



NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Sample Application NAE-260911-OLS-26

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

Amount awarded by IMLS: \$129,939

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians will enhance the Turtle Mountain College Library's ability to preserve the tribe's cultural knowledge by digitizing their audio and video collections, a need identified through community feedback and library assessments. Grant funds will support the transcription of approximately 500 existing recorded interviews capturing valuable stories, language, and historical knowledge shared by elders and community members. The project will also support the collection of new oral histories from elders and other community members. An archivist will organize, preserve, and prepare collected materials for long-term digital preservation and access. A key goal of the project is increasing the number of digitized materials added to the accessible collection via the website and appropriate open source, for example, Murkutu. As a result, the library hopes to see increased usage and satisfaction with the quality of the experience and digital resources, directly benefiting the Turtle Mountain Tribal citizens in the geographically remote area of Rolette County in northern North Dakota.

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Tribal profile
- Proposal 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.



TURTLE MOUNTAIN TRIBAL PROFILE (1 page)

The Turtle Mountain (TM) Band of Chippewa Indians is an eligible Federally-recognized Tribe and has appointed the Turtle Mountain College (TMC), specifically the Library department, as the lead for the Institute of Museum and Library Services Native American Library Services Enhancement Project.

- *A brief history of Tribal governance, focusing on the department carrying out the work.*

The TM Tribe, led by the Tribal Council and Tribal Chairman, is organized according to a Constitution, Bylaws, and codes for operation. The Council and Chairman meet weekly to monitor all programmatic and governmental activities. TMC, chartered by the Tribe in 1972 as one of the original tribal colleges, offers general studies, undergraduate education, career and technical education, scholarly research, and continuous improvement of student learning. TMC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (§316(b) Higher Education Act of 1965), is a 1994 Land Grant college, a charter member of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), and member of the ND Association of Tribal Colleges. TMC has articulation agreements with the North Dakota University System and shares common course numbering with North Dakota colleges and universities.

The TMC Library is the only public library serving the TM Reservation. The Tribal Council designated the Library as the official library of the TM Tribe in 1998. It serves as a public library for the Tribe/tribal members and as a college library. The Library's holdings include a substantial number of TM Tribal historical documents and publications that support both community and college access and activities in relation to TM cultural and social heritage and tribal leadership. The mission of the Library, as well as that of TMC, is to provide direct community service to the Turtle Mountain Tribe along with providing comprehensive higher education services. Current staff includes a Library Director, Library Technician, and Library assistant. The Library currently has 4,766 registered patrons. The Library has 24,680 items including books, DVD's, audiobooks, cassettes, etc. The Library has 4,630 materials in the Native American Section. In addition, the Library has access to the Online Dakota Information Network (ODIN) that accesses the catalogs of major libraries in North Dakota, and through other networks, libraries nationwide. The library has several on-line resources for patron use such as Credo Literati and EBSCO Search Premier. The library facility includes 3 tutoring rooms, 29 desktop computers with free printing capabilities.

The Library, through Enhancement Grants in 2017 and 2021, successfully trained staff and digitized 100 interviews with elders. In partnership with KEYA tribal radio station, additional archival materials were digitized, including elder interviews in the tribal language, further expanding community access to culturally significant audio recordings. These efforts have strengthened digital preservation practices, increased accessibility of tribal knowledge, and supported ongoing cultural revitalization within the community. Despite this initial start, the Tribe is keenly aware of how great the remaining need is to preserve and properly archive the voices of the elders before they pass.

- *Your setting (e.g., communities/audiences served, including size, demographics, and geographic area).*

The TMC Library serves the TM Reservation, tribal members, and Rolette County in northern North Dakota in the wooded Turtle Mountains, only ten miles from Canada.

As part of devastating home land loss, the TM people were forced into a small six-by-twelve-mile land base that today is one of the most densely populated reservations with 100 people per square mile. The reservation is extremely geographically isolated (nearest urban community is 120 miles away). The Tribe has a rising population with an enrollment of 30,995 according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Rolette County has 78.1% American Indians (US Census 2020) compared to 5.4% of ND. The College's 94.97% Native student body of nearly 900 students' hails from 14 Tribal Nations with the majority being TM.



