

# OLA Quarterly



## Oregon's Tribal Libraries

In Cayuse Country, East of the Cascades:  
Tamástslikt Cultural Institute

All Aspects of Southwest Oregon History Covered by Coquille Indian Tribe Library

The StreamNet Library

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Tribal Library

Cow Creek Tribal Library:  
A Tribal Library that Grows Every Year

Warm Springs Community Library:  
Finding a Home

The Oregon Collaborative Project:  
Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums and the Oregon State Library

Tribal and Rural Libraries Exist by the Will of the People

Tribal Libraries:  
Vital but Often Invisible Treasures

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# OLA Q

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The next wave of  
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## Oregon's Tribal Libraries

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# Introduction

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Shortly after I moved to Oregon three years ago, I began educating myself about the state's tribal libraries. I had spent the previous four years as the library director at D-Q University, California's tribal college. As a tribal college librarian and member of the American Indian Library Association, I had gained an understanding of the unique challenges faced by tribal libraries and became committed to do my part to help improve library services to Native Americans.

I contacted the Oregon State Library to find out how I could get involved in any statewide efforts to improve library services in Oregon's tribal communities. I was excited to hear about the Oregon Collaborative Project, which aims to explore how Oregon's tribal libraries can work with other libraries, archives, and museums to improve their services. When I attended a focus group meeting for this project, I had the pleasure to meet many of the tribal librarians who have contributed to this issue of the *Quarterly*.

In the past few years, I have learned a lot about Oregon's tribal libraries. All nine of Oregon's federally recognized

tribes have tribal libraries or are in the beginning stages of developing a library. Each of the tribes has received the five thousand dollar IMLS Native American Library Services Basic Grant within the past few years. Virtually all of the tribal libraries struggle with funding and staffing troubles, especially those libraries that are in the early stages of development. It can be very difficult to get information about these fledgling tribal libraries, because they usually do not yet have full-time staffing.

Tribal libraries strive to provide isolated communities with vital services and resources, such as literacy programming, health and parenting resources, and books for children. Tribal libraries are often one of the only places on the reservation that offer free access to computers and the Internet. These libraries are an invaluable resource for tribal community members seeking to educate themselves and to learn more about the history of their people.

In an effort to raise awareness about Oregon's tribal libraries, I suggested that there be an OLAQ issue highlighting tribal libraries. Since tribal libraries face many of the same chal-

lenges that are faced by rural libraries, we initially solicited articles about tribal, solo, or rural libraries. I was thrilled by the response from the tribal librarians, who submitted enough articles that we were able to dedicate this entire issue to Oregon's tribal libraries. I am very grateful that these tribal librarians and library administrators were able to spend some of their valuable time to inform us about their libraries.

In describing their individual libraries, Malissa Minthorn-Winks and Julie Quaid provide insight into the operations of many tribal libraries. Malissa discusses the mission of Tamástslit Cultural Institute's Research Library and Archives, which is to preserve the cultural and historical knowledge of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Tribal libraries are often charged with preserving and providing access to information about their tribe. Preserving their traditional knowledge enables tribes to not only reclaim their heritage, but to also educate others about it.

In her article about the Warm Springs Community Library, Julie details her efforts to transform a small



OLAQ

collection of books stored in a warehouse into a library located in a newly-created Family Resource Center. This endeavor is similar to the efforts currently being undertaken by several Oregon tribes.

Chris Tanner and David Liberty both focus on the unique resources at their respective libraries and how their collections illustrate the tribes' close connections to the land and the broader community. Chris elaborates on the variety of tribal and regional history resources available at the Coquille Indian Tribe Library. David describes the StreamNet Library's unique resources related to fish biology and how they are being used to restore salmon populations in the Columbia River.

The many programs and services offered at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Tribal Library are outlined by Marion Mercier. In her article about the Cow Creek Tribal Library, Kelly LaChance discusses how grants have been essential to maintaining the library's resources.

In addition to tribal librarians, there are several contributions from librarians who work with tribal libraries in Oregon and throughout the country. Catherine Finney shares her rewarding experience as a volunteer at the Warm Springs Library. ALA President-Elect Loriene Roy, outlines the Association's upcoming initiatives that will provide opportunities to tribal libraries. Mary Kay Dahlgreen provides information about the Oregon Collaborative Project and other efforts to improve library ser-

vices to Oregon's Native Americans. The Chair of ALA's new Committee on Rural, Native and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds, Carol Barta, presents the challenges faced by both tribal and rural libraries and the committee's efforts to help alleviate some of these difficulties. Finally, Karen Brown and Kelly Webster write about tribal libraries nationwide and describe what you can do to support these libraries.

If reading this issue inspires you to learn more about tribal libraries, you should consider joining the American Indian Library Association, whose mission is to promote the development of and access to library and information services by American Indian people. Also, be sure to express support for IMLS' Native American Library Services Grant program, which is a very important source of funding for many tribal libraries.

