Project Abstract: The Digital Atlas of Native American Intellectual Traditions: Creating a National Platform

Amherst College, in conjunction with the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM), the Mukurtu project, and the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), seeks a planning grant to create a space for conversation and collaboration with the goal of developing a framework for sharing, exploring, and visualizing Native-authored library and archival collections. The project will bring together Native Studies scholars; Native librarians; tribal historians; representatives from libraries with large Native-authored collections; metadata, digital humanities, and user interface specialists; and technologists to expand and improve culturally appropriate access to Native digital collections and to create collaborative digital humanities scholarship that accurately represents Native American intellectual networks.

Within a timeline of December 1, 2015, through November 30, 2016, the project will result in a statement of scope; technical and metadata requirements for a national digital platform for Native-authored library and archival collections; culturally competent methodologies and best practices; and a work plan for implementation of the digital humanities project, the *Digital Atlas of Native American Intellectual Traditions (DANAIT)*. To achieve this work, we propose a multi-day meeting of the stakeholders listed above, as well as face to face and virtual meetings of a Steering Committee and two to four working groups at various stages of the project.

This project responds to the need for integrated, culturally sensitive access to Native American library and archival collections from across the United States; for building relationships and community among the stakeholders; and for enhanced tools and interfaces that further public understanding of Native American histories, cultures, and intellectual traditions. It has great potential to impact Native scholars, students, and community members by furthering the development of a single point of access to multiple collections of Native-authored library and archival collections in a platform whose development is informed by Native users.

Project Narrative

1. Statement of Need

In August 2013, Amherst College acquired one of the most comprehensive collections of books by Native American authors ever assembled by a private collector: the Younghee Kim-Wait/Pablo Eisenberg Native American Literature Collection, which includes nearly 1,500 books written by Native American authors ranging from 1772 to the present. The aim of this collection is to document as thoroughly as possible the full spectrum of Native American writing and intellectual life from the 18th century to the present. Facilitating and promoting access to and use of these materials by users onsite and worldwide was an immediate priority: the collection has been fully cataloged, and public domain works are in the process of being digitized and made available through Amherst College Digital Collections (https://acdc.amherst.edu/). Amherst has made extensive outreach efforts to Native Studies scholars, tribal nations in the Northeast, and repositories with related collections.

Amherst faculty actively researching Native American intellectual networks have also integrated the collection into their scholarship and teaching. Their work focuses on revealing intellectual networks that have existed over space and time, within and across communities, and helping to build similar networks in the present day. Abenaki scholar Lisa Brooks has published a major book focused on the recovery of networks of Native authors in the Northeast (*The Common Pot: The Recovery of Native Space in the Northeast*, University of Minnesota Press, 2008), and Kiara Vigil, of Dakota and Apache heritage, has written a forthcoming book that highlights the intellectual networks of well-known Native authors of the Progressive era (*Indigenous Intellectuals: Sovereignty, Citizenship, and the American Imagination, 1880-1930*, Cambridge University Press, 2015). Their research interests, and the presence of such a comprehensive collection, led to the conception of a digital humanities project: the Digital Atlas of Native American Intellectual Traditions (DANAIT), which will use data visualization technology to document, clarify, and reveal networks of Native authorship and knowledge creation that are not immediately apparent in, and are often concealed by, conventional library metadata. We are particularly interested in developing the capabilities to visualize and explore geographical, chronological, and biographical/social network data.

In creating a digital collection to increase access to these Native-authored books, and envisioning methodologies and tools to represent the networks of people, organizations, and places documented and engaged within, we quickly realized the imperative to situate our own work within a larger network - both human and virtual. The absence of a national digital network for Native-authored library and archival collections hinders broad access to our collection even as it limits our ability to identify, analyze, and represent the intellectual networks within. Without a strong human network, the digital network cannot be realized.

We are by no means alone in recognizing the importance of improved access to Native American collections that a national digital platform would engender. The 2012 Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) report "Sustaining Indigenous Culture: The Structure, Activities, and Needs of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums" found that the majority of tribal libraries responding to the ATALM survey agreed that providing access to materials "related the tribe's culture or other Indigenous cultures" was one of the most important services they could provide.[i] The survey found that forty-seven percent of 129 tribal archives, libraries, and museums have begun to digitize collections; within that number, seventy-four percent are seeking to increase access to collections.[ii]

Materials documenting Native and Indigenous cultures and intellectual traditions are held in both tribal libraries and archives and non-Native collecting institutions. Both have created digital collections of Native materials, but those projects currently exist in isolation from each other. Examples of regional efforts include The Yale Indian Papers Project, Plateau Peoples' Web Portal, Gibagadinamaagoom,

and Indigenous New England. Specific digitization and digital exhibit projects have also been created at institutions such as the Sequoyah National Research Center, the American Antiquarian Society, the American Philosophical Society, the Newberry Library, and Dartmouth College. Countless other Native American nations and non-Native collecting institutions have made similar collections available digitally. The Mukurtu project has begun to forge partnerships with a number of these institutions.

