University of Washington Libraries
American Indians of the Pacific Northwest
Library of Congress/Ameritech National Digital Library Competition Grant Proposal

II.   EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Native Americans have played an important role in the history and culture of the Pacific Northwest, especially during the period 1763-1920. The American Indians of the Pacific Northwest project will focus on the Northwest Coast and Plateau cultural areas. It will allow students and researchers to have direct access to important source material related to American Indian cultures and enable them to develop new perspectives on the Northwest Coast and Plateau cultures.

The University of Washington Libraries, in collaboration with two historical societies, the Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Spokane, and the Museum of History and Industry, Seattle, will create a new resource for K-12 educators and students and other researchers to study the Northwest's Indian heritage. Drawing upon the rich resources of the three institutions, the Web-based collection will be created in consultation with Indians, educators, and historians. The collection will include 2,350 images and 225 pages of text, including 60 pages of essays created for this project.

This proposal addresses a desideratum in the National Digital Library and is a natural extension of the Denver Public Library's "History of The American West, 1860-1920" American Memory Project, which includes photographs documenting the lives of Plains, Mountains, and Southwest American Indians. It builds on the education programs of the two historical societies and the University's efforts to expand partnerships with K-12 schools and community colleges.

Existing item-level records will be used to provide intellectual access to the collection. Subject headings and name authorities will be verified and upgraded, as needed. The records will be converted to Dublin Core data elements, to promote cross-domain discovery.

To provide intellectual context, an essay will be written by a prominent Seattle middle school teacher and historian. The collection will be organized in ten study topics. Each topic will include both primary source material and related essays, articles, and bibliographies.

The items included in the collection will be digitized at the University of Washington, with the exception of about 150 Edward Curtis images, which will be digitized by a local vendor utilizing color transparencies.

Ongoing World Wide Web access for the general public will be provided by the University of Washington using CONTENT, a University-developed multi-media database management system. The digitized images and their metadata descriptions and indices will be mounted in collaboration with the UW's Department of Electrical Engineering's Center for Information Systems Optimization, the developer of the CONTENT software.

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IV.   NARRATIVE

A.   Collection

1.   Description

The American Indians of the Pacific Northwest project will create a new resource for K-12 educators and students, and other researchers, to study the cultures of Northwest Coast and Plateau Indians (see Appendix A). It will consist of photographs, published and unpublished materials, and essays written for the project. To form a more comprehensive collection, materials will be drawn from three repositories: the University of Washington Libraries (Seattle) Special Collections and Preservation and Manuscripts and University Archives Divisions (UW), the Eastern Washington State Historical Society in Spokane (EWSHS), and the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle (MOHAI). The University will provide photographs as well as published and unpublished materials. The two historical societies will provide photographs which complement the University's collections.

The collection will include 2,350 photographic images and 225 pages of text. UW will provide approximately 1,300 images from its collection, which emphasizes the Northwest Coast cultural area. EWSHS will contribute approximately 1,000 images, primarily from the Plateau region. MOHAI will provide about 50 images supplementing the University's holdings for the Northwest Coast. The University will provide an additional 165 pages of text selected from manuscripts, printed ephemera, and journal articles in its collections. Sixty pages of essays written for this project will also be included. (See Appendix B for examples of items to be scanned.)

Middle school teacher David Buerge, a well-known Seattle educator and historian, will write an essay to set the context for the collection of digitized materials. Mr. Buerge has written extensively on Native American themes. (See Appendix C for Mr. Buerge's resumé and examples of his writing.) Using this essay as a starting point, a student or researcher may select from a menu of ten study topics, search the entire collection, or view only the images from a particular institution.

