



NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Sample Application NAE-259229-OLS-25

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

Amount awarded by IMLS: \$145,461

The Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin will continue to develop a comprehensive collection of resources and help future storytellers tell their stories. Project funds will support additional resources for the library collection and ensure new collections of books at nine schools and centers throughout the area. Community programming will feature traditional storytelling events along with other presentations by local writers and artists. The project will enhance a community workstation with the necessary tools for digitizing films, documents, and photographs, and the community will receive associated training on this equipment. A genealogy group will take field trips to area history centers, and project funds will also support local history writing and genealogy workshops.

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Tribal Profile
- Narrative
- Schedule of completion

When preparing an application for the next deadline, be sure to follow the instructions in the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity for the grant program to which you are applying.

Organizational Profile

Our Mission

We, the Anishinabeg, the people of Odaawaa-Zaaga'iganiing, The Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe, will sustain our heritage, preserving our past, strengthening our present, and embracing our future. We defend our inherent sovereign rights and safeguard Mother Earth. We will provide for the educational, health, social welfare, and economic stability of the present and future generations.

Library Mission

The mission of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Community Library is to provide quality materials and services to fulfill the educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the community while supporting LCO University mission with its emphasis on advancing the language, culture, and history of the Ojibwe.

The Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians is a federally recognized tribe governed under an Indian Reorganization Act constitution that was adopted in 1966. It was organized to conserve tribal property, develop human and natural resources, to enjoy the right of self-government, and to provide the general quality of life for all its members. The reservation is in Northwest Wisconsin in Sawyer County. About 2700 of the 7500 enrolled members reside within the boundaries of the 76,465-acre reservation. It is a woodland community composed of 14,000 acres of lakes and wetlands. Traditionally the people were semi-nomadic traveling for seasonal activities that included (and still include) wild ricing, maple sugar harvesting, hunting, and fishing. Today the community features excellent educational opportunities that include Head Start, Early Head Start, a K-12 School system, Waadookodaading Immersion School, and the LCO Ojibwe University. The tribe is the largest employer in Sawyer County.

The LCO Ojibwe University Community Library was established in 1990 and serves as both an academic and public library. It is a member of the Northern Waters Library Network Consortium which is the shared catalog of 30 member libraries. It is housed in a 9600 square foot facility that was built in 2007. The beautiful library features locally created artwork, traditional colors and floral design, and a stylized wigwam with a fireplace. The library collection consists of 33,088 books, 1231 audio and 3300 video recordings. It features an exceptional Native collection with books, periodicals, microfilms, recordings, historical records and community newspapers that have been digitized and are now available on the library website (www.lco.edu/library1). It provides an annual summer library program for children in grades 1-5 and through the years it has offered several local history programs and events. It also serves as a community archive.

The missions of the LCO Tribe and the library both stress the need to preserve the rich cultural heritage of the people.

Narrative

The Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Ojibwe University Community Library Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant will incorporate the IMLS Agency-Level Goal 1: To champion life-long learning; Objective 1.1. Advance shared knowledge and learning opportunities for all. This project will address NAE Objective 1: Serve the learning needs and interests of the community.

Project Justification

Current Need, Challenge, or Opportunity

This project begins with the idea that everyone has a story. Storytelling has always been a strong component of life in the Lac Courte Oreilles community. Traditional sacred stories are told when there is snow on the ground and groups gather to tell their tales and enjoy the comradeship of the community. A former instructor at the LCO University described the three primary type of stories best known to the community that include: **Aadizookaanag** origin stories tell how the world, people and animals came to be and those that depict the spiritual, ethical, and moral values of the Ojibway. These are told in the winter when some animals and spirits are asleep or hibernating and will not be offended with the telling of these stories. The **DibaaJimowin** are stories, tales, narratives, and accounts that are not sacred while the **Agindaasowin** are teachings about appropriate behavior and are guides for living in a proper—or traditional-way.

