haakanson, Associate Professor and Curator, Burke Museum
- John Haworth, Director, NMAI NY, Smithsonian Institution
- Anne McCudden, Vice Chair, Florida Association of Museums Foundation
- Traci Morris, President, Homahota Consulting
- Sheryl Ogden, Conservator, Minnesota Historical Society
- Jennifer O'Neal, University Historian and Archivist, University of Oregon Libraries
- Lotsee Patterson, Professor Emerita, University of Oklahoma
- James Pepper Henry, Director, The Heard Museum
- Omar Poler, Associate Outreach Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Tim Tingle, Author, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
NATIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING COUNCILS

More than 100 people served on the National and Local Planning Councils, providing assistance with program planning, scholarship awards, and program execution.

- **Tara Abeita**, Library Aide, Pueblo of Isleta Public Library (2013)
- **Cynthia Aguilar**, Tribal Librarian, Santo Domingo Pueblo Library (2013)
- **Paulita Aguilar**, Research Librarian, University of New Mexico (2010)
- **Jason Asenap**, Information Specialist, University of New Mexico (2013)
- **Mary Alice Ball**, Senior Program Officer, Institute of Museum and Library Services (2013)
- **John Beaver**, Director/Curator, Muscogee Creek Nation Museum (2012)
- **Yvonne Billinski**, Director, Native American Center, Fort Lewis College (2011)
- **Edward Box**, Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum (2011)
- **Jennifer Brathvode**, Reference Specialist-Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
- **Jan Bryant**, Head Librarian, Muskogee Public Library (2012)
- **Lynn Britter**, Director, Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum (2011)
- **Melissa Brodt**, Board Member, Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (2013)
- **Christina Burke**, Curator, Native American & Non-Western Art, Philbrook Art Museum (2012)
- **Jill Carlson**, Archivist, Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum (2010, 2011)
- **Letitia Chambers**, Chair, Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (2012, 2013)
- **Lillian Chavez**, Librarian, Mescalero Community Library (2013)
- **Cynthia Chavez Lamar**, Director, Indian Arts Research Center, The School for Advanced Research (2013)
- **Helen Clements**, Oklahoma State University, Edmon Low Library (2012, 2013)
- **Jill Conner**, Library Director, Pueblo of Pojoaque Public Library (2013)
- **Michelle Cooke**, Archivist, The Chickasaw Nation, Division of History and Culture (2010, 2011)
- **Karen Cooper**, Interim Director, Cherokee Heritage Center (2012)
- **Carol Cornsilk**, Department of Radio, Television and Film University of North Texas, (2010, 2011)
- **Kippen de Alba Chu**, Executive Director, Iolani Palace (2011)
- **Meghan Dorey**, Archivist, Miami Nation (2012)
- **Walter Echo-Hawk**, Attorney and Author (2012)
- **Susan Feller**, Project Director, Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (2013)
- **Natalia Fernandez**, Oregon Multicultural Librarian, Oregon Multicultural Archives, OSU Libraries
- **Amelia Flores**, Library/Archives Director, Colorado River Indian Tribes (2013)
• Alison Freese, Senior Program Officer, IMLS (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013)
• David George Shongo, First Archivists Circle (2011)
• Judith Gray, Coordinator of Reference Services, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress
• Faye Hadley, Native Resources Law Librarian, University of Tulsa (2012)
• Faith Hagenhofer, Library Manager, Nisqually Tribal Library (2013)
• Susan Hanks, Library Programs Consultant, California State Library (2012, 2013)
• Andrea Hanley, Membership and Program Manager, Museum of Contemporary Native Art
• Leslie Hannah, Associate Professor, Northeastern State University (2012)
• Mary Anne Hansen, Professor/TCLI Coordinator, Montana State University (2010, 2012)
• LaDonna Harris, President, Americans for Indian Opportunity (2013)
• Rhonda Harris-Taylor, Assoc. Professor, School of Library and Information Services, OU (2012)
• Elizabeth Joffrion, Director of Heritage Resources, Western Washington University (2013)
• Duane King, Executive Director, Gilcrease Museum (2012)
• Ally Krebs, PhD Candidate, University of Washington (2010, 2011)
• Janice Kowemy, Librarian/Director, Laguna Public Library (2013)
• Rita Lara, Director, Oneida Nation Museum (2011)
• Robert Leopold, Director, Consortium for World Cultures, Smithsonian Institution (2010)
• Sandy Littletree, Program Manager, Knowledge River (2011, 2012)
• Brenda Martin, Cultural Resources Consultant (2011)
• Anne McCudden, Director, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum (2010, 2011, 2012)
• Mandy McCullough, Museum Curator, Squaxin Island Museum Library and Research Center (2013)
• Ann Massman, Librarian, Center for Southwest Research-University of New Mexico (2010, 2011)
• Mary Ellen Meredith, Immediate Past President of the Board of Trustees, Cherokee National Historical Society (2011, 2012, 2013)
• Samonia Meredith, Board Member, Oklahoma Historical Society (2011)
• Mahelani Merryman, Director, Papahana Kuaoa (2011)
• Keiki Meyer, Interim Director, ALU LIKE (2011)
• Gina Minks, Imaging & Preservation Service Manager, Amigos Library Services (2013)
• Leslie Monsalve-Jones, Library Director, Southwestern College (2013)
• Traci Morris, President, Homahota Consulting (2013)
• Frederic Murray, Assistant Professor Instructional Services Librarian, SWOSU (2013)
• Sandra Narva, Senior Program Officer, Institute of Museum and Library Services (2012, 2013)
• Patricia Nietfeld, Collections Manager, National Museum of the American Indian (2010, 2011)
• Irving Nelson, Program Supervisor, Office of Navajo Nation Library (2013)
• Blake Norton, Curator/Tribal Archivist, Citizen Potawatomi Nation (2012)
• Jill Norwood, Community Services Specialist, NMAI (2010, 2011)
• Sherelyn Ogden, Conservator, Minnesota Historical Society (2013)
• Jennifer O’Neal, Head Archivist, National Museum of the American Indian (2012, 2013)
• Lotsee Patterson, Professor Emerita, University of Oklahoma (2012, 2013)
• Jen Pack, Assistant Librarian/Archivist, Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College (2011)
• Kim Penrod, Director, Caddo Nation Museum (2011, 2012)
• Robert Pickering, Senior Curator, Gilcrease Museum (2012)
• Terri Presley, Community Volunteer (2013)
• Kathryn Redcorn, Museum Director, Osage Museum (2012)
• Matt Reed, Curator of American Indian Collections, Oklahoma Museum of History (2012)
Preserving Tribal Language, Memory, and Lifeways: A Continuing Education Project for the 21st Century

- Ryan Rice, Chief Curator, Museum of Contemporary Native Arts (2013)
- Mary Frances Ronan, Archivist, National Archives (2010, 2011)
- Loriene Roy, Professor, School of Information, University of Texas (2011, 2012)
- Jessie Ryker, Chair, Museums Studies Department, Institute of American Indian Arts (2013)
- Nonabah Sam, Museum Curator, Diné' College (2013)
- Tamara Sandia, Librarian, Jemez Pueblo Community Library (2013)
- Victoria Sheffler, University Archivist, Northeastern State University (2010, 2012)
- Elayne Silversmith, Librarian, Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College (2011)
- Delores Sumner, Special Collections Librarian, Northeastern State University (2012)
- Wynona Tahnito, Librarian, Mescalero Community Library (2013)
- Thelma Tapia, Librarian, Pueblo of Tesuque-Taytsugeh Oweenegh Library (2013)
- Sandra Tharp, Librarian, Iowa Tribal Library (2012)
- James Thull, Assoc. Professor/TCLI Coordinator, Montana State University (2011, 2012)
- Carey Tilley, Director, Cherokee Heritage Center (2011)
- Ben Wakashige, State Librarian (Retired), New Mexico (2013)
- Maureen Wacondo, Librarian Assistant, Jemez Pueblo Community Library (2013)
- Mildred Walters, Librarian, Pueblo of Sandia Learning Resource Center (2013)
- Kelly Webster, Head, Metadata Services, Boston College (2011, 2012)
- Manuelito Wheeler, Museum Director, Navajo Nation Museum (2013)
- Jeannie Whitehorse, Librarian, Tribal Libraries Program, New Mexico State Library (2013)

ATALM recognizes the good work and visionary support of Allison Boucher Krebs, also known as Chi-Gaumeekwé (1951-2013). Ally was a founder of ATALM and her presence will always be felt.
National Needs Assessment Survey
of Archives, Libraries, and Museums

In January 2010, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries contracted with Miriam Jorgensen, Research Director for the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development and the Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona. Dr. Jorgensen was selected because of her extensive work with tribal institutions, including national studies for the Ford Foundation.

The specific objectives of the survey were to:

- Document the primary characteristics of tribal archives, libraries, and museums, including their needs, achievements, and community contributions;

- Make recommendations on how tribal archives, libraries, and museums might be enhanced through improved services or support from tribal, regional, state, and national service providers and funders; and

- Establish a regular process to collect information that supports strategic and sustainable development of tribal archives, libraries, and museums.

A small task force consisting of archivists, librarians, and museum directors was assembled and tasked with reviewing other surveys and formulating questions. Upon learning about the project, Heritage Preservation asked that a section be included on conservation, preservation, and emergency preparedness. The American Library Association asked that we replicate some of its technology questions. Susan McVey, director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries recommended that we ask about E-Rate usage by tribal libraries.

At the conclusion of the task force’s work, a 14-part survey was developed. Sections included demographic information, organization function and description, management and operations, staffing, training needs, finances, technology, digitization, exhibitions/programs/education, audience and visitation, conservation/preservation/emergency preparedness/archives, libraries, and museums.

The questions were entered into Survey Monkey and tested by the task force and other testers in the field. From December 2010 through March 2011, the survey was emailed to 412 known tribal archive, library, and museum directors. Printed surveys were mailed to 153 organizations for which emails were not available or for which the director was not known. Altogether, 565 organizations and Native communities in the lower 48 states, Alaska, and Hawaii were contacted on four occasions by four different people (peer to peer/ATALM president/project director/researcher. Telephone interviews were conducted with 48 organizations.
Two hundred thirty six organizations responded to the survey (a 38% overall response rate and a 51% response rate from known institutions). This is the largest response rate of any survey of its kind and certainly one of the largest for tribal institutions. Functionally, the sample represents 101 tribal archives, 154 tribal libraries, and 69 tribal museums, many of which are part of multi-function organizations. Of those responding 23 reported that they do not have an archive, library, or museum but are interested in starting one.

Responding organizations represented every region of the country, with particularly strong participation from Alaska, California, Oklahoma, the Northwest, the Southwest, and South Central states.

A copy of the survey instrument is available upon request.

The Report:

*Sustaining Indigenous Culture: The Structure, Activities, and Needs of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums*

At the conclusion of data collection, a 26-page report was developed. Overall, the report found that tribal archives, libraries, and museums are important community anchors that teach, demonstrate, and uphold the continuity and changes that define native peoples today. The study concluded that “strengthening indigenous cultural institutions strengthens the nations of Native America.”

The report was released at the June 2012 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums in Tulsa, OK. At the conclusion of the conference, a “Speak Out!” session was held during which people commented on the report. Comments from this session may be found on subsequent pages of this report.

The full report may be accessed online at http://www.atalm.org/sites/default/files/sustaining_indigenous_culture.pdf

A summary of the findings follows:

- **Management and Operations**
  Among TALMs’ most striking management and operation needs is a need for master planning; this may include training and technical assistance on what master planning is, what the process is, and how TALMs can tap into resources to support master planning. TALMs need more mechanisms for board and tribal council orientation, training, and evaluation concerning TALM purposes and goals.
• **Staffing**
  TALMs’ most striking personnel need is funding for more staff. They have a particular need for trained, Native personnel to work as archivists, librarians, curators, and exhibit directors. In the meantime, TALMs may benefit from expanding their volunteer teams and considering whether there is scope to develop additional seasonal or short-term employment relationships.

• **Training**
  TALM staff members prefer targeted, hands-on, how-to, short-course training programs that are culturally relevant and affordable (or reduced in price through scholarships or travel reimbursements). The national TALM conferences supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services are an important means of meeting these needs, although demand remains for training offered close to home or over the web.

• **Finances**
  Of note, 100% of the respondents look to IMLS support. 89% indicated they currently receive IMLS funding and 11% indicated they plan to apply for funding within the next year. In addition to IMLS support, many TALMs could benefit from substantial additional funding and could become more sustainable through funding source diversification. Revenue options may include charging admission, program, and facility rental fees; partnering more with local, state, and federal governments; and developing endowment and planned giving programs. Given that TALM managers and directors are the organizations’ primary development staff, there may be a need to educate, train, and support these individuals in fundraising as they work to improve their institutions’ financial bases.

• **Technology**
  Tribal libraries are key providers of community access to technology and to the Internet. Because technology has permeated every aspect of TALMs’ work and engagement, one need is for strategic planning concerning technology use. At a minimum, TALMs’ technology plans should address obsolescence and replacement, expanded broadband capacity, technical support, and integration of technology into exhibits, displays, and user/visitor experiences.

• **Digitization**
  Increasingly, digitization is industry-standard work. Yet more than half of responding TALMs do not digitize any materials, and many more need funding, equipment, staff time, and expertise to engage appropriately in digitization. As efforts progress, TALMs also may need assistance with digital policymaking and planning in order to ensure appropriate control of cultural patrimony.

• **Exhibitions, Programs, and Education**
  TALMs provide a wide range of programs, services, and activities to their communities, including education, exhibitions, workshops, and object storage. However, some TALMs may be missing opportunities to leverage resources, as they are not yet engaging other archives, libraries, and museums (tribal and non-tribal) in shared aspects of their service missions. In terms of K-12 outreach, TALMs may welcome opportunities to expand their repertoires beyond talks on history and culture.
• **Audience and Visitation**
TALMs’ primary audiences are their own tribal communities—and their marketing is well targeted to these populations. Yet to further strengthen community relationships and promote sustainability, more TALMs could consider developing “friends” or membership programs. This requires developing membership program models appropriate to the tribal community context; it also may require implementation training.

• **Conservation, Preservation, and Emergency Preparedness**
TALMs need substantial support with conservation and preservation work. Funding for planning, training, systems updates, facility improvements, and staff for conservation and preservation is sparse. Given these findings, TALMs might benefit from internal “conservation and preservation audits” that could identify immediate needs and the most cost-effective ways to address them.

• **Archive Specific**
Many tribal communities with a tribal library or museum also have a tribal archive. These organizations hold—and continue to acquire—a broad array of critical historical records, including photographs, maps, correspondence, family histories, and government documents. But tribal archives lack the staff, space, and storage capacity to do their jobs well. Archives may benefit from staff training in appropriate archival care techniques and in field standards and from new or stronger partnerships with non-tribal, state-level organizations.

• **Library Specific**
Tribal libraries place a special focus on collecting materials specifically relevant to their tribal communities and see this as both a present and ongoing goal. As all tribal libraries’ collections and services grow, increased resources for children and young adults may be a particular need. Yet meeting any collection need is likely to require more space, which is at a premium for
most tribal libraries. Fundraising for expansion, or training in creative ways to make even better use of existing space, may be critical needs. Library staff could benefit from more access to library management technology and technical support for that technology, as well as training in an array of library skills and outreach services. The breadth of tribal libraries’ needs highlights the vital and encompassing role that these institutions play in their communities.

- **Museum Specific**
  Tribal museums are important community institutions, which ensure ongoing cultural stewardship and public education through active acquisition programs and changing exhibits. A number of tribal museums also have expansion plans in place—which is one response to the significant need for exhibition and storage space cited by survey respondents. Other needs are for increased budgets, fundraising training for managers, and staff training in exhibit development and other core museum competencies.

**Outcomes/Achievements**

Information in the report is now used to help ATALM and others develop more responsive programs. The report has been cited numerous times by a variety of organizations in grant applications and news reports. Further, regional organizations have asked to replicate the survey to gather more localized information that can be contrasted/compared to national statistics.

**What We Learned**

*Ensuring adequate response rates requires a relentless commitment of time and energy.*

Recognizing that previous studies of tribal museums conducted by other organizations had response rates of 8%, we knew extra effort was required to achieve a response rate that was sufficient to ensure confidence in the survey and resultant report.

The first step was to identify the target audience and collect contact information. A database of the 566 tribes in the United States was compiled using the list available on the Bureau of Indian Affairs website. This information was then cross-referenced with ATALM’s database of 4,000+ contacts and information available from IMLS on tribal entities that have applied for museum or library grants. For tribes where no contact information was available, phone calls were made. Information was hard to obtain as often there was no answer or the person answering the phone was unwilling to provide information. This was especially true with Alaskan Native Villages. The list ended up with a realistic 518 entries with contact names attached. From this list, a matrix was organized that listed which tribal entity was known to have a library, museum, cultural center, archive, or none. This information was helpful in determining the highest and best use of staff time in trying to increase response rates.

The first notification sent out via email from project director Susan Feller resulted in a 15% response rate. Hard copy surveys sent to tribal entities for which no email or staff contact was available resulted in a 5% response rate. Subsequent follow up email reminders sent from recognized names in the tribal archive, library, and museum field resulted in an additional 12% response rate.

Before closing the survey, a list of respondents was reviewed. Organizations identified as those known to have a tribal archive, library, or museum were contacted by phone. This resulted in a 6% increase,
leaving a total response rate of 38% from all identified audiences and a 51% rate from audiences known to have an archive, library, or museum.

The due diligence exercised in collecting information added three months to the timeline, but is an investment in the future.

**Response rates may be improved by breaking the survey down into more manageable parts.**

Tribal archive, library, and museum directors are often overwhelmed by their daily workload and to add a 52-page survey proved to be a daunting task. To their credit, the majority took time to respond, but a few indicated they were exhausted by the end of the survey.

This can be addressed in the future by segregating the eight key sections of the existing survey into manageable parts and creating distinct surveys for archives, libraries, museums, technology, digitization, etc.

**Future surveys will benefit from the traction the ATALM has achieved within the tribal archives, libraries, and museums field.**

When the survey was first launched, ATALM was an unknown entity with many in the target audience. The work associated with ATALM was known, but not the entity itself. Officially incorporated in 2010, the ATALM brand now has been established and it has achieved a high level of acceptance among tribal communities. Several organizations who did not respond to the baseline survey have indicated they will in the future. They simply were unsure as to how the information would be used.

**Public comment is important.**

Although not included in the original protocol, ATALM decided to hold a public comment session entitled “Speak Out!” at the conclusion of the 2012 conference. The session began with an overview of the study results by Dr. Jorgensen, who then moderated a discussion of the estimated 50 attendees. Comments from this session further informed the findings. Future studies should build a public comment period into the protocol.
Preserving Tribal Language, Memory, and Lifeways: A Continuing Education Project for the 21st Century

Researching Tribal Heritage Fellowship Program

With the rise in the number of tribal archives, libraries, and museums, many tribal entities are interested in expanding their collections, while providing accurate and more definitive information about their histories. This has resulted in a desire to identify and access culturally specific information held in repositories across the nation and use this information to interpret tribal history from the perspective of the tribe.

The “Researching Tribal Heritage Fellowship Program” was a continuing education project that sought to assist tribal members, ideally without formal research training, to learn about methods and strategies for designing a research project, to identify sources of materials in local, regional, and national collections, to learn about creating new primary resources through oral history projects, to plan a research methodology, and produce a short digital story utilizing materials collected during the course of their research project. Acceptance into the program was through a formal application that asked potential Fellows to complete 10 questions, with each question weighted according to importance:

1. Describe the size, collections, activities, number of visitors, number of staff, and mission of your cultural center, archive, library, or museum: (2 points)

2. Describe your experience with conducting research projects: (2 points)

3. What types of job-related training have you had that are related to research? (2 points)

4. What are your primary job responsibilities and how do they relate to the project? (4 points)

5. Why do you wish to participate in this program? How will you share the information gained to further your tribe’s or your organization’s effort to promote and preserve tribal culture? (20 points)

6. Describe the topic you plan to research. Please be as specific as possible. For example, “I plan to locate materials relating to the agricultural practices of my tribe from 1800 (pre-removal) to current times.” Or, “I plan to research the missionary settlements in my community around the turn of the century.” (20 points)
7. How you will identify stakeholders and participants who may be of help to your project? How will you publicize the project and/or promote the results? (20 points)

8. Identify desired outputs, for example exhibits, publications, oral history projects, classroom activities, and so forth: (20 points)

9. Will you be able to participate in the following activities? Please note that active participation in scheduled trainings is encouraged, but not mandatory. Please check all that apply. (10 points)

10. Optional: Attach a letter of support from your tribal administration or supervisor. The letter should address specific ways the knowledge and skills gained from the project will be implemented to assist in the tribe’s cultural program (10 bonus points)

A total of 55 applications were received and reviewed by a team of eight people who were knowledgeable about tribal history and research. Twenty-one Fellows were accepted into the program:

Asenap, Jason, University Libraries, University Of New Mexico
Project Title: “The Native American Church in Indian Country”
Project Description: The Native American Church in Indian Country used interviews, historic documentation, anthropological histories, photographs, paintings, primary sources and other materials to help understand the history of the Native American Church in Indian Country. Film interviews were conducted of Comanche people in southwest Oklahoma who are Native American Church members in an attempt to educate and clarify common misconceptions. This research will be archived and the video documentary will be screened in Indian Country and beyond.

Battise, Nita, Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Culture Committee
Project Title: “Protecting a Legacy: Cultural Expressions”
Project Description: “Protecting a Legacy: Cultural Expressions” preserved the traditional storytelling of two distinct tribes who have melded their languages and legends, and now stand united as the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas. The project will seek Native American storytelling practices, customs and traditions, oral history interviews and transcripts, songs and music, photographs, maps, and documents. Research materials will be accessible to the tribal community and the general public through electronic archive and database. These materials will be used to generate secondary classroom lesson plans, cultural presentations, and formal discussions upon invitation.

Butler, Lynnika, Wiyot Tribe
Project Title: “The Wiyot Language Map Project”
Project Description: The Wiyot Language Map Project used archival language data, historical maps, interviews, and other sources to create an accurate map of traditional place names in the Wiyot language. Wiyot has no living fluent speakers; however, hundreds of place names were recorded in field notes and other linguistic records when the language was still in use. These records will be systematically compared and correlated with non-linguistic historical records including but not limited to maps, land ownership records, and interviews with Wiyot tribal members who are familiar with the local geography. A native-language map will be published for display and use within the Wiyot Tribe, in education and outreach activities in the broader
community, and potentially in environmental projects carried out in conjunction with state and federal agencies.

**Chavez Lamar, Cynthia**, The School for Advanced Research, Indian Arts Research Center  
**Project Title:** “Moccasin Making in the Native Southwest”  
**Project Description:** “Moccasin Making in the Native Southwest” will highlight moccasin making among the Pueblos, Navajos, and Apaches with an emphasis on contemporary moccasin making and makers. Collections and archival research and interviews with moccasin makers will contribute to the development of an exhibition script that will be used to create a banner traveling exhibition, which is easily transported. This exhibit will be available to tribal museums, cultural centers, and libraries in New Mexico and Arizona. Accompanying the exhibit will be a short video on moccasins and moccasin makers.