Both tribal and non-tribal institutions face challenges in this work. Tribal libraries and archives need a system that supports granular levels of access for a variety of users, and a way to establish culturally appropriate protocols for access.[iii] These needs place decisions of access in a cultural framework of traditional knowledge, rather than a legal framework of intellectual property. The Mukurtu project, an open source platform built specifically for Indigenous communities' needs, has laid essential groundwork in working with Indigenous communities to understand these needs and design a system with the capability to allow for such granular access. Although the Mukurtu content management system already has the technical capacity to enable such cultural protocols, most other systems do not. Non-Native collecting institutions must be similarly respectful of these concerns when sharing unpublished materials by Native creators--yet most currently can offer little in the way of differentiated access. In addition, the metadata and technical systems in place in most non-Native institutions may unwittingly reinforce colonialist approaches to the materials, in that our controlled vocabularies do not reflect Native individual, tribal, or geographic names and concepts, and our systems do not accommodate Native knowledge and methodologies.

There are challenges for researchers in using these materials as well. Because the existing sources are distributed, relevant information can be difficult to find. Native materials may exist in and be digitized by institutions far from the Native nations who created them. A tribal member, student, or scholarly researcher may need to discover and search a number of independent sources to find the information s/he needs. The primary national platform for digital collections, the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), includes over 70,000 digital objects documenting Native cultures, yet only a handful of tribal libraries and archives are represented.

A successful national digital platform for Native-authored library and archival collections must include both tribal and non-Native collecting institutions, building relationships between the two. The 2014 IMLS Focus Forum on a National Digital Platform recognized the lack of participation from underrepresented groups and the need for a "research alliance that bridges different cultures."[iv] While many digital projects by non-Native institutions have successfully and respectfully engaged with the appropriate Native communities, others have not. This in itself undermines tribal sovereignty and cultural protocols, and impacts any future effort to create a platform for sharing such collections. It also points to the need for such a platform to develop trust and build networks with Native communities, and to help make sure that best practices developed within tools like Mukurtu are propagated to non-Native collecting institutions.

There is also a great need for interaction among tribal scholars, tribal communities, and non-Native collecting institutions regarding best practices for sharing digital material and providing enriched access that will enable engagement within communities, as opposed to offering these materials en masse in interfaces that are not easily navigated or organized for use by non-specialists. Existing projects lack tools that can reveal and represent existing networks among materials in different media and locations. Search and retrieval of individual items allows for only limited connections between related materials, erasing relevant context. Tools for visualizing and representing these networks can ultimately provide even greater access and understanding, challenging dominant interpretations that misrepresent Native American history and obscure or de-emphasize Native American intellectual traditions. They can also support and foster a shift in scholarship led by the field of Native

American/Indigenous Studies, which is turning from viewing Native American/Indigenous people as objects of study to an emphasis on networks of Native knowledge and intellectual/artistic production.

This project will address the needs articulated here by fostering a collaborative conversation that bridges Native and non-Native collecting institutions, and by furthering the development of both a national digital platform for Native-authored library and archival collections and digital scholarship tools to reveal the networks within and across those collections.

2. Impact

The planning project proposed here seeks to begin to address all of these issues by helping to create a national working group and network encompassing tribal and non-tribal librarians, archivists, scholars, and technology specialists. Over the course of one year, the group will work to build trust and connections across sectors to plan a national digital platform that will provide a framework for sharing, exploring, and visualizing collections of Native-authored materials intended for a public audience. It will produce a statement of scope; technical and metadata requirements for a national digital platform for Native-authored library and archival collections; culturally competent methodologies and best practices; and a work plan for implementation of collaborative digital humanities tools for visualizing Native American intellectual networks.

These tangible and intangible outcomes lay a cultural and technical foundation that will lead to the following benefits:
- an opportunity for tribal libraries and archives and non-Native collecting institutions to share digital content with a national audience, in a system that is culturally sensitive in terms of access protocols and metadata.
- a single, national source that provides researchers, Native American and non-Native, with integrated digital collections of materials that are physically separated, and often held far from where they were created.
- a means for scholars, tribal members, and the public to explore, represent, and better understand Native American histories, cultures, and intellectual traditions through visualization of relationships and networks.
- a digital library infrastructure that is informed by a broader set of cultural needs, improved by the inclusion of more diverse collections, and enhanced by the presence of tools that support network analysis.

This planning project is an essential first step in the process, bringing together perhaps for the first time a broad group of stakeholders to discuss Native American digital collections and scholarship. Though it is a first step collectively, it builds upon existing efforts by the project partners. ATALM has been working for nearly a decade to build and maintain support for tribal archives, libraries, and museums. Based on extensive work with Indigenous communities, Mukurtu has developed an open source system designed for Indigenous archives that provides flexible cultural and sharing protocols and extended metadata fields for traditional knowledge. Amherst College faculty and librarians are collaborating to incorporate Native-authored collections into teaching, research, and digital scholarship. The DPLA provides a national portal that brings together digital collections in a variety of formats from across the United States. This existing groundwork provides a springboard, increasing what we can achieve in a year and strengthening our ability to build community, seek input, and disseminate results. As a result, the impact of the project will be intensified.

By developing methods for incorporating Native knowledge into a national digital platform, the project will greatly enrich public understanding of Native cultures, histories, and intellectual traditions. It will identify approaches for enhancing metadata standards and vocabularies that currently exclude or marginalize Native American names and concepts. This project also has great potential to impact

Native scholars, students, and community members by furthering the development of a single point of access to multiple collections of Native-authored library and archival materials in a platform whose development is informed by Native users. Most importantly, the project will demonstrate that there is a long history of Native American intellectualism, and will explore ways of emphasizing that history through a broadly accessible resource with the long-term potential to help build digital literacy skills.