The study topics will be structured in two ways. Five of the topics will provide the user with a contextual article or essay that pulls together photographs, complemented by manuscripts and other materials, to demonstrate how primary source materials can be used to study the topic. The remaining five study topics will not include the contextual essay or article, but will rather present a group of selected materials illustrating a particular theme. The selected materials will include photographs, and may contain manuscripts, ephemera, and related essays or articles. Students will then be able to take these materials and draw their own historical, anthropological, or cultural conclusions, based on what they are able to learn and observe from the materials in the collection, and from an additional list of selected readings that will be provided for further research. The larger overall collection of photographs will include images that do not tie directly to any of the study topics, but the inclusion of which will enrich the research value of the site.

2. Significance of the collection

    The University of Washington Libraries contains significant collections of materials relating to the American Indians of the Pacific Northwest. The collection of over 6,000 images is especially strong for the Northwest Coast cultural area extending from southwestern Oregon to southeastern Alaska. This strength was recognized in 1981 when the University Libraries received a Higher Education Act Title II-C grant to preserve, restore and enhance this extensive collection.

    This project included identifying Indian-related graphic material in many separate archival collections and producing copy negatives and copy prints of the relevant images. Item-level records were created for each image and a microfiche catalog of the resulting index and copy prints produced. Twenty-six sets of the Native American microfiche have been sold to libraries and museums throughout the United States and Canada in order to increase access to our collections. Hundreds of UW Native American images have been provided for use in books, periodicals, tribal archives, television, and museum exhibitions.

    This proposal builds on the work of the 1981-82 grant project with a goal of making a selection from this collection more widely available through the National Digital Library. Its scope will be expanded to include selected holdings from the Eastern Washington State Historical Society and the Museum of History and Industry.

    The Eastern Washington State Historical Society has an outstanding Plateau Indian collection which traces the lives of the Plateau peoples from contact to present. The collection is also culturally significant as it relates to the tribal people themselves. The Society heavily utilizes the tribal people in the identification of people and places represented in the photographic collections. The cooperative relationship with the tribes in working with the photographic collections has been a rewarding experience of cultural reciprocity. The Plateau cultural area extends from northwestern and central Oregon to southeastern British Columbia and from eastern Washington to western Montana. (See Appendix D for a letter regarding the collection from Joanna Cohan Scherer, Research Scientist, Handbook of North American Indians Project.)

    Web resources are allowing students and researchers new ways to access information they were formerly unable to see without visiting a particular library, museum, or research collection. (See Appendix F for the UW's Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest's Web site). The ability to view important source materials of all kinds has led to significant changes in the way students today view the traditional disciplines of history, anthropology, and the study of American culture. As Patricia Nelson Limerick notes in *Trails; Toward a New Western History*, "History thus can never be static, set down once and for all." Through use of this collection, students and researchers will be able to use primary source materials to discover new perspectives on Northwest Coast and Plateau American Indians.

    The study of the nation's past has always been based on the examination of primary sources -- materials produced contemporary to the time the event happened. Now, as students/researchers move away from the traditional

view of history solely from the white male perspective, and begin to examine the importance of the role of ethnic minorities and of women in cultural change, primary source materials about these communities acquire additional significance. The American Indians of the Pacific Northwest collection will offer users a way to access unique information.

This site will also allow K-12 students to focus on ten specific study topics, while providing access to primary resources for scholarly use. The ten study topics may include Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce, Makah fishing and whaling, the American Indian experience at boarding schools, Indians of Puget Sound, Edward S. Curtis as a photographer of American Indians, totem poles and their significance as symbol and art, Chief Seattle and his famous speech, images of Native Americans in explorers' journals, the impact of the reservation system on indigenous peoples, and the importance of salmon as a changing element in Northwest Indian life. Collections of images will illustrate each of these topics and serve as a beginning point for researchers. Examples of study topics are found in Appendix E. These sites will reflect what Limerick notes are the "enduring yet dynamic Native American cultures."

a. Consultations

Special Collections staff has consulted informally regarding the proposal with faculty in the University of Washington's American Indian Studies Center and the History Department's Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest. If we receive the grant we expect to do additional consultation with faculty and with K-12 educators.

b. Selection criteria

An image's contribution to the historical record and the usefulness of the image to K-12 teachers and students will be the most important attributes for selection. Photographs of poor image quality will not be included since it will be important to select images that will produce good digital reproductions. Images that are repetitive or are near-duplicates will not be used, unless the variations suggest an approach to an historical problem (e.g., images derived from the one known photograph of Chief Seattle). Photographs taken after 1920 will not be included. Supplementary material will be selected to complement the photographs.