INTENSE POVERTY: The TM Reservation is one of the poorest places in the entire US (US Census 2020). The US Department of Agriculture identifies it as a persistent poverty area with > 20% of residents in poverty in 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020. Named a federal Promise/ Opportunity Zone, the Socioeconomic Mapping and Resource Topography (SMART) reveals that Turtle Mountain Community Disadvantage Index of 10 confirms it is one of the most disadvantaged areas in the US. The economic challenges of the Tribe make it difficult to invest in language or cultural preservation. The US Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) reports that TM median household income is only \$27,796 compared to \$53,046 for the US. The poverty level in the county was 28.5%, compared to the US median of 12.6%. According to North Dakota KIDS COUNT, 32.4% of children live in extreme poverty at TM, compared to 7% in ND and 10% in the US.



Turtle Mountain Library Enhancement Narrative (8 pages)

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (Federally-recognized Tribe) and the Turtle Mountain College (collaborating Tribal College) Library Department will implement an effective United States (US) Department of Education, Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Native American Library Services Enhancement Project to directly advance the operation of an eligible library by enhancing the level of library and archival services for the Tribe and strengthening the library as a resource center of knowledge, learning and culture for its rural and remote community.

ELIGIBILITY: The Turtle Mountain (TM) Band of Chippewa Indians is an eligible Tribe (see attached).

The TM Library, located on the Turtle Mountain College (TMC) campus, is the only public library serving the TM Reservation. The Tribal Council designated the Library as the official library of the TM Tribe in 1998. It serves as a public library for the Tribe/tribal members and as a college library. The Library's holdings include a number of TM Tribal historical documents and publications that support both community and college access and activities in relation to TM cultural and social heritage and tribal leadership. (Hesketh 1923. *History and Culture of the Turtle Mountain Band*, ND Historical Society 1997).

The mission of the Library, as well as that of TMC, is to provide direct community service to the Turtle Mountain Tribe along with providing comprehensive higher education and workforce library services.

Current staff includes a Library Director, Library Technician, and Library assistant. The Library currently has 4,766 registered patrons. The Library has 24,680 items including books, DVD's, audiobooks, cassettes, etc. The Library has 4,630 materials in the Native American Section. In addition, the Library has access to the Online Dakota Information Network (ODIN) that accesses the catalogs of major libraries in North Dakota, and through other networks, libraries nationwide. The library has several on-line resources for patron use such as Credo Literati and EBSCO Search Premier. The library facility includes 3 tutoring rooms and 29 desktop computers with free printing.

1. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

- *What current need, challenge, or opportunity will your project address and how was it identified? Describe how you have used reliable sources to define the need and develop the scope for the project.*

PROJECT ALIGNS DIRECTLY TO IMLS/NAE GOALS AND ADDRESSES CURRENT NEEDS: The purpose of the TM Library Enhancement effort is to develop, enhance, or disseminate practices, programs, models, tools, or library staff training to strengthen library and archival services for Native American Tribes. This project directly meets the IMLS Agency-Level Goal 3, to advance Collections Stewardship and Access and the Native American Enhancement (NAE) Goal and Furthermore, the project will address NAE Objective 3.

✓ Agency Level Goal 3 ✓ NAE Program Goal ✓ NAE Objective 3	TM Enhancement Project Need & Eligible Service Activity to meet IMLS Agency-Level Goal 3 Advance Collections Stewardship and Access, and NAE Program Goal and Objective 3.
NAE Objective 3: Provide access to and preservation of information and collections	TM services will engage elders and others in oral history collection and documentation that lifts the stories of the community. TM will provide access to and preservation of information and collections of oral histories, digital media, cultural practitioners, and make it available for researchers and others in the community. The collection will be prepared and stewarded for long-term preservation. TM's digitation and digital preservation services will ease a troubling need to have these oral and cultural histories documented and protected for the community, with online preservation to prevent any threat of disaster.