The expected outcomes of the project are clearly articulated below, and include requirements, best practices, and an implementation plan that will form a foundation for the development of a full project. As community building is an important outcome in and of itself, we will also evaluate our work and its impact by our success in building trust across communities, the quality of those relationships, and the number of people we reach from our stakeholder communities through direct participation, the project website, and sharing of results through social media and conferences.

3. Project Design
This planning project will create a space for conversation and collaboration with the goal of developing a framework for sharing, exploring, and visualizing collections of Native-authored materials. It will bring together Native Studies scholars; Native librarians; tribal historians; representatives from libraries with large Native-authored library and archival collections; metadata, digital humanities, and user interface specialists; and technologists to expand and improve culturally appropriate access to Native digital collections and to create collaborative digital humanities scholarship that accurately represents the networks through which Native people have traveled as they have developed Native space and fostered intellectual engagement and political change. The project will result in a statement of scope; technical and metadata requirements for a national digital platform for Native-authored library and archival collections; culturally competent methodologies and best practices; and a work plan for implementation of the digital humanities project, the *Digital Atlas of Native American Intellectual Traditions (DANAIT)*.

To achieve this work, we propose a multi-day meeting of the stakeholders listed above, as well as face to face and virtual meetings of a Steering Committee and two to four working groups at various stages of the project. In addition, an Advisory Group will be formed as an outcome of the stakeholder meeting, and will continue to advise our work beyond the grant.

Goals and Objectives
This planning project will:
- Foster a space for ongoing conversation and collaboration that bridges Native and non-Native collecting institutions and considers what is needed culturally, technologically, and organizationally to support a national digital platform for Native-authored library and archival collections.
- Increase and improve culturally appropriate access to Native digital collections by:
  - documenting technical and metadata requirements and access protocols for making collections managed in Mukurtu, Fedora/Hydra, and other systems interoperable and for integrating them into a national aggregator (DPLA) or subject-specific national platform;
  - ensuring a means exists for collecting institutions to share content in culturally appropriate ways, leveraging the Mukurtu model of cultural protocols and Traditional Knowledge labels;
  - determining best practices for incorporating Native knowledge and methodologies into digital collections held by non-Native institutions;
  - examining the current state of efforts to improve controlled vocabularies for Native groups, and identifying next steps;
  - developing culturally competent methodologies and best practices for digital collections to be shared in a national platform.

- Explore methodologies and create an implementation plan for collaborative digital humanities scholarship, including DANAIT, which visualizes and represents the networks through which Native people and authors traveled and fostered Native space.
- Plan for the integration of tools for exploring and representing these networks within a national digital platform, allowing for linking and aggregation across digital collections/sites without homogenizing or controlling the forms individual platforms take.

Outcomes
- Strengthened relations between Native and non-Native collecting institutions, including formalized partnerships with collaborators and a national Advisory Group structure that can continue to address these questions after the planning period concludes.
- A formal statement of scope, informed by Native scholars, Native librarians, and tribal historians.
- Technical and metadata requirements for a national platform that leverages Mukurtu, incorporates systems such as Fedora/Hydra, and enables integration with the DPLA and/or a subject-based aggregator.
- Culturally competent methodologies and best practices.
- Prioritized work plan for implementation of DANAIT as a project and a set of open source tools that collaborators and others can use, and at least two grant proposals to fund its implementation (possible sources: NEH Digital Humanities Implementation Grants, IMLS NLG Project Grants, regional and national foundations).
- Presentations at the 2016 ATALM and 2017 NAISA conferences.

Committees and Working Groups
Steering Committee:
The Steering Committee will guide the planning project throughout the year. It will consist of six members: Dr. Michael Ashley (Mukurtu), Dr. Lisa Brooks (Amherst College), Susan Feller (ATALM), Mike Kelly (co-chair, Amherst College), and Kelcy Shepherd (co-chair, Amherst College), with an additional member to be selected from among the stakeholder groups. In addition, Emily Gore (DPLA) and Dr. Kimberly Christen Withey (Mukurtu) will serve in an advisory capacity to the Steering Committee. Committee members have existing networks within various regions across the United States, and encompass expertise in community building, digital collections and technologies, metadata, and Native Studies.

The Steering Committee will meet for the first time at the September 2015 ATALM meeting, before the outcome of this proposal is known. If our application is successful, it will continue to meet monthly throughout the project year (two face to face meetings, ten virtual meetings). A key part of the Steering Committee's early work will be to build trust and establish new/strengthen existing relationships with potential meeting participants, drawing upon their own networks within Native communities. In January through March 2016, Steering Committee members will meet with potential participants from Native communities in their region to build networks of support, establish/strengthen trust, and address preliminary questions and concerns prior to the stakeholder meeting.

The Steering Committee will identify Working Group participants, organize the stakeholder meeting, and develop a scope statement as a result of the meeting. The co-chairs will manage the project as a whole, setting agendas for the Steering Committee, leading meetings, and coordinating and providing oversight for the Working Groups. More information on committee members is available below.