I am thrilled to have had the chance to edit this issue of *OLA Quarterly*. It has provided a great opportunity to raise awareness about our state's tribal libraries, the challenges that they face, the fantastic resources that they contain, and the vital services that they provide. I would like to use this opportunity to encourage the OLA membership to do our part to help Oregon's tribal libraries. We could all work together to make a difference by founding a Friends of Oregon Tribal Libraries. If you are interested in helping to create this Friends group, please contact me at [richenda.wilkinson@linnbenton.edu](mailto:richenda.wilkinson@linnbenton.edu)

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*Guest Editor*



# In Cayuse Country, East of the Cascades:

## Tamástslikt Cultural Institute

by **Malissa Minthorn-Winks**  
*Library & Archives Manager,  
Tamástslikt Cultural Institute,  
Confederated Tribes of the  
Umatilla Indian Reservation*

**T**amástslikt Cultural Institute is an interpretive center presenting the culture, history, and stories of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla tribes. The Institute is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), which is located at the base of the Blue Mountains, six miles east of Pendleton in northeastern Oregon. Tamástslikt opened to the public in the summer of 1998 with 10,000 square feet of permanent exhibit space, an art gallery, museum store, café, and a substantial collection of artifacts. The Research Library and Archives is one of the functions of the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute.

The Research Library and Archives is devoted to preserving and reclaiming the cultural and historical knowledge and heritage of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The mission of the Research Library and Archives is to become a repository for historical records, manuscripts, reference books, photographs, sound recordings and other primary and secondary resources that document the history and culture of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla people.

The library is located for easy public access adjacent to the entrance lobby. The facility encompasses 2,250 square feet; 300 square feet is dedicated to offices, 750 square feet to library space, 750 square feet to archival storage space, and 450 square feet to the photo lab. All collection areas are HVAC controlled to regulate and monitor temperature levels as well as humidity.

The Research Library and Archives is a fledgling facility that has great potential to become a world-class research facility for the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla tribes. The research collection has been acquired primarily through donations, with a small portion selected and purchased. One creative approach to building the library collection

has been through reduction in inventory from the museum store at the Institute.

The commitment to the acquisition, documentation, and preservation of the heritage of the Confederated Tribes is the purpose of the Research Library and Archives. In addition to this main purpose we have the complementary goal of education. As the amount of scholarly information increases exponentially, and as it becomes easier to directly access information, there will be increased importance attached to the traditional role of the Institute as educator. This role will be to create and communicate the concepts, organization, and structure by which mere information is turned into knowledge. Our measure of accomplishment reflects what students and patrons learn rather than how much they are taught. Technological innovations notwithstanding, providing for personal “hands on” experiences that meet the user’s needs will be an important advantage in the increasingly competitive environment.

The Reference Library and Archives provides the Tribal community, scholars, students, and the general public with resources and accurate information that meet their professional, educational, or personal needs.

We are open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. While appointments are not required they are appreciated. 🌿

For more information on Tamástslikt please contact:  
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# All Aspects of Southwest Oregon History

Covered by Coquille Indian Tribe Library

by **Chris Tanner**  
Tribal Librarian,  
Coquille Indian Tribe Library

It should not be a surprise to anyone that the Coquille Indian Tribe's (CIT) Library contains a great deal of information on the Coquille (pronounced Ko-Kwel), but few are aware of the diversity of the library's collection. Our collection covers the region of southwest Oregon as a whole rather than just resources related to the Tribe. One cannot talk about the Coquille Indian Tribe without mentioning all of Coos County, from the natural history of the area to the logging and fishing industries, where many tribal members found work.

Located at the Tribe's Administration Office in North Bend, the CIT Library is a small but concentrated source of information on the culture and history of the Coquille, neighboring tribes, and southwestern Oregon as a whole. Many other subjects can also be researched through our collection.

The diversity of the library's resources mirrors the diversity within the Tribe. For example, the elected officials who make up the Tribe's governing body include a heavy equipment operator, a high school teacher and basketball coach, the owner of a construction business, a high school Indian Education Program coordinator, a mental health specialist/therapist, a nurse practitioner, and a homemaker, who in her spare time helped convince the United States Congress that the Coquille deserved to be recognized as a sovereign nation.

The library's patrons also reflect this diversity. In addition to tribal members, library users include local community members, students from the local community college, foreign visitors, and an Elder-hostel group, which brings visitors from all over the country. The Coos County Library System also directs community members wishing to learn more about the Tribe to our resources. Many of our visitors come to learn more about the Tribe's culture.

There is no better place to find information on the Coquille Indian Tribe's culture than the Tribe's own library. The collection includes the biographies of tribal members, such as Annie Miner Peterson and Coquelle Thompson, which give considerable insight into local traditions, languages, and the results of the mix of cultures that occurred when indigenous people worked and lived with pioneers and settlers. During the 1930s, both of these individuals spent considerable time recording their knowledge of traditions, stories, and the local languages of Hanis and Miluk to linguist Melville Jacobs.

Our resources illustrate the connection that the Tribe has with the rest of the local community. The collection reflects the fact that Coquille history and the history of Coos County are often one and the same. We carry a solid and growing collection of regional natural history resources. For example, we have resources related to forestry, from books describing the impact of the logging industry on the local community to the traditional uses of cedar by tribes in the Pacific Northwest.

The collection contains roughly 2,800 books, 200 videos and DVDs, and an extensive archival collection numbering over 30,000 pages. While the collection focuses on tribal and regional history, there is also a diverse range of subjects of interest to Coquille tribal members. Library users can find fiction paperbacks, cookbooks, language



A school visit to the library.



tapes, and guides to fishing or nature trails. The library also has 35 periodical subscriptions. Like most libraries, we carry the local and regional newspapers. The library also subscribes to several periodicals that focus on national news from the perspective of "Indian Country," including *Indian Country Today*, *News from Indian Country*, and *American Indian Report*.

For more in-depth research, our archival collections provide details on many aspects of our history. There are two collections in our archives: The Melville Jacobs collection and the collected works from the Southwestern Oregon Research Project (SWORP).