This proposal will incorporate the three types of stories but expand to show that everyone has a story which could be in a variety of formats including books, music, art, films, oral histories, audio tapes, poetry, local history, genealogy, photographs, periodical articles, dissertations, and orations. There is tremendous talent in the community and much of it goes unnoticed. (A *Worldcat* search lists pages of a variety of titles that are unknown to the library.) It is proposed that these creators and their works be identified and credited for their contributions. In addition, small presses and groups are continually developing new resources. The primary focus of this project will be the work of community members, but there will be exceptions to this plan as a number of partners outside the community have provided excellent resources ranging from Elder portraits to biographies (e.g. *Just too Much of an Indian* by Thomas Vennum). In addition, exceptional new children's books—many bilingual or entirely in Ojibwe—are being developed by Ojibwe authors in Minnesota and Michigan. Some of these titles will be incorporated into this project as there is a real need for more language items for children and there are only a limited number available through local creators. The library has worked on several digitization projects that included the historical newspapers and other documents which has helped to locate unknown resources but there are many more to be found.

Library visits have slowly increased since the Covid shutdown, but circulation and visits are still low. It is hoped that the programming and improved local collections provided through this project will encourage more visits to the library and use of its resources.

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

The American Indian Studies in Wisconsin (Act 31) requires that all teachers and students in Wisconsin receive instruction on the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of the American Indian nations and tribal communities in Wisconsin. The population of the four schools in the Hayward Public School system is 25% Native but the libraries have few resources that pertain to Lac Courte Oreilles. The story of the LCO Tribe could be better incorporated into the curriculum with the help of new materials.

The library has received strong acknowledgement for its history collections and digitization projects. Several in-house video productions have been edited and converted to a digital format. This knowledge of what the library is accomplishing has encouraged community members to ask for help in editing their old tapes and current productions as they do not have necessary equipment or skills. Reel-to-reel tapes and 8 mm films are also brought to the library for conversion help but the library staff does not have the capability to work on them. It is felt that their resources are very important to the owners and hopefully also to the library for its local history collection. Currently the library does have a necessary computer but needs to incorporate additional equipment and software for a public use station. Training opportunities will prove a real asset for encouraging the use of it.

Primary Audience

The target groups of this project will include members of the LCO community and anyone else who is interested in the activities that will be generated. All workshops, events and equipment will be open to everyone including LCO University students, community members, and visitors from surrounding areas. The Kinnamon School Museum, Hayward School libraries; LCO K-12 system; Head Start, Waadookodaading Immersion school and Hayward Public Library will receive kits of select materials pertaining to LCO for their collections.

Project Work Plan

The projected outcome of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Enhancement Grant will be more extensive LCO collections and access to a variety materials, programs, and training that will contribute to the telling of the story of the LCO community. Two goals have been designated to help achieve this outcome:

Goal 1: Continue to develop and share a comprehensive collection of LCO resources.

Goal 2: Provide the means for future storytellers to tell their story

The following codes will be utilized to designate responsibilities for the proposed work plan: **LD** Library Director; **ALA** Archives/Library Assistant; **KD** Kinnamon Director; **IN** student intern(s)..

Goals, Objectives, and Activities

Goal 1. Develop and share a comprehensive list of LCO resources.

Objective 1: Identify current items in LCO collection and additional resources for acquisition.

Library staff will inventory current collection and develop a list of potential acquisitions utilizing community input, review sources, catalogs, expert input, and the identification of new items that are now being produced by small presses and organizations. There are numerous compilations that contain contributions from this community such as poetry anthologies. New materials will be acquired and cataloged in the shared library system and introduced through displays and promotional fliers. (September 2025) ongoing It will be important to add a note field in the cataloging process to show tribal affiliation. An annotated biographical bibliography will be developed. (April 2027) **LD, ALA -**

Objective 2: LCO materials will be shared with area schools and centers.