**Chubby, Leilani**, Quinault Cultural Center Museum Library  
**Project Title:** “Era of the Treaty of Olympia from 1855 to Self-determination in the 21st Century”  
**Project Description:** “Era of the Treaty of Olympia from 1855 to Self-determination in the 21st century” will identify the signers of the Quinault River Treaty, and all material relating to treaty negotiations, family relations (census records), family trees, origin of the chiefs, traditional societies, government relations, and historical hunting, gathering and fishing areas. Information will be sought as to where the first Tribal Council meetings were held, those who served on the Tribal Council, information relating to post-treaty assimilation, boarding schools, statistics, Tuberculosis, etc. (timeline of events). At the completion of the project a book will be printed along with curriculum material, maps, charts, and a special exhibit set up at the local Museum.

**Cooke, Michelle**, The Chickasaw Nation  
**Project Title:** “The Rhetoric of the Chickasaw Colberts: A Transformation of Tribal History”  
**Project Description:** The Rhetoric of the Chickasaw Colberts: A Transformation of Tribal History will discover documents, oral histories, and other materials that relate to the various roles rhetoric plays in the Colbert family and their more than 300-year-old relationship with the Chickasaw tribe. The ultimate placement of these collections will be in the Hollisso Research Center after its completion on the Chickasaw Cultural Center campus in Sulphur, Oklahoma so that these discoveries may be shared with future researchers of Chickasaw history.

**Diaz, Briana**, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR)  
**Project Title:** “The Voices of Military Families: A Study from the Kiowa Tribe’s Perspective”  
**Project Description:** The Voices of Military Families: A Study from the Kiowa Tribe’s Perspective will examine the impact the U.S. military service has had on the Kiowa family structure and on how it contributed to preserving their culture from the late nineteenth century to today. This examination will be using two methods of research. First, oral history will be studied by recording interviews of individual Kiowa elders telling their personal family stories while, secondly, strengthening these individual stories through methodical research utilizing historical documents, manuscripts, publications, and artifacts. All materials gathered from this research will be used to educate Kiowa tribal members on how to properly examine vital records in their local area, learn how to access federal records (which contain some of the earliest records of the tribe), and understand the importance of documenting the tribe’s own rich oral heritage.
Herman, Keli, Sicangu Heritage Center Sinte Gleska University  
**Project Title:** “The Lakota Way of Life: We are All Related”  
**Project Description:** “The Lakota Way of Life: We are All Related” will be a museum exhibit based on the Lakota social system around the turn of the 20th century. We intend to find images, letters, books and other materials that document what life was like for the Lakota before the Reservation period. We plan to use Ella Deloria’s book The Dakota Way of Life as the starting point for creating our exhibit. All research materials will be placed in the Lakota Archives and Historical Research Center where they will be available to tribal individuals and others interested in our history.

Herne, Sue, Akwesasne Cultural Center  
**Project Title:** “Tewaárathon from a Kanien’kehaka Perspective” (Lacrosse from a Mohawk Perspective)  
**Project Description:** “Tewaárathon from a Kanien’kehaka Perspective” (Lacrosse from a Mohawk perspective) will focus on researching the game of lacrosse as it relates to the Mohawk people; including various forms of the game, eyewitness accounts of games, historic paintings, photographs, artifacts, documents, and recordings that pertain to lacrosse, i.e. oral histories. Since the cultural origins of all six nations of the Haudenosaunee are held in common, research may include Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora information to some degree as needed. The main output will be a mini-documentary that will be used by the Akwesasne Museum for education and interpretation, including uses related to the traveling exhibit on lacrosse. The research findings will be housed at the Akwesasne Museum, to be accessed by community members who are looking for documentation of lacrosse history and the relationship of lacrosse to our culture.

Horowitz, Josh, University of British Columbia History Department/Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes  
**Project Title:** “Nakona Knowledge Keepers: an Indigenous Emergence in the 20th century,”  
**Project Description:** “Nakona Knowledge Keepers: an Indigenous Emergence in the 20th century,” investigates the ways in which the Assiniboine of reservations in Montana, Saskatchewan, and Alberta negotiated cultural loss, retention, and reinvention in creating a modern native cultural history. The narratives Assiniboines tell about their transformative experiences with Americanization and globalization, the texts they published about their pasts, and the tribal archives they have begun to construct have enabled Assiniboine cultural innovation. I will explore Assiniboine historicity through several video recorded oral interviews with tribal leaders, women and men, in order to analyze and contribute to Assiniboine tribal history and archives they are constructing. I will corroborate the oral histories and stories with careful examination of other primary sources relevant to the Assiniboine, including local newspapers, records, and objects from museums and galleries. My research will add to Assiniboine archives and larger debates about global indigenous cultural knowledge retention, loss, and re-invention.

Lara, Rita, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin  
**Project Title:** “Survival After Exile”  
**Project Description:** “Survival after Exile” will focus on the removal of the Oneida from New York to Wisconsin. Research will be focused on information regarding events following our participation in the Revolutionary War with an emphasis on 1780 through 1820. The project will
identify manuscripts, objects, images and any other relevant information for that time period. We will publicize the project utilizing our tribal newspaper. In addition, we plan to communicate the results during the numerous events we conduct throughout the year to include our annual Cultural Festival. Upon completion, we plan to host an event specific to this project. Furthermore, components of this project will be incorporated into our future exhibits.

**Penrod, Kim**, Caddo Heritage Museum  
**Project Title:** “Researching Caddo Identity in Song, Dance, and Photography”  
**Project Description:** “Researching Caddo Identity in Song, Dance, and Photography” will research and collect recordings (audio/video), photographs, documents and information from unique artifacts to document the Caddo culture. Each of these resources contains important components in the framework of the cultural identity of the Caddo. The gathered research will be used to produce a short documentary. In addition audio/video interviews will be added from some of the tribal elders regarding their thoughts on the newly collected information. All research materials will enhance current and new exhibits, publications, presentations, and scholarly research projects.

**Purvis, Lola**, Eastern Shawnee Tribe Cultural Center  
**Project Title:** “Where Did All the Shawnee Go? A Study of Voluntary and Forced Shawnee Migration”  
**Project Description:** “Where Have All the Shawnee Gone? A Study of Voluntary or Forced Shawnee Migration” will identify through people, organizations and institutions the migratory travel of Shawnee bands during voluntary or forced migration from Ohio to Indian Territory. Genealogical record evidence of the People is found in Missouri, Kansas, Texas, Arkansas, Idaho, Washington State, Canada and Mexico. This turbulent century with Indian Removal, the Civil War and internal conflicts led to fragmentation of the Shawnee. The Black Bob band, the Jackson/Fish band among others will be researched for the lineage of Tom Captain, a tribal chief and ancestor. Research materials gathered throughout the project will be made available to future researchers for use in classrooms, publications, and exhibits in the Shawnee Cultural Preservation Center. Research materials gathered throughout the project will be placed into an archive so future researchers may use the materials to produce publications, classroom activities, or other products.

**Rodgers, Greg**, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
**Project Title:**” Choctaw Places: The Stories They Tell”  
**Project Description:** “Choctaw Places: The Stories They Tell” explores Choctaw place names throughout the southeastern United States and the stories behind them. By knowing the meanings of these place names, a deeper understanding of Choctaw history, culture, language, and identity can be developed. Using oral traditions, maps, ethnographic resources, and historical documentation, these geographically isolated stories emerge to illustrate a larger Choctaw national narrative. Place names like Oklahoma, Mississippi, Tuscaloosa, and many others, hold in the fabric of their origins details of ancestral beliefs, lifeways, and their relationships to their surroundings that still influence Choctaws today.

**Andrew Skeeter**, Euchee Nation  
**Project Title:** "Researching the History of the Euchee/Yuchi Tribe: The Tzoyaha People"  
**Project Description:** "Researching the History of the Euchee/Yuchi Tribe: The Tzoyaha People"
Preserving Tribal Language, Memory, and Lifeways: A Continuing Education Project for the 21st Century

The Children of the Sun) is intended to locate all known written documents that have information on the history of our people, to obtain photographs or copies of historical artifacts that are known to exist and obtain oral histories from our elders and have transcribed for appropriate inclusion in the history. Older oral histories will also be obtained from various sources and will be digitized and appropriately transcribed also. Information will be obtained from various scholars that have performed research on the Euchee\Yuchi people, with a significant emphasis on more recent works that have analyzed many of the previous documents and may have some significant elements that would lend themselves to inclusion in the written history. Relevant cultural aspects of the tribe would be included that are appropriate for public distribution.

Swanson, Robert, Grand Portage Tribal Museum
Project Title: “Grand Portage Ojibwe Cultural Arts: History, Inventory, and Revitalization”
Project Description: “Grand Portage Ojibwe Cultural Arts: History, Inventory, and Revitalization” will research the cultural arts history of the Anishinaabe community on the Grand Portage Reservation in Northeastern Minnesota. Through the documentation of local subsistence arts and crafts such as hook rug tapestries and diamond willow furniture a more thorough history of the Grand Portage cultural arts will be obtained. Research on the Grand Portage Tribal arts and crafts trademark will also be explored. The research materials gathered will be combined with interviews of Ojibwe craftspeople and or their descendants to create a digital and written documentary for general use by historians, libraries and archives.

Taluga, Kate, Pine Arbor Tribal Town/The MUSEUM, Inc.
Project Title: “Women and Language of the Pvlvcecola Culture from Contact to Present”
Project Description: "Women and Language of the Pvlvcecola Culture from Contact to Present" will seek historic documentation including written documents, recordings, visuals, and oral histories that will document the language and lifeway of women among the Pvlvcecola peoples of the Southeast. Research materials gathered throughout the project will be placed into an archive so future researchers may use the materials to produce publications, classroom activities, or other educational products. In addition, materials will be used to support a publication for classroom teachers on Pvlvcecola lifeways focusing on the experience of women.

Tingle, Tim, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Project Title: “Choctaw Light Horsemen”
Project Description: The Choctaw Light Horsemen Project will capture the history, triumphs, and tragedies of this sometimes controversial wing of justice in Choctaw Indian Territory. The project will create an dramatic oral presentation and a power-point display sharing the history of the famed Choctaw Lighthorsemen. In addition to the presentation, a touring exhibit of photographs and paintings of the Lighthorsemen will be developed. Sources will include first-person accounts pulled from historical archival sources, plus documentation of legal proceedings, including Supreme Court cases. The oral presentation and the display will tour museums and Choctaw Tribal Centers throughout Oklahoma, and hopefully beyond. A further goal of the research will be a book.

Young, Sharilyn, Cherokee Nation
Project Title: “Developing Asquahigodv Anitsalagi Unigydohvsvi/ Storehouse of Cherokee
Project Description: “Asquahigodv Anitsalagi Unigvdohvsvi/ Storehouse of Cherokee Knowledge” is the development of the digital repository for Cherokee history and culture: the Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge. The major focus for this first phase of the development of the Virtual Library will be on discovering and identifying authentic materials related to the Cherokee tribe from the past 172 years, since the time of removal. Project activities include the discovery, identification, photographing, scanning and digitizing of authentic tribal historical documents, photographs, maps, secondary government documents, lists and rolls, artifacts, oral histories, lexicons and language teaching materials, treaties, constitutions and other items that contribute to the breadth of knowledge about the epic history of the tribe, its people and their leaders. Material in the Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge will be available for review by Cherokee citizens and the general public. It is expected to be a highly sought out database for history scholars, researchers, students, teachers, genealogists and others interested across the globe, offering new depths of information, knowledge and images about the tribe.

Zimmerman, Travis, Minnesota Historical Society
Project Title: “Anishinabe Ogiichidaa”
Project Description: “Anishinabe Ogiichidaa” will cover the military contributions that Ojibwe from Minnesota have made in defending our country over the last one hundred years. Through collections, interviews, photographs and archived documents the story of decorated Ojibwe warriors from World War I to the present day conflicts will be told. This project will tell the stories of Anishinabe Ogiichidaa in Minnesota that are from the seven Ojibwe Bands of Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac, Leech Lake, White Earth, Red Lake, Bois Forte and Grand Portage. The project will begin and end with stories from Mille Lacs.

Zuni, Stephanie, Pueblo of Isleta Cultural Affairs Office
Project Title: “Researching the Railroad Era at the Isleta Pueblo”
Project Description: “Researching the Railroad Era at the Isleta Pueblo” will focus on the effects of the railroad industry on the Isleta Pueblo’s culture and economy at the turn of the century. In addition to searching archives for information, oral histories will be gathered from those individuals with knowledge on the subject. Information collected will be used to support an existing photographic exhibit. After incorporating the new research information, the photographic exhibit will be used as an educational tool within the pueblo community schools.

To coordinate training and provide easy access to information, a project Wiki was developed. The Wiki continues to serve as a resource for others and is available at http://talm.wikispaces.com/home. Wiki pages include:

- Calendar
- General Schedule
- Digital Documentary Drafts & Examples
- Faculty and Staff
A Toolkit was developed and made available on the project Wiki. Toolkit chapters include:

- Introduction to Research
- Developing a Research Strategy
- Stages of a Historical Research Project
- How to Make a Timeline
- Using Primary Sources
- Documenting Sources
- Finding Secondary Resources in Libraries
- Conducting Tribal Oral History Interviews
- Oral History Projects
- Interpreting Maps
- Map Analysis Forms
- Handling Objects in Museum Collections
- Collecting Research in Museum Collections
- Digital Documentaries
- Archiving Your Records
- Copyright and Fair Use
- Online Resources
- Making Research Appointments
- Roster of Participants, Staff, and Faculty

Six webinars, presented at one-week intervals were provided. To facilitate the webinars, four consultants were engaged: Paulita Aguilar, Curator Librarian, University Libraries-Indigenous Nations Library Program at the University of New Mexico; Ann Massmann Librarian, Center for Southwest Research at the University of New Mexico; and Christina Burke, Curator, Native American & Non-Western Art, Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, OK. Paulita Aguilar and Ann Massmann presented the following webinars together: “Intro to Native American Research/ Finding Secondary Sources”; “Individual Sessions with Librarians”; “Finding and Using Primary Sources in Archives”; and “Developing a Research Strategy”. Christina Burke presented the webinar “Conducting Research in Museum Collections”. Carol Cornsilk, the Digital Documentary consultant, presented a webinar on “Introduction to Digital Documentaries.” All of the webinars were recorded and are currently available through the “Researching Tribal Heritage Fellowship” wiki.

Following the webinars, a “Researching and Using Tribal History Fieldtrip” was offered in Washington DC from June 7-11, 2010. On Monday, June 7, more than 50 individuals met at the National Museum of the American Indian to participate in the “Researching Tribal History in Washington, DC” workshop. Representatives from the National Museum of the American Indian, National Portrait Gallery, National Archives, National Anthropological Archives, Library of Congress and Department of the Interior Library provided overviews of their respective collections. For the rest of the week (June 8-11) fellowship participants were required to have appointments with the various facilities to conduct research on their
topics. Following each day of research, the Fellows met in the evening to discuss their day and to have a brief program on topics such as conducting oral interviews, what makes a compelling story, and how to make an effective, short documentary using primary resource materials.

Two consultants were hired to provide guidance and instruction for the Fellows as they continued working on their projects independently. Dr. Sally Thompson, Director of the Regional Learning Project with the University of Montana assisted with identifying resources, conducting oral histories, and reviewing research protocols. University of North Texas Professor Carol Cornsilk (Cherokee) provided instruction on creating digital documentaries.

In September 2010 the Fellows were reunited at the American Association of State and Local History Annual Conference in Oklahoma City where a day-long pre-conference workshop on the mechanics of producing digital stories (software/hardware) was offered by Carol Cornsilk. Fellows provided individual updates on their projects. A field trip to the Oklahoma Heritage Association Museum followed, where the Fellows observed the use of digital documentaries in exhibit production.

On a volunteer basis, Choctaw authors and storytellers Tim Tingle and Greg Rodgers, who also were Fellows, assisted several of the Fellows in developing compelling stories. Throughout the project period, Fellows submitted drafts of their work which were reviewed by project staff and others. Recommendations were then acted on by the Fellows.

Fellows continued to discuss project updates using the “Researching Tribal Heritage” wiki and via email. In addition, several “best example” documentaries were chosen and posted to ATALM’s YouTube

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**Note from a Fellow:**

I just want to thank you again for the opportunity to do this fellowship. I have lost count of how many books and articles I have read. And I have countless notes to attend to. But, what I’ve learned is pushing me forward to take hold of the information needed by the Women of my community and Mvskoke Women in general.

I have actively taken part in our school’s curriculum on Native Americans by doing presentations and constructing hands on activities to demonstrate key concepts. And yes, I did some video of that. I’ll have to wade through the state standards to produce something usable for teachers because if it isn’t on the test, they aren’t going to look at it.

Because of the fellowship, I have been serious in my studies. Not just because it is a limited time, but that helps. I won’t stop studying because the fellowship ends and I was studying before the fellowship began. But what it causes me to do is focus my time daily to get something done in the way of studying rather than postpone because . . .

I will always be grateful for your encouragement, enthusiasm, and the doors to information I didn’t know existed that you opened for me by selecting me to do this fellowship. I am learning a great deal. Keep up your work knowing that each of us has grown and through us and your work our nations become stronger.

Mvto- Kate Taluga, Head Woman, Pine Arbor Tribal Town (Florida)
channel (TribalALM) for the fellowship participants to review. This helped several struggling fellows realize the visual and sound elements needed to create a strong digital documentary.

Based on the final digital stories submitted by the March 15th deadline, a panel of thirteen fellows were selected to present a session at the 2012 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums. The Digital Documentary Previews, Tribal History Fellowship Project session, provided the fellows an opportunity to explain their research and showcase their documentary. The following individuals participated in this session:

- Tim Tingle - *The Choctaw Light Horsemen*
- Jason Asenap - *Good Medicine*
- Josh Horowitz - *Azan-zan-na (In The Light) Returns: The Story of An 19th Century Assiniboine Leader*
- Greg Rodgers - *Choctaw Places and the Stories They Tell*
- Kim Penrod - *A Caddo Portrait: Preserving Lifeways Through Song, Dance, and Pottery*
- Kate Taluga - *Searching for Roots and Reclaiming Language*
- Sue Herne - *The Spirit of Lacrosse*
- Cynthia Chavez Lamar - *To Feel the Earth: Moccasins in the Southwest*
- Briana Diaz - *Mothers’ Prayers: Kiowa Women a Tradition of Supporting Warriors*
- Leilani Chubby - *From Chiefs to Noble Men*
- Lynnika Butler - *Wiyot Place Names*
- Robert Swanson - *Grand Portage: An Arts and Crafts History*
- Michelle Cooke - *Impact of the Chickasaw Colberts*

Funders and partners for this part of the project included:

- American Association of State and Local History
- Chickasaw Nation
- Hard Rock Hotel, Tulsa
- Hilton Homewood Suites, Washington, DC
- Institute of Museum and Library Services
- Library of Congress
- National Archives and Records Administration
- National Museum of the American Indian
- North Texas University
- Oklahoma Department of Libraries
- Oklahoma Heritage Association
- Philbrook Museum of Art
- Sheraton Hotel, Oklahoma City

**Outcomes/Achievements**

- New information regarding tribal history has been collected and disseminated.
- Collections of tribal archives have been expanded.
- One Fellow was invited to attend the Sundance Institute and has gone on to produce award-winning short films. This was a direct outcome of the Fellowship program.
• Two Fellows have gone on to become instructors in the digital storytelling process and are now helping other tribal cultures document history through the same process used in the Fellowship program.
• Digital stories produced by the Fellows are now being used in tourism programs, school curriculum, and museum exhibits. One is being used in a prison for women as a motivation tool.

What We Learned

Program should be shortened to six months...
While a few Fellows indicated the 18 months allowed for the project was not sufficient, project staff members are of the opinion that the project should be reduced to six months or less. Now that protocols and procedures are established, it is feasible to reduce the project period. There were times when the project seemed to languish until a deadline approached.

Quality outcomes are assured by selecting the Fellows carefully...
For the most part, all of the Fellows worked diligently and took the project seriously. However, three of the participants did not submit final documentaries. We are not certain what could have been done differently to change this outcome, as frequent communications were made. It is also important to select participants that have strong computer, writing, and storytelling skills. The highest level of success was evident in the Fellows who were closely connected to their tribal communities and had the support of tribal leadership.

The research field trip to Washington, DC was a key to success...
When the Fellows proposed their projects, some were not aware of the materials they may or may not find. The research trip to DC helped them determine early on if the proposed subject was viable. After a day of research in DC, a few requested to amend their proposed topic, for which permission was granted. The other outcome of the DC trip was that it inspired the Fellows to hone their research skills and learn the methodologies of documentation projects.

Digital Storytelling is a skill that is easy to learn but requires good equipment and high-speed Internet access...
When deciding on the common output required for this project, the concept of having everyone create a digital story seemed like a worthy solution. Having experienced successful projects done at the grade school level, it seemed feasible that adults could do the same. However, given the variety of computer skills, quality of individual’s computers and internet access, a few of the Fellows struggled to produce stories with which they were satisfied. To their credit, the majority overcame any obstacle they faced and produced stellar documentaries.
Good recording equipment is a key to success...
Some of the oral histories used in the project were not recorded at a level that was acceptable to the program or the Fellows. Future projects may want to consider purchasing high-quality recording equipment that can be loaned to participants.

Historical accuracy and attention to scholarly standards must be emphasized...
After the Fellows submitted their almost-final documentaries, a team of knowledgeable researchers viewed them for accuracy. While most documentaries were without error, a few needed correction.

This program needs to be continued...
While this was a pilot program for ATALM, its successful outcomes serve as indicators that the field of tribal research would benefit from the program becoming institutionalized with a new cohort of Fellows each year. Considering the positive and life-changing impact on the individual Fellows and the new body of tribal history that was generated, the $5,000 per Fellow is a good investment.
Tribal Programming at the 2010 American Association of State and Local History

The American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) conference (September 22-25) in Oklahoma City provided a meaningful opportunity for ATALM and other tribal cultural organizations to associate with a well-established organization in the planning and implementation of a national event. The collaboration also presented an opportunity for AASLH to engage tribal audiences, a goal it has long held. Of most significance, the event provided tribal participants with an opportunity to learn best practices of history organizations and broadened the exposure of AASLH attendees to a type of institution with which many were not familiar. Judging from the evaluation reports, attendees gained new ideas and inspiration from each other and non-tribal institutions gained a greater understanding of how to tell the American Indian story of their own region.

Over 950 individuals attended the 2010 conference, with approximately 300 signing up specifically for tribal programming.

With IMLS support, 63 individuals working in the field of tribal archives, libraries, and museums received scholarships to attend the conference.

ATALM was responsible for planning and executing programs of specific interest to tribal entities as well as marketing the conference to its tribal constituents to ensure a viable tribal presence at the conference. Programming consisted of three pre-conference events, two evening events, three luncheons, and 12 conference sessions. ATALM provided scholarships and speaker honoraria for one keynote speaker. AASLH provided reduced registration fees and covered all expenses associated with the conference, except those for which ATALM was solely responsible. AASLH received $24,000 from ATALM to offset costs associated with expenses incurred as a result of its participation in the grant project, i.e., registration fees for tribal scholarship participants and presenters, honoraria for presenters, local transportation to and from tribal events, and meeting expenses for tribal participants.
PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR
ATALM planned one pre-conference tour entitled “Heartbeat of a Nation: Chickasaw Cultural Center Fieldtrip. Participants were given a guided tour of the state-of-the-art museum, the Holisso Research Center, Traditional Village and were served a traditional Chickasaw meal.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS
A pre-conference workshop entitled “Common Ground: Best Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Practices for Museums and Tribes” was presented by National NAGPRA staff and others at the Oklahoma History Center. The program included presentations by Walter Echo-Hawk, Of Counsel, Crowe & Dunlevy; Sherry Hutt, Program Manager for the National NAGPRA Program; and Kevin Gover, Director of the National Museum of the American Indian. In addition, panel sessions highlighted case studies on NAGPRA implementation, determining cultural affiliation and the future of NAGPRA.