Advisory Group:
The exact role and membership of the Advisory Group will evolve from the stakeholder meeting, but it will provide a means for a broader group to provide input and guide our work as we move forward from the meeting.

Working Groups:
The Steering Committee will form at least three Working Groups focused on specific project goals: Technical/Metadata, Digital Scholarship, and Outreach. Each Working Group will include five to six domain experts, and will be chaired by a Steering Committee member. It is possible that the Technical and Metadata areas will require separate groups in close communication, or that the need for an additional Working Group will emerge from the stakeholder meeting. We will make those changes as necessary.

The Working Groups will help identify participants in the stakeholder meeting, and set the agenda for conversations related to their domain. They will also be charged with addressing specific outcomes of the project: fostering a collaborative conversation between Native and non-Native collecting institutions; documenting technical and metadata requirements for a national platform; developing culturally competent methodologies and best practices; and creating a work plan for the implementation of the digital scholarship project DANAIT.

Key questions for the Working Groups are:
Technical/Metadata
- How can the existing work of Mukurtu in establishing cultural protocols and enabling community-generated metadata be leveraged in a national digital platform?
- What is the status of existing efforts to improve controlled vocabularies for Native American names and places, and what next steps would move that work forward?
- How can a national digital platform integrate Native-authored collections with tools for representing the networks documented within?

Digital Scholarship
- What kind of data, methodologies and tools are necessary to represent Native American intellectual networks?
- How can the tools for visualizing and representing these kinds of networks ultimately provide greater access and understanding?

Outreach and Communications
- What is needed from a cultural perspective to build the human network necessary to make this work successful and reciprocal?
- How can we ensure that this work is shared broadly and ethically with both Native and non-Native institutions, communities, and scholars?

Stakeholder Meeting
The stakeholder meeting, to be held at Amherst in early summer 2016, will convene approximately 36 people: Native Studies scholars; Native librarians; tribal historians; representatives from libraries with large Native-authored library and archival collections; metadata, digital humanities, and user interface specialists; and technologists, to explore the following questions:
- What is needed organizationally, culturally, and technologically to develop an effective, inclusive, and culturally sensitive collaborative national digital platform?
- What should the scope of this platform be, geographically and in terms of type of content?
- What kinds of Native knowledge could enhance this platform, and what would be necessary from a technical and outreach/partnership perspective to incorporate that knowledge?

- What tools, methodologies, and data would be required to visualize and represent the networks through which Native people and authors traveled and maintained/produced Native space? How could the tools for visualizing and representing these kinds of networks ultimately provide greater access and understanding? How could these tools and/or representations be integrated with a national platform for Native-authored library and archival collections?

This multi-day meeting will start with workshops designed to provide a common foundation, followed by breakout sessions to discuss the questions above. Workshop topics may include scholarly and community uses of Native American collections, cultural protocols, data visualization, issues related to metadata for Native materials, and incorporating Indigenous knowledge in collection descriptions. Breakout sessions will parallel the structure of the Working Groups, allowing their work to be informed by a broader group of stakeholders.

Post-Meeting Activities
Following the meeting, an Advisory Group will be formed to help the project expand its network and provide broader feedback and participation. The Steering Committee will write a scope statement that documents conversations and decisions from the meeting, and share it with meeting participants and the broader stakeholder communities. Steering Committee members will also present interim findings of the project at the September 2015 ATALM conference. Informed by the meeting, the Technical and Metadata Working Groups will produce the technical and metadata requirements and document methodologies and best practices; the Digital Scholarship Working Group will develop an implementation plan for DANAIT. (Initial drafts of these will be shared with the Steering Committee by September, with final versions completed in November 2016.) These outcomes will provide a foundation for implementation. (See Sustainability section for more information about future plans.)

4. Diversity Plan
This planning project meets the needs of Native American collecting institutions, scholars, and other researchers by furthering the development of both a national digital platform for Native American library and archival collections and tools to reveal the networks within and across those collections. Together, these resources will increase and enhance culturally appropriate access to materials engaging a variety of Native cultures, histories, and intellectual traditions.

The project has been designed specifically to encourage and integrate a variety of voices, particularly those of Native American librarians, archivists, historians, and scholars. We have incorporated conversation, collaboration, and trust building into our goals, outcomes, and work plan, in recognition of the significance of these activities. Outreach to Native institutions and scholars will be an integral part of the project, with a working group devoted to building diverse networks for participation and information sharing. This work will draw upon the Steering Committee members' existing networks with Native communities. Recognizing the diversity of cultures subsumed within the term "Native American," we will involve Native Americans from a variety of communities and regions in the stakeholder meeting, working groups, and Advisory Group. The success of these efforts will start with the Steering Committee's early work to develop trust with potential participants from Native communities with whom they have already built relationships. We will also need to ensure that our planning and methodologies incorporate and respect Native knowledge.

5. Project Resources: Personnel, Time, Budget
Personnel
Steering Committee:
Dr. Michael Ashley is the Director of Information Technology for Mukurtu and CEO for the Center for Digital Archaeology at the University of California, Berkeley. Ashley has over sixteen years of experience in program/product development, particularly in the area of cultural heritage informatics

management and education. He received his Ph.D. at UC Berkeley in 2004, where he went on as faculty and staff to co-found several initiatives, including the award winning Open Knowledge and the Public Interest (OKAPI), and the Media Vault Program, a digital preservation and access framework for the university's museums and archives.