The Melville Jacobs collection is the accumulated work of the linguist and several associates. The collection is used widely by scholars, including tribal members, studying southwestern Oregon tribes. Jacobs' research resulted in the creation of a Miluk dictionary and a word search program allowing users to match English words with Miluk and Hanis translations.

Despite the importance of the Jacobs collection, SWORP might be having an even greater impact on the preservation of the Tribe's heritage. SWORP is an ongoing project between the Coquille Indian Tribe and the University of Oregon. Several members of various Oregon tribes, who are also students at U of O, participated in research trips to the National Archives and Smithsonian in Washington D.C. The project resulted in the discovery and dissemination of thousands of pages of 19th century documents regarding Northwest tribes. The documents include interviews, ethnographies, and letters from people living on Oregon reservation lands in the 19th century.

Both collections have been used by scholars for a variety of historical essays. Three students, including two tribal members, have completed thesis papers that focus on our Tribe's history. These works

are nearly as valuable as the archival collections themselves because they succeed in consolidating the expansive collections into a concise resource, which is more accessible to our library users. The CIT Library keeps numerous copies of these important works.

Tribal members have used the CIT Library to increase their knowledge of many subjects, including their heritage. Indeed, this is the quintessential reason for the library's existence. It is the smallest budgeted program that the Tribe has, yet it has the greatest potential to educate the entire community, as well as provide a variety of resources to tribal members interested in improving themselves.

You can support our library by visiting and using the collection. For more information, please contact Chris Tanner at [ctanner@coquilletribe.org](mailto:ctanner@coquilletribe.org). 

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# The StreamNet Library

by **David Liberty**  
Assistant Librarian,  
StreamNet Library

**D**id you know that the StreamNet Library holds the most extensive collection of materials on Columbia River Salmon? Our small library with a big heart is located in the Lloyd Center District of northeast Portland. The Library is a branch of the StreamNet Project. StreamNet is a consortium of agencies involved in fisheries management in the Columbia River Basin (please see addendum below for more information).

The administrative arm of the library is the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, whose mission is to return salmon back to the rivers. The Library's mission is to provide all materials necessary for improving conditions for anadromous salmon in the Northwest. By working together we have a better chance at fulfilling both missions.

We have extensive materials in fisheries and aquatic sciences, with additional sections on Native American culture, hydro-power, and habitat restoration. The Library currently contains approximately 20,000 items and places particular emphasis on less commonly available grey literature, such as consultants' reports, state government documents, and non-profit organizations' reports. Our collection includes videos, journals, and newsletters from all over North America.

Because of our extensive collection of books, articles, technical reports, data series, commission reports, and newsletters on

fish life history, the library's main patrons are fish biologists. However, we have many things to offer the more casual researcher. We are open to the general public from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. There is a public use computer terminal, which provides access to a database of abstracts from fisheries-related journal publications from 1971 to the present.

The Library offers research assistance, interlibrary lending and borrowing, document delivery, and other library services. We have extended all library privileges to the tribal members and staff of the four Columbia River Tribes who make up the Commission. The Commission tribes are the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), the Nez Perce Tribe, The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indians of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation. Our outreach to them has included the start of a satellite library at the CTUIR Fisheries Department from our large collection of duplicate materials. Most of that material had a catalogue record in our system, which could be easily transferred to a database on the Reservation. We have also sent duplicates to the Warm Springs Reservation and hope that donation will spark the start of another fisheries library there.

Another important function of the library is as a training ground for Native Americans interested in librarianship. After




picking up a summer intern funded by the CTUIR, our library employed three tribal members from Commission tribes. Our Assistant Librarian is David Liberty, who has a B.A. from Oregon State University. Our library technician is Gabriel Sheoships (B.S. Portland State University). Our summer intern was Robert Van Pelt, who is a student at Mt. Hood Community College. All are members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. David started as a tech in 1998 and was promoted in the spring of 2004. Gabe was soon hired to fill the tech vacancy and has been here for over two years. Robert has interned here for the last three summers and has received valuable work experience that will benefit his future path regardless of his professional interests. For two previous summers, we trained a high school student and Warm Springs tribal member in the more rudimentary aspects of library operations. He attacked his rather simple tasks with enthusiasm and gained valuable work experience.

For more information about the StreamNet Library, please visit our Web site at <http://www.fishlib.org/> or e-mail us at [fishlib@critfc.org](mailto:fishlib@critfc.org) or call us at (503) 736-3581.

### **About the StreamNet Project**

StreamNet is a cooperative, multi-agency effort among the Columbia River Basin's state, tribal, and federal fisheries agencies, the Northwest Power Planning Council

(NWPPC), the Bonneville Power Administration, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission whose charge is to compile fish-related data. We compile and make available on our Web site information intended to be useful to fisheries managers and researchers, land managers, planners, and others. We acquire, regionally standardize, and georeference data from multiple sources on a number of topics, including fish distribution, fish abundance trends, hatchery releases and returns, harvest levels, migration barriers, hatcheries, and dams. We provide a catalog of photographs relevant to fish species and facilities in the region. We have begun developing information on habitat restoration projects and some limited information on water temperatures and macroinvertebrates. We maintain the official list of stream reaches the NWPPC has recommended be protected from dam construction, and we are the official keepers of the Pacific Northwest's 1:100,000 scale GIS streams layer. We provide pre-made maps and let you make maps interactively from data in the StreamNet database to meet your needs. We continually work to update these resources, so new information becomes available several times each year. We also provide customized data-related services for participants in the NWPPC's Fish and Wildlife. (From the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.) 