The second pre-conference workshop was sponsored by the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board and the Minnesota Historical Society. This hands-on workshop focused on the best practices for the “Care of Folded and Rolled Documents.” It was presented by noted conservator and long-time ATALM supporter Sherelyn Ogden.

THE CONFERENCE
AASLH was very accommodating in assuring a Native presence at all events, beginning with the opening plenary session which began with a traditional Cheyenne welcome and blessing.

Gerard Baker, a Mandan-Hidatsa Indian recently retired from the National Park Service as the Assistant Park Service Director for Native American Relations (the highest ranking American Indian in the National Park Service) and former Superintendent of Mt. Rushmore National Park, served as the Tribal Track keynote speaker. Mr. Baker quickly became a favorite keynote speaker at the conference because of the inspirational stories he told recalling his experiences as an American Indian working to strengthen the collaborations between tribal and non-tribal institutions while employed with the National Parks Service.
Conference Sessions and Luncheons

Tribal programs were selected by a 30-member Tribal Program Planning Committee. Each program was designed to appeal to Native and non-Native audiences.

Sessions included:

- *Moving Beyond Material Culture: Exploring American Indian Issues in the Museum Setting*
- Focus Group Meetings for Study of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums
- Spotlight on Tribal Museums and Cultural Centers: Successful Case Studies
- Getting It Right: Designing and Managing a Successful Tribal Museum Store
- Native Voices: Using Audio Best Practices to Create Community
- From Song to Canvas: Map Art of the Zuni
- Mythbusters: Beyond American Indian Advisory Committees
- Luncheon with tribal keynote, Commander John Herrington, American Indian astronaut
- Preserving Native American Collections: Resources and Opportunities
- Remembering the Past, Building for the Future: How To Develop and Implement A Historically Significant Time Capsule Project.
- THE MUSEUM DIFFERENT: Comparing Native Center Models with Museum Models
- Sustaining Advisory Relationships Between Historical Organizations and American Indian Nations
- Bringing Native Voices into the Classroom: Successful Collaborations Among Tribes, Museums, Libraries, Archives, and Educators
Outcomes/Achievements
Evaluation comments from AASLH indicate the conference achieved its objectives of building bridges through partnerships, communications, and awareness. As one attendee pointed out, “Communication and awareness are critical for everyone’s survival. We share many common needs and goals.”

Another indicator of success is the continuing and ever-growing partnership between AASLH and ATALM. The 2014 conference in St. Paul, MN will again feature tribal programming.

Below are a few comments from attendees (tribal and non-tribal):

- “My main purpose of attending this particular conference was the inclusion of the Tribal Track and the overall theme of Sites of Conscience. We have been wrestling with some of these tough issues at our historic sites and I was hoping to get additional information from others on these topics. I was not disappointed.”

- “Great work with the Tribal Track! How can you keep/integrate the Tribal Track into future sessions? It would be terrible to lose that participation.”

- “The meeting was beyond expectations. Tribal attendees were treated with respect and made to feel very welcome. Thank you for inviting us to be a part of this important meeting. Good job, all!”

- “I thought the meeting was, overall, one of the better ones in my memory. Attendance was strong and the tribal track excellent, and on point for current projects at my institution.”

- “I greatly appreciated that opportunity to have a tribal track with this particular organization - it is timely and very important and I hope it continues. I will become an AASLH member this year, and look forward to my future participation in the organization.”

- “I have to assume that the attendance of AASLH was up from previous years due to the tribal track offerings. I was quite pleased to see the attendance of Native Americans and those representing tribal institutions. ATALM has done a good job of providing annual conferences, but it’s also refreshing to see an established organization support Native interests and content through this partnership. Thank you!”

What We Learned

The collaboration with AASLH represented the first time in the history of the nation that a mainstream organization actively invited the participation of tribal peoples in the planning and execution of a national conference. The inclusionary attitude of AASLH staff and attendees was remarkable and made this an engaging, rewarding, and thoroughly successful endeavor. A simple, but thorough, Memorandum of Understanding helped guide the operations and everyone followed through on expectations.
The Center for Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado and the Southern Ute Tribe in Ignacio, Colorado were the local hosts of a three-day immersion institute focusing on specific areas that affect American Indian cultural organizations: preservation, presentation, and protection of collections.

Although maximum attendance was expected to be 75, final attendance was 141. Eighty-six tribal organizations from places as far away as Alaska, Maine, Hawaii, and Florida were represented.

The four-day Institute featured one day of shorter, general sessions and two days of intensive, day-long workshops, held at Fort Lewis College, the newly-opened Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum, and the Sky Ute Conference Center. Over 18 workshops provided practical, take-home skills to the Institute participants. Topics covered included: care of folded and rolled documents, collection storage solutions, how to care for photographs, oral history, archival practices, and care of textiles. The program book is available at www.atalm.org.

Southern Ute tribal chair Pearl Casias serving as Institute chair.

With IMLS funds ($20,000) plus additional local funds ($1,500), 61 scholarships were awarded. In all, 95 applications were received, requesting a total of $74,952 in funding. A six-member scholarship committee reviewed the applications and recommended funding based on the applicants involvement in a tribal archive, library or museum. The majority of applicants received partial funding that either covered Institute registration, shared lodging, or a travel stipend not to exceed $250.

Thirty-two faculty members volunteered their time over the four days of training, coming from as far away as Maine and Florida.

The tribe provided the services of its Cultural Liaison, Edward Box III, who worked with the Local Planning Committee to develop pre-conference tours that emphasized the indigenous cultures of the
region. These included cultural heritage tours to Mesa Verde National Park, the Heritage Train and Pagossa Springs.

Evening cultural events were held at the new Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum and at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. Institute participants were offered behind-the-scenes tours of the institutions state-of-the-art collection storage areas, archives, and exhibits.

More than $30,000 in local support was provided, including waiver of facility fees and in-kind contribution of staff time on the part of the host institutions.

The Southern Ute tribe provided in-kind financial support equal to $27,000, covering such items as facilities, technology, local transportation, and staffing.

Additional support for the Institute was provided by Richard Ballantine, publisher of the Durango newspaper. The Ballantine Foundation provided funds for scholarships as well as an endowment for ATALM. Mr. Ballantine attended the Fort Lewis College evening event and pledged continuing support for ATALM and its projects.

An outcomes-based evaluation of the Institute was conducted, including individual session evaluations and an overall evaluation. Survey results are appended to this report and may be found on page 46.

What We Learned

Tribal archives, libraries, and museums are staffed by people who often lack advanced training in caring for indigenous materials. The primary benefits of having a smaller institute, as opposed to a large national conference, were the opportunity for participants to work more closely with the faculty members and to build closer relationships with each other. Lasting bonds were made during this event and faculty members continue to be a resource to the participants, according to follow up surveys.
“Working Together to Move Forward” 2011 Joint Conference with the Western Museums Association

OVERVIEW
The September 23-26, 2011 “Working Together to Move Forward” International Conference was held in Honolulu, Hawaii. It was co-sponsored by the Western Museums Association (WMA) and the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM). Additional sponsorship was provided by the Hawaii Museums Association and the Pacific Islands Museums Association. The program book and other information about the conference are available at www.atalm.org.

ATTENDANCE
- 675 attendees (WMA/ATALM/HMA/PIMA)
- 276 attendees identified as “indigenous”
- 102 tribal nations represented
- 34 states, from Maine to Hawaii
- 3 continents (Asia, Australia, North America)

CONFERENCE FORMAT
- 4 days of programming, including 1 day of pre-conference workshops and tours.
- 11 Pre-Conference Workshops, four of which were specific to indigenous interests.
- 1 Pre-Conference Tour to Pearl Harbor.
- 2 general sessions, each featuring an indigenous keynote presenter. Opening session featured a traditional Hawaiian Awa ceremony.
- 2 Indigenous luncheons featuring keynotes by Walter Echo-Hawk and Sven Haakanson
- 4 “Tour & Talks” with curators and educators of Honolulu’s premiere cultural sites.
- 70 Concurrent Sessions, 32 of which were specific to indigenous interests, and 10 of which were specific to tribal libraries.
- 17 “Ask an Expert” luncheon tables, 7 of which were indigenous-focused.
- 3 Cultural Evening Events, including an evening for indigenous librarians hosted by the University of Hawaii, School of Hawaiian Knowledge.
- 2 Tribal Research Fellowship meetings and documentary previews.

PROGRAM PLANNING

Conference programs were planned by a 25-member team and co-chaired by Merritt Price with the Getty Museum. Susan Feller served as the ATALM liaison to the committee.

Prior to meeting as a group the first time, ATALM distributed a call for session proposals which resulted in 49 submissions. Out of these, 32 proposals were approved by the programming committee.

Each program was assigned a “key” to help conference participants tailor their experience. Key categories were Audience and Identity; Business; Collection Care; Indigenous; Interpretation and Experience; Leadership; and Library.

The addition of a library track was a first for the Western Museums Association, although the programming committee embraced the idea and supported the symbiotic relationship compatible organizations such as archives, libraries, and museums can develop when brought together under the same roof.

SCHOLARSHIPS

110 scholarship applications were received, requesting $88,108. With $53,233 in IMLS funds, 84 scholarships were awarded at varying levels of support.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP

Major financial support for indigenous programs was provided by The Institute of Museum and Library Services. IMLS funds were used to provide support for scholarships, presenters, and to help with appropriate conference expenses.

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries provided administrative oversight, including the services of Susan Feller, conference director and Melissa Brodt, project manager. WMA provided contract staff and strong board support.

A 36-member Host Committee provided local support and volunteers for the conference. The host committee was chaired by Stacy Hosihno (WMA) and Keikilani Meyer (ATALM). Significant support was provided by Kippen de Alba Chu, the director of the Iolani Palace.
Thirty local institutions provided support by opening their doors to special events and workshops, providing volunteers, promoting the conference locally, and through in-kind contributions of materials and services.

The Hawaii Tourism Authority provided a $20,000 grant to fund the development of a day-long “Knowledge is Gained by Doing” workshop that enabled participants to engage with cultural practitioners, musicians, craftspeople, and artists who keep Hawaiian culture alive.

The Hawaii Convention Center contributed all meeting space, an estimated contribution of $48,000. The Convention Center actively promoted the conference, including the provision of free street banners listing both WMA and ATALM.

The Ala Moana Hotel provided deeply discounted hotel rooms ($119-$139) for indigenous attendees, an additional $3,267 in complimentary rooms, and complimentary meeting space for the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums.

The Western Museums Association provided discounted registration fees for indigenous registrants ($200 vs. $365), as well as student registration rates of $180. This generosity enabled ATALM to fund almost twice the number of scholarships originally planned.

WHAT WE LEARNED

*Partnerships provide opportunities to generate broader support and improve cross-boundary learning...*

By partnering with other institutions, a critical mass is created and cost savings recognized. What would have been a small gathering with a narrow focus became a dynamic, exciting event that elevated the stature of all the partners. Without the Western Museums Association connection, we would not have had access to the Hawaii Convention Center or many of the other local partners. As with the AASLH partnership, bridges were built between tribal and non-tribal cultural institutions.

*Joint conferences are valued by ATALM constituents but are no substitute for stand-alone events...*

During a follow-up survey, participants were asked their opinion of the value of partnering with other organizations. The majority (89%) were in favor of periodic alliances, but not to the exclusion of solely indigenous-focused events. Eleven percent were not inclined to partner.
OVERVIEW
The June 4-7, 2012 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums took place at the Cherokee-owned Hard Rock Casino and Hotel in Tulsa (Catoosa), Oklahoma. It was the 8th international gathering of indigenous cultural institutions since 2003, with previous events held in Phoenix, Arizona (2003 and 2005), Oklahoma City (2007), Tulsa (2008), Portland, Oregon (2009), Durango, Colorado (2011), and Honolulu, Hawaii (2011).

Information about the conference and other events is available at www.atalm.org.

CONFERENCE FORMAT
- 4 days of programming, including 1 day of pre-conference workshops and tours.
- 11 Pre-Conference Workshops, Tours, and Meetings
- 2 days of programming specific to the Tribal College Librarians Institute
- 18 Creative Class(es) sessions tailored to the needs of artists and authors
- Opening session celebrating the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- 83 Concurrent Sessions
- 43 Poster Presentations by Institute of Museum and Library Services Enhancement Grantees and students from the San Jose State Circle of Learning.
- 8 Hands-on or interactive Preservation Labs
- 5 off-site workshops, each 2.5 hours in length
- 2 Keynote Presentations
- 1 Career Fair sponsored by San Jose State Circle of Learning
- 1 Guardians of Culture, Memory, and Lifeways International Awards Luncheon
- 1 Literary Leadership Honoring Luncheon
• 1 “Best and Brightest” film night featuring short films by emerging film makers
• 2 off-site Cultural Evening Events at the Philbrook Museum and the Gilcrease Museum
• 1 Native storytelling evening featuring “Trickster Tales”
• 1 Native America’s Got Talent Night featuring conference attendees
• 1 Tribal Research Fellowship meeting and documentary previews.
• 1 “Speak Out!” forum
• 3 book signings for featured authors
• 43 exhibitors (24 commercial, 19 non-profit organizations or artisans)
• 1 Native Arts and Crafts Boutique Evening

ATTENDANCE

Most events were filled to capacity, with waiting lists for several of the pre-conferences, preservation labs, offsite workshops, and evening events. Registration for the conference itself was at capacity three weeks prior to the conference.

• 2,672 total event attendance
• 536 conference attendees
• 360 Creative Class(es) attendees
• 207 pre-conference attendees
• 164 off-site workshop attendees
• 210 preservation lab attendees
• 944 evening event attendees

DEMOGRAPHICS

• International: The international nature of the ATALM conferences is growing, due in large part to relationship building with organizations such as the Pacific Islands Museum Association, and a variety of First Nations organizations in Canada. In all, the conference attracted attendees from New Zealand, Australia, American Samoa, and Canada. With 19 participants, Canada represented the largest non-U.S. audience.
• National: On a national level, almost every state with a federally recognized tribe was represented, for a total of 37 states. The 13 states not represented are Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, and West Virginia. Of these
states, with the exception of Louisiana, none are home to federally-recognized tribal communities/nations.
- **Tribal:** 165 distinct tribal cultural organizations were represented.
- **Non-Tribal:** 99 non-tribally-affiliated organizations participated.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Day-to-day conference activities were executed by two staff members with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Susan Feller and Melissa Brodt. Susan Feller is the Development Officer for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, ATALM President and 2012 Conference Director. Melissa Brodt is the Project Manager for IMLS grant that funds the conference.

Administrative office space for the conference was provided by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

**CONFERENCE CHAIRS**

**Honorary Chair** for the conference was ATALM Board Member Walter Echo-Hawk, a Native American rights attorney and passionate advocate for tribal archives, libraries, and museums. Dr. Echo-Hawk provided the opening keynote on the impact of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. He also provided a traditional Pawnee blessing at the opening luncheon, was recognized as an “Honored One,” and signed copies of his highly-acclaimed book, “In the Courts of the Conqueror.”

**Conference Chair** was Dr. Letitia Chambers, the recently retired President and CEO of The Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Chambers served as the Master of Ceremonies at the conference, officiating at the Opening Ceremony, three luncheons, and a variety of other events. As Chief Spokesperson, she provided numerous media interviews. Dr. Chambers is also Board Chair for ATALM.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

A total of 193 applications were received. With IMLS funds of $47,110, a total of 123 scholarships ranging from $250 to $750 were awarded. No eligible applicant was denied funding.

**WHAT WE LEARNED**

A few months before the conference, the Hard Rock Hotel suffered weather-related catastrophic damage to its facilities, resulting in the loss of four major meeting rooms. The hotel offered us the use of its golf course club house and “The Joint” a 3,000 seat state-of-the-art theater. This radical change in space forced us to look at programming differently, as the conference would now be spread out across the Hard Rock property. To help attendees differentiate space, we instituted 2.5 hour “off-site workshops” at the Golf Course facility, “labs” at the 7th floor Council Boardroom, and library-specific programming at the 11th floor Sky Room. We also maximized use of “The Joint”, a facility we would not have been able to afford under most circumstances. We held the opening ceremony there as well as a
movie night and storytelling event. What we learned from this “making lemonade” situation was that attendees liked the addition of the new programs and we have continued this format when possible.

Another introduction to the 2012 conference were the “Creative Class(es)” sponsored by the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation. The goal was to build bridges between Native artists, authors, and performers with archives, libraries, and museums. Again, this was a cutting edge program that met with a high level of success.

Conferences continue to fill to capacity quickly, which presents problems for those who do not register early. It especially presents problems for people who must stay at off-site hotels, as ATALM does not provide shuttle services. Recognizing that the field is growing, discussion is ongoing as to if ATALM should move the conference to larger non-tribal facilities or maintain its commitment to using tribally-owned facilities.
No-Cost Extension Activity

2013 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums (Santa Anna Pueblo, NM)

BACKGROUND

At the conclusion of the 2011 “Working Together to Move Forward” conference in Hawaii, pro forma financial reports indicated a potential surplus of $213,000. These funds were generated through cost savings, greater than expected support from non-IMLS sources, and an economy of scale achieved through partnerships with AASLH and WMA. A no-cost extension was granted, which enabled the sponsorship of another international conference.

OVERVIEW

The 2013 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums took place from June 10-13. Host site was the Santa Ana Pueblo Hyatt Regency in Bernarnillo, New Mexico.

CONFERENCE FORMAT

- 4.5 days of programming, including 1 day of pre-conference workshops and tours and a 1 day post conference.
- 16 Pre-Conference Workshops, Tours, and Meetings
- Opening session celebrating the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- 99 Concurrent Sessions
- 43 Poster Presentations by Institute of Museum and Library Services Enhancement Grantees and students from the San Jose State Circle of Learning.
- 18 Hands-on or interactive Preservation Labs
• 3 Keynote Presentations
• 1 Guardians of Culture, Memory, and Lifeways International Awards Luncheon
• 1 Literary Leadership Honoring Luncheon for Dr. Scott Momaday
• 2 off-site Cultural Evening Events at the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts in Santa Fe and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque.
• 1 Literary Reading evening with authors Joy Harjo, Scott Momaday, Greg Rodgers, and Tim Tingle
• 1 Native America’s Got Talent Night featuring conference attendees
• Book signings
• Three poetry readings featuring Native Arts and Cultures Foundation Literature Fellows
• 43 exhibitors (24 commercial, 19 non-profit organizations or artisans)

ATTENDANCE
This venue could only accommodate 500 people comfortably, resulting in the conference filling up quickly.

• 518 conference attendees
• 91 wait-listed attendees
• 480 pre-conference attendees
• 720 evening event attendees
• 1718 total event attendance

DEMOGRAPHICS

• International: The international nature of the ATALM conferences is growing, due in large part to relationship building with organizations such as the Pacific Islands Museum Association, and a variety of First Nations organizations in Canada. In all, the conference attracted attendees from New Zealand, Australia, American Samoa, and Canada. With 26 participants, Canada represented the largest non-U.S. audience.
• National: On a national level, almost every state with a federally recognized tribe was represented, for a total of 42 states, an increase of six states over 2012.
• Tribal: 171 distinct tribal cultural organizations were represented.
• Non-Tribal: 236 non-tribally-affiliated organizations participated.

ADMINISTRATION
Day-to-day conference activities were executed by two staff members with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Susan Feller and Melissa Brodt. Melissa left ODL in October 2012, but continues to serve in a leadership capacity with ATALM. Commencing in April 2013, Franci Hart provided project administration support.

Administrative office space for the conference is provided by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.
SCHOLARSHIPS

The number of scholarship requests increased by 22% from 2012. A total of 231 applications were received, requesting $125,125 in funds. In all, 183 scholarships, ranging from $250 to $833, were approved. $53,625 in IMLS funds were allocated to scholarships, along with private donations. No eligible applicant was denied funding.

WHAT WE LEARNED

There is a hunger for the types of programs ATALM is offering. Evaluative comments indicate a desire for two conferences a year, regional conferences, webinars, and other training opportunities. There also is a call for program proceedings to be published as well as sessions recorded and made available. Thanks to a new grant from IMLS, each session was recorded this year and will be made freely available on ATALM’s website once editing is completed. There also is a need to provide certificates or some type of recognition that attendees participated in training. Participants highly value the presence of IMLS staff at the meeting and indicate they learn a great deal about model projects from IMLS grant recipients who are present at the conference.
The Indigenous Materials Institute was an activity of the *Preserving Tribal Language, Memory, and Lifeways: A Continuing Education Project for the 21st Century* grant (RE-06-09-0106) funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. It was conducted under the auspices of the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums and implemented by a 12-member Local Planning Committee and Project Staff.

The 4-day institute consisted of three cultural tours, five 90-minute concurrent sessions, five 2.5 hour workshops, and nine day-long workshops. The full-day workshops repeated on Tuesday and Wednesday. Keynote speakers were noted attorney, activist, and author Walter Echo-Hawk and museum director James Enote. Three evening events took place, including one at Fort Lewis College and one at the newly-opened Southern Ute Cultural Center. A summary of the programs offered is appended to this report.

Although the Institutes are intended to be small, hands-on and/or interactive events, an abundance of quality program proposals were received. The quality and scope of the proposed programs, along with the availability of three excellent venues, enabled the organizers to increase the maximum number of attendees from 75 to 150. The increase did not compromise the “hands-on” nature of the workshops, as each class size was closely monitored to ensure a quality program. With last-minute cancellations, there were 147 participants in all (a 100% increase in the stated attendance objectives).

**Evaluation Methodology:** To gauge the impact of each individual session, participants were asked to evaluate each session. A week after the Institute, an electronic survey was distributed to all participants, asking them to evaluate the overall conference. The Overall Conference Evaluation survey received a 49% response rate.

**ORGANIZATION TYPE:** Organization types represented at the institute were primarily museums (42%), archives (39.1%) and cultural centers (27.5%), and libraries (17.4%). The increase in the number of tribal archival facilities should be noted, as this is a significant change from past conferences and may indicate tribal governments are focusing more attention on the need to preserve tribal records.
### EXPERIENCE AND SATISFACTION LEVELS OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE INSTITUTE

Participants were asked to evaluate their skill level prior to participating in the Institute. The majority (76%) of participants had a great deal or some level of experience with working with indigenous materials, while others indicated some experience (12%) or no experience (12%).

Evaluation responses from individual sessions indicate the majority (68.7%) of participants found their skill levels increased significantly or somewhat (32.7%). No participants indicated that their skill levels did not improve.

71.2% of participants indicated they attend training events once or twice a year with 15.2% indicated they don’t usually attend training. Another 12.1% attend 3-4 events a year, while 1.5% attend 5-6 per year.

