Developing Digital Stewardship Training: Reflections from a collaborative project to strengthen staff skills

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I would like to acknowledge I live and work on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People past and present and honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish Tribe.

Learn: https://www.duwamishtribe.org/

Photo by Andrew Bain, unsplash
The Washington State University Pullman campus is located on the homelands of the Nimíipuu (Nez Perce) Tribe and the Palus people. We acknowledge their presence here since time immemorial and recognize their continuing connection to the land, to the water, and to their ancestors.

Learn:
Agenda

• Tribal Digital Stewardship Cohort program
• Digital Stewardship Training project
• Adapting to on-demand
• TALMs + small public libraries
• Learnings
• Digital Collections Stewardship courses
TDSCP, CDSC origins

- Sustaining Indigenous Culture Report, ATALM 2012
- Knowledge River Program (University of Arizona)
- Circle of Learning Program (San Jose State University),
- Oregon Tribal Archives Institute (Oregon State University)
- Convening Great Lakes Culture Keepers Gatherings (University of Wisconsin, TALMs in the region).
TALM Digital Stewardship Needs

- Unique contexts
- Appropriate access

- Work time
- Hands-on training

Maureen Wacondo (Pueblo of Jemez) speaks with colleagues.
Katie Lee and Jason Wesaw (Pokagon Band of Potawatomi) watch videos on a smartphone.
Ashley Sexton (Catawba Nation) writes on a whiteboard.
Arlan Sando (Pueblo of Jemez) and Marilyn Decker (Inupiaq) encapsulate photographs.
TDSCP Responding and Learning

• Relationships, cohort
• Tailoring, feedback

• Respect contexts
• Appropriate access

Elizabeth James Perry (Aquinnah Wampanoag) and Lotus Norton-Wisla edit photos.

Codi Hooee and Lynn Bowannie discuss writing policies for the Pueblo of Zuni.

Michael Wynne teaches a section on audio digitization.

Jason Wesaw (Pokagon Band of Potawatomi), Angela McLaughlin (Karuk Tribe), and Elizabeth James Perry (Aquinnah Wampanoag) in discussion.
Digital Stewardship Lifecycles, Cultural Checks

• Creating custom lifecycles
  – Get It
  – Check It
  – Save It
  – Share It

• Cultural Checks

2016-2017 TDSCP participants with their Digital Stewardship Lifecycles.
Hula Preservation Society

Keau George begins her DSL draft on a whiteboard during the first training.

August 2019

May 2020
Keau George, Hula Preservation Society

https://vimeo.com/687275072
“What is known must be shared”

“WebJunction builds the knowledge, skills and confidence of library staff to power strong libraries that are the heart of vibrant communities”
Digital Stewardship Training Project

A series of free online courses based on the *Tribal Digital Stewardship Cohort Program*. The courses will be freely accessible to tribal archive, library, and museum staff and staff at public libraries through the *WebJunction* platform and the *Sustainable Heritage Network*. 
Needs of small public libraries

- Limited financial resources
- Limited staff
- Technical skills gap
- Isolated, lack of support
- Lack of confidence

https://www.jaquithpubliclibrary.org

Preserving yesterday, enriching today, inspiring tomorrow in our community.
https://www.benzonialibrary.org
Adapting the training

• Limits and strengths of on-demand
• Dual audiences
• Focus on planning and decision-making
• Practitioner voices
• Support learning groups
Learnings

• Working outside of western culture bubble
• Native American Tribes = distinct, individual nations and cultures
• Not ONE way of organizing knowledge
• Motivation – Why digital?
• Who are your collections representing?
• Who is allowed to tell their story?
• What questions are you asking yourself?
DCS course series

- Updated digital stewardship lifecycle model
- Planning, policies and decisions
- Workbook = action plan
- Engage at any stage
- Learning group facilitator guide

PREPARE

- Creating digital stewardship goals and getting buy-in from stakeholders.
- Aligning your goals with your Tribal or organizational mission, strategic plans, or goals.
- Identifying policy and documentation needs.
- Identifying staffing, funding, and resource needs.
- Creating project plans and determining what you’ll prioritize.
- Connecting with community members and building relationships.
Gratitude

Thank you to all those who have supported this work, including the Institute of Museum and Library Services; participants of the TDSCP 2015-2020; TDSCP advisory board; CDSC leadership and staff; WSU Native American Programs; our public library interviewees; the project team, especially Rebecca McGuire; and OCLC.
Questions?

https://sustainableheritagenetwork.org

oc.lc/digital-stewardship

Webinar: April 26, 12:00 PT
Digital Collections at Your Library: Community, Culture, and Connection