# The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Tribal Library

by **Marion Mercier**  
Tribal Librarian,  
Confederated Tribes of Grand  
Ronde Tribal Library

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's Tribal Library collection began in 1990 with a handful of donated books that were shelved over an office desk. Through IMLS grant awards, continued donations from community members, and Tribal funding, the collection has grown to just over 5,000 items today.

The Tribal Library moved into its current location within the Tribal Education Facilities in May 2002. The library is approximately 1,500 square feet in size and contains areas for the children/youth collections, a space to hold story time, a young adult area with room for the Homework Center, and general space for leisure reading. The library also has two computer stations with Internet access, locations for materials such as videos, magazines, and newspapers, and a significant Native American collection, including general information about the Tribe.

The Tribal Library has one full-time staff, the Librarian, which is funded by the Tribe. We have one part-time staff, the Library Aide, which is funded by an IMLS Native American Library Services Basic Grant. We also have two volunteers, one who works at the library on Saturdays and one who helps with special events and displays. The library is open eight hours per day Monday through Friday and four hours on Saturday.



Outside of the Grand Ronde Tribal library.

The Library has provided services to over 5,000 visitors this year. This number has increased from the 800 visitors we had in 2004. Just over 700 Library cards have been issued, of which approximately 60 percent are held by active patrons. The Tribal Library is open to the general public and cards are issued to local residents and those from nearby communities. The library has had just over 6,000 circulations this year. Almost 900 visitors have come in to use the computers this year.

The Tribal Library sponsors a number of activities and events each year. Activities for 2006 include:

- National Library Week with literary trivia and visitor prize drawings
- Annual open house event with tribal history presentations and book spotlights
- Summer reading incentive program: 240 books read by 12 participants
- Summer program for youth grades K–5
- Summer creature feature for youth grades 6–12
- Summer cultural enhancement classes for high school youth
- Series of three family literacy workshops
- Early literacy workshop for parents and staff
- Various exhibits, including Lewis & Clark bicentennial, healthy kids, and exploring cultures



- Culture classes/workshop for adults, including basketry
- Weekly story time for pre-school and K-5 program
- Monthly poetry recital/reading
- Veteran's event, held November 4

We try to offer interesting activities that draw people into the library. We welcome recommendations for new additions to the collection from our patrons. Many of our purchases are based on patron recommendations. Donations are accepted, but the library does reserve the right to determine what will be added to the collection.

Our library is really nice and we would love to have you come in and visit when you are in the area. 🌸



Marion reading a book to her great-niece, Sophia MorningStar.



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# Cow Creek Tribal Library:

## A Tribal Library that Grows Every Year

by **Kelly LaChance**  
Education Director,  
Cow Creek Band of  
Umpqua Tribe of Indians

The Cow Creek Tribal Library offers a quiet, intimate space for tribal members and tribal employees to read, check out books, and surf the Internet. The library is located in the Cow Creek Government Office in Roseburg, Oregon.


Each year the Cow Creek Tribal Library receives an IMLS Native American Library Services Basic Grant, which provides us with the opportunity to purchase books, videos, and magazine subscriptions. For the last five years, the basic grant has been dedicated to increasing the holdings in the Native American section of the library collection. Native American books and videos for adults, teens, and children are a high priority and many items have been purchased to fill the need in this area.

The children's Native American section offers many wonderful books for all ages and reading levels. The books and videos were carefully selected in order to meet the cultural and educational needs of the Cow Creek tribal youth. Many of the books come with audio tapes. Recently, we have been steadily replacing the cassette tapes with compact discs. These audio recordings are a favorite and are checked out quite frequently.

In addition to the Native American section, the Cow Creek Tribal Library collection contains many other areas that cater to a wide

range of interests. Other featured sections include: nature, gardening, crafts, health, parenting, and educational materials. The library continually receives praise from patrons on the variety of books that are available in these other sections. Many people are amazed that our small library has such a large variety of information for tribal members to access.

A periodical collection is currently being developed. The library subscribes to many Native American newsletters and magazines. Back issues are housed in the library for patrons to use for information and research.

Another great opportunity that the Cow Creek Tribal Library has utilized is the "Staying Connected Grant" from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This grant provided the library with the means to obtain a new computer for public use. Prior to this, the library had two donated computers, which were in need of upgrading. The grant provided the funds to purchase one computer. Another computer was purchased with tribal revenues. When patrons visit the library now, there are two updated computers with Internet access for them to use. 

If you would like more information on the Cow Creek Tribal Library, please contact Kelly LaChance at (541) 677-5575 or [klachance@cowcreek.com](mailto:klachance@cowcreek.com). Visit us at 2371 N.E. Stephens Street, Suite 100 Roseburg, OR, 97470.



The two new computers with Internet access for Tribal members.



A comfortable and quiet place to read with easy access to books.



# Warm Springs Community Library: Finding a Home

by **Julie Quaid**  
Director,  
Essential Education Services,  
The Confederated Tribes of  
Warm Springs

**M**y interest in starting a tribal library began in the early 1990s, when tribal parents frequently requested tutoring assistance and study support for their school-age children. In 1990, Central Oregon Community College had an adult learning center, which provided GED classes in the tribal community center. A book collection was available for student use and checkout. Eventually, the COCC program moved and the books were stored in a tribal warehouse.

I was at the Grand Ronde tribal administration building for a meeting when I saw a very small library area and asked how the small collection was supported. That is when I learned about the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Native American Library Services grants. Later, I attended a child care conference in Seattle and toured a Family Resource Center facility. Services included a child care center, adult learning center, and library. Meanwhile, I had insistent phone calls from the warehouseman asking what I was going to do with the books taking up space in his warehouse.