Compared to other training opportunities, 100% indicated the Institute was far better (69.3%) or somewhat better (24.7%) at meeting the individual participant’s needs and expectations. None indicated the Institute was not as good as other events in meeting needs and expectations.

49% of participants were first-time attendees at an ATALM event, which is an indication the organization’s reach is broadening. 51% of respondents indicated they had attended previous IMLS-funded training for tribal archives, libraries, and museums, including the 2003 Arizona conference (5.7%), the 2005 Arizona conference (8.6%), the 2007 OKC conference (25.6%), 2008 Tulsa Institutes (8.8%), 2009 Oregon conference (68%), 2010 Washington, DC Field Trip (8.8%), and the ATALM/AASLH OKC conference (48.6%).

97.1% of participants indicated they would highly recommend ATALM events to others while 2.9% indicated they perhaps would recommend.
CHANGE IN EXPERIENCE LEVEL AS A RESULT OF THE TRAINING RECEIVED

As a result of participating in the Institute, 95.6% of respondents indicated their skills greatly improved (50%) or improved somewhat (45.6%). A smaller number, 4.4%, indicated their skill level did not change.

HELP WITH ESTABLISHING PERSONAL CONTACTS

100% of participants indicated the Institute helped with establishing professional and personal contacts.

IMPROVEMENT IN JOB SKILLS

100% of respondents indicated the Institute will enable them to do their jobs better.

IMPACT ON ATTITUDES

100% of participants indicated the Institute provided them with a renewed enthusiasm for their jobs.

OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE INSTITUTE

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<td>1.6%</td>
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<td>0%</td>
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<td>Quality of Materials</td>
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<td>0%</td>
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<td>Quality of Facilities</td>
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<tr>
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<td>35.9%</td>
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<td>Quality of Institute Staff</td>
<td>78.15%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PERCEIVED VALUE

100% of the registrants indicated the $250 registration fee was very reasonable (27.4%) or reasonable (72.6%). No one indicated the fee was too expensive.
IMPACT ON ATTENDEES

1. I currently work in a large institution that does a lot of great work, but being among those in the museum field that have very little funds and small staff with only volunteers opened my eyes. I always want to extend my expertise and time towards preservation of material cultures especially among Native American objects. The more opportunities like this where I can listen, learn, share common ideas and give solutions is most important for my professional development. This workshop gave me valuable information that I can apply towards the museum collections and audiences of new generations.

2. These workshops have been so rewarding they have changed how I plan my training because big is not always better. I always come home from these workshops excited with new ideas that will make me a better manager. You always make new contacts which are people always willing to help. I am very indebted to ATLM they are what Native Communities need.

3. We are in the early stages of our tribe's museum project. We made numerous new contacts and learned a great deal about how to cost-effectively and efficiently initiate new projects and manage them. It was great to meet a group of like-minded professionals who were in the same boat, exchanging advice.

4. My knowledge increased greatly and the overall importance and understanding of our center. My computer skills are basic, the training I received will surely help me in the future. Training on oral history gave me the knowledge and confidence to take on a new project in collecting oral history from our tribal veterans. The contacts I made were very welcomed and very important with the knowledge they carry. I came home with confidence and excitement that I have the knowledge to continue to better our facility to include coming home with new ideas for exhibits and helping create them.

5. Since I'm new to this field this was my first conference and it was extremely great. My computer skills are pretty much out the door but information and on hands training has really given me the knowledge to help me. The training on oral history has really given me that charge to take on a new project in collecting oral history from our tribal veterans. Contacts were very helpful and gave me reassurance that I can contact them and be willing to help as our chief curator has done with success. I came back with confidence and excitement that my coworkers who attended and myself have taken on extra projects to kick start our facility and it is great.
6. Learned about archiving photos and recording oral history which are two things that will greatly benefit me once I am at that point in my history program. Meeting new people who are already in the process of doing what I plan to be doing was great. I look forward to attending more functions like this.

7. Yes, I was inspired to go back to school so I could work in the museum field.

8. I have a better understanding of digital media/building a web site, and speaking with professionals in the field of my interest -- working in a museum with relation to repatriation issues. Communication and collaboration as well as, building partnerships are three "take aways" from this conference experience.

9. I attended the care for folded and rolled documents which I loved. It was during this workshop that I learned how to make a humidifier. I would have liked to take the kit home.

10. Yes, I learned new skills when dealing with historical documents, photos, and learning new skills in how to archive records and documents we've accumulated. I also learned more about recording oral histories and the importance of gaining an interviewee's trust beforehand. Plus, better ways of archiving and making these histories accessible to others.

11. Gained new insights relevant to how organizations strategically plan for the future, especially in meeting the needs of visitors. I made wonderful new contacts, am creating a good network of resource people, and making good colleagues and friends.

12. Our museum has photo, film and oral history that greatly benefit the tribe. We do not have ways to preserve these items the sessions I attended will help set up policy's and ways to access the collections easier for us and museum visitors. I found all the sessions I attended were helpful and I am glad I could make it.

13. At this conference, my focus was to get ideas and critique about our current re-housing project. We got great feedback and I left the conference knowing that I am now an expert in making boxes. As always, you get to meet new people and reconnect with people you've meet from other workshops and conferences. Networking and sharing stories about each other's institution, we find out how similar the challenges and problems we each face every day. The
connection we have as indigenous institutions, we are providing a great service to our people and to visitors from around the world.

14. Before the workshop, I was asked to take on new duties which I was untrained for. After attending this workshop, I have a much better understanding of how to take on these new tasks; in addition, the instructors have made themselves available in the future to questions I have, plus I connected with other people in my profession who have gone through a similar experience who are willing to lend me advice where needed. I now can confidently take on these new responsibilities!

15. I'm a novice at this so it was all new to me. We're getting ready to open a cultural center soon but my past experience is with libraries. I did pick up enough knowledge so I hope I can ask the right questions in the future. I do believe the ATALM is the organization for me and my colleagues when comparing to other groups like the ALA.

16. My knowledge of preserving photographs has been greatly improved and I know the 'Do's and Don'ts' of past archival methods and today's digitization/scanning now. I have met other tribal members who shared their line of work, studies, and goals for themselves and/or institutes; it was a joy to meet our fellow Natives from all over the nation whose' objectives are to preserve each other’s cultures in our tribes and proudly acknowledge everyone’s (tribes). In saying this, not only did I listen to the elders at the conference but as they were also interested in my origins, I was the only representative from my tribe and I got to exercise my own knowledge. Some questions were asked in some of the group activities like, 'if you got to interview and record an elder from your tribe, who would it be?' I chose, spoke, and explained why. Some of the activities alone got all of us to think ahead, really. They were serious activities but so interesting too. I got to learn with elders, adults, and some younger than myself. We were all students who shared with the teachers.

17. It is crucial in helping me connect with other professionals in the field who have a strong commitment and interest in working with indigenous peoples and collections. I also appreciate the way ATALM has partnered with other organizations, which helps create an awareness among others about Native collections and professionals working with these collections. I do not work for a tribal museum or cultural center, but it is clear to me that ATALM provides necessary technical service and training for those professionals working at those institutions. ATALM has strengthened our professional community because we now get to see one another more often, reconnect, and figure out ways to collaborate.

18. I have gained a greater sense of purpose, and met the best instructors. I will do my best to create better exhibits, and will use the information I received regarding the preservation of the Indigenous Materials of our tribes.

19. The conference opened my eyes to the new and innovative projects that were actively being initiated by tribal museums and other organizations. As a seasoned professional, I have the basics down, but as a 55+ person, it's a new world of technology out there. I need to learn it, and be able to use it effectively in my organization.
20. We actually came back so energized and inspired that, in conjunction with a gallery roof repair next month, we have decided to entirely re-do all of the existing exhibits to better tell the Community's story and to get much more visitor feedback on how they would like to see us further develop these stories in future.

21. What changed is my confidence level for my job. I now have the confidence to move on with some projects I've been putting off. This is thanks to my attendance of the institute where I was able to get answers to my questions. It was also nice to see what another tribe (The Southern Ute Tribe) is doing when it comes to cultural items.

22. As a non-native working in oral history, I was really pleased to come to this conference and learn more about the tribal-specific issues and personalities. These issues are in some ways very different, but in other ways very much the same as the big problems we have in oral history and the oral tradition in general. (I am an active member for the American Oral History Association). I can say I've become an even bigger fan and proponent of perpetuating, preserving, but mostly keeping a profound but open dialogue with native cultural groups. This continues to be a complicated challenge and I come away with renewed hope that productive progress—forgiveness, healing, and forward looking peaceful progress with great respect for these endangered cultural identities—can and will happen through the dialogues promoted at conferences like these.

23. I am more confident in building my case to members of Tribal Council to build a new facility solely devoted to Cultural Activities, Preservation of our tribal treasures/archives, Language and Interactive Center. The tour of SUCCM was definitely the highlight (for me, by far) of this conference. The museum staff shared insights, lessons-learned and importantly, encouragement toward my numerous projects, in addition, to the planning process of a new museum. ATALM encourages the interaction of other tribal nations to meet one-on-one throughout these events. We share similar issues, challenges and headaches. The many contacts I made during these conferences inspire me. The workshop instructors selected throughout this program were the ABSOLUTE BEST in their field! I will share all that I learned throughout the workshop with my Elders, Cultural Committee members, and my tribe. "Aliilamooloo", (thank you)! I enjoyed visiting the cultural center and pre-conference events. Maybe it was just the altitude but I found myself tired and with long workshops days with evening events took a toll.

24. What I liked most about the Institute was the emotional connection I had with the presenters. They were involved and vested in what they were presenting and doing their best to get the knowledge across to us. I learned more about the day to day activities of archives than what I have been taught in school. In the presentation about setting up a digital collection, there was a lot of information about what goes on in the background of a museum to provide a digital display. There was so much that I hadn't considered and the presenter was awesome.
Appendix B

EVALUATION REPORT

“Working Together to Move Forward” 2011 Joint Conference with the Western Museums Association

This evaluation report presents information gathered from the indigenous attendees (those registered through the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums). In all, 157 responses were received, for a response rate of 57%. Two attempts were made to collect information.

When providing “selected responses,” any duplicate information was grouped together and the number indicated in parentheses.

Organization Type

Of the 275 attendees self-identifying themselves as “indigenous,” the largest percentage by far were libraries (46.2%), with museums (15.4%) being the second largest group. The large number of librarians in attendance can be attributed to the support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services Tribal Library Enhancement grantees in attendance.

If an attendee did not fall into one of the listed categories, a provision for “other” was provided. Those identifying themselves as “other” included several representatives from the American Indian Library Association, First Nations Library & Archives, guests of attendees, historical societies, independent author and oral historian, language programs, unspecified non-profit organizations (8), research organizations, retired faculty, tribal nations without an archive, library or museum (in development), tribal cultural affairs offices, and tribal historic preservation offices (5).

Comparative evaluation of the Hawaii conference to other events.

When comparing the Hawaii conference to other conferences (non ATALM sponsored), 89.8 percent indicated the conference was far better (58.5%) or somewhat better (31.3%). Six respondents indicated the conference was not as good as other events at meeting the individual’s needs and expectations. The nine respondents who offered no opinion were guests of attendees and not affiliated with an archive, library, or museum.

Selected responses (responses of same type are grouped):

1) This conference was exceptional in that it was the right balance of cultural programming, enhanced by programs from non-tribal entities that represent some of the best in the field.

2) Having the joint conference between WMA/PIMA/ATALM enhanced the availability of sessions, events, etc. There was really too many to choose between!
3) This conference was awesome! I brought home with me not only ideas and information from the conference but the culture that went with it. Hawaii is not only beautiful because of its paradise but because of the Native Hawaiian People who make it beautiful. I loved everything about the environment where the conference took place.

4) The conference featured inspiring speakers and innovative-thinking panelists.

5) This was my first ATALM conference or any conference as a matter of fact, as I am a newer employee here at the College of Menominee Nation. This conference was wonderful and very organized which was nice. This conference did set the bar pretty high for any other conference I might attend.

6) This was my first conference I attended of this type and was blown away by it. I feel like I walked away learning so much. I know I would not have ever gotten the same experience in my graduate program as I received from this conference.

7) You have a very inclusive and supportive group of members.

8) I am thankful for the opportunity to meet people in Indian Country that do the same work and I now have a resource and network of people to call to further strengthen our program's services.

9) I attend different conferences focused on different issues, so it’s very hard to compare the conferences. ATALM remains the most important conference for information on tribal libraries and services to indigenous populations.

Was the conference successful in helping participants establish professional contacts, learn new information, and renew enthusiasm?

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Overall, the Conference:</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Not Really</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
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<td>36</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Provided me with information that will help me do my job better.</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provided me with a renewed enthusiasm for my job.</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comments?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>39</td>
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</table>

answered question 147
skipped question 10

ANNEMARIE AWEAU, MALEKA COOK, AND KAMUELA BANNISTER AT HAWAII CONVENTION CENTER.
Selected Responses:

1) Amazing, so many other librarians that have the same concerns and problems, I am not alone. Now have contacts that I would not have had if not for the conference.
2) From the facility to the program offerings, everything was outstanding!
3) Helped me bring more ideas to incorporate in our Tribal Museum that is currently underway.
4) I brought back a lot of ideas, resources, and contacts that will help us with our current and future projects.
5) I definitely have made some new acquaintances that I can rely on in terms of resources, for the continuing development of our Mobile Library.
6) I enjoyed getting to meet all the wonderful people involved with ATALM. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.
7) I have only been at my job for one year now and it was getting tough and then I went to this conference and it made me more confident that I can do this job and I can enjoy my job.
8) I now think it renewed enthusiasm as much as it supported worth and value.
9) I made several new and important contacts. I am Choctaw and will be presenting throughout the year at tribal events honoring veterans. The Pearl Harbor tour led to our discovery of a tribal member who died on the Arizona.
10) Learning from other programs and how they deal with them on a daily basis helped me see that we all have issues and sharing problems/successes make it better for all of us.
11) LOVED The Indispensable Tribal Library session. Would love to receive more of the information that was in the presentation. (a copy of the presentation)
12) Meeting the professionals in Museums and hearing their stories and feeling the passion reconnected me with a desire to push on with my journey.
13) Opened my eyes to research for international indigenous peoples.
14) So many of the speakers & presenters at the ATALM were very inspiring. People really seemed to want to make personal contacts, both for giving & receiving further information. Those things were great. I would have benefitted by some sessions offering serious "how-to" training. The two WMA sessions I attended lacked in that area. Too general.
15) The closing keynote speaker for the ATALM (Sven Haakanson) was very inspiring. I have shared his talk with many people and hope to help organize an event for my colleagues to reflect on it and other poignant experiences from the conference. Mahalo nui loa for holding in Hawai‘i.
The conference allows for social interaction that brings a lot of good networking. I now have met and worked with other tribes through these conferences.

The Hawaiian cultural events were awesome. I hope everyone who attended appreciated the specialness of them.

There were so many people I met during the poster sessions, which was one of my favorite parts of this conference, as well as the keynote speakers.

This was my first time attending this kind of conference. I was really scared; but not for long. It was once in a lifetime conference for me. Thank you.

**Overall impression of the Conference.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Very Poor</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>142</td>
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**Change in Skill Levels.**

As a result of your participation at the conference, would you say your skill level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Greatly improved</td>
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<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved somewhat</td>
<td>58.0%</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No change</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 143
skipped question 14
Selected responses:

1) Being a continuing student, specializing in a 2nd Master's program, Museum studies, Spring 2012, this conference was right on point, that was the focus when I applied for the scholarship to attend this Conference. I am thankful and blessed to have been selected for a scholarship. Thank you.

2) Especially on interviewing skills. Great session with Tim Tingle and Greg Rodgers.

3) I definitely returned to work rejuvenated, ready to implement some of the new ideas I learned at the conference. The conference location itself was awesome, having a natural way of cleansing and restoring new energy to continue our jobs to the best of our abilities. The positive encouragement coming from all presenters and participants was rewarding as well.

4) I have a lot to consider and learn. A conference of this sort is very valuable to see what is going on at various types of entities and their experiences.

5) I know this conference has helped me as a person to improve my professional environment and I have a better understanding of Archives and what we should be striving for to be successful

6) My fire was re-lighted which motivates me and is ready to connect with my community.

7) New level of tech expertise (actually used a recording I had never played during a presentation, after receiving invaluable tech help)

8) With the digitization of pictures project I am working on, it was wonderful to meet others who were working on similar projects and who shared the same road blocks and questions I had as well. It was great coming back with contacts and names and numbers of people who I might consult in terms of how to handle a problem or just to see how their digitization project is coming along.

Question 7 – Likes and Dislikes

1) Again, having a joint conference was fantastic! The events were fabulous. The overall experience was amazing and really motivated me to work! I would like to see more advanced topics offered in the future. I think some of the more involved sessions simply did not pertain to my position, and the ones that did relate to my responsibilities were more introductory.

2) As compared to other WMA conferences, this conference was extremely well organized and kept the participants informed. The location of the motel to the conference center was an asset as well as the transportation to special events. It all made participation easy. The first keynote
speaker was exceptional and a wonderful way to start off the conference. The Native Hawaiian themed presentations were an important part of coming to Hawaii for a conference. I really appreciated these sessions and speakers. One little thing for improvement - many of the final detail e-mails were sent after leaving from home. If a person did not have a mobile device, this information was missed. Great conference! Well organized!

3) ATALM remains one of the most important conferences due to its focus on tribal libraries and services to indigenous communities. The opportunities to learn from and network with others are invaluable. The session content is varied and powerful. One thing that might be considered for future conferences would be to repeat selected programs of broad interest (as it is sometimes difficult to choose between programs). One opportunity for planning next year's conference would be publicity well ahead of the event. It is sometimes hard to hear about the conference registration opening, spotlight events that require registration, and calls for proposals for future conferences.

4) Best: sense of family and helpfulness, encouragement Could be improved: maybe a brief explanation of opening ritual, though it was moving and powerful....maybe a bibliography of recommended films, books on indigenous Hawaiians

5) Diverse experiences-cultural opportunities. Indigenous aspects of Hawaii well covered and integrated.

6) Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer gave the most powerful keynote address that I have ever heard. The panels on dealing with the tough issues and cultural perspectives were great. The session on forgiveness was especially powerful. I would have liked to experience the tech talks but the scheduling was off. I would think there would be enough of a demand for these that they should be offered during times when they wouldn't conflict with sessions. The expo was lacking substance.

7) Enjoyed the offsite day time workshops. The heat was very hard on me. Having the conference in a warm place would have been better in October or November. Enjoy conferences that are held in the hotel I stay in, then it does not matter if it is very hot or cold outside.

8) I enjoyed the sessions a great deal. The lunches were also a great way for me to meet other attendees. There were a few sessions where I didn't feel the presentation was as focused as it could have been, but not in a horrible way. I can't think of a thing that could be improved. I was very impressed by the entire conference.
9) I enjoyed the variety of different workshops that were made available to the attendees. The typical challenge is making decisions on which workshop to attend when there are so many run concurrently. A suggestion would be to have workshop materials available at a central area for pick-up in the event that an attendee had to choose to attend one workshop over another. Another suggestion would be to provide food and validate parking for all the presenters, especially on the day that they present. It is kind of insulting to invite a speaker/presenter and not take care of them. The evening activities were informative and fun-filled although food menus could have been coordinated a bit better as there were some overlap on consecutive nights of Hawaiian food. All in all, it was an excellent conference and I look forward to attending more in the future.

10) I enjoyed the workshops that pertained to working in the library but I enjoyed the others as well. It would have been great to have personal times, dates, and such for the events to attend. For example, I missed a speaker in the morning because I did not check what was occurring at 8 in the morning.

11) I liked the range of presenters. The collaboration of the various associations which brought about an open feeling of sharing not only with existing relationships but with new acquaintances. The keynote speakers focused on tangible issues and enlightened participants with positive attitudes. I think planners could have communicated better with onsite coordinators regarding preconference pickup points.

12) I love that ATALM invited not only the United States; but everyone who wants to save the past for the future generations to see.

13) I'm more aware of the interconnectedness of museums, libraries, and Indigenous peoples. Also, how Indigenous people can use these institutions to their advantage. There wasn't much I disliked, if anything. I would like to see more storytellers, or panels on the connections between oral literature and libraries.

14) This is my second conference that I've attended, and I feel that Hawaii was a great place to have the Conference. I feel as though I walked away from the conference with greater knowledge, and expectations of my position. The parts I liked most about the conferences is the Key Note speakers, and the overall experience of the conference and meeting fresh faces in my line of work.

15) This was one of the best organized conferences I've ever attended, plus the quality of speakers was excellent. Every session I attended was very informative, and provided me with helpful information. Plus, networking with other professionals in my field was an added bonus. I thoroughly enjoyed this conference, and applaud the organizers for all their efforts in setting up this awesome conference.
Outcomes

Participants were asked to share information on “what changed as a result of your participation.”
Selected responses include:

1) A few of the presenters really made a big impression on me. The keynote by Dr. Meyer was transformational and really made me question my own perspective and subjective opinion in a good way. The session on forgiveness also blew my head wide open and got me thinking about the effects of colonization and how people can move forward in a new and better way. I also made contacts that use the same open source software and that will build my support network.

2) A greater appreciation of the diversity of indigenous peoples, and an increase in awareness in the challenges that our institution faces in developing resources that meet the varied needs of indigenous peoples in protecting their cultural heritage.

3) A renewed perspective on dealing with indigenous materials and how to correct past mistakes. I learned from the examples where tribes partnered with museums to control the information that is shared with the public. The examples of collaborations between tribes and museums that house their collections (most notably NMAI - National Museum of the American Indian) that have formed positive partnerships and outreach programs were also valuable in helping institutions with starting to evaluate existing practices for working with indigenous cultures and caring for their materials. I like to see that software is being updated to include native understandings? And in some cases, opposing views among native tribes.

4) After the conference I came home wanting to better my library. I wanted to reach out to our community to get them more involved. With the experience I gained I feel I am better equipped to present not only myself but my library to Foundations to request funds to help better our reservation.

5) As a result of my attending the conference my enthusiasm for the digitization project we here at CMN are part, has been renewed and has grown. I met people who were taking part in similar projects and consulted with them on problems they faced, and was pleased to know that we had all been in the same boat at one point. It encouraged me not to be frustrated with problems or road blocks we may come upon during the project. By meeting new people I saw the fun side of this type of work and it was nice to be in company with people who were so enthusiastic about what they are doing. At the very least this conference renewed my enthusiasm for digitization and made me excited for the next step in our project.

6) As I am a LIS student I feel like I left knowing so much more about what librarians can do. Being in school we are always focused on certain areas of the field so hearing how tribal librarians are working was really inspiring to me. It made me consider this type of librarianship where it wasn’t even on my radar prior to the conference. This conference reaffirmed how important it is for the community to be represented in libraries, museums and archives. I will work hard to make sure these communities are represented wherever I end up working.