Dr. Lisa Brooks is an Associate Professor of English and American Studies at Amherst College. Her first book, *The Common Pot: The Recovery of Native Space in the Northeast* (University of Minnesota Press 2008), reframed the historical and literary landscape of the American Northeast, garnering the Media Ecology Association's Dorothy Lee Award for Outstanding Scholarship in the Ecology of Culture in 2011. The book fostered a major digital humanities project, "The Common Pot Maps" website, which features interpretive historical maps to accompany the book, created with ArcGIS.

Susan Feller is the President and CEO of ATALM and Development Officer at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Feller has been involved with IMLS-funded projects for tribal archives, libraries, and museums for over eight years, and has extensive networks within that community as well as thorough knowledge of the needs of TALMs.

Mike Kelly, Head of Archives & Special Collections at Amherst College, will co-chair the Steering Committee. Kelly has overseen four successful grants and led extensive outreach efforts to Native Studies scholars, tribal nations in the Northeast, and repositories with collections of Native-authored works. His is currently using bibliographic, mapping, and data visualization tools in his research of the publication and circulation of the first Native American-authored work published in North America.

Kelcy Shepherd will serve as PI for the project and co-chair for the Steering Committee. Head of Digital Programs at the Amherst College Library, Shepherd has over fifteen years' experience in digital project management, digital repositories, and metadata as well as a history of successful interdepartmental and multi-institutional collaboration. She has directed and provided budget oversight of grant-funded projects as both a project director and subcontractor.

Partnering Organizations:
The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums (ATALM) is a predominantly Native-led international non-profit organization that maintains a network of support for Indigenous programs, provides culturally relevant programming and services, encourages collaboration among tribal and non-tribal cultural institutions, and articulates contemporary issues related to developing and sustaining the cultural sovereignty of Native Nations. ATALM has sponsored national educational institutes and annual conferences and produced a national report on the status and needs of American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Native Alaskan cultural heritage organizations. Major support for ATALM is provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Mukurtu CMS is a free and open-source content management system and community digital archive platform built to address the specific needs of Indigenous communities to manage and share digital cultural heritage in culturally appropriate and socially defined ways. Flexible cultural and sharing protocols are the heart and soul of the Mukurtu platform. These customizable protocols allow content administrators to define the circulation routes and access parameters for their content and metadata. In addition, Mukurtu provides extended metadata fields to allow traditional knowledge, diverse subject fields, and cultural narratives at the item level. In this way, Mukurtu provides a solution to the distinct digital cultural heritage management needs of local and Indigenous communities. At the same time it encourages scholars and collecting institutions to engage with tribal communities through reciprocal exchanges of content and knowledge. This type of content management and exchange provides multiple sets of stakeholders with a wide-range of management resources for materials that have been previously minimally described.

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) brings together digital content from libraries, archives, and museums across the United States and makes it freely available to the world. The DPLA serves as a portal for resources in a variety of formats, a platform that enables new and transformative uses of digitized cultural heritage, and an advocate for openly accessible materials.

Other Personnel:
Amherst College will provide leadership and staff support needed to coordinate project activities, including teleconferences and in-person meetings, as well as management of grant funding. A Grant Analyst with sponsored research administration experience provides financial management and oversight of Federal and private grant awards, and will assist the PI in meeting all requirements.

The budget requests modest funds for speaker honoraria, for the stakeholder meeting, and for a part-time graduate student assistant to provide help with web maintenance, communication/promotion, and administrative support. This is a ten hour per week position for 30 weeks, and is modeled on successful paid library graduate school intern positions already in place at the Amherst College Library.

Facilities, Equipment, and Supplies
Facilities, equipment, and supplies for this project will be provided by project partners, to free up support for as broad a stakeholder meeting as possible. The budget request includes all participants' travel to the stakeholder meeting as well as local lodging and meals. The budget also includes travel for the Steering Committee members to meet face to face, most likely in conjunction with the ATALM conference in 2016. Amherst College will provide space for the stakeholder meeting.

Timeline
Pre-Award
- Steering Committee meets at September 2015 ATALM conference

December 2015-February 2016
- Steering Committee monthly meetings
- Working Groups formed
- Working Group regular meetings
- Steering Committee outreach and travel to regional tribal communities
- Identify stakeholder meeting participants

March-May 2016
- Steering Committee monthly meetings
- Working Group regular meetings
- Identify stakeholder meeting participants
- Stakeholder meeting planning and logistics
- Digital Scholarship Working Group meets at NAISA

June-August 2016
- Stakeholder meeting
- Steering Committee monthly meetings
- Working Group regular meetings
- Advisory Committee formed, provides project feedback
- Steering Committee creates statement of scope and gathers community feedback

September-November 2016
- Steering Committee monthly meetings
- Working Group regular meetings

- Advisory Committee provides project feedback
- Steering Committee gives interim progress report at ATALM conference
- Working Groups complete requirements, best practices, and implementation plan

A detailed timeline is also available in the Schedule of Completion.