Turtle Mountain Library Enhancement Project



This project will expand and preserve the cultural knowledge of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa through the collection, transcription, and preservation of community oral histories. For the TM people, documenting their culture and heritage is key to supporting their identity, which has been wounded through land loss, boarding school era atrocities, and lack of opportunity (Braveheart 2003).

The primary goal of the project is to increase access to important cultural and historical knowledge that is currently held in archival recordings but has not yet been fully processed or made accessible for research, education, or community use. The project will focus on transcribing approximately 500 existing recorded interviews currently housed in the library archives. These recordings contain valuable stories, language, and historical knowledge shared by elders and community members. Transcribing these recordings will make them more accessible for educational use, cultural preservation, and future research.

In addition to processing existing recordings, the project will support the collection of new oral histories from elders and community knowledge keepers. Project researchers will conduct interviews, document community stories, and obtain appropriate permissions to ensure the materials can be preserved and shared with the community. These new interviews will help capture knowledge that may otherwise be lost and will expand the existing archive of tribal history and cultural knowledge.

A part-time archivist will work to organize, preserve, and prepare both existing and newly collected materials for long-term digital preservation and access. This will include creating metadata, organizing files, and ensuring that recordings and transcripts are safely stored and accessible.

This project aligns with the priorities of IMLS and NAE by supporting cultural preservation, improving access to information resources, strengthening library services, and building digital collections that reflect the knowledge and history of Native communities. Through this work, the library will help preserve important voices, strengthen cultural identity, and provide valuable educational resources for future generations.

This project will digitize and migrate audio-visual holdings in the Library to a stable format, create item level metadata in conjunction with Machine-Readable Cataloging (MARC) records and finding aids, establish and implement a safe, dependable three-tiered digital back-up and preservation plan, and upload culturally appropriate material online using Mukurtu CMS or other reliable, protected digital repository.

NEED/OPPORTUNITY: This process will meet the needs identified by members of the TM community and Library staff and preserve the holdings indefinitely, thus safeguarding TM's digital heritage.

Working simultaneously to preserve and digitize these collections and make them accessible through Mukurtu allows TM to make these valuable cultural and historical materials not just accessible but usable to a wide audience of stakeholders including the underserved community members within the at-risk rural, tribal area. While patrons can still access materials at the Library and online, through Mukurtu CMS, tribal members will also be able to add narratives, relate materials to create modules of content for viewing and education, and create shared community groups to update and continue adding valuable knowledge to the materials.

Library staff conducted a meeting with community members to assess the long-term needs of the Library in 2025. Community members noted a range of needs related to the Library, however, many discussed the digitization of the audio/video materials as a major priority, as they felt it was important that this important historical and cultural patrimony be preserved and made available online to reach the widest audience.

Based upon the needs identified in the community meeting and subsequent strategic planning, the Library conducted an assessment of the audio-visual holdings and further documented the need for preservation of the collections and a more permanent means of digital storage for the significant cultural/historical information for long-term preservation and access. The assessment showed the outdated nature of the audio and visual holdings and beginnings of deterioration that would affect the long-term viability of the collections and the continued ability to provide access to the Library stakeholders.

Turtle Mountain Library Enhancement Project



This online innovation is especially important in an underserved rural community like TM because it is a challenge (costs too much) for low-income individuals/families to drive to the Library on a regular basis, but with digital heritage access online, they can explore, enjoy, and integrate culture resources in their daily lives.

There is no community-wide language or cultural program for TM beneficiaries. The economic challenges of the Tribe make it difficult to invest in language or cultural preservation. Culture studies and integration are one of the primary goals of the Library and TMC. That is one of the many reasons this project is so important – there is a great appreciation for the heritage and culture, but limited efforts have been able to be undertaken to collect/ preserve it.