7) As I listened to all the presenters, and fellow participants talk about both victories and challenges facing them, I came away with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and determination to fulfill the mission of our library by providing "access to information" to everyone. I learned that no matter the size of the library -- you can impact the community in a positive way.
8) Being chosen as a scholarship attendee, what I value as a student is hearing from professionals in the field, currently my focus is museum studies. These sessions on museums were critical as I move into further Master studies at the Univ. of OK. I am interested in how a tribal community will benefit, how can I be of assistance to a tribal community and their needs to get a museum going, keeping respectful to their needs. My recent MA in IRLS taught me that I must respect and value one's culture and community. We are keepers of memories and stories and sharing them must be up to the Native Community. Hearing at the conference from museum members, their change in practice of showing artifacts--first consulting Native experts, sensitivity to the Native community beliefs. My learning curve has expanded since attending these ATALM sessions--experts from Native communities, archives and museums. Amazing amount of knowledge is passed along at this conference that university and books cannot teach a student. I value my time spent at these conference that will assist me in the future, especially the many contacts made, valuable resources to link into later.

9) Dr. Meyer’s power point helped me refocus my museum and educational goals. Because we have so little funding and time, we need to be strategic in what we do and she helped us set more direct goals. Also, Dr. Haakanson’s accomplishments were an inspiration to all as were Dr. Meyers. We saw many wonderful examples of cooperation in action between museums and individuals and the details of how these relationships can be structured. We were able to learn from the presenters experiences and this will help us move forward more quickly. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to attend.

10) First of all, getting to know ATALM and IMLS people face to face was great. And interacting with other grantees, sharing ideas, pitfalls and solutions was so helpful. It renewed my enthusiasm and inspired me on things that can be done. Also receiving confirmation on the value of what we have accomplished this grant year was a boost! I really didn't expect to be so gratified by the wealth of experiences that everyone brought with them.

11) Higher awareness of native peoples in these fields and the quality and diversity of their work.

12) Honoring and learning from a host culture for an Indigenous organization seems essential now. WIPCE (World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education) does this very well. Putting cultural and historical knowledge into action, as the Native Hawaiians do, is a model for all Indigenous people and teaches something to all, including visitors, guests, and Indigenous.

13) I am in school and not working in the field, so it was very helpful to see presentations from the field. It gave me a better sense of how the issues I read about in articles are actually impacting institutions, and the real-life steps they take to address those issues.

14) I came away from the conference with a profound appreciation for the Native Hawaiians and how they are successfully preserving their lifeways. We have much to learn from them.

15) I came away from this conference with a renewed enthusiasm and increased understanding for the work I do in partnerships with public libraries and tribes. Listening to the knowledgeable and informative opening keynote speaker, encouraging our continued engagement as well as challenging us to think in new ways, provided a forward thinking impetus for the entire conference. The opportunity to learn Native Hawaiian culture through hands-on workshops and informed sessions was a once in a lifetime experience for me. IMLS affords those of us in rural areas, opportunities we would not have in any other way.
16) I experienced more appreciation of the diversity of indigenous people as well as knowing that as indigenous people, we have a lot of the same experiences.

17) I learned some libraries are quite resourceful and innovative. I will definitely employ some of the shared strategies in my organization.

18) I like listening to other real life experiences and the interaction in part of the conference. I really enjoyed the new concept of "working together to move forward". I like being able to network with others and share the good and bad experiences that they have endured throughout the journey in tribal archives, libraries, and museums. Dr. Meyer had a great presentation and I really liked the list of words she displayed and explanations of how people incorporate those into their lives; and I like how she had us work together. I am not a big interaction person and talking to strangers was not always easy for me but this conference and others put on by ATALM have helped me greatly in that area.

19) I now feel a little more comfortable in my role of preserving documents using technology. I don't feel like I'm the only one with issues and challenges. I also feel that there is a need to collaborate with other data/document collectors. I valued the Networking aspect of the conference. Making these connections will greatly improve the work we do and most definitely become more efficient.

20) I particularly liked the hands-on workshops. I also liked the opportunity to visit facilities and talk with people. I liked the food, the local gifts and the aloha spirit.

21) I returned home with specific ideas on how to engage and revitalize the Board. The session information on that topic provided specifics and I have begun implementing several of the strategies to assure the board is engaged and that meetings are time well-spent. Time will tell if this is successful. My own personal understanding of issues in handling Native archival and historical information increased during the conference. I will be able to use that new knowledge in the implementation of a new grant in the upcoming year. I also networked with several people who shared experiences that enlightened me about how to approach a project we are undertaking. Gaining understanding, making connections and learning new techniques all increase my effectiveness in my job and therefore improve services for our patrons.

22) I want to go into the Library and Information Science field along with Hawaiian Studies and find a way that fits the needs of my Hawaiian community.

23) I was introduced to other library projects that have succeeded in similar contexts. I was introduced to open source digital software which we may use in the future.

24) I went to the conference because IMLS was involved and was not disappointed at all. The IMLS based sessions were informative and helpful and I met some wonderful people.

25) Increased focus on the broadband and technology needs of tribal communities. Connections with potential partners to further work (Heritage Preservation, etc.).

26) Interacting with tribal museum workers is great but I found a added value in the interaction I had with people working outside tribal museums.
27) My "Show and Tell" taught and showed me that I was not the ONLY one who was scared of
talking in front of people. I talked so much that I lost my voice someplace! I loved it when
someone came to ask about Igiugig, and I knew that answer!
28) My knowledge of what other Native American/Native Hawaiian archives, museums, and cultural
centers are doing in their areas of expertise and being able to interact and share with them.
29) My perspective on what the current issues are
within the entire museums, libraries and archives. It
seems to be much easier and accessible than
before, also how much more willing the curators are
with the access of materials and information.
30) My view of the Spectrum of what IMLS will support
broadened somewhat. It was good to have the events of Archives and Museums available to
attend - cross pollination as it were. Truly a worthy conference.
31) New authors to read. It’s good to have presenters with published works, wish their
publications were made available for purchase at conference.
32) Our tribe does not have a museum - the information I brought back is great, "How to start a
Tribal Museum - wonderful. The poster sessions were very informative - knowing what other
tribes have done successfully.
33) The information i received attending the break out on IMLS Grants, as I said i didn't know there
were so many grants available.
34) The realization that bookmobiles are a very positive influence and memory among many
people. Being mobile does not limit Public Library Services in our communities. Through
partnerships with museums and other public service organizations public library programing is
possible. The opportunity to share our problematic issues with colleagues for problem solving,
a chance to hear ideas outside of the box. The opportunity to share our IMLS Grant funded
project, sharing the pros and cons of the project. and receiving new skills and ideas from the
conference presenters/facilitators for the continued development of our projects, providing for
excellence in service and delivery.
35) The ways in which we share and disseminate information about programs and collaborations
within our own community will change and improve as a result of this conference. Many of the
resources and ideas that were shared were from projects funded through IMLS. The hands-on
pre-conference sessions, such as Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, were invaluable and could only be shared
with participants being in the same place.
36) This is the only conference of its kind that supports American Indians and Alaska Natives.
Nowhere else can you meet peers and discuss topics/issues specific to tribal organizations. This
is one of the best and most needed conferences out there.
37) This is the third IMLS conference I have attended. Both conferences produced ideas, new
information and I established new contacts.
38) Tribal archives, libraries & museums are a specialized area. Our concerns are different than
mainstream (non-tribal) facilities. Our facilities are very often small in size. We frequently have
to forge our own paths with regard to access issues, cultural concerns regarding the care of
objects, etc. It is so important for us to network with others who working with these issues to
help us find what works for our tribes while caring for the objects & information. As a result of
this conference, we got some questions answered about a specific software program that will
allow us to address access issues for our sound/video recordings in a culturally correct manner.
We re-connected with personnel at the UHM linguistic archive and discussed issues of mutual
interest that we can proceed on. We made connections with people from two other digital archive projects that we can help.

39) We use our funds for several different things but I was able to bring home some new ideas. One library used their funding to help advocate the usage of technology to help encourage the spoken native language in the youth.

40) What changed is my perspective, and now therefore my attempts, to keep a library, archives, or museums within walls. Seeing all the different ways people were successfully implementing programs, supported by IMLS, deepened my respect for and understanding of the purpose of the IMLS. Active language and cultural continuity can live and continue outside of the walls of an institution! How exciting!

41) What changed most for me is I now know that there are groups and institutions out there willing to help, funding wise. A session on how to write grant proposals would be good.

42) What changed most was my awareness of how different people are able to do good work. Particularly how Native librarians are finding new ways to get funding and/or meet the community’s needs.

43) Without the support from ATALM some events at our library will not happen. Or attending conferences like the one in September 2011. I hope they will continue supporting our libraries.
Evaluation Methodology: To gauge the impact of each individual session, participants were asked to evaluate each session. Immediately after the conference, an electronic survey was distributed to all participants, asking them to evaluate the overall conference. The Overall Conference Evaluation survey received a 51% response rate.

Organization Type: Organization types represented at the institute were primarily libraries, as is the norm. The 20.85% noted as “other” are from tribal leadership, funders, exhibitors, and language programs.

Comparative Ranking of 2012 ATALM Conference to Other Non-ATALM Conferences: A total of 274 people responded to this question, with 85 providing commentary. 85.40 percent indicated the conference was far better (60.22%) or somewhat better (25.18%) at meeting the respondents needs. Eleven respondents indicated the conference was not as good at meeting their needs and 9.85% had no opinion. Please see the chart on the next page.

Eighty-three respondents offered positive commentary on the conference. To summarize (in order of receipt) people liked the organization of the conference, the warmth and welcoming attitude of the people, networking with indigenous peoples, hands-on workshops and labs, learning about model projects taking place in tribal communities, having meals provided, focus on indigenous concerns.
validation of indigenous knowledge and TALM professionals, variety of topics, and the Native focus. Two negative comments were received. One person felt the conference is growing too large and the other felt the focus is too wide.

**Comparative Analysis of ATALM Conferences to Other Conferences**

![Bar chart showing responses to comparative analysis questions]

**OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE CONFERENCE:** Respondents were asked to indicate if the conference helped them establish personal contacts, provided new information, or provided a renewed enthusiasm for their job. 277 people responded to this question with 35 providing commentary. Positive comments cited access to up-to-date information, making connections with people who have become colleagues for life, clearer career goals, and information exchange on a regional basis. One negative was that the hands-on labs filled up too quickly and there were not handouts in all the sessions.
OVERALL RANKINGS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Very Poor</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How do you rate the Conference overall?</td>
<td>61.68%</td>
<td>31.75%</td>
<td>6.57%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do you rate the Conference for meeting your needs and expectations?</td>
<td>51.09%</td>
<td>35.40%</td>
<td>12.41%</td>
<td>1.09%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do you rate the quality of information presented?</td>
<td>46.49%</td>
<td>43.54%</td>
<td>9.23%</td>
<td>0.74%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do you rate the presenters overall?</td>
<td>43.70%</td>
<td>47.04%</td>
<td>8.89%</td>
<td>0.37%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do you rate the Conference materials overall?</td>
<td>47.97%</td>
<td>39.48%</td>
<td>11.81%</td>
<td>0.74%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do you rate the Conference facilities overall?</td>
<td>53.31%</td>
<td>29.78%</td>
<td>15.07%</td>
<td>1.84%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do you rate the registration process?</td>
<td>64.58%</td>
<td>28.41%</td>
<td>7.01%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do you rate Conference staff overall?</td>
<td>75.74%</td>
<td>20.96%</td>
<td>3.31%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHAT PARTICIPANTS LIKED MOST ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Over 240 responses were received to this questions, with many citing networking, conference organization, the venue, meal functions. These are not included below. Only responses that will help inform future events are listed below.

- The connections made are lifelong and very valuable in exchanging information, ideas, knowledge, techniques, and culture. Very nice!
- The short films that were shown throughout the conference. Also getting to know other people from other tribes that I can use as a resource.
- This is my first time attending this type of conference so it was good to meet new people and attended sessions that I wanted to attend.
- It focuses on Native American tribal museum and library interests and concerns. Here in Canada I don't think we're well represented in the field of museums and libraries, at least that's what I think.
- The ability to interact with professionals in their respective careers and gain more information and insight on how they conduct their business with their respective museums and cultural centers.
- IMLS Enhancement Grant poster session with handouts on all the projects. The NEH session was excellent - a new learning experience for me.
- I learned so much more in regard to the use of the internet and technology. I like the opportunity for acquiring new relationships with other library staff who are willing to share their
expertise, in addition, some of the new relationships are with those who are knowledgeable of the various funding agencies that may assist our library.

- Digital Storytelling was excellent the films/storytelling
- The live interaction with artists and the story telling event and the movie night.
- The pre-conference session where I was able to learn more about a specific subject and had hands on training was most valuable.
- The most interesting portion of this conference came when we had the opportunity to present our projects through IMLS. During this time I met colleagues I had never met before who also work within our reservation. There were others who introduced themselves to me and listened patiently to the concerns I had with media materials, etc.. It was a chance to make some great professional connections.
- The workshops were very good. It was often difficult to chose between workshops that were being presented at the same time. Also enjoyed the evening trip to the Gilcrease Museum. That was excellent
- The opportunity to discuss archives, library, and museum practices from an Indigenous perspective and within Indigenous contexts.
- The focus of the participants. This is a very important conference.
- I thoroughly enjoyed the conference. It had a little of everything- practical information on developing and managing project such as oral histories. There were a variety of presentations on methods for improving ways of maintaining the various kinds of collections, and cultural projects. The Cultural Storytelling night was great!
- The number of relevant and useful sessions was fantastic. I wish they had been recorded for later viewing.
- The Grant Writing Preconference with all the snacks, sodas and essential information and resources for funding.
- The preconference emails and information were very helpful. The thoughtful touches and details in making participants welcome.
- Indian people were primary attendees, presenters and facilitators, while including others who may have pertinent knowledge/skills to share.
- The inspiration i got from some of the speakers about the importance of Language Revitalization and Cultural Preservation.
- The evening programs were outstanding. There was the tour thing and just hanging out at programs on site. This was a good mix. I think the planning committee should get a huge pat on the back for an excellent job! I left not feeling I’d been pulled through the door keyhole backwards. It was delightful!
- I appreciated most the approachability and knowledge of most of the presenters. I went to learn and to acquire information and contacts to help me do a better job--that is what happened!
- All the classes were very good, I loved the part where everyone got together and shook hands with one another and was sharing their ideas and interests and exchanges emails.
• I like the meals in the host hotel, it was easy to eat and then run to different events. I met some nice people from different libraries while eating lunch and dinner.
• I enjoyed meeting lots of new people and networking and reconnecting with people from past conferences and enjoying the conference facilities, etc.
• The people and the fact that it was open to the participation of tribal peoples from everywhere. The fact that the entire meeting was opened/framed to raise our consciousness about the UN Declaration. That really set the tone and helped us to understand and convey the message to our everyday approaches to the work we do. The food was great! I really liked the Speak Out! session at the end. It sparked a great conversation and we left feeling inspired and looking forward next steps. Entertainment with the storytelling, film evening, talent, and arts and crafts. This allowed people to socialize and enjoy.
• Everything was great, all the workshops and the added Native Arts & Cultures Foundation workshops.
• The opportunity to talk with others on our projects, the museum exhibit preconference and the keynote when the young man was painting. The monitors were very helpful to see the activities close up.
• The ease to access of meeting rooms, facilities, and entertainment. The wonderful facility and staff of both hotel and ATALM leaders and volunteers. The group of individuals who attend are usually very helpful in relating information from their field - how they got to their path, the educational career and their story. I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to attend these conferences and meet these wonderful individuals. The presenters and exhibitors so a GREAT job in presenting their information. I enjoy the poster sessions, such informative information. This year, Tulsa, had the "mike night" and what a wonderful evening - such fun!!
• The opening ceremony encompassed so many good feelings, thoughts, and mindfulness in prayer. Thank you.
• I liked how the agenda was structured.
• It's so hard to say one thing-- it's just hands down my favorite conference. The people are wonderful, the sessions are great, and it's the one conference I really look forward to each year.
• The practical sessions (how to fundraise, how to set up a volunteer program, etc) and having meals together.
• The way art was incorporated into every aspect.
• The Authors... They provided helpful information that I could use when trying to write our children's book.
• The sessions that got everyone involved...the presenter made everyone interact with each other to share ideas and ways to use the tools he had just presented to us. It was a good way to see who was paying attention
• As a student, I loved the opportunity connect with native professionals in the field, doing the work. I loved seeing the projects presented and having the opportunity to converse with the presenters.
• Meeting people whom I have emailed and talked on the phone for years. Participants were friendly and open. It will take some them to process all the information I received. The venue
was FUN!

- This conference provides a broad offering of practical sessions that all institutions need for their staff to continue the important work of preserving its own cultural knowledge.
- I liked the variety of sessions offered yet they all connected with one another. I also liked the focus on tribal archives, libraries, and museums but also the focus on bigger issues like copyright and broadband access.
- The strongest thing that stands out was Bucky's painting live during the opening ceremony. That shows a sensitivity that is not readily apparent at other conferences (unless those conferences have a clear arts focus).
- My most enjoyable time was at the Mukurtu pre-conference workshop. I really learned a lot about the software and made the decision that I want to become a trainer for the software. Also making new personal contacts. Thank you for assigning me to a room with Colette Montoya; she is such a treasure.
- Researching Organizing and using the Written Record: A toolkit for expanding tribal archival collections.
- I enjoyed listening and learning from others in re: to indigenous film, the art world, the Native American Literary World, the Lifetime achievement ceremonies as well as meeting and networking with old colleagues and making new friendships. I appreciated the special trips to the Philbrook and Gilcrease. Thank you for taking the time to organize these much needed opportunities for Native American Museum and Library professionals alike. I also wanted to thank you for providing an arena for indigenous communities to come together for traditional prayers and other blessings.
- I enjoyed networking with other tribal librarians. I think larger facilities should be secured to allow more tribal libraries, archives and museums to participate. This is a unique conference that is geared specifically for tribal libraries, archives and museums that is not provided by any other organizations.
- The biggest relief is that I felt that everything was taken care of for me. I did not have to worry about how to get somewhere and I was fed plenty. Also, the classes were on updated topics a lot about digitizing which is so helpful nowadays.
- Excellent location and facility, The registration was a smooth process, the beading work shop with Mr. and Mrs. Cowan was a great place for contacts and very enjoyable, the opening ceremony was the best presentation I have yet to experience. Left the conference revived.
- The opportunity to spend time with a different group of professionals. The conference really inspires thinking about strengthening partnerships between archives, libraries and museums. I really enjoyed the Storytelling event.
- Meeting people who have similar problems and situations and finding out how them met these challenges. Also there was an abundant amount of useful information given out. I just really liked everything about this conference. It's the best conference I have every attended!
• Meeting Joseph Bruchac and Tim Tingle.
• There were more Library choices. I enjoyed all the input and the participation. Also, technology input was a need for me. And the "Resource Mate" information was great. Good job everyone!
• The excellent "package"; workshops interspersed with engaging and well-conceived events.
• There was a very good array of topics and classes and plenty of room for all to attend whatever they wanted. I really enjoyed the opening ceremonies and presentations.
• I liked the poster session, because you get to walk around and meet new people and find out what projects they are doing.
• I especially liked the presentation, the 10 top Books Every Library and Museum Should Have and the interesting dialogue regarding stereotypes and misinformation in children’s literature. The IMLS recipient poster sessions was absolutely wonderful. It certainly helps other library, archives and museums interested in IMLS funding by providing ideas and presenting their successes.
• Participating in hands on workshops.
• It was such a wonderful gathering of such impressive people -- look forward to becoming a regular, contributing member of this community.
• Meeting people from all over during great presentations.
• The Creative Classes were a nice departure from the usual conference fair, I would like to have seen more Tribal Library sessions, maybe next time.
• I like the intimate nature of the conference and the specificity to subject. Most conferences I attend are huge and can be overwhelming to navigate sessions and workshops. This conference had a niche -- indigenous communities and how to partner and/or get ideas from other constituencies serving that population. The workshops focused on the specific subject at hand. The poster sessions were awesome and participants had the opportunity to engage in conversation and gather knowledge about the particular tribe and what worked and what did not and how to go forward with the grant or partnership. I received so many excellent resources to share with my campus colleagues. The conference staff were extremely knowledgeable, friendly and available. The packages and little gifts added that special touch! I am so grateful to have the opportunity to attend. Also I was provided a $250 scholarship which paid for my registration and I am so honored to have received the financial assistance due to all that I gathered from this conference.
• The opening program of the conference was unique by acknowledging the Oklahoma tribal flags, and Navajo Code Talkers Banner. Showing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples finally adopted by U.S. President Obama. the planning committee did a
great job in organizing the Exhibit Hall, Program session, Poster Sessions, and the Social events to the museum. I enjoyed the welcoming address by Walter Echo-Hawk while his son was drawing.

- I am non-native, so I came to the conference to learn what I can do to make sure my library carries important and historically accurate information about Native Americans. I really enjoyed hearing Sven speak about his work and I was glad that I got to talk to several other conference goers that helped me with questions I had.
- The positive energy and the attitude of "we're all in it together" made me feel welcome, inspired, and hopeful by and for the archives/libraries/museums world.
- Everything I attended--loved the films, Trickster performance, Gilcrease night, workshops making boxes, Top 100 books, etc. The hotel was great as well as the food. The casino didn't pay off enough but...
- The opening ceremony, the beading station for name badges and the rich networking opportunities with other museum professionals.
- The conference instills an "I can do it" attitude in all participants and then provides the tools and networks to foster and continue that attitude in so many. It's nice for everyone to be reminded that they are important and very much appreciated inside and outside their tribe!
- I loved meeting other professionals and learning from them what worked and what didn't. The conference was informative about new programs, some new open source software and innovative problem-solving techniques that I will take back and share with my community. The workshops were well-organized and delivered up to my expectations although some were very basic and not as cutting edge as I had hoped for whereas others were very cutting edge for seasoned professionals. The evening events were excellent and well-attended.
- I loved that the sessions presented programs or projects that were already up and running and the presenters could speak to specific issues about set up or how they handled a variety of situations. I attended PLA this year and many of the sessions had presentations about projects that were in the planning stages so no such hands on solutions to problems by presenters could be given. Also, and this is not nearly as important as the quality of the sessions, but was wonderful. The food was great :-) I enjoyed the powerful sense of community.
- My favorite part of the conference was the closing luncheon with guest speaker Sven Haakanson. His presentation gave me a renewed commitment to archives and refocused my attention on the bigger issues at hand.
- The "pace" of the conference was good... and presentations at the meals was good. Really appreciated the Tribal Blessings.... The field trip to the Museum in Tulsa was spectacular...! Especially all of the collection down in the basement... I think a lot of people never saw that
part of the museum... they should point that out better because it was so amazing to open each
drawer and see the collections.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS LIKED LEAST:

223 people responded to this question, although the majority of the responses were “none.” There
were complaints about meeting rooms being too cold or too warm, having to stay in the overflow hotel,
and other personal preference comments. Only comments that are relative to improving future events
are listed below.