Librarians and teachers will be invited to open houses to view LCO collections. They will receive a checklist to use for selecting materials appropriate for their collections. The library staff will develop kits for each center with selected titles, reviews, cataloging records, and other information. **LD, ALA** (April 2026)

Objective 3: Provide programming that will introduce resources.

The library staff will work with partners for help in the development of a programming schedule. Programs will include traditional storytelling that will incorporate storytelling etiquette. Local writers, poets, historians, journalists, and artists will be given the opportunity to share their stories. The programs will be taped and available in the library on its two touchscreen kiosks. **LD, ALA, KD, LCO University staff members.** October 2025-ongoing

Goal 2: Provide the means for future storytellers

Objective 1: Necessary tools will be provided to encourage storytellers.

The library currently has a community computer station that is set up to offer a digital microfilm reader, scanner, and the *PastPerfect* photograph database for community use. This project will expand upon the existing offerings with additional equipment and software for the creation of a training workstation that will be available for research, scanning, converting and/or editing of community tapes and productions. Reel-to-reel tapes and 8 mm films will be sent out to a vendor who specializes in conversions. October 2025. **ALA.** One-to-one and small group training will be offered for scanning and editing. In addition, workshops will feature digitization and photographic activities. Regular hours for special one-on-one training will be posted to ensure staff availability. **ALA** October 2025-Ongoing

Objective 2: Writing and genealogy training will be offered.

Daylong workshops will be offered that will guide attendees in the development of family/local histories. **LD, KD, Presenters** November 2025, November 2026. The “Every Family has a Story” program will regroup and expand. October 2025 Ongoing. The group will gather to discuss genealogical issues, be trained on the databases, and take field trips to history centers. They will be encouraged to create family histories either as poster sessions or in written format. **KD, LD, Trainers** October 2025-Ongoing

Participating Staff

The library director will plan, implement and oversee the project. She has worked in the library since 1991 and has been responsible for several IMLS projects. She will dedicate 20% of her time to the grant activities that will include managing the budget, purchasing grant funded resources, creating publications, and reporting obligations. The library/archives assistant has recently completed a major scanning project of the LCO historical newspapers and has provided access to the papers on the library website (www.lco.edu/library). He developed all aspects of the project and created a historical booklet pertaining to the publications. He will provide in-house training components of this project and will dedicate 75% of his time to it and be funded through IMLS. The remaining 25% of his work schedule will be dedicated to other library functions and will be funded through the general library budget. The Kinnamon School Museum Director will assist in programming and work with the genealogy group. Student intern(s) will be hired through the LCO University Work-Basing Learning Program to help with general procedures.

Stakeholders

The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Library Board is consulted throughout all major library projects. Activities are discussed with this group on an ongoing basis. Four members of the board are genealogy group participants. The school librarians and center staff members will be included in the selection process and the director of the Kinnamon Museum will also be consulted on an ongoing basis.

Existing Resources

The library does have an informal partnership with the director of the Kinnamon Museum and this collaboration will continue throughout this project. There is wide range of writers, artists, local historians, and storytellers in the LCO community, and they will be called upon to present at the programs. Staff of the LCO University will also be incorporated into events whenever possible. They would include members of the Native American Studies and the LCO Extension Departments. Area school and public librarians will assist in the book selection process and provide feedback on the titles they receive.

The current library facility was opened in 2007 and contains two meeting rooms, a stylized wigwam gathering area with a fireplace along with a genealogy center with a *PastPerfect* database of community photographs, and a digital microfilm reader for the library collection of

LCO microfilms. It also has the appropriate recording resources for taping events. The library adjoins the cultural center which features a large rotunda for gatherings. The new computer that is currently used with the digital scanner will be utilized for the community editing station. It will be necessary to add Adobe Premier and photo editing software, a color ink tank printer and a large flatbed scanner to the workstation.

Sharing Work

Reports will be provided monthly to the library board and discussions will be reflected in the meeting minutes. Press releases and fliers will promote gatherings, and in-house exhibits will show new resources. The biographical bibliography will be printed and distributed.