I immediately applied for a Basic Grant for Indian Tribes from IMLS, which provided \$4,000 annually to support tribal libraries. This was \$4,000 more than I had ever had to support the library. I purchased bookshelves, study carrels, chairs, workstations, and books. I set up a very small library, again at the tribal community center, thinking that students would have a designated area to study. The library was unsupervised other than my twice-weekly visits to organize shelves and clean the area. Vandalism and theft were a problem. The old electrical wiring could not accommodate a public-use computer and I quickly realized that this site was not the best place for a library.

I wrote and received a grant to fund an Early Head Start program and set aside

\$210,000 for the remodel of the old Indian Health Service (I.H.S.) building. Another \$400,000 for building renovation was available from another source. The remodel project took over a year to complete. In the meantime, I was in discussions with the state Department of Human Resources to facilitate access for reservation residents to state services. The state office was located fifteen miles off the reservation and difficult for many to get to.

Finally, the Family Resource Center was created and a home was found for the library. Co-located programs include a state office for assistance programs, an Early Head Start program, and health promotion services. The Warm Springs Community Action Team, a non-profit community organization, is also currently located in the facility. The center has two cost-free meeting rooms and a kitchen for public use.

In 2004, I submitted my third (two were previously unsuccessful) IMLS Enhancement grant and was awarded \$150,000 for a two-year project to support basic library development. Writing two failed IMLS grants prompted me to seek the help of professionals. I was not afraid to ask for help from librarians from the county, as well as from Oregon State University. They provided proofreading, editing, and recommendations to strengthen the grant. Using all resources available and accepting help made all the difference with our third submission. Receiving the IMLS Enhancement grant provided me with an opportunity to meet professional librarians and access to an extensive resource network. It opened up an entirely new world for me and impressed me with the depth and breadth of library science. It reminded me of how little I really know about starting a library, but at the same time encouraged me to persist.



# Volunteering at the Warm Springs Library

by **Catherine L. Finney**  
*Head of Collection Development  
and Instruction,  
Central Oregon Community  
College Library*

I've been a volunteer at the Warm Springs Tribal Library for several months. It's become one of the most rewarding 'jobs' of my professional career. Volunteering for any small library often means making do with what you have, working quickly to take advantage of fluctuating resources, and respecting the values of library staff and community leaders. Over the course of eight weeks, with a team of one energetic volunteer librarian, the dynamic staff, and the board of the Warm Springs Tribal Library, we were able to develop and codify interim collection and gift policies, disperse a backlog of gifts, create a library Web page, and increase the library collection by more than 30 percent.

Home of the Warm Springs, Wasco, and Paiute tribes, the Warm Springs Reservation is inhabited by nearly 4,000 tribal members, most of whom live in or around the town of Warm Springs. Although they have much in common, each tribe has its own unique history and heritage. The tribal government provides a variety of services, including education, public safety, utilities, health, resource management, business development, and recreation. Many services not offered by the tribal government are provided by locally-owned private businesses. The tribal economy is based primarily on natural resources, including hydropower, forest products, and ranching. Tourism and recreation also make important contributions. Please see the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Web page at: <http://www.warmsprings.com>.

The Warm Springs Library is located in the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Family Resource Center, which was once the Warm Springs Hospital. The former emergency room now houses the library. As with many tribal libraries, the Warm Springs Library serves many functions:

it is a reading room, a place to access the Internet, a study hall for elementary and high-school students, a waiting room (the library is down the corridor from a number of tribal services), and an office space (at least one small business enterprise is tied to the library's phone and Internet access).

The library consists of one large room containing what is primarily a gift-based collection of about 600 paperbacks, suspense and romance novels, elderly reference books, and a very small children's and young adult collection. A few gift periodicals are present, and the library currently has one newspaper subscription. The library contains five workstations with Internet access. Library storage areas (previously the hospital morgue!) are stuffed with donated books. Book checkout is done with index cards and functions, for the most part, on the honor system. A computer spreadsheet lists most of the book titles in the library.

Consistent staffing is a challenge faced by many rural and tribal libraries. In addition to her plethora of other responsibilities, the reservation's K-12 Education Director, Julie Quaid, directs the Warm Springs Library. The library is staffed on a day-to-day basis by one classified employee. The one staff member spends the bulk of her time going through boxes of donated items, applying basic Dewey classification numbers, and shelving items. Because of its importance as a reading room, study area, and e-mail/Internet access area, the library is often open when no staff member is directly present. Warm Springs is also served by the Jefferson County Public Library (about 20 miles away), which is often out of reach for members of a community with no public transportation. The Jefferson County Library provides summer reading program story time services to the Warm Springs Library.



My volunteer relationship with the tribal library was created over a long period of time and facilitated through the assistance of mutual connections. I met Julie Quaid two years ago while searching for co-sponsors for a diversity conference hosted by Central Oregon Community College. We had a common acquaintance who introduced us and Julie eventually served as a keynote speaker for the conference. After the conference, Julie and I occasionally communicated by e-mail. When I was looking for library-related volunteer work several months later, I thought immediately of Julie and the tour she'd given me of the then-nascent Warm Springs Library. After a few months of exchanging e-mails, Julie was able to organize a volunteer role for me at the Warm Springs Library during the summer of 2006.