- There wasn’t enough sessions with libraries.
- I think the sessions could have been more diverse. I feel that a lot of the sessions focused on
libraries and archives.
- Many of the sessions were designed towards how to apply and work towards receiving grant
funds. This did not help our institution as we are beyond these planning stages.
- It would have been nice the first day to have a large group circle to introduce each other (short)
to break the ice (difficult to do with 550 people)
- I felt it didn’t have a good variety of information about libraries. Maybe I missed something or
sat in the wrong sessions but I was disappointed. Oh I also forgot I loved the beading session
with Chester.
- The location - you had to eat there as the places
around the hotel were very limited, if you didn’t
have a car. Felt very isolated in the location. Food
breaks in the exhibit hall would have been good
to bring attendees in more to mingle with
exhibitors.
- Had hoped for more museum/library vendors.
- In many of the sessions there weren’t any tables
to sit at to take notes, some of the sessions
seemed overcrowded and uncomfortable.
- Registered too late and couldn’t attend specific
classes.
- The lack of political activism. As an Indigenous
archivist, I believe political activism is an essential component to the work. At the highest level,
down to the practical level, Indigenous cultural institutions should have decolonization at their
core. While the presentations were interesting, this tone of activism was subtle if not silent.
- If there is anything that I could complain about is that it is impossible to attend all the great
presentations that I would like to attend that were going on at the same time.
- There wasn’t enough time and it was hard to choose a session to attend. It would have been
nice is the Schedule at a Glance included what type of session it was (ALM). Sometimes it wasn’t
clear if meals were included at an event. These were pretty minor though. Congratulations on a
job well done!
- An early/preliminary schedule or listing of sessions would be helpful. (Note: A preliminary
schedule is distributed three months in advance and a final schedule is sent out two weeks in
advance.)
- So many sessions and so little time.
• We are at the beginning stages of establishing a Virtual Library, and I need to go to different
conference that is geared toward Virtual Libraries almost exclusively. The conference itself was
very informative for Archivists, Librarians, and Museum Curators, etc.
• It can't be helped, but sometimes it was hard to decide which one would be better to attend
within a time slot.
• As to no one's fault, but my own, the Hard Rock Hotel was sold out by the time I registered for
the Conference so I stayed at the La Quinta. This required being shuttled back and forth. It
would have been much more convenient and nice to stay at the Hard Rock Hotel.
• I went to the lounge for a presentation early in the morning that was canceled. I didn't know it
was canceled and there was no sign but there was a sign that advertised the event. (Note: The
speaker simply did not show up and conference organizers were not aware of this until 10
minutes after the session was to have started.)
• Some of the presenters were unprepared and there were shortages of handouts from their
presentations.
• That I was able to attend all the sessions I wanted to, because they were held at the same time
and I didn't have time to talk to the facilitators of those sessions, because I didn't make the time
to do so.
• Too much informative and too many speakers. I
couldn't attend all the meetings but don't get me
wrong, it was a very well-organized situation.
• I had difficulty deciding which presentations and
workshops to attend. There was so much going
on. On a few occasions I had to sacrifice one
topic. The outings were all filled up by the time I
registered.
• I had wished there was 'room' in each conference
room to have a table to sit at, to take notes and
hold water and coffee cups, that is, some of the
conference rooms were a bit small. I know the
bigger the room the harder to hear the speakers, so the mikes were useful in these rooms.
• I feel that some presenters need to be better
prepared and submit more information to the
organizers about what they'll actually be
talking/teaching about.
• Because I am from a digital library I was hoping to see more sessions that contained information
for this type of library.
• Sometimes the workshops represented the same old issues. Perhaps there should be more
dialog on "focusing on the future".
• I wanted more "hands-on" sessions
• No message board! I really wanted to connect with some people I have only "worked" with on-
line. They were there, but there was no way of contacting them.
• Some of the presenters were a bit unprepared/unpracticed which often led to other presenters
not having enough time to complete/or then they were forced to shorten their presentations. 2)
When people asked questions of a particular presenter within the presentation, it often
delayed/shortened the amount of time given to the other presenters. Maybe having moderators
announce that "questions will be in the Q&A session following the presentations in order to give all presenters their due time" would be enough to help the situation.

- The conference is exhausting with events planned from morning until night. I know they are optional, but a little more down time would be nice.
- I would of liked more handouts. You are overloaded with information and this allows you to refresh what you have learned.
- Not enough library programs. The ones that there were were excellent, but I felt the program was museum heavy.
- The short awards ceremony and it seems that the recipients were not allowed to speak. I was looking forward to hearing inspirational speeches. I strongly recommend that the awards ceremony be held in the evening and not be pressured by time constraints due to scheduled workshops.
- The location of some of the workshop/meeting rooms were, for me personally, difficult to locate using the printed material. The Gilcrease and Philbrook are by definition not tribal museums, it may have been obvious to most, but it being noted would create an opening for questions. The lunch at the Gilcrease, they placed salad dressing on the sandwiches as if everyone like salad dressing on their sandwich.
- Some of the conference rooms had some technical problems, but that was no ones fault. They were able to get the situation rectified as soon as possible. This type of stuff always happens, so it’s really not a complaint.
- Some of the sessions were ok but not great. I filled out the session survey accordingly.
- The lack of handouts in the sessions. I still don't know the top 100 books that is recommended that every library have on their shelves. The presenters stated that a link to the list would be posted on the ATATLM website, but I haven't seen it yet. Also a couple other presenters also mentioned links to their materials.
- Workshops that were somewhere else, because we missed one of the workshops that we were suppose to attend.
- I would have liked to be able to afford some of the extra classes and workshops that were pre-registered and cost. As a student looking for a job, I also would have liked the career fair to have been a little more informative and been able to make more connections and opportunities.
- No "Fountain of Youth".......I am exhausted
- I was disappointed to see that there weren’t any workshops or sessions on education, tours or programming. Programming is such a big component of museums and libraries. Other session topics I'd like to see are conservation, transporting and packing artifacts/art pieces and a more advanced collection care session rather than the basics.
- I didn't like that the workshops were not offered again at a different time. There were some workshops I would have liked to have listened to but were at the same time and I had to choose which one was more important.
- The fact that none of the speakers used microphones as it was often hard to hear at times.
- As a presenter, it would've been nice to have the sessions split so that we could've enjoyed attending other workshops.
- That I couldn't get into some workshops in Archives 101, 201
- Many of the sessions I wanted to go happened at the same time so I wish I could have cloned myself but nothing negative. The only detail that you might want to reconsider was the artwork that on silent auction. I would have bid on it if some of the profits had to Aboriginal Literacy or something like that. Although I appreciated the artist’s work, I thought that would have been nice.
I had wished there were some more events to connect in the evening that might not be quite as expensive. I would have been happy with a sandwich and a cash bar, but would have really liked the opportunity to stay on site and talk with others.

Many of the presentations were overly crowded, with standing room only.

I think 500 people might be a bit too many. All of the presentation rooms were packed, but people would come in late, leave early, hunt for seats etc. I think if there were a smaller crowd—say, 350, this might not have been such an issue? Have 2 smaller ATALM conferences a year, on either coast...

I would really like to see all the information presented from each session somewhere on your website.

That the specialized workshops filled so soon. Wish more could be provided in the future.

**WHAT CHANGED AS A RESULT OF YOUR PARTICIPATION? FOR EXAMPLE, DID YOU GAIN KNOWLEDGE AND/OR SKILLS THAT WILL ENABLE YOU TO DO YOUR JOB BETTER?**

This open-ended quested drew 186 responses, of which a few are represented below:

- I am now confident I can find the grants that meet my needs.
- I am currently a student, and I gained a ton of knowledge that I hope to share with others. Overall, I feel like a completely better person having attended this conference.
- Gained knowledge and skills on selection of materials to include in our library.
- I know how to label items so that it is not damaged, I know how that other states have enough funding to make databases and have all these amazing programs to preserve their language, and I know that not all tribes are treated equally, and that other tribes get more assistance than others.
- Yes, it also renewed my spirit in supporting Indian libraries and populations.
- I learned a lot and shared the info with my staff. We're in the field of literacy and my staff was very impressed with the Native Authors I met. They all want to attend next year!
- I learned basic steps (and examples) to repatriate our knowledge now located in non-Native institutions in other counties.
• Yes, I did gain knowledge and skills that will enable me to do my job better. I am aware of the concept of “Indigenous Librarianship” and can relate and apply the ideas, technology, and knowledge to our very unique issues, especially for cultural sovereignty. It’s hard to explain and be tangible with it, but I can feel something emerging and its coming fast. The information learned at ATALM will only help with this social movement.

• Ideas were exchanged and those ideas can be carried to my job as to begin to administer and run my institution in a more efficient and productive manner.

• I made many wonderful connections at this conference. Sometimes, I feel very alone in my position and it seems like there is no one I can turn to who understands my specific challenges and needs. At ATALM, I met a variety of professionals who not only understand, but who are incredibly generous in sharing their knowledge and offering their advice.

• Learned of practical and cultural concerns affecting tribal archives, museums, and libraries; gathered some novel information that would not have been attainable in a university setting.

• Better perspective on stakeholder voices, interest and accessibility.

• The variety of topics covered in each of the lectures/workshops provided me with a new sense of understanding and set of skills that I will be able to apply to my job, which will make me a better worker, business partner, and leader.

• This conference absolutely enabled me to do my job better! I am anxious to debrief and got through the CD's (from the Community Oral History Projects) preconference and all the other websites and handouts I received. By the way, the Oral History Projects conference was excellent. The presenters were informative but more than that they were passionate about their topic. Well done.

• My choice of tools has grown along with a better understanding of what is acceptable in regards to true archival materials and their application.
• Susan Hanks presentation of early California Indian Law was an eye-opener for me.Indentured servant hood and cruelty to Native Americans was sanctioned until the late 1930's. My parents were married and starting a family at around that time (I am a serious caboose baby). Still, legislation sanctioning the slavery and cruelty to groups of people in the USA touches my life.

• I gained knowledge, new ideas and saw examples of how to accomplish things, as well as felt support for issues I will have to deal with in archive activities. I better understand and see the support that is out there in fellow archivists/librarians dealing with American Indian material.

• I know how to make boxes without having to purchase them! I’ve been given ideas on how to better use my tools or purchase tools for my exhibit. what kinds of surfaces, boards etc. are harmful for my museum. Knowledge of the Cherokee Nation i knew nothing about.

• The conference is always beneficial even after I’ve been Special Collections Librarian for thirty years. It brings new and fresh appreciation of my life work.

• I gained a great deal of information about creating e books and other media, as well as learned about language preservation software and approaches, preservation information, and about fabulous work going on around the world. Lots of impressive work to inspire.

• I will be able to contact folk that I have been unable to reach previously, learned more about copyright law and raised consciousness about issues of importance to American Indian community. For example previously I would have said "native" American.

• I gained an understanding of Native American Tribal archives work in communities. This will inform the National Film & Sound Archives of Australia international viewpoint on community archives. The conference will inform my work with community archives in Aboriginal Australia.

• I will be applying for an NEH grant and I attended the TCLI group - excellent and helpful.

• I am better prepared to think in terms of mutually beneficial and intersecting interests, professional and skill development, and have an increased capacity for networking with other institutions and professionals.

• I can display the work the children do in the library in a professional and attractive exhibit! I can share the information about the Indigenous rights document that Mr. Echohawk talked about with our community and I can share the projects from the poster session that I took pictures of with my staff.

• I am ready to expand our collection to include more digital materials, kindles, cameras for our public.

• I gained some knowledge on exhibits and also gained a future intern for our museum.

• I know now that we could have saved money using free on-line "photo-shops" that could retouch old photographs. I feel I am making a difference in preserving our culture, our past by retouching photographs.

• I definitely got more inspiration and ideas for projects on which our library could collaborate on with other institutions.
• Knowing that what our museum is doing is correct and confirmed that we have current skills and museum practices. There are ways of teaching our staff how to salvage books and now I have knowledge how to teach using what method we used in the workshop. There are basic photo steps that I never knew about that will be useful while taking photographs of artifacts and art in our collection. Much, much more information was gathered during this conference.

• I gained knowledge and confidence in grant writing that I believe will serve the museum well. Also, the session on displays provided ideas that I hadn't thought of before--simple ideas that are relatively inexpensive.

• I absolutely did gain more knowledge about the role of a tribal librarian. Also I learned more about the IMLS grant process.

• Furthered my skills of thinking outside the box when it comes to programs, and projects.

• I understand some technology more and have gotten a positive energy from other participants, which I think has helped me to relate better to the staff at home upon my return.

• As an archival educator, I appreciated hearing about other LAM education programs that are building alliances with local Native American communities. The session on the TLAM program in Washington State was particularly interesting.

• The newly acquired skills that I received at the conference in regard to the use of the internet is being implemented in the development of our soon to be Mobile Computer Lab. In addition, ideas for fundraising have been racing in my mind to implement fundraising functions to supplement our current budget.
Evaluation Methodology: To gauge the impact of each individual session, participants were asked to evaluate each session. Immediately after the conference, an electronic survey was distributed to all participants, asking them to evaluate the overall conference. The Overall Conference Evaluation survey received a 51% response rate.

Organization Type: Organization types represented at the institute were primarily libraries (50%), as is the norm. This is up 4% from 2012. The next largest organizational type is museums (35%), up 9% from 2012. Archives (27%), Cultural Centers (20%), Educational Institutions (21%) and students (11%) also showed increases. The “other” category was not counted as a part of the mix, although respondents could answer this separately. “Other” included federal and state government entities, tribal government, foundations, and artists.
INDIVIDUAL ROLES: A new question was added to the evaluation this year. We wanted to learn more about who was attending the conference and the size of organization represented. Respondents were asked to describe their role with the organization they represented, including the size of the organization. Small-sized organizations were defined as those with annual budgets of less than $50,000, medium sized are defined as those with annual budgets of less than $250,000, and large-sized organizations are defined as those with budgets of more than $250,000. We were surprised to learn that the majority of attendees were staff at large-sized organizations. With a response rate of 184, this could mean that staff members at larger organizations are more responsive or the respondent was thinking of the tribal budget size, not the budget for the archive, library, or museum. The “other” responses were from students, retirees, and people not associated with a tribal entity.
OVERALL RATING OF CONFERENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effectiveness at meeting your needs and expectations</td>
<td>54.49%</td>
<td>35.96%</td>
<td>8.99%</td>
<td>0.56%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session materials</td>
<td>40.45%</td>
<td>44.94%</td>
<td>10.67%</td>
<td>0.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to network</td>
<td>69.44%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0.56%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall rating</td>
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<td>33.52%</td>
<td>1.68%</td>
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<td>Printed program</td>
<td>75.69%</td>
<td>18.23%</td>
<td>4.97%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Variety of session topics</td>
<td>60.22%</td>
<td>32.60%</td>
<td>6.08%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relevance of topics</td>
<td>58.56%</td>
<td>33.70%</td>
<td>7.18%</td>
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OVERALL RATING OF PRE-CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

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<th>Preconference</th>
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<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Unconference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audio in the Digital Age Preconference</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-Dimensional Scanning Preconference</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Trip to the Indian Arts Research Center/Wheelwright Museum Preconference</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Trip to the Allan Houser Compound Preconference</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and Designing Your Museum Preconference</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful Fundraising for Tribal Libraries and Museums Preconference</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographing Artifacts for Collections Management Preconference</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishing a Photographic History of Your Tribe or Community Preconference</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Collection Storage Solutions: Custom Boxes and Storage Methods Preconference</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Researching Native Ancestry Preconference</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Repair Basics Preconference</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital on a Dime Preconference</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basics of Records Management Preconference</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Narrative Comments from Individual Events:

In reviewing the written comments, there were valuable suggestions made for future conferences, most of which we will try to implement.

The good:

- The honoring portions help new people build awareness of people who have paved the path for up and coming professionals.
- I really loved the literary readings, meeting the many authors was inspirational.
- I am still pinching myself that you were able to have N. Scott Momaday read for us ... and be around to visit with. Thank you so much!
- Digital on a Dime was awesome. All events and meals were excellent, including the snacks
- The opportunity to personally speak with the likes of Dr. N. Scott Momaday and Walter Echo-Hawk was one of the highlights of this event.
- I think the pre-conference events are enlightening and are worthwhile they stand as a venue to represent the community and people where the conference is taking place.
- The opening ceremonies always serve as a welcoming introduction to the host nation and establish the conference as occurring in a special place and time.
- The literary evening and honoring luncheon with Scott Momaday were phenomenal!!
- I attended everything, and got a lot out of it all. The photography workshop was very practical and useful, I really appreciated getting some hands on skills. I was blown away with how many
extraordinary luminaries you collected in one conference, it was really a privilege to hear their wonderful stories. And I loved the talent show!

- I loved the talent show and how intimate it felt, with a small group and people sharing their gifts freely.

The not so good...

The majority of the negative comments (12 total) were primarily subjective and not within the control of the conference organizers, i.e., oatmeal was too expensive, did not like contemporary art, too much food, not enough food, rooms too cold, rooms too hot. Three people were disappointed that the luncheon featuring Walter Echo-Hawk ran over. While people enjoyed it, one person suggested that we never have more than one attorney on the program at a time…if we are to stick to our schedule. Humor is always appreciated.

Another difficulty arose with the bus company contracted to provide services for the preconference and evening events. The company had excellent references, but recently changed managers and the carefully prepared schedule submitted to them was ignored. Buses were late and in two instances did not show up. We are addressing this with the bus company and when a settlement is reached will reimburse people who were affected by the bus company’s poor service.

Comments regarding what we can do better included:

- It was unfortunate that our trip to Allan Houser was cut short, but it was truly an amazing experience and great opportunity!
- I was confused about the events in the exhibit hall, particularly the prize drawing. I wasn’t sure when the drawing was happening, and when I did happen upon it, it was already in progress. Some tickets were drawn and saved for later and others were not so it was not clear if winners needed to be present to. Note: We will do better next time.
- Although I did not participate in many of these events, we hosted one of these all-day events/field trips and found that they were too long for the participants. While some were game for the entire day, many were absolutely exhausted by mid-day.
- We didn’t have much time at the Contemporary Native Art museum… food was excellent though...

Suggestions for improvement...

- The pre-conference workshops were all good, I wish I could have attended more of them. Maybe repeat some of the workshops at post conference. How about a comedian for the next conference. Native American comedians or singers. It would be fun to have a band so we can dance. Just a thought.
- I’d love to see videos of the poetry readings--or talk to the Poetry Foundation about broadcasting them on their NPR spot. My only disappointment with the pre-conferences was that I couldn’t get to more of them! Would several of them make good regional or Webinar presentations? Is it time for ATALM to have a YouTube channel?
- I wonder if we could organize some regional “get togethers” before or after the conference, never seem to have time to get the attendees together from my state. The events at the cultural
centers are always appreciated, that's my splurge, gives me a chance to dine with old and new friends, and catch up. Native America's got talent just keeps getting better.

- Is it possible to offer the Field trips a day earlier? Those of us that attended the IMLS mandatory grant meeting were unable to attend. We heard great things about the field trips and wished we could have attended.
- Native America's Got Talent should be scheduled in the middle of the conference.

**REASONS FOR ATTENDING**

In past years, the question was asked, “How does this conference compare to other conferences you attend?” The answers were always far better or somewhat better. This information has been consistent year after year, we decided to change the question to assess why people decide to attend the conference. Not surprisingly, 97% indicated the programs specific to indigenous issues was highly important or important. The next highest was networking with colleagues (96%), followed by overall mix of programs (73%), availability of hands-on labs (72%), registration cost (68%), location (65%), cost of lodging (61%), availability of scholarships (60%), and time of year (57%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Highly Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Availability of scholarships</td>
<td>40.88%</td>
<td>18.87%</td>
<td>9.43%</td>
<td>30.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of conference</td>
<td>32.93%</td>
<td>34.76%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of lodging</td>
<td>29.38%</td>
<td>31.88%</td>
<td>23.75%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hands-on or interactive labs/workshops</td>
<td>36.59%</td>
<td>34.76%</td>
<td>22.56%</td>
<td>6.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>36.26%</td>
<td>28.65%</td>
<td>19.30%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to network with colleagues</td>
<td>70.69%</td>
<td>25.29%</td>
<td>2.30%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall mix of programs</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>42.94%</td>
<td>4.71%</td>
<td>2.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs specific to indigenous issues</td>
<td>73.84%</td>
<td>23.26%</td>
<td>1.16%</td>
<td>1.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time of year conference presented</td>
<td>26.79%</td>
<td>30.95%</td>
<td>25.60%</td>
<td>16.67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sixty comments were received, some of which are excerpted below.

- This conference is like no other. The value received includes learning from presentations; networking with colleagues; and just the energy we all get from being with our peers. It is really nice to have the IMLS people available to discuss things with. I thought the location was especially conducive to a productive and pleasant conference. Some really high level people
there presenting such as the Library of Congress representatives, a Smithsonian administrator, tribal leaders and many others with outstanding expertise to share.

- ATALM is cutting the path for networking in the field, which is long overdue. In terms of public awareness and professional development we need a similar or extended entity in Canada.
- I am a staunch supporter of ATALM. I believe in the mission statement of this organization. I also believe in the individuals who make up the Board, Staff and Volunteer who are generous with their time and commitment to this mission statement. Now with regards to "Time of year conference presented": The conference dates are too close to my tribe's annual powwow which leaves me little time to host my out-of-state family & friends. However, each and everyone are aware of the ATALM conference and how important it is to me and to our tribe. I will always participate in the ATALM conferences and encourage others to attend as well.
- You have done a great job keeping it affordable - many attendees have to pay their own costs. One thing to consider - ARSL schedules programs 2xs to give you a 2nd opportunity if you miss it the first time.
- As an IMLS grant awardee, our organization planned on attending the mandatory IMLS meeting. I hope this arrangement continues in the future because it was the perfect conference to attend in conjunction with IMLS.
- Our expenses were offset by our IMLS NANH grant because we had to attend the pre-conference meeting of awardees (which was very good). Cost would be a factor without that assistance. It would also be great to be able to send 2 or 3 staff instead of one.
- I also work in a school, so the timing was good for me, however I would have taken time off to attend if I had to.
- I attended as a vendor - graduate programs in imaging for libraries, archives, and museums - with topic interest; however, the conversations with attendees was far and away the best aspect for me. It came to me that "I came to listen" was my purpose. My own research found new voice in those with whom I chatted; new ideas for helping others achieve their goals with digital technology began to flourish. Treatment of vendors was most lovely and the design of integrating them into the conference both thoughtful and productive.
- I really appreciated the hands-on/interactive workshops!
- I like that fact that it was hosted on tribal lands, where many of us work. It made me feel strength to see the young ones there with their ceremonial dances and greetings. For them is what I work for here on my reservation and the elders.
- I've been fortunate to attend many AAM conferences, and to compare ATALM it is much more suited to what I do at my institution because of the focus on Native issues in all aspects.
- I really appreciated my registration scholarship, and the low room rates that you negotiated, that was very helpful. It would be very helpful for me if there could be a session next year on Native Science and its role in museums.
- This is the only conference I attend each year.
- We appreciate the efforts of the ATALM & support those efforts.
- Grant presentation for IMLS great partnership helps with the cost so it makes it easier to attend Conference.
- Thank you so much for offering scholarships. This really helped a lot and made it possible for me to attend. Now I'm hooked and will hopefully be able to come to next year’s conference.
- Although this is a very affordable conference, I do not think my institution would support the costs without the scholarship opportunity. I am so thankful to have attended and hope I can do
so again. The connections and information will assist me doing a much better job for my institution and community.