The initial selection will be made by the photograph curators of the three participating institutions (see Appendix C). The selection will be reviewed by the educator/historian who will write the introductory essay, and by Native Americans and scholars (see IV.A.6). We will consult with K-12 educators about the topics chosen for the study topics, and the presentation of the material to achieve sites of interest to students.

3. Audience and users

The project collection from the University of Washington Libraries presently exists as an indexed set of more than 4,200 images on microfiche. Access is provided on site as well as through use of the microfiche. The collection is known to researchers in publishing, video production, and other media; hired

researchers and telephone inquiries often form the basis of their use of the materials. K-12 students have used the collection for History Day projects. Native Americans, e.g., students from the Tulalip Indian School in Marysville, Washington, have utilized it to gather materials relating to their heritage.

Project materials at the Eastern Washington State Historical Society are in the form of archivally-arranged photographic prints and negatives. The images are available to researchers who can arrange a visit to the site, and the collection is represented in published works. Images at the Museum of History and Industry are available only to on-site researchers by appointment, although some have been featured in published works.

Both the historical societies participating in this project have active education programs. (See, e.g., MOHAI's Learning Lab Web page, Appendix F). At the University of Washington, efforts to expand partnerships with the K-12 schools and the community colleges is a University priority. As UW President McCormick said in his third annual address to the University Community of October 7, 1997, "All of us here have a stake in enriching the resources and raising the level of achievement in the state's public schools." A major new University initiative is the K-12 Institute (see Appendix F).

Conversion of the collection of photographs, unpublished, and published materials into electronic format will make these materials much more widely available. The digital collection will create opportunities for K-12 teachers and students nationwide to utilize materials that currently are unavailable to them. Scholars, American Indians, and other researchers will be able to use the collection without on-site visits.

4. Relationship to American Memory, other digitized collections, and subject emphases for the competition

    This proposal addresses a desideratum in the National Digital Library. It is a natural extension of the Denver Public Library's "History of the American West, 1860-1920" American Memory project, which includes photographs documenting the lives of Plains, Mountain, and Southwest American Indians. That site and this one for Northwest Indians will help to clarify the ambivalent views of Indians in American popular culture. Web sites providing access to images of American Indians are slowly becoming available. The National Archives site includes some relevant images; Northern Arizona University has a few images of Southwest American Indians on its site and clearly intends to add more. A number of tribal groups are maintaining Web sites, but they include little in the way of historical images (e.g., the Nez Perce and the Makah). An interesting Web site that does discuss early Northwest American Indian/Euro-American contact is Bruce Hallman's "A History of the Northwest Coast." The study topic approach proposed for this project will take Hallman's use of original source materials one step further by showing students how to use such materials to study cultural heritage. (See Appendix F for URLs.)

5. Preparation and preservation of collection

    The materials to be scanned are generally in good condition. Most UW and MOHAI photographs, unpublished materials, and published ephemera can be scanned on a flatbed scanner without damage. Surrogates (slides or

transparencies) will be necessary for a few vintage photographic prints if the mounting boards are warped, and for images in rare explorer journals. For the Eastern Washington State Historical Society, collection images will be supplied in slide format and scanned at the UW. The slides produced for the project will be stored under archival conditions in UW's Special Collections and at EWSHS.