6. Communications Plan

To build community around the project, we will draw upon the existing networks of our Steering Committee members, which represent different regions across the nation. In addition, the Outreach Working Group will be specifically charged with communicating information about the project and seeking input from a range of audiences, including Native American collecting institutions, tribal librarians, archivists, historians, and scholars, and non-Native collecting institutions with extensive Native-authored library and archival holdings. In identifying potential participants in the stakeholder meeting and subsequent Advisory Group, we will seek those who can in turn become communicators within their own networks in order to help broaden the reach of the project.

We will create a project website to share project information, post informal progress updates, and publish the written outcomes of the project. Each of the project partners are active social media users, and we will use our existing blogs, Facebook organizational pages, and twitter accounts to announce the project, provide updates, and help to disseminate final outcomes. Steering Committee members will give an interim progress report at the 2016 ATALM conference and final report at the 2017 Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) conference (after the grant has ended).

7. Sustainability

External funding is necessary to create the kind of national platform and networks we envision, but Amherst and its partners share a commitment to developing such connections over time. If successful in this planning phase, we intend to seek additional support for a larger grant to continue the development of the platform. We would seek implementation support from the IMLS and others, including the National Endowment for the Humanities and private foundations, to implement DANAIT and expand outreach to libraries and archives across the US.

The project partners' ongoing commitments to various aspects of this work reinforce the sustainability of our efforts. ATALM works to identify and serve the needs of Indigenous cultural heritage institutions. Mukurtu was built to empower Indigenous communities to manage and share digital cultural heritage. Amherst College is committed to integrating these digital collections and the research efforts of its faculty by developing tools for digital scholarship. The DPLA's core mission includes developing and maintaining a national platform for digital collections. The outcomes we produce, along with the existing missions of the organizations involved, will provide a foundation for further work. The availability of future funding will help determine the pace of development for DANAIT and the national platform, but the commitment to the goal of a platform is shared and will ensure that the partners continue to make progress.

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[i] Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (2012). *Sustaining Indigenous Culture: The Structure, Activities, and Needs of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums.* (http://www.atalm.org/sites/default/files/sustaining_indigenous_culture.pdf, last viewed May 22, 2015), p. 17.

[ii] Ibid. p. 11.

[iii] Withey, Kimberly Christen (2011). "Opening Archives: Respectful Repatriation." *American Archivist.* 74 (Spring/Summer): 185-210.

[iv] IMLS Focus: Strategic Priorities 2014, National Digital Platform, April 29, 2014. (http://www.imls.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/IMLSFocusNotes_NYC.pdf last viewed May 22, 2015), pp. 4, 15.

Schedule of Completion

Activity	2015 Sept*	Dec	2016 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Steering Committee meetings	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Working Groups formed		■											
Working Groups: regular meetings			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Steering Committee outreach and travel to regional tribal communities			■	■									
Stakeholder Meeting participants identified			■	■	■								
Stakeholder Meeting planning and logistics					■	■	■						
Digital Scholarship Working Group meets at NAISA							■						
Stakeholder Meeting								■					
Advisory Committee formed, provides project feedback								■	■	■	■	■	■
Steering Committee creates statement of scope and gathers community feedback								■	■				
Working Groups provide drafts of requirements, best practices, and implementation plan to Steering Committee											■		
Steering Committee gives an interim progress report at ATALM conference											■		
Final versions of requirements, best practices, and implementation plan completed													■

*Steering Committee members will meet at the 2015 ATALM Conference prior to the start of the project.

DIGITAL STEWARDSHIP SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM

Introduction:
IMLS is committed to expanding public access to IMLS-funded research, data and other digital products: the assets you create with IMLS funding require careful stewardship to protect and enhance their value. They should be freely and readily available for use and re-use by libraries, archives, museums and the public. Applying these principles to the development of digital products is not straightforward; because technology is dynamic and because we do not want to inhibit innovation, IMLS does not want to prescribe set standards and best practices that would certainly become quickly outdated. Instead, IMLS defines the outcomes your projects should achieve in a series of questions; your answers are used by IMLS staff and by expert peer reviewers to evaluate your proposal; and they will play a critical role in determining whether your grant will be funded. Together, your answers will comprise the basis for a work plan for your project, as they will address all the major components of the development process.

Instructions:
If you propose to create any type of digital product as part of your proposal, you must complete this form. IMLS defines digital products very broadly. If you are developing anything through the use of information technology – e.g., digital collections, web resources, metadata, software, data– you should assume that you need to complete this form.

Please indicate which of the following digital products you will create or collect during your project.
Check all that apply:

Every proposal creating a digital product should complete …	Part I
If your project will create or collect …	**Then you should complete …**
☐ Digital content	Part II
☐ New software tools or applications	Part III
☐ A digital research dataset	Part IV

PART I.

A. Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

We expect applicants to make federally funded work products widely available and usable through strategies such as publishing in open-access journals, depositing works in institutional or discipline-based repositories, and using non-restrictive licenses such as a Creative Commons license.

A.1 What will be the copyright or intellectual property status of the content you intend to create? Will you assign a Creative Commons license to the content? If so, which license will it be? http://us.creativecommons.org/

A.2 What ownership rights will your organization assert over the new digital content, and what conditions will you impose on access and use? Explain any terms of access and conditions of use, why they are justifiable, and how you will notify potential users of the digital resources.