I'm a pretty energetic librarian, so it was important that Julie and I sit down to discuss the current status of the library and the goals of my volunteerism before I got carried away with my own ideas as to what should be done. The long term goals for this small, homegrown library are ambitious. The library has significant funding resources from its 2004 IMLS grant and hopes to hire a professional librarian late in the fall of 2006. This librarian would oversee the development of the library's online catalog, which will be integrated with that of neighboring county public library systems. The entire gift-based collection is due to be weeded and cataloged during this process.

The wonderful thing about volunteering in such a library is that every small effort has an impact. Julie and I came up with a list of priorities and a work plan for the summer months. We wanted to gain some control over the burgeoning gift book situation and re-focus the collection to better serve the needs of the community.

Based on our informal needs analysis, we desperately wanted to increase the consumer health, children's, and young adult collections. Despite the impending move to an online system, we wanted to see immediate improvements to the collection. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs has a significant Web presence providing information about its organizational structure, tribal services, and tourist industry, so we thought that adding a library Web page sounded like a good idea.

I had not worked in a tribal library before; my experience has been limited to heading instruction and collection development departments in small academic libraries. The priority tasks required by the Warm Springs Library, however, fell well within my range of expertise. The WS Library had been the recipient of many, many generous donations of used books from agencies and individuals from around the country. Unfortunately, many of the gift items were out of date, in poor condition, or wildly unmatched to the reading interests and information needs of the Warm Springs population.

The first order of business was to create interim gift and collection development policies to guide new acquisitions while culling the existing gift-based collection. The collection development policy was based, in part, on the Menominee Tribal/County Library's Material Selection Policy available at: <http://www.nfls.lib.wi.us/kes/policies.htm#material>. We also conducted an informal needs analysis through several conversations with the library's one staff member, Althea Henry, and a number of library patrons. Ms. Henry was often in the library six to eight hours a day and, because she had first hand experience with each patron who used the library, she had a good idea of patrons' interests. Native American




literature and poetry were in high demand. Patrons wanted information on prenatal care, mental health, and general health issues. No one read romances, but suspense novels were extremely popular. Information on horse care, ranching, and arts and crafts were needed. The library also needed more books for children and young adults.

Tribal libraries are often staffed by only one person and may not have the personnel time or shelf space required to weed through, sort, and dispose of large collections of gift books. While this jaded librarian was able to weed through dozens of boxes of outdated computer manuals, *Reader's Digest* condensed versions, romance novels, and decades-old medical texts in a few hours, my selection and weeding experience and my profound willingness to throw books away is not always shared by library staff members. Distributing gift book policies ahead of time and conducting brief phone interviews with potential donors can help ensure that the gifts that do arrive are useful. Community-based collection development policies and gift book policies provide selection criteria for future volunteers and staff regardless of their library experience.

Volunteering for a very small library often means you can take action very quickly. My proposed gift and collection development policies were approved by the Warm Springs Library Board just two weeks after I'd presented them. After the informal needs analysis, funds were released for two book buying trips, one to Bend's

Barnes and Noble and one to Portland's Powell's Books. Volunteer librarians and college instructors from the community were recruited to help select books in the fields of children's and young adult literature, consumer health, prenatal care, and Native American literature. Bend's Barnes and Noble was chosen for the first purchasing trip due to its proximity and its generous institutional discount. We wanted to get these new books into patrons' hands as soon as possible. With minimal processing and cataloging requirements it was a relatively short journey from the store to the library shelves.

There is still so much to be done. The Warm Springs Library's periodical and newspaper collection needs to be expanded. Children and teen research Web pages are needed. Relationships with the Oregon State Library need to be explored. A job description for the new librarian position needs to be reviewed and an interview committee developed. A coterie of consistent volunteers working under the new leadership must be developed. Staff will eventually need to be trained in integrated library systems, copy cataloging and processing, and other library procedures. The list is endless, but the work is vital. The impact of two short months of very part-time volunteer work is immeasurably rewarding.

Visit the Warm Springs Tribal Library's Web page at: [http://www.warmsprings.com/warmsprings/Tribal\\_Services/Education/Essential\\_Education\\_Services/FRC-WSLib/](http://www.warmsprings.com/warmsprings/Tribal_Services/Education/Essential_Education_Services/FRC-WSLib/). 



# ALA and Tribal Libraries:

## We Collaborate to Celebrate Community and Culture

**by Dr. Loriene Roy**  
*Professor, School of Information,  
The University of Texas at Austin  
and President-Elect,  
American Library Association*



Dr. Loriene Roy

**O**n May 1, 2006, I was elected the 2007–2008 President of the American Library Association (ALA). Along with responsibilities to the ALA membership, this election places me, as an indigenous person, in a role where I can help position tribal libraries to become involved with ALA initiatives. At the same time, I am also privileged to assist non-tribal libraries in learning more about tribal peoples and the information services they receive. Let me briefly introduce some initiatives I hope to launch and a few pertinent upcoming national and international events on the horizon.

Each ALA presidential candidate campaigns on a platform. I chose to direct attention to three areas. One is Supporting Library and Information Science (LIS) Education Through Practice. I believe all librarians share the responsibility of helping educate, train, and nurture the next generation of librarians. Many of my students contribute to service-learning efforts that support and extend library services to tribal communities. Their involvement in efforts such as “If I Can Read, I Can Do Anything,” a national reading club for Native children, are among the most meaningful experiences in these students’ educational careers. My Supporting LIS Education Through Practice Task Force is working with ALA’s Committee on Education to produce tangible products to help library school students connect to practice. These include the continuation of semi-annual forums on library education and the development of a database of fieldwork/Capstone/practicum activities. Students completing practical experiences will be invited to contribute content about their fieldwork with a link to their resumes.