- *Who is the primary audience for your project and how have they been involved in the planning? “Primary audience” refers to those who will be most immediately and positively affected by your project.*

This project will serve a primary audience of rural, underserved, Tribal community members, including youth, elders, tribal staff, tribal leadership, college staff, and Native American college students – essentially anyone interested in TM/Native community. This will serve to engage the TM community who tend to favor visual media. The oral history translation and collection will provide opportunities to gather stories of place and heritage with elders. Text will include description of events or objects, reminiscences, stories, jokes, songs, conversations, and much more. The team will develop their interview techniques and prompts to elicit depth to the conversations. A specific focus will be on developing new oral history and multi-media recordings to create digital products featuring traditional/cultural ways of living, such as wild berry harvesting or building a traditional birchbark shelter.



The team will explore and select software for creation, editing, annotation, preservation, dissemination, and publication that allow for easy interoperability, organization, corpus creation, transcription, and lexicon to name a few key aspects of building a system that is highly functional with minimal data loss.

Community members, elders, tribal staff, and college staff participated in the assessments and provided input into the design of the project. They will continue to be involved over the project period.

2. PROJECT WORK PLAN

- *What specific activities will you carry out and in what sequence?*

The effort has been specifically designed to address identified tribal/community/stakeholder needs, as well as, provide digital heritage access for future TM generations. The Turtle Mountain Work Plan activities demonstrate a logical progression from start to finish of key steps needed to accomplish project objectives. The milestones are intentionally and strategically established to be both relevant and lead to the achievement of each objective. The Work Plan timeframe for completion of activities is realistic for effective project implementation. Please also see the schedule of completion for details.

This project will utilize evaluation as a tool to monitor progress and milestone/objective achievement. Its primary purposes are 1) to ensure activities are undertaken within timeframes 2) that the project is meeting objectives and 3) that appropriate programmatic and fiscal documentation is maintained. Please see performance measurement form for more details.

The **Goal** of the Turtle Mountain Library Enhancement project is to meet the needs of an underserved, rural, impoverished tribal community through alignment with the priorities of IMLS and NAE by supporting cultural preservation, improving access to information resources, strengthening library services, and building digital collections that reflect the knowledge and history of Native communities.

The project **Objectives** are efficient, effective, and reasonable to accomplish the Goal. Objective 1: Confirm staffing of Director and Archivist and hire a researcher and ensure all staff are oriented to and well prepared to conduct project activities.

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Objective 2: Conduct the range of activities, e.g., transcription, digitization, and development into a collection of cultural and historical audiovisual resources for both preservation and access, including the taped reel-to-reel interview series entitled "As We Remember" that are provided by partner KEYA Radio, which were recorded in Chippewa, Mitchif and Cree languages. Purchase all required hardware and software. Depending on availability of the equipment, the transfer of some formats may need to be contracted out. Material will be digitized simultaneously in a three tiered approach creating an archival master using uncompressed WAV files which will go onto a server hard drive with a copy onto another hard drive for back-up, an access copy using MP 3 or 4 which will also go on a server, and web ready files in jpeg or similar format. For storage and back up creating a redundant system a copy of the archival master files will be loaded onto a third hard drive for storage off site in case of disaster. Finally, the complete collection will be simultaneously backed up to a Cloud-hosted service. Data and digital products will be protected with clear protocols as to what is collected, stored, shared, and analyzed, archived, and made available to the public. Please see Digital Management Plan.

Objective 3: Create appropriate Federal Agencies Digital Guidelines Initiative (FADGI) guided digital materials and metadata for digitized materials using standard format and using extended metadata to allow for community input at the item level. Input of embedded item level metadata will occur simultaneously with the digitization as it occurs in real time. This will be done by the Archivist and Researcher.

Objective 4: Upload appropriate content and metadata to the website and appropriate online resource, e.g., Mukurtu, for online accessibility and community engagement with the collections. Director will lead the process to define access to materials through culturally appropriate parameters. Any materials that need community or individual approval will be held using a strict protocol, making it accessible only to Library staff until approval is defined. Currently only a small number of the existing oral history recordings have release forms. Staff will get releases for the remainder and get web releases from all interviewees or as many as possible. Materials without releases will not be made publicly available.

Objective 5: Promote use of the new resources through presentations, online, social media and poster sessions to both the primary audience of the TM community and eventually to the professional world of tribal archives, libraries and museums at the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums (ATALM). The Library web and Facebook pages will also feature information about the new digital products. Finally, presentations to the Tribal Council and other key stakeholders will be made, encouraging the use of the new materials and promoting the Library in general. Library staff will work with community members to engage with the digital collection.