A.3 Will you create any content or products which may involve privacy concerns, require obtaining permissions or rights, or raise any cultural sensitivities? If so, please describe the issues and how you plan to address them.

Part II: Projects Creating Digital Content

A. Creating New Digital Content

A.1 Describe the digital content you will create and the quantities of each type and format you will use.

A.2 List the equipment and software that you will use to create the content or the name of the service provider who will perform the work.

A.3 List all the digital file formats (e.g., XML, TIFF, MPEG) you plan to create, along with the relevant information on the appropriate quality standards (e.g., resolution, sampling rate, pixel dimensions).

B. Digital Workflow and Asset Maintenance/Preservation

B.1 Describe your quality control plan (i.e., how you will monitor and evaluate your workflow and products).

B.2 Describe your plan for preserving and maintaining digital assets during and after the grant period (e.g., storage systems, shared repositories, technical documentation, migration planning, commitment of organizational funding for these purposes). Please note: Storage and publication after the end of the grant period may be an allowable cost.

C. Metadata

C.1 Describe how you will produce metadata (e.g., technical, descriptive, administrative, preservation). Specify which standards you will use for the metadata structure (e.g., MARC, Dublin Core, Encoded Archival Description, PBCore, PREMIS) and metadata content (e.g., thesauri).

C.2 Explain your strategy for preserving and maintaining metadata created and/or collected during your project and after the grant period.

C.3 Explain what metadata sharing and/or other strategies you will use to facilitate widespread discovery and use of the digital content created during your project (e.g., an Advanced Programming Interface, contributions to the DPLA or other support to allow batch queries and retrieval of metadata).

D. Access and Use

D.1 Describe how you will make the digital content available to the public. Include details such as the delivery strategy (e.g., openly available online, available to specified audiences) and underlying hardware/software platforms and infrastructure (e.g., specific digital repository software or leased services, accessibility via standard web browsers, requirements for special software tools in order to use the content).

D.2 Provide URL(s) for any examples of previous digital collections or content your organization has created.

Part III. Projects Creating New Software Tools or Applications

A. <u>General Information</u>

A.1 Describe the software tool or electronic system you intend to create, including a summary of the major functions it will perform and the intended primary audience(s) the system or tool will serve.

A.2 List other existing digital tools that wholly or partially perform the same functions, and explain how the tool or system you will create is different.

B. Technical Information

B.1 List the programming languages, platforms, software, or other applications you will use to create your new digital content.

B.2 Describe how the intended software or system will extend or interoperate with other existing software applications or systems.

B.3 Describe any underlying additional software or system dependencies necessary to run the new software or system you will create.

B.4 Describe the processes you will use for development documentation and for maintaining and updating technical documentation for users of the software or system.

B.5 Provide URL(s) for examples of any previous software tools or systems your organization has created.

C. <u>Access and Use</u>

C.1 We expect applicants seeking federal funds for software or system development to develop and release these products as open source software. What ownership rights will your organization assert over the new software or system, and what conditions will you impose on the access and use of this product? Explain any terms of access and conditions of use, why these terms or conditions are justifiable, and how you will notify potential users of the software or system.

C.2 Describe how you will make the software or system available to the public and/or its intended users.

Part IV. Projects Creating Research Data

1. Summarize the intended purpose of the research, the type of data to be collected or generated, the method for collection or generation, the approximate dates or frequency when the data will be generated or collected, and the intended use of the data collected.

2. Does the proposed research activity require approval by any internal review panel or institutional review board (IRB)? If so, has the proposed research activity already been approved? If not, what is your plan for securing approval?

3. Will you collect any personally identifiable information (PII) about individuals or proprietary information about organizations? If so, detail the specific steps you will take to protect such information while you prepare the research data files for public release (e.g. data anonymization, suppression of personally identifiable information, synthetic data).

4. If you will collect additional documentation such as consent agreements along with the data, describe plans for preserving the documentation and ensuring that its relationship to the collected data is maintained.

5. What will you use to collect or generate the data? Provide details about any technical requirements or dependencies that would be necessary for understanding, retrieving, displaying, or processing the dataset(s).

6. What documentation will you capture or create along with the dataset(s)? What standards or schema will you use? Where will the documentation be stored, and in what format(s)? How will you permanently associate and manage the documentation with the dataset(s) it describes?

7. What is the plan for archiving, managing, and disseminating data after the completion of research activity?

8. Identify where you will be publicly depositing dataset(s):

   Name of repository: _____

                    URL: _____

9. When and how frequently will you review this data management plan? How will the implementation be monitored?

Original Preliminary Proposal

The Digital Atlas of Native American Intellectual Traditions: Creating a National Platform

Project Partners

Amherst College, in partnership with the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM), seeks a planning grant to bring together a broad group of stakeholders to plan the Digital Atlas of Native American Intellectual Traditions (DANAIT), a national digital platform that will provide a framework for sharing, exploring, and visualizing collections of Native-authored materials intended for a public audience. DANAIT builds on the work of Native Studies faculty who are integrating Amherst College's Younghee Kim-Wait/Pablo Eisenberg Native American Literature Collection – one of the largest collections of published work by Native American writers ever assembled – into their teaching and research. It will bring together ATALM's national network and Amherst's extensive outreach efforts to Native Studies scholars, tribal nations in the Northeast, and repositories with related collections. DANAIT will provide a conduit for the inclusion of this subject-specific content in the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) and incorporate best practices for indigenous digital heritage developed by the Mukurtu project, an open source system designed for indigenous archives. Emily Gore of the DPLA and Kimberly Christen Withey and Michael Ashley from Mukurtu have all agreed to serve in an advisory capacity to the project and to participate in the planning meeting.