A second component of my platform is the Circle of Literacy. My Circle of Literacy Task Force will highlight indigenous cultures through a reading celebration to

coincide with National Library Week 2008. One of our partners in this celebration is WGBH-Boston. WGBH is developing a five-part program in their “American Experience” series that will air nationally on PBS in the spring of 2008. This program, called “We Shall Remain,” will cover five episodes in American Indian history. Libraries will have opportunities to develop programming to promote community discussion of these historic events while learning about contemporary Indian life.

My third platform area is Workplace Wellness. The Workplace Wellness Task Force is planning a wellness fair to take place at the 2008 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim. They will produce a personal health document for ALA members to help them retain healthy lifestyles.

A number of events will take place within the next three years that will further spotlight indigenous librarianship. The Fifth International Indigenous Librarians Forum is scheduled for June 2007 in Australia. The tenth anniversary of the Spectrum Initiative Scholarship Program will take place in summer 2007. The third national conference on Tribal Libraries, Archives and Museums will welcome attendees to Oklahoma in October 2007. I invite all of you to join me in supporting and learning about these endeavors.

Four support groups will help me infuse these initiatives with indigenous, and often, international perspectives. These include the Events Planning Circle, Envisioning Circle, Student Action Circle, and Cultural Advisors. The work of the task forces and support circles is described in more detail on my ALA President-Elect Web site at <http://www.lorieneroy.com>. This Web site also provides links to the blogs we are using to communicate about our progress. I welcome your comments and



# The Oregon Collaborative Project:

## Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums and the Oregon State Library

by **Mary Kay Dahlgreen**  
Library Development  
Program Manager,  
Oregon State Library

In 2004, the Oregon State Library undertook a number of efforts to strengthen our relations with Oregon tribes and to work with them in the development of tribal libraries to serve their communities in a variety of ways. Much of this activity was stimulated by our partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and the Arizona State Library in a multi-state grant project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) entitled "Preserving our Memory, Language, and Lifeways." The Oregon component of this project was called, simply, "The Oregon Collaborative Project." It was primarily this project, led by Malissa Minthorn of Tamástlikt Cultural Institute and Denise Davis of the State Library, that motivated us to listen to the needs of Oregon's emerging tribal libraries and explore how tribal libraries could work with other libraries, archives, and museums in the state to improve services to their communities, and eventually, to all Oregonians. The activities of the Collaborative Project included a focus group, in May of 2004, which brought together tribal representatives with representatives from major Oregon libraries, archives, and museums to identify needs that could be addressed through collaboration and to begin building collaborative relationships.

The next step was to hold the Oregon Collaborative Conference on October 21–22, 2004, at Tamástlikt Cultural Institute. Forty-one people attended the conference, including representatives from seven of the nine Oregon tribes. The conference included general sessions for all participants and break-out workshop sessions on topics such as preservation, archive management, and digital collaboration. The results of the Oregon Collaborative Project were presented as one of the three model projects that resulted from the IMLS-funded multi-state

grant project at the National Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums Conference at Mesa, Arizona in May, 2005.

During 2005 and 2006, we continued our efforts to promote and support tribal libraries in Oregon. The 2005 Oregon Legislative Assembly passed HB 2674, which included tribal libraries in statutes authorizing the provision of financial assistance and resource sharing grants to Oregon libraries. The Oregon State Library supported the bill, and the State Librarian testified for it in both the House and Senate subcommittees.

The State Library is a partner in an IMLS grant to the Western Council of State Libraries, which will host two Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museum Conferences. One will be in Oklahoma in 2007 and one in Oregon in 2009. We are also a partner in an IMLS grant to Emporia State University to train minority librarians. The State Library will act as mentor and sponsor for qualifying tribal library employees who wish to complete a grant-funded Bachelor's or Master's degree in Library and Information Sciences through the Emporia State University distance education program.

In 2006, tribal libraries were invited to participate in the Gates Staying Connected program, which provided reimbursement for one public access computer to each tribal library. Four tribal libraries participated in the program.

Our plans for the remainder of 2006 include posting our *Bibliography of State Library Holding Related to the Oregon Tribes* on the State Library Web site and holding another focus group to share information between the library and archive staff who attended the Oregon Collaborative Conference and focus group in 2004. On October 22–25, 2007, the National Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums Conference will take place at the Sheraton Hotel in Oklahoma City. The conference is funded by the



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# Tribal and Rural Libraries Exist by the Will of the People

by **Carol Barta**  
Assistant Director,  
North Central Kansas  
Libraries Systems

“Small-town libraries survive by the will of the people,” said James Swan, a library system director from central Kansas recently in an article in the *Salina (KS) Journal*. The article appeared on the Library Link of the Day and was posted to many lists across the country. In times of declining rural populations and diminishing budgets, this is perhaps the only way geographically-isolated libraries will survive.

Tribal and rural libraries provide both the community anchor and the link to the outside world that is needed for small towns to endure in the increasingly urban and technological world we live in. American Library Association’s Committee on Rural, Native and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds came into existence to help these small libraries find the resources they need to serve their communities. The committee grew out of a task force that studied the concerns and challenges of libraries in rural communities. The geographic and cultural isolation of these libraries was the common thread regardless of the type of library. The library of a tribal community college shares many of the same concerns as a public library in a small town. Last-mile Internet access and dwindling materials budgets are mutual concerns. The committee seeks to bring librarians from these institutions together, not only to discuss their problems, but also to share solutions they have tried in their home libraries.