6. Ownership, privacy and copyright issues

Materials selected for this project will be out of copyright and owned by the three institutions, or in the case of the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, copyright is owned by the UW. The major rights issue will relate to the use of Native American images in a digital environment. This includes possible privacy questions, the depiction of sacred objects, etc. The Eastern Washington State Historical Society has already established an American Indian Advisory Committee to address these issues. The UW Libraries will work with the University of Washington's American Indian Studies Center to establish a review board, comprising Native Americans and scholars in the field, to review UW and MOHAI images selected for the project. Appropriate credit will be given for each image.

B. Intellectual Access

1. Structure of Intellectual Access

The American Indians of the Pacific Northwest project will be an artificially created digital collection. Each participating institution will select subject-appropriate images from its various archival collections.

Each individual image has a bibliographic record associated with it. The amount of information available about each image varies, but includes at least a title (often devised by the curator), the name of the photographer (if available), the date the photograph was taken (if available), subject headings, and the names of the collections to which the photograph belongs. The record may also include a fuller description of the photograph, and/or provide some additional significant information. In the CONTENT database (see IV.D.1) these elements will be labeled using terms that are meaningful to the user and appropriate to the format (e.g., photographer), but the corresponding internal labels will follow the Dublin Core terminology to allow for consistent indexing and discovery across databases.

The Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest collection at the University of Washington is currently served by a microfiche finding aid that consists of images of cards arranged by photographer and by subject headings. Each card includes the full citation to the image. The hand-written worksheets for each image are still available and include additional administrative information. Because the worksheets are still available, it is possible to simply re-label the fields to reflect the Dublin Core element names, making it possible to input the information directly into the CONTENT database using the Dublin Core labels. Additional extended Dublin-Core fields will be used to input the administrative data. These fields will not be visible to the public, but will be available to Libraries staff through the Acquisitions module of the CONTENT product.

Access to the collections at the Eastern Washington State Historical Society is currently provided by a paper file of annotated copies of the images, filed by subject string. Access to the collections at the Museum of History and Industry is currently provided by item-level USMARC records. The records from both these institutions will also be converted to Dublin Core as they are input into the CONTENT database.

Each record will have subject headings associated with it. Currently subject access to the University of Washington collection is provided by LCSH terminology from the early 1980s. Subject access to the Eastern Washington State Historical Society collection is provided by terminology based on LCSH but greatly modified in consultation with tribal users. The Museum of History and Industry is currently using headings from the LC Thesaurus for Graphic Materials (TGM), supplemented as needed by LCSH headings. At the time of inputting, all headings will be edited to reflect the current edition of the TGM. LCSH headings may be used as supplemental headings in those cases where TGM headings are not adequate.

Description will be at the item level, with each record linked to a single image. For examples of records, see Appendix G.

2. Links from access aids to digital reproductions

Individual reproductions will be linked to the Dublin Core metadata record at the point of scanning. An internal pointer will be created in the Resource Identifier field of the textual record which points to the separately stored image. Dublin Core elements will be encoded using an XML variant. For portability and extensibility, unique identifiers to reproductions will be provided outside the CONTENT system (to webcrawlers, robots, and in this case, to LC in batch mode) in URL form using standard HTML.

3. Intellectual context

In the popular mind, American Indians in the Pacific Northwest are associated with such things as images of totem poles, Chief Seattle's speech, the flight of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce, and the images of Seattle photographer Edward Curtis. To provide a context for the collection, an essay will be written by historian and educator David Buerge. For Mr. Buerge's resumé and examples of his writing, see Appendix C.

Additional essays will be commissioned on five of the study topics, including one by Lynn A. Pankonin, Curator of Collections, EWSHS (see Appendix C). Supplementary material in the study topics may include published articles, primarily from the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, published by the University of Washington. In addition, brief bibliographies will be included for some topics to provide additional reference sources for K-12 researchers.

4. Access through bibliographic utility

The University of Washington Libraries is a member of OCLC and regularly contributes records for electronic resources. When this digital collection is available online, a collection-level USMARC record following AACR2

standards for digital resources will be contributed to OCLC. Subject headings for this record will be from LCSH.