Amherst College is an emerging leader in digital collections and open access publishing. DANAIT will be integrated with Amherst College Digital Collections (https://acdc.amherst.edu/), an open repository for unique and rare digital content, which already provides access to fifty-one public domain works from the Kim-Wait/ Eisenberg Collection. DANAIT will also benefit from our relationship with the digital-first, open access Amherst College Press. Project Director Kelcy Shepherd, Head of Digital Programs at the Amherst College Library, has extensive experience in digital project management, implementation of grant-funded projects, and digital repositories, as well as a history of successful interdepartmental and multi-institutional collaboration.

Proposed Workplan

We aim to use data visualization technology to document, clarify, and reveal networks of Native authorship and knowledge creation that are not immediately apparent in, and are often concealed by, traditional library metadata. We are particularly interested in developing the capabilities to visualize and explore geographical, chronological, and biographical/social network data, which reflects and serves as a digital extension of ongoing research by Amherst College faculty. Abenaki scholar Lisa Brooks has published a major work focused on the recovery of networks of Native authors in the Northeast, and Kiara Vigil, of Dakota and Apache heritage, has written a forthcoming book that highlights the intellectual networks of well-known Native authors of the Progressive era. DANAIT will begin with basic metadata about published works held by Amherst College and others, but will become an extensible framework that may include information about newspapers, manuscripts, and sound recordings.

A planning grant for DANAIT will allow project partners to analyze needs and feasibility, strengthen partnerships, and develop an implementation plan. In March 2016, we will convene Native Studies scholars; Native librarians; tribal historians; representatives from libraries with large Native collections; metadata, digital humanities, and user interface specialists; and technologists, to explore the following questions:
- What is needed organizationally, culturally, and technologically, for DANAIT to become an effective, inclusive, and culturally sensitive collaborative platform?
- What should the scope of DANAIT be, geographically and in terms of type of content?
- What kinds of Native knowledge could enhance DANAIT, and what would be necessary from a technical and outreach/partnership perspective to incorporate that knowledge?
- What types of research questions could be explored through DANAIT and what tools would be needed to make this exploration possible?
- How could DANAIT become a resource for developing digital fluency in Native communities?

This multi-day meeting will start with workshops designed to provide a common foundation, followed by breakout sessions to discuss the questions above. Workshop topics may include scholarly and community uses of Native collections, cultural protocols, data visualization, digital literacy, issues related to metadata for Native materials, incorporating indigenous knowledge in collection descriptions, and Linked Open Data. A specific outcome of the meeting will be the identification of next steps and the formation of working groups. Community partnership, user interface, metadata, and technical working groups will complete their goals and submit reports to the Project Director by August 31, 2016. Project leaders will use the summer and fall to develop an implementation plan and funding proposal.

Relevance to Funding Priorities

ATALM's "Sustaining Indigenous Culture" report identified access to tribal information and educational resources as a top priority. The IMLS Focus Forum on a National Digital Platform recognized the role of subject hubs, the lack of participation from underrepresented groups, and the need for a "research alliance that bridges different cultures." This project aims to develop a national, interoperable digital platform for Native American collections, built using open technologies and agreed-upon metadata standards, enabling anyone holding related materials to contribute, and greatly enhancing discovery. Metadata vocabularies, linked open data sets, and best practice guidelines developed as part of the project will be shared broadly and support interoperability for similar materials within a national digital platform. The project will use widely adopted open source tools and share content with the DPLA. It will partner with Native librarians, tribal historians, and Native scholars from its inception.

Potential Impact

DANAIT will serve as a replicable model for the integration of subject-based content into a national digital library platform. The project will develop methods for incorporating Native knowledge, greatly enriching public understanding of Native culture and history. It will identify approaches for enhancing metadata standards and vocabularies that currently exclude or marginalize Native names and concepts. We will share this work with the digital library community and with Native librarians, archivists, and museum curators.

DANAIT also has great potential to impact Native scholars, students, and community members by providing a single point of access to multiple collections of Native materials in a platform whose development is informed by Native users. Most importantly, the project will demonstrate that there is a long history of Native American intellectualism, and will explore ways of emphasizing that history through a broadly accessible resource with the potential to help build digital literacy skills. Building on ATALM's networks, existing relationships with Native communities in the Northeast, and ongoing outreach efforts related to the Kim-Wait Eisenberg collection, project partners will share information about DANAIT with tribal communities through direct outreach to tribal librarians, archivists, and historians.

Performance Goals and Outcomes

The planning process will result in the following outcomes for DANAIT:
- a statement of scope, informed by Native scholars, Native librarians, and tribal historians
- a prioritized workplan for implementation
- technical and metadata requirements for an interoperable platform with appropriate cultural protocols
- culturally competent methodologies and best practices
- formalized partnerships with collaborators and a working group structure for implementation
- a grant proposal for implementation

Estimated Budget

Project partners request $46,000 to cover the costs of a planning meeting and any necessary consultants.