TM intends to use FADGI guidance and procedures that adhere to accepted practices and standards. TM has considered the key technical details and included the Digital Products Form. Please see attached.

The TM Library understands its role in these important activities and stands ready to undertake this important work for this Native American, underserved rural community. The concept for the TM Library Enhanced project is straightforward to convert the physical format of material into a digital, electronic format. The physical format will be appropriately preserved and the digital format will be used to enhance access by a broad variety of audiences. This approach has been endorsed as an accepted preservation option by the Association of Research Libraries and the American Library Association.

The Library's hope is that by making the digital heritage collection available in an open and innovative way, that knowledge about TM history and culture can thrive.

The project framework incorporates a series of strategies that include adherence to accepted standards and best practices, as well as, the commitment of the Tribe, College, and Library to establish policies and the capacity to maintain the original physical materials and digital products for the long-term. The strategies will include, but not be limited to: (1) Assessment of collection components and property rights and decision on standards, (2) Selection of materials and quality control for preservation and digitization, (3) Prioritization of

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materials, (4) Preparation of originals for digitization, (5) Metadata collection and creation, (6) Actual digitization and creation of collections and quality control, (7) Proper archiving of materials, and (8) Submission of digital resources to repositories and delivery systems. This process will be accompanied by training, management, quality control, ongoing evaluation, and intellectual property rights management.

Data will be collected, analyzed, interpreted, reported, and managed to track project progress and outcomes, including but not limited to, **general project records**: records of the strategies set forth above, written decisions on standards, logs of preparation activities, and written quality control procedures to be monitored; **digitization records**: logs of items to be digitized as compared to actual progress (monthly and cumulatively), quality control monitoring, appropriate metadata development of digitized items, and assessment of proper repository/storage processes; **preservation records**: logs of items and quality monitoring of their storage post-digitization; and **access/promotion records**: tracking of access of the digital resources for the community audience and by source, e.g., online, electronic catalogue, and tracking of actual usage along with logs of community meetings, presentations at ATALM and other activities.

Staff and the committee and Grants Compliance Office will monitor and evaluate project progress. The public will also be surveyed regarding the value and quality of the resources and their access will be tracked on the website and in person. Ongoing quality control measures are part of the digitization workflow. These will be documented using Excel spreadsheets and will be reviewed by the Director.

- *Who will execute each activity? Be sure to identify all key staff.*

The time, financial, personnel, and resources are appropriate and realistic for the project scope and scale.

Key Personnel: Laisee Allery, Library Director, will serve as the lead on the project. She is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. She will serve with 0.15 fte for 12 months each project year, which is realistic for the scope and scale of project oversight. Please see attached biosketch.

Other Personnel: The Archivist and Researcher will serve part-time to help conduct IMLS NAE activities. Tribal Elders will be engaged with the oral history collection and documentation assistance. The project will be assisted by TMC representatives from IT (technology and archiving) and Tribal Grants Compliance office. The Tribe will conduct the project in compliance with all applicable IMLS, administrative, and national policy requirements.

- *How have you involved stakeholders in the planning and development of the project and how will you incorporate their input throughout the project?*

TM and TMC are leveraging stakeholders, existing resources, assets, and partners to aid in project success. The project will be strategically aligned to undergo, first, TMC's internal research review (internal Institutional Review Board (IRB)) committee serves as the initial review point. That committee consists of a Faculty member Chair, President, Vice President of Academics, Vice President of Student Services, Director of IRAA, a language/cultural staff expert, and three additional Faculty.

Secondly, the project will utilize the official Turtle Mountain Tribal IRB known as Tribal Nations Research Group for all research and documentation administration using human subjects. As of this proposal submission, a draft IRB application is being submitted and pending review of the internal TMC committee and will be submitted to the second step upon award.

TM and TMC will utilize the expertise of the TMC Language and Culture committee to provide insight and guidance into project activities.