Suggestions for improvement:

- I hope the next conference can accommodate all attendees. Having people split off at other hotels made it difficult to network/travel to host hotel.
- Well it is hard to select "not important" or "highly important" because the conference is always in June (I know there have been some discussions of October)- that would be GREAT for the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, especially if it is in a very hot climate such as New Mexico. We like to escape the cold to somewhere sunny and pretty in the late fall/winter :) 
- Overall, I loved the diversity of sessions made available and really enjoyed learning about what other institutions were doing. I think I would have liked to see more education/programming-related sessions from the museum perspective. Most programming sessions that I noticed were library focused and could not necessarily translate well to museums.
- These are all factors for a lot of us. ATALM may be too close to ALA for comfort, since a lot of ATALM folks are also active in ALA and AILA. I don't know for sure about the museums and archival folks.
- Would prefer conference take place in larger cities because of better rates for airfares and hotels, but love supporting local artisans and making location convenient for them.
- It would be nice to have the conference in the late fall time this way new fiscal budgets are starting and most visitors do their vacations in the summer time.
- I was impressed with the ATALM Conference last year in Oklahoma, so I talked a bunch of my colleagues and graduate students to attend this year. The opening ceremony had many nation flags and the auditorium was impressive, not to mention the artist who painted on the spot. I was looking for the flags and the artist in action, but did not experience that.
- Early June is a difficult time to be away from our museum as the visitor season is just starting. Mid-to-late fall would be better as it is a bit less busy, and we would have more time to plan how to put our new knowledge and skills gained at the conference to use in the following season.

MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD OF DELIVERING PROGRAMS

Participants showed a strong preference for listening to a panel session with several speakers, with 75% strongly agreeing or agreeing. This was followed by listening to one speaker (59%), taking part in an hands on activity (54%), watching a demonstration (47%), and taking part in a round table discussion (32%).

FORMAT OF CONFERENCES
Attendees were asked to rank their preference for format and length of the conferences. In addition to the ranking scale, participants could suggest other possibilities. By far, the current 2.5 day conference with pre and post conference sessions were preferred. There also was a call for two conferences a year, for more regional conferences sponsored by ATALM, and virtual conference possibilities.

Sixty written comments were received. Summaries appear below:

- What about having virtual as an option or at least of having a few sessions (plenary) virtual in order to be able to make the conference available to others. (eight similar)
- I think ATALM has gotten so big that it should be broken out into regional conferences and then have a national big conference every few years or so. That would allow smaller organizations to attend the regional conference which requires less travel (hopefully) and maybe rotate attendance at a larger conference.
- Half-day would allow people to arrive on same day. A few of us have workplaces that limit the travel to days we present or participate so unfortunately we were unable to get to the pre-conference options - which all sounded completely relevant. I would have liked to get to IAIA to see the new facilities.
- I like the 2.5 days, always seems rushed, so would prefer no shorter. Pre-conferences and events both half and full day. Post would be an option.
- I would consider a full 3 day conference with full-day pre and post. Perhaps consider different prices dependent on number of days attended days.
- The long time and high expense required to travel to and from Alaska makes attending a two-day conference difficult to justify. The five day conference allows me to get maximum benefit from the trip.
- Is it possible to offer the same workshops/tours before the conference and after? Great workshops/tours.
- Current format seems to work well. I don’t know how well attended the pre-conference or post-conference workshops were. The 2 1/2 day conference itself is about right for the main body of the conference.
- A full 3 day conference would be highly preferred. Then sessions could be spread out better and not so many competing sessions for museums in the same time slots. I’d prefer to only have to chose between 3 museum-related topics for each time slot. And as many pre and post conference workshops as possible.
- Travelling is expensive but face to face interaction is vital to networking and learning about new methods and options for services.
- More than 2.5 days! There was so much wonderful content it was hard to decide what sessions to attend. Would a longer format with less overlap of sessions be doable?
• A 2-day conference does not justify the expenses of airfare. It really is not a 2.5 day conference. Pre-conference workshops should be included which puts it up to 3.5 days.
• I wish the Preconference workshops would not interfere with IMLS grant presentations.
• I would like to see ATALM have two conferences a year.
• I would suggest that roundtable sessions should be on the last day. This would be great for discussions and networking. This would enable us to share ideas and possibly collaborating with other organizations.
• The face to face time with people is so important. A virtual conference would not allow the same type of networking which is one of the things that makes the ATALM conference so wonderful -- the people and their passion and their willingness to share it with others.

WHAT SERVICES CAN ATALM OFFER?

The predominant request was for online access to the conference proceedings. With IMLS funding, we recorded each session and will place that material on the ATALM website along with PowerPoint presentations and handouts. Other suggestions that appeared frequently was the need to engage more young people, the continuation of the hands-on activities, and more communication networks.

• Perhaps consider adding more programs to attract young adults (high school and community college students) that we need to be grooming now! I will help.
• More sessions about academic library collaborative projects, collections and services. Also having proposal submissions in November is difficult as it's a busy time so either earlier in October or in February would help.
• Continue offering the scholarship for members. I would not have been able to attend otherwise, and I greatly appreciated it!
• Regional training workshops. If offered quarterly and by webinar these would have the potential to broaden the audience.
• More hands on workshops on grant writing & reporting templates.
• Lists of jobs, white papers, blog, list-serv, grant info.,
• Language Revitalization Best Practices, (Successful) Immersion Programs, Cultural Exchange Opportunities
• I’d enjoy more sessions that revolve around what ATALM strives to do: articulate contemporary issues related to developing and sustaining the cultural sovereignty of Native Nations. Not so many "how-to" sessions...I went to one and there were like 5 people in the audience. These are great, but if they can be condensed into one 1/2 day or whole day workshop? This would allow for other sessions to take place.

BUFFALO DANCERS WERE A HIGHLIGHT OF THE EVENING AT THE INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER
Preserving Tribal Language, Memory, and Lifeways: A Continuing Education Project for the 21st Century

- More information about small presses which publish Native content.
- Please send pictures or post on your website
- Have an icebreaker for different groups. For example, libraries would have a chance to meet and talk with just other libraries, or museums, etc. The most valuable information comes from talking with other attendees.
- More in archives, as hand-on workshops and building exhibits for gallery spaces.
- Posting conference materials. ATALM is doing a great job, many folks look forward to this.
- So much to see, do and so many people to meet. I like to conference program with people’s info, but how about adding a bulletin board to flyers, cards, hook-ups (professional), shout outs, etc. etc.
- I feel that ATALM is already offering me the support I need.
- Since this was my first time at an ATALM conference I thought it was awesome. So much to see and learn and so little time.
- Having more authors present. This was so beneficial. I learned so much from Tim Tingle. I believe other authors would be equally as informative.
- I would love to see more round table discussions for specific fields available for attendees.
- I think location is important on 2 counts. People will come to a nice place. But I think it is equally important to show off the cultural sites of the location.
- I would like to see some blogs or maybe smaller virtual meetings about some of the topics covered at the conference -- I want to hear more this year about what tribal libraries are doing, not have to wait until the next conference
- A monthly news letter
- Due to our accounting practices, we need to submit our travel requests a minimum of four months in advance. It would be convenient to obtain the final program at least six months prior to the conference.
- Providing workshops during the year (not at the conference) or virtual webinars regarding current topics/best practices in archives.
- Professional Development through trainings at ATALM Meeting space to discuss challenges and issues Listserv for issues (including legal) pertaining to tribal cultural heritage institutions
- perhaps a mid-year virtual conference

FIELD TRIP TO ALAN HOUSER COMPOUND
• How can universities get more involved with indigenous peoples in their area
• Please continue offering a variety of hands-on sessions! The ones at this conference were very helpful.
• Sharing of a preferred Native book/music/DVD list to participation libraries for their collections.
• Is it possible to have an ATALM arm at a larger conference like AAM or ALA? I'm not sure what that looks like. Maybe a list-serve option.
• It seems like I heard that some of the sessions were recorded or that handouts would be available on the website - so I need to go look. That would be great though - to be able to watch/listen to sessions I wasnt able to attend, or get PPT/handouts where my notes were spotty. Thank you, thank you, thank you, this was a great conference!
• Good question. I would like to see sessions on governance -- 501 c 3 versus 7871 designation; how do you deal with changing Tribal Councils with different agendas. Sort of an on the firing line session. Questions from the audience, much like an "Ask the Experts" session. Scratch the expert title and substitute something like "battle weary."
• to have a printed certificated in the program for people who need proof for their travel.
• I would like to learn about ideas that bring parents & children into Libraries.
• How to properly clean and care for Animals or Pelts and other museum objects.
• What about some online courses or books/program guides that we can download for our use or to refer back to what we learned.
• Online conference content
• Digital proceedings and/or power points from session for conference delegates.
• Thank you to everyone who makes the ATALM conference a reality. It really is one of the best conferences I have attended -- always on target, always friendly, and always thought provoking. Thanks to all of you for a job well done!
• Directory of tribal archives, libraries, & museums
• Online materials to print prior to conference, optional to take to classes, etc.
• Dare to better address "politics" at Native American museums and archives!
• Online audio access.
• The scholarships are great. Without that I don’t know that is would be affordable for my institution. Affordability is so important, as are the connections and information sharing.
• Well, I think this all the time; a presentation on how non Native people can gain credibility and plant roots in communities who’s archives/libraries/museums are Native oriented.
• A scholarship for mentors to bring someone new to the field along (e.g. a promising Intern, new employee, recent Library, Archives or Museum studies graduate). This would help introduce and retain their interest in the value of the work.
• There are so many excellent programs offered that it is difficult to select two or three per day. I would like to be able to receive handouts/reference materials from those sessions/programs I was not able to attend but had expressed a sincere interest in the topic being discussed.
• Consider using a text notification/alert system, to encourage people to go the buses for special pre and post-conference events that are located off-site. Such a system would be more effective and much easier to use, to round up the "grown ups" who have paid for these special add-on events. Regarding the presentation on Intellectual and Cultural Property Rights, the presenter was obviously very knowledgeable, but she spoke way too fast and tried to cover too much ground in one single session. These topics are very important to Tribal Archives and Museums, and it would be nice to have multiple sessions on single focus areas, or a longer multi-person panel to bring light to the complexity of issues related to this topic. Volunteers should be
assigned duties, or select duties ahead of time, i.e. -- working the registration table from 7 am - 8 am, assisting with A/V from 10 am -- 12 pm, rather than having people ask ATALM staff one-by-one every day. One possibility is to work with a nearby institution or organization to coordinate volunteer efforts as part of a college or local youth group practicum or service learning activity. Scholarship recipients can also certainly be asked to volunteer (1) hour per day or up to (5) hours over the course of the conference as a condition for receiving a scholarship. The idea is to balance their volunteer time with the value of the scholarship along with the opportunity for them to grow and learn professionally at the event.

WHAT CHANGED AS A RESULT OF YOUR ATTENDANCE? HOW WILL YOU APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED?

- Attendance at this conference introduced me to the important work being conducted on behalf of indigenous communities in the museum and education fields. I certainly gained considerable knowledge for my organization and met many talented individuals I may have otherwise not had the opportunity to engage.
- The audio in digital is a hit for us. We gained valuable information that will help us in our endeavors of preserving the language and cultural. We definitely met new contacts that will help us broaden the support. We have already started applying what we learned from the conference to the programs within the Library.
- We connected with students at another university who were struggling to start indigenous coursework and support. The conference gave us an opportunity to network in what we anticipate will be a long, mutually beneficial relationship. ATALM helped me gain knowledge on the 'bigger picture', seeing what other states and tribes were doing to improve information access.
- The conference is motivational, conducive to professional self-esteem. The sharing of knowledge is the key, and meeting new contacts helps us excel in positive and avoid pitfalls when contemplating new approaches to our work.
- I am just a couple of steps away to submitting my digital documentary which I have been working on for three years now. I received valuable tips from the ATALM Research Fellows (Tim Tingle, Gregg Rodgers & Jason Asenap). From past conferences, I have shared new skills with our tribal youth who are now working on their OWN digital documentaries. Quite exciting! The Institute of Museum and Library Services are greatly appreciated!
- I learned that quality digitization is not out of reach for those of us with limited funds; working with experts in the field who have learned by trial and error and understand that many of us have extremely limited funds and staff is useful and encouraging.
- Affirmative to all of the questions. I'm going to add several people to my mailing list for our state-level organization, and I got ideas that I can use for purchasing and other of my everyday library jobs. Getting to talk for a few minutes with Alison Freese. I understand more about IMLS now.
- I have a stack of about 30 cards, I write notes on the back. Some are me requesting information, some are for me to send folks information. The conferences help connect so many people and resources.
- As a student/new professional, ATALM is invaluable experience. I have new ideas or reminded of things that can be done to grow the library/archives I work at as well as through outreach. I was able to meet new people, some I only know by name. And, it was my first time presenting at a conference.
• The impact of this conference on me has been significant. I have been personally and professionally enriched as a result of attending this conference. My eyes are always opened by the experiences that others share, the sessions that I attend, the people that I meet, and the new information and skills that I take back to share with my organization. Mahalo for providing such a rich learning experience.

• I learned some new techniques and had a few attendees offer help to me via e-mail so I loved every bit of the conference!

• My passion to help the tribe grow was reignited. I learned about so many ways to encourage children to read. To advance literacy within our tribe.

• We met up with members of Na Hawai'i 'Imi Loa, a student group that is doing similar work to our student group at UW-Madison. Forging a relationship with them will greatly help both our organization and, hopefully, theirs as well.

• I always take vital knowledge and techniques away with me after attending an ATALM conference. I have made many new ties to other professions nationally and internationally because of my attendance to this conference including making connections to leading scholars and researchers in my field of work.

• I always gain enormous amounts from ATALM conferences. This conference had a special aspect for me. I noticed more tribal members leading excellent sessions. They brought their tribal point of view and experience to their teaching. As a non-tribal teacher at many of these conferences, I was thrilled to see this. The goal has always been to enable tribal members to care for their items themselves and to teach others how to do this. The goal is being reached, and this is rewarding and exciting.

• Our library’s digitization efforts have been focused on visual images and I needed to know more about sound as I’ll be working with our language revitalization program.

• It is inspiring to see other projects and get new ideas. Many tribal libraries are small with staff working with limited contact with professionals. Love interacting with others and hearing presentations specific to indigenous needs.

• Workshops to teach hands-on skills were extremely effective Many of the people I met wear a lot of hats at their library or archive. This conference is an ideal way to present information about archival management, technical skills, and projects that other libraries are doing.

• Exposed me to different ways of thinking about archives work. Surprised at the number of digitization initiatives.

• Gained new knowledge and skills about tribal museums and archives, how they are funded, and how they differ from mainstream, public institutions; met with peers working in similar settings across the country; learned what kinds of challenges peers face when trying to create meaningful exhibits and make connections with their visiting public.

• I think partnering the IMLS museum grant awardees presentation with the ATALM conference is very important. We had the opportunity to hear from the other awardees. In addition, by attending the conference, we had the opportunity to network with the awardees during the conference. We also had the opportunity to meet with IMLS staff during the conference and ask questions about our current and future grants. From the information gained at the conference, we will be able to implement new strategies, apply for additional grants, and have a resource of individuals to reference when needed.

• I am always gaining new knowledge at these conferences that I can apply directly to my archives work. For the first time my knowledge of acoustic recording has introduced me to some people that I can help and they are willing to help me with catalogues. Archivist is a second profession in retirement for me, so I have lots to learn.
• My program will certainly benefit from the ATALM conference. I made some new contacts concerning Broadband technology.
• I learned how to put together a video using i-video! As we all move forward, digital is our biggest challenge. We all have to understand the ins & outs, the basics so we can better use it, not rely on our IT staff, we still need to know how it effects our programs, what we can do and can’t do. This helps to make better decisions for our institutions in funding, programing & the future of tribal cultural preservation.
• First please thank the people at IMLS for us because this conference has been far more effective in presenting on relevant topics we are facing in our Native Communities. From how to use technology to fundraising your speakers were wonderful and engaging. The conference was inspiring to be part of. I will apply what I learned in my job. Thank you.
• What I learned will be passed on to empower my community, they have little or no resources but they all have a story. If we can give validation to who they are by making the telling of stories fell important enough to record that will be huge.
• I got new ideas as well as confirmation on things that work well in native communities. It is so important for this community of tribal librarians, archivists and museum people to be able to congregate, to share information, to assist one another with problems, to show case successful projects, to just get new ideas to be used at home. It builds a cadre of tribal professionals.
• The ability to network on a national level is invaluable. Coming from Hawaii, it is rare that we have the opportunity to interact with the different native communities across the nation. The ability to discuss different organizations’ projects and discuss challenges and successes within communities while building supportive network of individuals with similar projects.
• I came away completely energized in what I do which was sorely needed. Like most folks working in this type of world in Indian Country, I am stretched pretty thin. I gained new ideas that will help me in my daily work. Made new contacts that I look forward to taping into, and plan to apply for a planning grant to help move things forward here.
• I got ideas how to implement living history activities, I learned we all have terminology/lexicon issues, met great people who I can turn to for questions when our Tribe is stuck on something... the conference has a great impact on me as I move forward with museum activities.
• I received a lot of useful resources for our tribal museum at this conference—a legal compilation and handout on cultural property legislation, handouts on fundraising, a chance to meet the administrators of IMLS funding and discuss some of our challenges in applying for funding as an ANCSA non-profit corporation and tribal consortium, a chance to learn about artists and thinkers in this field and network with institutions that we can partner with on future projects, such as the Boarding School Stories and Mukurtu and another benefit that is really priceless is the opportunity to hear about others’ experiences with vendors in their projects. I brought home a lot of instructions for how we can do exhibits on our shoestring budget and how to engage our tribal community members for future programs.
• I will most definitely be utilizing the archival boxes I learned to make. I have several patrons who have inquired about researching their Native American ancestry, and we serve as the Tribal College's library. I was able to access workshops on all those issues and what I learned has already been applied.
• I made new contacts, learned about 3D scanners and I was learned a number of things about digitization, access, metadata and Murkatu
Being able to attend this conference, gave me some insight into murky areas of our tribal museum, gave me ideas to incorporate different parts of our tribal departments and also validated a couple of projects that I started here at home.

The conference provided me with some wonderful hands-on workshops that are directly applicable to my work. I went to most of the workshops on caring for fragile paper/archival materials; most of the problems discussed are occurring the collection I’m currently processing. I am now more confident in removing damaging fasteners and mending fragile documents.

To strengthen our scope of service, we will apply the following knowledge: inclusion of the cultural bartering system of our traditional craft materials for incentives rather than modern items for reading programs; learning about bicultural ambivalence and increase parenting literacy skill development with a cultural flavor.

There is nothing like this conference where you can network with museum, library and cultural preservationists, including artists. Indigenous cultural preservation includes all of these things and all of these things are included in this conference.

I have definitely gained new knowledge and skills. I am ENERGIZED to get back to my workplace and get started on new projects. I have met and networked with amazing people who have provided me with resources to advance my institution to better serve my community.

Acquired knowledge about peer and colleague programs, centers and opportunities. Gained potential professional partnerships via networking opportunities.

For me, it was the ability to learn new/hands-on things that can be passed on to volunteers and interns regarding a library and archive (and research) facility.

I learned that the Arizona State Museum has found a new way to label objects that I will now implement at my institution. What I want to do is create an online meeting place to continue many of the discussions/topics discussed. In particular, I am interested in continuing the topic of educating America and the World at large about the lack of Native American history being taught. Sadly, I did not sign up for any hands-on workshops; however, this is an important piece and please continue to do this.

I have attended four of the ATALM conferences and each time I am very impressed with the schedule of events and the workshops available. I gain new contacts and friends along the way and stay in touch with other organizations to improve the museum that I work in. I also refer our guest or researchers to other organizations that may help them in their quest. The workshops that I take help broaden my knowledge and appreciate that the presenters allow us to contact them for any help or questions that we may have.

I specifically came to ATALM this year to network and make contacts for my upcoming research visits to Native museums that are exploring Green/Sustainability public engagement. I was successful in making contacts to get me started. I also was very happy to walk away with practical photography tips and skills. I am currently working a series of three films about Native Sustainability initiatives in the greater Yellowstone area, so the digital storytelling workshops were useful in that regard. I will use my ATALM networking to set up research visits to conduct museum staff interviews during this coming year, and the photography and storytelling skills to fine-tune my current film. Also, I realized during the conference, listening to the archivists, that I should be doing something with the tons of videotapes that we have here in the Native American Studies dept - interviews with elders from the 70s and 80s - I need to get with our archivists and librarians here at MSU to make sure they don't rot away!

By attending the 2013 ATALM conference I have gained insight genealogy and researching Native American ancestry; two resources that we are hoping to bring to our institution in the near future. I came away with knowledge on the basics of ancestry and genealogy as well as
low-cost resources for the beginning stages or researching genealogy. I was able to meet individuals who are involved or have completed similar projects and was able to share contact information between institutions that could provide guidance and consult during the beginning stages of implementing genealogy.

- I have been inspired to work harder on behalf of our community. I'm going to report to our Board of Directors on FUNdraising.
- For me, it was the chance to meet others working in tribal museums. It is such a small percentage of the field as a whole that I have not had the opportunity in the past to meet anyone dealing with the same issues at other museum conferences. It was very helpful to make those contacts.
- As a result of attending the conference this year and last year, NEDCC is working on ways to bring our free and low-cost services to the ATALM community. We are starting to plan what training sessions our staff might offer to help these organizations preserve their valuable collections. With the development of the IMLS, IRENE3/D project at NEDCC, we hope to help the ATALM community preserve their language and culture through digitization of historic audio formats.
- As a non-Native person I look for opportunities to learn about native cultures everywhere - in an environment that is welcoming and open for questions and discussion. The conference helps shape my world view and helps me serve Native communities more effectively.
- Gives me a greater understanding of and appreciation for the grant programs IMLS funds.
- These workshops are priceless. They are geared towards smaller institutions and our cultural needs.
- I hope to network with Indigenous museums & libraries to collaborate on a travelling exhibition.. & stay in touch with people i met...
- I think mostly I gained confidence in what I have been doing. So validation in the way I have been working. And loved meeting new people going through the trenches just like me.
- It confirmed for me that this is the field I want to work in upon graduating and I hope to return next year.
- I attended the session on Book Preservation: How to Make a Clam-Shell Protective Box. There is a small 1882 autograph book that needed a protective box. After attending that session I now have made a small box for the autograph book.
- We have already initiated new partnerships as a result of contacts made at this meeting. We are also in the process of purchasing new digitizing equipment based on recommendations from presenters.
- I meet many other archivists and learned a lot of new skills. I've learned there is more funding then we are pursuing, I'm going to start doing more investigative work in that regard.
- Each session I attended, I listened to each of the speakers and their projects, and created projects in my mind as to what I could create for the Eastern Shawnee Tribal library and Archive. I love attending the ATALM conferences because of the ingenious ideas and the contacts that are made.
- As a recipient of IMLS funding for a very different sort of project, I would say to IMLS that this was a very good investment. I discovered new ways to integrate the work of our lab; I had conversations with numerous people at all levels of age, responsibility, accomplishment and learned much from each and every one. Our lab will likely begin to design some "rapid deployment" activities, and we have already arranged visits with storytellers we met at ATALM to come to our lab and brainstorm what we might be able to collaborate on.
I learned so much at this conference. Starting with the preconference and being able to see collections of pottery and other artifacts. Also the workshops were really very informative and people were always willing to listen and provide examples and the networking was very helpful. I hope to help write grants and be of help to other museums with our own experiences. I would give my report to Board of Directors and Tribal Council and in hopes of them supporting our needs for our community.