Project Results

Intended Results

Skills, Knowledge, and Capabilities

- Community members will develop digitization skills to utilize for their special projects.
- The project will be of benefit for Act 31 endeavors as the LCO materials will offer a strong local component to be added to the curriculum.
- Standard outcomes will result as participants acquire new skills and knowledge.
- Participants will be introduced to a wide range of community resources that will encourage them to become life-long learners as they find and integrate necessary resources.
- Archives/Library Assistant will learn to delegate and train student interns.
- Collections will become more complete as new resources are identified.
- Genealogists will find rich resources to enable them to do their research as they learn new skills.
- School libraries and centers will provide more resources to meet the needs of all their students and staff.

Attitudes and Behavior

- Community members will find more reasons to visit the library.
- Student interns will possibly be inspired to pursue a career in the library profession.
- A sense of belonging and accomplishment will encourage community members to share their knowledge.
- Members of "Every Family has a Story" will feel that their personal recollections are of value.
- Role Models and their accomplishments will encourage a sense of pride in the community.

Project Success

Success of this project will be identified through the accomplishment of all designated goals and objectives. The Schedule of Completion will show that the library is right on course with the activities. The growth in the collection will be seen through purchase orders, invoices, catalog entries, lists of new items, increased circulation, and displays throughout the library. Holds for the new materials from system libraries will be noted and the borrowing libraries will make note of the new items and possibly add them to their own library collections. The school librarians will be asked to evaluate the process and comment on the new titles and their usage. The program attendance lists with repeat attendees will show success and participants will be asked to briefly state what they are coming away with and what they would like for the future. Training opportunity lists and usage of the scanning/editing workstation will be noted. It is hoped that participants will share their resources for the archives/library collections which will improve the LCO collection.

Dissemination of Results

Yearly reports to IMLs and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will be generated. Online Library gatherings with the Northern Waters Library Service and the Tribal Library Directors (Wisconsin) will provide the opportunity to share information with fellow librarians. The published biographical bibliography will be printed locally and made available to everyone.

Sustaining Benefits

The outcomes of this project are designed to be sustainable as the resources and services will be in place and made available on a long-term basis. Gaps in the local collections will be filled and the staff will have learned to be on the look-out for additional materials as they appear. The school libraries and centers will feature improved collections and will turn to the LCO Library for help in future collection development. The digitization set-up and necessary staff and community skills will be in place for future use.

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Schedule of Completion Year 1 September 1, 2025-August 31, 2026

Goals/Objectives/Activities

Goa1 1: Collections

Objective 1--Current Collections

Inventory current collections

Identify new resources

Acquire new reources

Make Collections Accessible

Objective 2: Share with Schools & Centers

Open House-exhibit resources

Checklist for libraries/centers

Purchase and distribute materials

Objective 3: Programming

Traditional storytelling

"Storytellers" share their creations

Tape and edit programs

Share tapes

Goal 2: Future storytellers

Select necessary tools for work staton

Purchase necessary tools/set up station

Post one-to-one training opportunities

Day long workshops-film, photo editing

Objective 2:Writing/genealogy programs

Regroup of Every Family has a Story

Genealogy one-on-one training

Writing local history workshops

Genealogy workshop

Field Trip

Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
X	X										
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Schedule of Completion Year 2: September 1, 2026-August 31, 2027

Goals/Objectives/Activities

Goa1 1: Collections

Objective 1--Current Collections

Identify new resources

Acquire new reources

Make new collectons accessible

Develop biographic bibliography

Publish and share bibliography

Objective 3: Programming

Traditional storytelling

"Storytellers" share their creations

Tape and edit programs

Share tapes

Goal 2: Future storytellers

Post one-to-one training opportunities

Day long workshops-film, photo editing

Objective 2:Writing/genealogy programs

Every Family has a Story

Genealogy one-on-one training

Workshops

Field trips

Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
		X				X	X			X	
		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
				X	X	X					
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				X							
	X				X		X		X		
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X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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