TURTLE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE NATIVE LANGUAGE & CULTURE COMMITTEE
▪ Cecelia Myerion - Language and Culture Adjunct Faculty, Elder ▪ Velda Belgarde - Ojibwa Language Faculty ▪ Carl Eller - Welding Faculty, Mitchif Language Speaker

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- Bobbi Lynn Frederick - Native Art Faculty, Fancy Shawl Dancer, Beadwork Artist
- Alixena Patnaude, Vice President of Academics
- Laisee Allery, Library Director

Finally, the Library keeps its stakeholders at the forefront of its mind when designing activities. In this case, community members indicated they wanted two simultaneous actions to occur – preservation of the holdings and access to them. Therefore, the design embraces those key needs. Research led TM to best practices in the field and the experiences of other grantees who are pursuing similar efforts. Finally, TM will conduct community meetings and outreach annually to promote the project and to inform stakeholders about the progress and outcomes of the project and gather their input via survey and commentary.

The age and status of many of the holdings verify the urgency of the situation as many are endangered documents that prohibit excessive handling or are audio/video for which digitization is the only method of long-term preservation due to instability of the medium and vanishing replay equipment.

- *What existing resources within the Tribe, assets within the library or community, and/or potential partners will you use during this project to aid in its success?*

TM and TMC conduct themselves with integrity in all aspects of its operations. Their foundation is embedded in the system of values that stem from the heritage and culture of the Anishinaabe people and expressed in the Seven Teachings of the Tribe. In establishing such policy, the Tribe and TMC expect each employee to adhere to those standards.

The Tribe has an established system to ensure sound fiscal management practices and is well qualified to carry out all fiscal activities in a responsible, effective, and timely manner. The recipient of numerous federal grants, it has experience managing grants similar to or greater in scope than this project.

All fiscal and accounting procedures ensure prudent use, proper disbursement, and accurate accounting of funds received. The Tribe's records and signatory procedures are aligned with 45 C.F.R. and all federal requirements. The Tribe has a published manual that sets forth its policy and procedures regarding financial activities. Adequate documentation is to be maintained to support all financial transactions recorded in the accounting records. Supporting documents are retained in an orderly fashion. Audits are performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, including analysis of the Schedule of Expenditures.

To be sustainable is to ensure a project's products and services have a life beyond grant funding. The Tribe and TMC will ensure outcomes of the IMLS NAE project will be sustained beyond the two-year funding and hereby commit to striving to maintain the preservation of this important collection well into the future.

One main partner that will aid in the project's success is involvement with the KEYA radio station and transcription of elder/community recordings the station has created over time.

- *How and with whom will you share your work's results and lessons learned?*

As defined in this Narrative and the attached Digital Products Plan, TM will ensure adherence to FADGI and other appropriate practices and standards for creating and managing the proposed types of digital products.

TMC will ensure its digital and data management adheres to all FADGI and IMLS digitization guidelines and requirements. FADGI is a collaborative effort started in 2007 by federal agencies to articulate common sustainable practices and guidelines for digitized and born digital historical, archival, and cultural content. Two working groups study issues specific to two major areas, Still Image, and Audio-Visual. While TM recognizes the goal is to provide sharing of digital language documentation, it is also sensitive to concerns to protect tribal data and will utilize clear Policies and Procedures aligned to best practices for research. As individual files will be created, the project will abide by the consent and policy to protect each individual.

TM/TMC will honor the commitment when receiving Federal funds for developing or creating digital products to release these files under open-source licenses to maximize access and promote reuse. All work products resulting from IMLS funding will be distributed for free or at cost unless IMLS has provided written

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approval for another arrangement. Sensitivity to content especially to in regard to private cultural digital content will be maintained by the Director with the support of TM/TMC. Any concerns will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. However, in the experience of related digital content work these cases seldom have arisen.

3. PROJECT RESULTS

- *What are your project's intended results and/or product(s), and how will they address the need, challenge, or opportunity you identified in the Project Justification section?*

The TM Library project's intended results are clearly articulated, realistic, meaningful, and linked to the need, challenge, or opportunity addressed by the project. By supporting cultural preservation, improving digital access, strengthening library services, and building a relevant digital collection, the project addresses the needs of an underserved tribal community.