5. Staff for intellectual access

    A Library Specialist I with a working knowledge of photography, subject analysis, and name authorities will be employed to edit and enhance subject headings, names, and photographic terminology. A student will be hired to input records into the CONTENT database. They will have work stations in Special Collections and be supervised by Anke Gray, the University's Special Collections Cataloger. Ms. Gray has 10 years of AACR2 cataloging experience, serving as the Libraries' expert in the cataloging of graphic, cartographic, and archival materials. (See Appendix C for Ms. Gray's resumé.)

C. Digital Conversion Methodology

1. Production process

    Scanning will be done in-house for most UW Libraries' images and for those supplied by the Museum of History and Industry. About 10% of the UW images will be digitized from photographic prints or transparencies that represent copies of engravings, gravure prints, or other graphic processes used in published works. Slides will be made of the Eastern Washington State Historical Society's images to use in scanning.

    Slides and transparencies (see IV.C.3) for UW images will be made in the University's Classroom Support Services (CSS) Photography Studio. This studio has been used for many years to produce high-quality photographic work for use in publishing, grant projects, research and teaching. The EWSHS slides will be made in a professional photography studio in Spokane and sent to UW for scanning. Except for transparencies, all materials will be scanned in the UW Libraries.

    For UW and MOHAI photographs, UW's Photographs and Graphics Librarian will check each image scan against the original to verify that the color and resolution are accurate and the reproduction is uniform. Images will be rescanned as necessary. For slides, the Photographs and Graphics Librarian and the Curator of Special Collections at EWSHS will check slide quality against the original. Database records will be proofread after input to insure accuracy. (As part of the work plan, subject headings and name authorities will be verified to ensure accuracy and consistency.)

2. Format

	Thumbnail	Reference	Archival
Tonal Depth	24 bits	24 bits	24 bits
Format	GIF	JPEG	TIFF
Compression	(LZW) Native to GIF	Native to JPEG	Uncompressed
Spatial Resolution	160 x 120	768 x 512	3000 x 2000 *

    * Text and book illustrations will be scanned at a lower resolution.

3. Outside vendors

In order to maintain high-quality reproduction and archival options, the E.S. Curtis gravures will be digitized from 4x5 color transparencies, using a drum scanner. The work will be done by Ivey-Seright, a respected firm in the field; quality control will be through the UW Center for Educational Resources, which is experienced with this format and vendor.

4. In-house production

Digital conversion will be performed in-house. Special Collections and Preservation currently uses a Hewlett-Packard ScanJet 4p for scanning for our online exhibits and other scanning projects. Several online exhibits are available on the Special Collections home page (see Appendix F). Special Collections worked with the University's Department of Electrical Engineering's Center for Information Systems Optimization (CISO) to test CISO's imaging software, CONTENT. As part of this project, over 1,700 images from the Asahel Curtis collection were scanned in-house.

The Special Collections scanning projects have employed only reference and thumbnail scans. Since we cannot get archival quality scans with the ScanJet scanner, the Libraries plans to buy a higher quality flatbed scanner and a slide scanner. The new scanners will be selected in consultation with CISO staff. University students with experience in photography and/or scanning will be hired to do the scanning. Scanning guidelines will be established for scanning staff and settings will be recorded for each scan.

D. Provision for Delivery and Network Access

1. World Wide Web access

Ongoing World Wide Web access for the general public to the digital reproductions will be provided by the University of Washington. Using CONTENT (see Appendix F), a UW-developed multi-media database management system, digital reproductions are stored separately from their metadata descriptions and from their indices.

For each item in the collection, a pointer links the metadata description record to the reproduction. Separately stored and pre-generated are the metadata index and the GIF thumbnail image. On the local system, client calls via any one of several APIs to the server result in fetching the reproduction in JPEG format. For LC, the index will be reformatted in standard HTML and transferred using the file transfer protocol over the Internet, along with the metadata repository and thumbnails, to LC.