Inspiration. Rare opportunity to network in this specific field. Critical professional development opportunity.

I developed a storyboard for a digital story in women's health that I will apply for funding to develop. I developed skills in documentary making that I plan to use.

I met new contacts and old employers which helped my personal-professional growth. I also learned that a group was formed for the tribes in my state that my tribe did not know about (because our museum is new) and we are now a part of that group, so networking was very helpful. I also have a better understanding on how to successfully write grants for our museum and learned how the large government institutions can help (Smithsonian, National Archives, Library of Congress) which put my fears at ease because approaching such institutions can be a daunting task, even though that is what they are there for.

Gained knowledge and skills in addition to meeting colleagues to network with. It was great to see people from previous conferences and catch up on what they are doing and exchange ideas.

I will use the information on planning for future management and "the business" of a museum/cultural center immediately as I work with the tribe to create a business plan for their facility.

I have a better understanding of what is happening in the area of indigenous intellectual property rights and possibilities for protecting those rights.

I was able to attend because of the travel budget in our IMLS grant. This is such a great conference and one of the best I have attended the last two years.

I learned much more about IMLS and their efforts in Indian Country. Bravo! I certainly made many contacts that I’ve already connected with post-conference.

The biggest change in myself that I noticed was passion. This conference has inspired me to gain more personal knowledge about my culture, as well as helping preserve the knowledge that I learn and the best techniques to do so.

I had never attended an ATALM conference and I came away with so much. From gaining new knowledge, making new contacts, and meeting new people. I had people come up to me and introduce themselves simply from looking at my name tag. I have so many things going on in my library and a lot of what I learned at the conference, I will implement in my work. It was just such a wonderful experience and I am so glad I attended!

IMLS is great! Learned a lot from them!

All of the above. This conference provides the professionalism of AAM with a more focused constituency and a great atmosphere. Focused contact with like minded organizations on a manageable scale will significantly impact connections and collaboration on future projects.

The networking and depth of the workshops were outstanding this year. Definitely presented ideas to take home with me and use in my scholarly studies or at work.

It provided us an opportunity to visit with people who either might author books for us in future or lead us to someone who might or to a topic we should explore.

Keeping up with the technology Meeting people I had heard about

I met someone who can help me with a project we are working on. I also got ideas for several projects.
• Ideas for programming, other libraries' projects, many new ideas.
• Several new contacts. Two new products to investigate. New documents and forms to incorporate into our facility. A running list of items to investigate further to improve our work plans.
• I gained new knowledge, had valuable networking opportunities, and was able to give back to the field.

WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE CONFERENCE?

There were 172 responses to this question, with many referencing networking, meeting up with friends and colleagues, and programming. For the most part, these were not included. Additionally, similar responses were only listed once, i.e., the location, the presenters, the ambiance.

• Representative from indigenous tribes and especially Hawaiian language coming back to the people of Hawaii.
• The wealth of information and resources
• Meeting in person with people I have corresponded with before. Making personal connections.
• Coming from an art museum perspective, I engaged most closely with collections based presentations and sessions with curatorial perspectives. However, I found sessions by libraries/archives to be especially informative and relevant. The pre-conference visits to institutions and tours with skilled staff were an absolute highlight.
• I appreciated getting to see old friends and meeting new people. I enjoyed the time between sessions and at lunch to network and hear about people’s work.
• I liked the location as well as the most presenters
• The events
• Truly, everything.
• Exposure and awareness-building for one another’s work/approaches. Networking.
• The topics, meeting people from other states & the conference location.
• The conference participants, definitely! The individuals who take part in the ATALM are the best in their respective fields and I always come back with great resources and contact information from these gifted participants.
• Connecting with colleagues and other professionals doing the same kind of work, facing similar challenges, and brainstorming together to form new collaborations.
• Getting a New Mexico "fix", even if it wasn't long enough--and seeing the dedication and energy that people bring to ATALM,
• The variety of different workshops, being able to volunteer.
• The facility was beautiful. I enjoyed the Ak Chen Tribe's presentation.
• Jeanne Brako was one of the best Presenters I have every in counter at this workshop, I hope she would be back next year I really enjoyed her presents.
• The best place for me to meet folks that work with Native American Cultural Institutions and learn about services, resources and programs.
• The attendees! I just love meeting new people from tribal museums, archives, and libraries; and I am always happy to reconnect with the friends I have made in this field and because of this conference. It is totally awesome!!!
• The people everywhere were very helpful and welcoming, I appreciate that so much!
• Having the opportunity to see what other native people are doing in their various repositories.
Meeting so many wonderful accomplished Native Americans!!!
The ability to make a choice of which program would be most helpful to me.
I loved the rural location of the conference on the Tamaya site and concerning the sessions I loved the literary sessions and activities.
Learning from surprise sources that could not have been predicted
Overall atmosphere and general professional interest and enthusiasm for the work displayed by attendees.
Venue, diverse participation.
Meeting all the different tribes and such heroines of our native American nation Jean Whitehorse, La Donna Harris
The session proposals including the ability to hear about other IMLS grant awardees projects, the book signing, the variety of session proposals, the luncheons and coffee breaks, the talent show, networking, and the coffee cups with candy! Also, the hotel gift shop was really nice, however, many of the items were out of my price range. Therefore, I truly appreciated the native craftspeople with low cost merchandise. I was able to purchase several gifts to take home. Plus, it was nice talking to the person that made the items. It added to the overall experience.
The person to person connection that takes place throughout the day. Seeing old friends and meeting new friends.
Learning the history of the Native American people, friendly participants, the sessions mentioned above, and witnessing the local cultures of the Pueblo & Navajo. I also liked the one hour and 15 min time frame for each session.
Recognition of N. Scott Momaday
Seeing how other institutions manage similar projects, getting ideas off others, and just the positive feel of the conference attendees.
Meeting all the wonderful people.
The feeling that we were all there for the greater good, the openness, the sharing. Everyone I came in contact with made a contribution. I've been to gatherings where participants seemed insecure or defensive, I never felt that. The people I came in contact with were very comfortable with who they were & that felt so nice.
I like having exhibitors present and I like having the artisans there-both added to the conference. I guess the thing I liked best about the conference was networking and the ability to talk one on one with presenters and participants.
The ability to be able to network and see the different projects that are going on in native communities.
The speakers were just phenomenal, esp. Kevin Glover, Walter Echo-Hawk. And, I really think the way ATALM honors key people in the field, be they writers like Scott Momaday or up and coming artists like Natalie Diaz, is extremely important and respectful.
All the free group meals and activities, great for networking and on the pocket!
Small size of conference and sharing of participants
I most appreciated the hands-on workshops and networking opportunities. The evening events were also fun.
The wonderful people, the excellent speakers, authors and dignitaries from Santa Ana Pueblo and New Mexico. I was so inspired with the guest who attended.
Loved the inclusion of all indigenous peoples, this conference really does this well. From the opening prayer to the closing, it's perfect.
• The networking and ability to see the how a variety of institutions are handling their circumstances and identifying and defining their priorities.
• I love that people are able to travel from places as far away as Alaska, Canada and New Zealand.
• I got there on Sunday, got registered, and left Friday - so attended everything I could get to on Mon-Th. I liked that there was plenty of time to relax and meet people, and attend a variety of sessions. Some other conferences I have been to are squished into two days, and it is so cramped that there is no time to sleep or figure out who you want to catch up with - this was a lot better.
• The conference is very friendly and it was easy to network and meet other people. I absolutely loved this about the conference.
• The Keynote luncheon presentations were informative and inspirational. The blend of archives, museums and libraries.
• The people and the staff and volunteers are so friendly.
• The lunches - a chance to network with people in a relaxed atmosphere and really good lunchtime sessions.
• Quality of session, networking, energy... meeting people from many different parts of the world.
• The arrangement of the sessions, getting to choose which sessions you need most, the field trips, and the food was great!
• The atmosphere was really nice. There was plenty to do, but never felt pressured to do it all. And the breaks were perfect. Not too long, not to short and there were plenty of them to keep us energized.
• The energy, the information, the networking. All are great. I enjoy the multi-disciplinary nature of the conference and appreciate its focus on tribes.
• The camaraderie and the exchange of ideas among people working in a variety of settings. The mix of experience and viewpoints from archives, libraries and museums.
• The ability to network. I like that the sessions are planned with longer breaks in between. That provides time to talk with the presenters at the end of the session. Planning was great!! The meals planned with an activity was also great! Allows the attendees to be together and network.
• Literary event
• All IMLS sessions; Walter Echo-Hawk
• The location and the international components of the conference.
• Atmosphere, accessibility combined with professional excellence. Wow. Probably the best mid size conference I have attended in 25 years of museum work!
• Networking! The amount of activities to participate in was staggering, considering the gorgeous location and amenities.
• Honoring past leaders
• The cross of indigenous ways of knowing and managing digital collections in archives and libraries. Very relevant topic threads which ran throughout all sessions.
• The opportunity to present my work to colleagues.

HOW CAN THE CONFERENCE BE IMPROVED?

There were 171 responses to this question, with the majority of them stating that everything was perfect. There were also personal preferences regarding food. These responses were not included in the list below.
• Provide representation from tribal members and governing bodies who make decisions that affects operation needs in museums

• Create a proceedings book - publishing articles and reports to share with our libraries and institutions and the world. There was a tremendous wealth of information and resources presented at the

• It's a very tricky thing, but I found that all of the sessions that were most interesting to me - and which addressed similar topics - seemed to be scheduled at the same time. There were either 5 sessions I wanted to attend during a time slot, or none.

• I personally found the pre-conference tours to be the most effective way to network. The luncheons were lovely, but filled with activity and somewhat formal (seated dining)--I found individuals less at ease to speak with strangers in this setting.

• Include more voices/stories of smaller and medium sized organizations and their daily or project work.

• Shortening the presentations to 1 hour might allow people to attend more workshops. The topics are all so interesting it's hard to choose. Maybe a few evening sessions rather than outings.

• Holding the conference a week LATER; the dates are too close to my tribe's Annual Powwow. This is the only improvement I have on my mind right now and I really wouldn't call it an "improvement" suggestion. I have always been pleased with the length of the conference, the conference theme and programs offered, Presenter selections and the location of the conference.

• Spend money on simple box lunches/buffet lunches. The formal service for lunches is far too time consuming and wasteful.

• I'd recommend eliminating the sit down meals and little gifts. Although they are very nice, it's probably very costly. Perhaps this would allow for more people to attend the conference, more sessions too! :-)

• Having a packet or some type of information before volunteering so we are more clear as to what to do, maybe a briefing session before the conference starts.

• More vendors for libraries and having the same vendors available throughout the conference.

• I was one of the poster presenters, but was not told beforehand that I was supposed to pick up a tri-folder for my poster on the first day of the conference. I was told on the day of my poster presentation that all the tri-folders which wasn't picked up on the first day were sent back to a supplier. (I attended the conference from the second day / Wednesday, so I wasn't on location to pick up my tri-folder anyway.) Luckily, one of the conference organizers was able to find a spare tri-folder, and gave it to me for my poster presentation. I hope that in the future poster presenters will be told before the conference when / where they should pick up their tri-folders.

• Tuesday sessions did not have enough seating. Offer an evening for participants to socialize outside of a paid event.

• More scholarship money for non-tribal employees. I do not get per diem money to attend. I am on a tight budget and it was hard to enjoy the conference at such an expensive venue. I paid for my room and board with a credit card and will be paying it off for the next several months.

• Maybe repeat a few of the programs at different times.

• I like the broad choice of sessions although I think there could have been one less scheduled per time period to give each speaker a larger audience.

• Add a Native American Singer from the top 20's

• Review attendance at the sessions. The sessions that were over attended could be included at next year’s conference. Some of the sessions could have been offered more than once. The
conference had a lot of great presentations. It was hard to select from the many great topics. It would be nice to have hand-outs available on-line for the sessions we were unable to attend.

- Starting earlier would be great (8:00AM), some staff are on the clock, plus starting at 9:00 is late and not a great use of our time. Having the exhibitors in a separate room, I didn't get to make my round to exhibitors, it was too crowded, especially when you're eating in the same room, not a good mix. I would be nice to have some water in the session rooms, including candy for individual who may need a bit of sugar. All raffles/prizes held at the luncheon or evening dinner, adds excitement to the event. Evening event with the host tribe, sharing about their people & culture within their village, if possible. It would have been nice to provide a shuttle to the pueblo feast, many wanted us to attend, however it was the end of the conference and had to catch our flight. Other hotels that would be in walking distance to host hotel (comments when speaking with other attendees). Break areas should have enough chairs to sit and share. At this conf. there were chairs & tables outside, however you had to share with smokers and not enough shaded areas. Have poster presentation as part of the main event. It would be neat to have them present (briefly-5 to 7 min) their work to everyone, we can't get to each display, however a brief presentation will help to encourage everyone to go view their work, especially posters that interest them & putting a face to the project, great recognition for their work. Maybe have an end of the conference a video of attendees sharing what they learned, what they made (archival boxes) and how they plan to use what they learned back home, like Antiques Road Show where they have attendees talk about their finds and what they learned about their object & its value. It would be fun!

- Larger scholarships that can accommodate travel costs from far away (such as airfare from Alaska) as needed, Wifi access throughout the conference center, 2 days of pre-conference workshops so we could take advantage of more of those wonderful topics, and better communication about what would happen at the evening events.

- It was difficult to decide between concurrent sessions. My institution would support me staying longer if I had an opportunity to attend more sessions of relevance.

- Greater communication about transportation to and from the overflow hotel would have been appreciated. We had no confirmation of morning and evening shuttles until the first day of the conference, which made planning difficult. While car rentals were recommended, some smaller museums cannot budget for the additional expense (and some attendees don't feel comfortable driving in an area they're unfamiliar with). The morning and afternoon shuttles were greatly appreciated, but there was no preparation made for those of us staying for the evening events. Since all taxis had to come from Albuquerque, it was a 45-90 minute wait for a $20-35 cab ride. A ride back to the Holiday Inn was provided one evening (with the understanding it would be available the rest of the week), but the other nights I had to call a cab at the last minute. Better communication (and confirmation) of transportation options would have been helpful. Otherwise, the conference was fantastic!!

- Maybe a cultural themed take home poster to hang in our library of elders or children.

- Variety of travel or shuttle options to areas of Native interest in the vicinity that were not part of the conference.

- More of show and tell

- My research is on climate change/sustainability/Native Science/ green museums - it would be nice to have an opportunity to learn more about what folks are engaged in in that regard. The NMAI people could do a whole fascinating session about their activities!
There were so many concurrent sessions it was frustrating. Are the sessions recorded and can they be assessed post conference? Perhaps extend the event one more half day?

I really enjoyed the casual dress attire at the conference. This provided a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere during sessions that can seem stuffy at times. I would like to see more opportunities for attendees to socialize and meet one another outside of sessions; more social "ice-breakers", so to speak. Networking is important and, I feel, the advantage of attending the ATALM conferences. Anything to encourage this, is great.

It would have been nice to have a networking session or to meet other students and future colleagues.

Make the location more accessible to walking around and exploring the city, not being in such a secluded place to have more options for meals, the prices at this hotel for food were outrageous. Also there were a lot of pre-conference sessions I would have like to attend however our presentations for the museums lasted the entire day.

I’d like to see more sessions about Native American literature. I was surprised how many librarians were seeking recommendations of books. As a poet, I find that a bit disconcerting.

More cultural information about the hosting pueblo or nation. Expand registration so more can attend the events and conference.

The location was superb and the atmosphere at Tamaya really lent itself well to focusing on the conference and yet having time to enjoy the beauty and quiet of the outdoors. A perfect balance for me. One suggestion -- put healthy treats in the ATALM cups instead of candy.

Closer to metro area for other activities, shopping, or local interests to visit. Pueblo's had a celebration and that would have been awesome to attend and experience the culture of the Pueblos in their activities or if the town/city/township was having a festival.

I would like to have the IMLS sessions open to the entire group. It would be great to have more presentations about curators, or curatorial talks geared toward exhibition development and programming.

75 minutes too long for most sessions. I would have preferred the sessions being half as long so that I could therefore have attended twice as many talks. I found a lot of people would walk in and out of presentations presumably because they found it too long or wanted to go to two things at once. This was distracting.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Survey participants were asked to offer suggestions on future program topics. Eighty responses were received. Those not relating specifically to programming are not included below:

- Publish a proceedings booklet. I would love to help with this endeavor. Suggestion - Global focus by using virtual technology to share plenary sessions and larger workshops with the world. Or, at least creating a book of resources to sell. I will help.
- Sessions should include more visits for participants to be able to see other museums and libraries to gain knowledge operating needs.
- I believe this conference has gotten too big and has lost some of it’s usefulness to me. What I enjoyed previously was hearing about the work people were doing in tribal organizations, the "boots on the ground". Now I feel the focus is on the "big name" people who are also doing work for Native people, but I feel they have other venues they can speak at where this may be the only place someone from a small tribal library/museum/archive can really share their story.
- More sessions on digital with up to date software as that is always upgrading
• LIS Student meet-up (besides just COL students)?
• Perhaps the importance of sensibility to preserve cultural privacy in some areas of archiving.
• At least one more session on genealogy research.
• Preservation; Digitization topics are always good. Hold workshops on multiple days. I wasn’t able to attend some because I was attending others. Topics on/about students (mentoring, online education, etc.).
• American Indian Studies 101- what is being taught about American Indians and how ATALM fits Breaking the stereotype myth- what are you doing to break this myth? Decolonizing Libraries, Archives, and Museums-what is being done? what are you doing? I remember going into my children’s library and seeing books on "Indians" that were extremely outdated. In addition, archival information that still utilize terms like "squaw" "savage". And museum's that still use exhibits like the buffalo to represent Native Americans, which leads to stereotyping. Here is an example of non-native ignorance in mainstream museums: http://www.nuvo.net/indianapolis/market-brings-real-live-indians-to-eiteljorg/Content?oid=2615880#.UcQgB_nVDAs
• I would like to learn how various organizations conduct field experiences while embracing cultural knowledge.
• Reference services in an archives setting International activities as they relate to archives/museums/libraries (how are things done in Canada, Australia, Europe, etc.). Further, how can this conference setting engage the international participant better? Who is your target audience for this annual conference? Is it mostly tribal archives/libraries/museums employees from the U.S? Do the sessions presented reflect on this target audience?
• *Digital programs tribal communities are using and how they deal with sensitive issues, share their work in oral history, archives, museums, libraries, archives & cultural centers and how this affects them as tribes would be great. Tribes that have done this type of work on their own and be willing share would be helpful. Hear it from them, their do's and don'ts, not just the consultant. *Provide additional information on storage & budget solutions in conservation for museums & archives. *Exhibits geared to children & youth would be great. *Sustaining your tribal programs, determining when they should be revamped or move in a different direction and where to start, to be an effective program. *Sessions on why it is important for tribes to understand what is heading our way in reference to technology & how it will affect us as tribes. How we can manage data & how much tech we choose to allow into our community or programs. How is technology changing tribal culture, how a community is affected by technology, including language? Does it help a culture or change hundreds of years of teaching and sharing from generation to generation. *There are some tribes who have just one member that handles a variety of duties in their museum or cultural centers. They are the librarian, archivist, tour guide, etc. A session that will help that individual manage all the programs would be great. It is difficult to choose a session when they are held at the same time.
• Great selection of speakers who are actively involved within their communities. Please make sure to continue doing what you do. Topics: How to inspire and engage your community through your programs and information. I.e. Internet, newspaper, radio, presentations, hands on events and other multimedia communication tools.
• I don’t know if it relates but I feel the knowledge of what would have been a healthy diet pre-white contact. How food was gathered & prepared might be empowering to understand. To have balance in a community, nutrition plays a huge role in mind & body performance.
• More digital!!!!!!!
• Well done everyone! Susan Feller and Letitia Chambers were wonderful emissaries for this event.
• There were no sessions on NAGPRA. It’s important.
• The more relevant this conference can be to the issues we tribal institutions face as tribes the better. I think the conference sometimes strives to put a happy face on all of this work, when a VERY SUBSTANTIAL portion of our work is dedicated to overcoming challenges with tribal politics, lack of professional development opportunities for our people, and challenging funding environments that habituate us to an environment of always asking through grants, etc. There must be opportunities to bring more partners in to share costs, to develop good money-making and self-sufficiency strategies for museums and cultural centers, for fundraising in outside communities and showing support from small communities, for overcoming opposition from city museums, and providing more of those professional trainings and certificates that we can't get because they’re not offered near where we live and work and because we’re only funded to travel once a year, if that, for opportunities like conferences or trainings. Those are what I think would provide the most support to our community in this conference format.
• Library planning for individual tribal libraries and library networks
• Include sessions that continue to provide professional development, T.A., tribal artists involvement in the field; grappling with reconciliation and healing through the tribal museum/cultural center, which is what I thought the Love & Forgiveness workshop would cover
• Our focus is on Arctic people and cryospheric science. More science based sessions would be of interest. We plan to submit a session proposal for 2014.
• To showcase more cultural literacy programming from other tribal libraries to offer what works for tribal communities in the delivery of literacy.
• Help create an ongoing discussion. I try to hold on to what I hear and learn, and many times it gets lost in the shuffle upon return to my office. How can we change that? Just a little bit? Otherwise, you and anyone submitting proposals do a great job.
• Cleaning natural objects such as baskets, bowls, and other items made from wood or fibers.
• Need more Canadian content
• Native Science / citizen science initiatives • Sustainability / green museum initiatives
• How to work with a micro staff, and maximize time allotted for grant outcomes.
• I would be interested in having Rosetta stone or other language nests that are successful in teaching language to children. Types of software available on the market for museums and libraries and show examples. What types of traveling exhibitions are available for tribal museums. Also what about virtual tours of exhibits and other ways of using social media.
• New professionals networking event/mentoring
• Encourage reflective practice and quality improvement, think about career stages and career types in streams.
• I had a conversation with a friend who attended the conference and who, like me, teaches NA lit. We talked about proposing a panel that links librarians with NA literature--both poetry and fiction. Also please invite me to read my poetry at the conference--I have published four books.
• Educating participants on research and steps to explore collections in other countries.
• It would be nice to figure out additional ways to engage vendors / attendees
• I really enjoy the session layout and that some of the events are paired with the meals. This allows all the attendees to be present and thoroughly participate in the conference. Really enjoyed the presentations!
• One thing I would like to learn about is how those of us (libraries) in rural areas can provide, or learn how to provide the services of a library, museum, and archive all rolled into one. That is what I am facing in my library, and I would like to take that on, but do it in the right way.
• Tribes access to Collections from Smithsonian, libraries, etc. How can tribes get access for shared information, etc without huge budgets to expend using limited funds. Or network with other established collections for access. Just a thought.
• I would love to have another workshop from the Ak-Chin Library to see what they are up to since I took many ideas from them.
• Offer pre-conference tours as a repeat for post conference. I registered for sessions in pre-conference but would have liked to spend my Friday on tours.
• I would like to strongly encourage the organizers to have a day of the conference dedicated to indigenous people only and give priority to indigenous people to attend the conference. This may sound exclusive but there is a risk of the conference becoming dominated by non-native people.
• More hands on classes...offer kits on what supplies and tools to use in class...Amigos staff were great!!!