The project's success will be measured as to attainment of the IMLS Agency-Level Goal 3, to advance Collections Stewardship and Access and the Native American Enhancement (NAE) Goal and NAE Objective 3 as measures of success. Anticipated outcomes, measured via survey, will include increased awareness and usage of the growing collection of materials (tracked monthly and cumulatively).

Success measures include:

1. Proper digitization of the 500 existing recordings – percent completed in two years.
2. Proper recording and digitization of new created histories– number collected and digitized in two years.
3. Increased number of digitized materials added to the accessible collection via the website and appropriate open source, e.g., Murkutu – number made available.
4. Survey conducted for in-person and online community members who access the digital collection tracking their ability to (a) access the collection, (b) satisfaction with the access, and (c) satisfaction with the products – target 25% increase in access and 75% increase in satisfaction.

Through the implementation of the goal and activities outlined above, the identified needs will be addressed. Primary results will be the preservation at industry standard levels of audio and visual collections and access for stakeholders and community members to historical and cultural TM tribal materials.

Secondarily, the content will be enriched and the primary records enhanced by using Mukurtu to allow community members to add cultural narratives and tribal knowledge to the records. Thirdly, with greater access to the collections, those who watch or listen to the digitized material will develop increased knowledge of TM history and culture via oral histories. Finally, as these collections highlight a breadth of cultural practices and knowledge a greater appreciation for TM cultural continuity will come to fruition.

- *How do you define success for this project, and how will it be evaluated?*

The project's success will be measured as to attainment of the IMLS Agency-Level Goal 3, to advance Collections Stewardship and Access and the Native American Enhancement (NAE) Goal and NAE Objective 3 as measures of success.

The goal is to increase access to important cultural and historical knowledge currently held in archival recordings but not yet fully processed or made accessible for research, education, or community use. The focus will be on transcribing 500 existing recorded interviews that contain valuable stories, language, and historical knowledge shared by elders and community members.

The project will also support the collection of new oral histories from elders and community knowledge keepers via interviews and community engagement. These new interviews will help capture knowledge that may otherwise be lost and will expand the existing archive of tribal history and cultural knowledge. An archivist will work to organize, preserve, and prepare collected materials for long-term digital preservation and access.

The TM Library Enhancement project (*see goals and objectives above*) directly addresses the "indicators of successful projects" set forth by IMLS including expanding services for learning and access to resources in

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a variety of formats for individuals of all ages; improving coordination/partnerships between libraries and entities for the purpose of improving services; providing training to enhance the skills of library workforce and advance the delivery of services; and targeting services to individuals of diverse backgrounds, especially those in underserved communities including those living below the poverty line.

The project will not only bring those intended performance goals/benefits to the TM community, but it will also (1) establish high quality digital print/electronic media without loss of quality, which can be easily generated at a low cost; (2) more actively engage the community in describing and preserving TM materials; (3) allow for more effective sharing of digital collections; and (4) foster ease in digital usage of materials, e.g. photographs, for both print and when converting to other types of media, e.g., video. For example, just imagine how much more engaging youth reports will become once these materials are available for their use.

The project will comply with the reporting requirements including provision of timely interim (approx. six month) and final financial and performance reports according to the reporting schedule in the official award documents in eGMS Reach.

- *How will you disseminate the results (deliverables, lessons learned, etc.) to the primary audience?*

The project will primarily reach members of the TM community, along with others interested in TM history and culture. The Library Director will lead staff in developing and conducting ongoing communication/outreach to the community and others in the field throughout the project lifecycle. Activities including presentations and the annual community meetings will engage stakeholders as the Director describes the project, provide updates on the project's progression, and share digital materials with the audience. During these presentations, the audience will provide feedback via surveys that will allow staff to adjust the project as needed to meet the needs of the community. In addition, using Mukurtu the Library will be able to create "community groups" directly through the CMS inviting community members to engage with the materials.