The JPEG renditions will remain on the local server. (An archival TIFF copy will reside online, using RAID.) The LC's InQuery search engine will search the LC-held index and metadata set. The metadata follows the Dublin Core emerging standard (see Appendix F). The Resource Identifier field will point to a University-based URL for the full image.

The University has maintained a high-performance, high-capacity public Web service since 1993. The University Libraries maintains several Windows NT servers, supplying library resources to its over 52,000 students, faculty, and staff, and the Pacific Northwest region. The UW Digital Library Project is a collaboration among University Libraries, Computing & Communications, and various colleges and schools. Notably, the CONTENT software was developed by the UW Department of Electrical Engineering's Center for Information Systems Optimization, and the Special Collections and Preservation Division of the University Libraries served as early adopters, collaborators and testers of the multi-media system. Two of Special Collections' photographic collections have already been digitized and will be managed using CONTENT -- the over 24,000-image Sayre Theatrical Collection and the over 1,700 image Asahel Curtis Collection. The American Indians of the Pacific Northwest Collection will also reside locally on the CONTENT server.

2.   Preservation and maintenance of files

The approximately 2,500 images will be scanned at high resolution and stored online in uncompressed TIFF format on RAID for archival purposes. There will be a yearly refreshing of this media. When digital video disc (DVD) capabilities are affordable, the uncompressed data will be copied to DVD (approx. 8 GB/disc) and possibly stored online. At the same time, the partnering sites will receive copies of their contributed images, in uncompressed TIFF format, on appropriately sized magnetic media. For the MOHAI (small) collection (approx. 1.4 GB), the transfer can be made reliably across the Internet. For the larger EWSHS collection (approx. 18.5 GB), we will transfer the data via 8mm DAT tape. The University of Washington Libraries currently has the staff necessary to accomplish these archiving and distribution tasks.

E.   Plan of work

Starting date July 1, 1998. Project Director will be Gary Menges, Head, Special Collections and Preservation Division. Technical advice will be provided by Geri Bunker, UW Digital Library Coordinator. (See Appendix C for their resumés.)

July 1 - December 31, 1998.

1.   Make final selection of study topics and contract with David Buerge to write contextual essay and other consultants to write study topic essays. Essays to be completed by December 31, 1998.

2.   Establish review panel for UW/MOHAI photographs.

3.   Make selection of images and supplementary materials to be included in the project. This will be done by Special Collections and Manuscripts staff in consultation with Museum of History and Industry and Eastern Washington State Historical Society staff, in consultation with educators. To be completed by December 31, 1998. (See Appendix C for staff resumés.)

4.   The UW and EWSHS Indian panels review the selections. Final selection will incorporate the input of these panels, to be completed by December 31, 1998.

5.   Contract with UW's Classroom Support Services to make slides and transparencies of fragile images and images from UW rare books. EWSHS contracts for slides from a Spokane vendor. Photographic work to be completed by December 31, 1998.

6.   Purchase higher quality scanners. Libraries funding will used.

7.   Contract with Ivey-Seright for transparency scanning.

8.   Hire graduate students with experience in scanning and/or photography to scan photographic prints and documents and begin scanning. Quality control by Photographs and Graphics Librarian. Grant funding will support this staffing.

9.   Hire Library Specialist I to edit subject headings and name authorities and library school student to input records and begin work. Special Collections Cataloger will supervise (see also IV.B.5) Inputting will be done in Special Collections using library-owned computer. Grant funding will support this staffing.

January 1 - June 30, 1999

1.   Complete scanning.

2.   Complete verification of subject headings and name authorities, and inputting of the records.

3.   Link cataloging and digital reproductions. Done by UW Library Systems/Digital Library staff.

4.   Prepare additional material regarding use of the collection, e.g. how to order a photographic print. Prepared by Special Collections staff.