As the project progresses, the Director will submit press releases to local newspapers discussing the project's progress. Outreach will be measured via sign in sheets at presentations, comments on social media, and subsequently measured usage of digitized audio/visual materials. The Director will reach the professional audience with her attendance and poster presentation at the annual ATALM conference.

Additionally, the Library will make reasonable attempts to communicate lessons learned and project results to other audiences beyond the community and standard professional audiences by making materials accessible via the World Wide Web, which allows equal access to the widest range of users from any location providing them a powerful opportunity to learn about TM culture and heritage, as well as, the methods utilized by the project itself. The project will include acknowledgement of IMLS support in all grant products, publications, websites, and presentations developed with IMLS funding.

- *How will you sustain the benefit(s) of your project beyond the conclusion of the period of performance?*

Sustainability of the project is centered on the partners' commitment to meeting the needs of the community and the perpetuation of TM history and culture. As the official TM library there is a strong commitment to maintain cultural materials for future generations.

The project will enhance the Library's ability to meet the needs of the primary audience, strengthen its services, and provide a digital collection to help that primary audience know more about both its history (Lajimodiere 2019) and its wealth of healing power and opportunities.

The project has been structured to develop, maintain, and enhance the Library's infrastructure to support sustainability through components such as staff training, technology infrastructure, and quality control. TM intends to maintain the project's benefits beyond the grant period and is committed to long-term digital stewardship of these important resources. This effort has been designed to form a strong base that will lead to systemic change within the Library/College/Tribe in regard to preserving and sustaining digital heritage for future generations.

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**Turtle Mountain Native American Library Services Enhancement
SCHEDULE OF COMPLETION (2 pages)**

The Schedule of Completion reflects each major activity identified in the TM application narrative:

YEAR ONE SCHEDULE													
	Oct 2026	N	D	Jan 2027	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	Sept	
Year One: Oct 1, 2026- Sept 30, 2027													
Turtle Mountain notified of award by September 2026!													
Financial Assistance Award signed and returned to IMLS.													
TM Grants Clearinghouse staff prepares paperwork and establish infrastructure.													
Circulate notices for Researcher to be hired and conduct hiring procedures.													
Director leads orientation and planning for project/Year One.													
MILESTONE: Staff hired and oriented													
MILESTONE: Staff trained in best practices for digitization and storage.													
Staff tests pilot activities.													
Sixth month report due.													
Staff transfers existing audiovisual resources to digital formats and starts new oral history interviews.													
Staff properly backs up and stores digital products for preservation													
Staff creates appropriate metadata													
Staff uploads appropriate content/ metadata to website/ Mukurtu													
Staff promotes use of resources.													
Meet with partners.													
Team analyzes Yr One ongoing implementation data and activities.													
Year One report due.													
MILESTONE: Year one successfully completed with attainment of effectiveness, quality, and timeliness.													

Turtle Mountain Library Enhancement Project



YEAR TWO SCHEDULE													
	Oct 2027	N	D	Jan 2028	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	Sept	
Year Two: Oct 1, 2027- Sept 30, 2028													
Director leads planning for Year Two.													
Director leads continued monthly progress tracking, attainment of goals, and community outreach.													
Staff transfers resources to digital formats.													
Staff properly backs up and stores digital products for preservation.													
Staff creates appropriate metadata for digitized materials.													
Staff uploads appropriate content/metadata to website/Mukurtu CMS.													
Staff promotes use of resources through cultural and community events and completes other dissemination tasks as described in the narrative.													
Sixth month report due.													
Meet with partners.													
Team analyzes Year Two ongoing implementation data and activities and develops written plan for sustaining digitization efforts.													
Year Two report due.													
MILESTONE: Annual report evidences success of Library Enhancement project with attainment of effectiveness, quality, and timeliness.													
MILESTONE: End of project report evidences attainment of goals and objectives: 500 existing transcribed, new oral histories recorded, transcribed, and digitized. Digital heritage collection preserved and made accessible via website/Mukurtu. Audience indicates 25% gain in use of digital products and at least a 75% satisfaction with the quality of the experience and digital resources.													