The Committee has a Web site at <http://www.ala.org/rural> or <http://www.ala.org/native> or <http://www.ala.org/tribal>. All addresses lead to the same opening page. The page is maintained by the Office of Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS). On the site there are links to resources such as the Rural Library Survey Report or “What’s Your Story,” the Montana State Libraries monthly marketing tip. The Web site is constantly changing and content is being

sought. Librarians and others with suggestions for links or articles are encouraged to submit their ideas. Tribal and rural library practitioners are the experts here, because of their knowledge of their communities. Many tribal and rural librarians are providing wonderful service to their communities in spite of a lack of formal library training. The collective wisdom of these on-the-ground practitioners is much more useful to other librarians than experts whose experience is solely in urban libraries.

In June, the committee released two documents rural librarians can use to assist them in advocating for their libraries. “A Small But Powerful Guide to Winning Big Support for your Library” is a tip sheet librarians and library boards can utilize in planning advocacy campaigns. So many of the advocacy toolkits previously published assumed that all libraries have large media outlets available to them. More realistically, rural libraries may work with weekly community newspapers and might not have any radio or TV presence locally. The second document is a tool kit with nuts and bolts suggestions for creating an advocacy campaign that will fit your rural library. Both are available for free download at the Committee’s Web site. The production of these resources was made possible by a grant from World Book. We are very grateful to them for supporting our efforts.

The tip sheet and the toolkit are being customized for use in native and tribal libraries. There are protocols and procedures for working with tribal councils and other agencies that were not covered in the more generic version that is now online. We anticipate that the revised publications will be available by the 2007 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

Providing programs at ALA’s annual meeting that are relevant and useful to rural and tribal librarians is another



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endeavor of the committee. Most rural and tribal librarians are not able to attend large, national conventions, however, thanks to WebJunction that is changing. Fifty rural librarians received scholarships to attend the conference in New Orleans in 2006. Because of the added emphasis on rural libraries occasioned by the creation of the Committee, a number of programs tailored to the needs and interests of rural librarians were offered. This trend will continue for the 2007 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The Committee, through OLOS, is also working to bring programs to the state library association conventions. The National Library of Medicine's "Good Health Information@your library" is an example.

Because rural, native and tribal libraries share so many of the same challenges, sharing our collective knowledge about solving these challenges is vital to our continued existence. The committee offers a place at the ALA table to connect with our colleagues who struggle with the unique issues of rural and tribal libraries. Together we can find ways to bring excellent service to our rural libraries—just like the city folk. 🌿



# Tribal Libraries:

## Vital but Often Invisible Treasures

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**by Karen M. Brown**  
(formerly Letarte)  
Interim Head of Metadata  
and Cataloging,  
North Carolina State  
University Libraries  
and President,  
American Indian Library  
Association

and

**by Kelly P. Webster**  
Cataloger,  
O'Neill Library,  
Boston College  
and Past President,  
American Indian Library  
Association

As libraries become increasingly focused on exposing hidden collections and promoting discoverability of unique resources, archival and special collections naturally come to the fore. Yet there is another, often invisible and overlooked, source of hidden treasures waiting to be discovered: tribal libraries. Tribal libraries are not only vital to the communities they directly serve, they are also home to a variety of unique and valuable information resources of interest to researchers in many fields.

Oregon and neighboring states are host to a number of tribal libraries. These libraries are a lifeline for their communities. Yet tribal libraries are often severely underfunded and must rely heavily on donations and grants in order to serve their users. No matter what kind of library you work in, or where you are located, there is something you can do to help support these institutions that do so much for their communities.

### *What are tribal libraries?*

On the surface, this question seems simple, but the answer is complicated. The Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act of 1975, subsequent legislation, and hearings at the White House Conferences on Indian Library and Information Services on or Near Reservations gave rise to the creation of tribal libraries. Tribal libraries are essential in assisting tribes to preserve their cultural identities and to maintain sovereignty (Biggs, 2001). A tribal library must be designated by a tribe. Tribal libraries vary widely in size, collections, staffing, and function. They can include public, academic, and special libraries. Many libraries serve more than one role in a tribal community. Some may support reservation schools while also functioning as a public library. Some act as research libraries or archives. Many tribal college libraries also serve as

public libraries. Some communities might have more than one library serving tribal members. For example, the libraries serving the Tohono O'Odham in Arizona include the Tohono O'Odham Community College Library as well as three tribal libraries.

### *How are tribal libraries funded?*

Surprisingly, tribal libraries do not receive any kind of base funding from the Department of the Interior, the federal agency charged with oversight of Indian Affairs. Although some libraries may receive modest support from their tribes, many are left to fend for themselves. Most, but not all, tribal college libraries are funded from their college's general fund.

All federally recognized tribes are eligible for Basic Grant funding through the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) Native American Library Services grant program. These tribes can also apply for that program's competitive Enhancement Grant.

### *What is meant by federal recognition?*

The IMLS uses the following definition: Any tribe, band, nation or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village, regional corporation or village corporation that is recognized by the Secretary of the Interior as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians.

In the state of Oregon, the federally recognized tribes include the Burns Paiute Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, the Klamath Tribe, and the Coquille Tribe.

Besides IMLS funding, other grant



opportunities exist, but not every tribe employs a skilled grant writer or staff with experience managing grants. In addition, there are many tribes that may be recognized by their states but are not included in the list of federally recognized tribes, which further limits funding opportunities.

If tribal libraries can become recognized by a state library as having public library status, they become eligible for some basic funding. Oregon has made strides in this area, but many states do not recognize their tribal libraries, which deprives them of greatly needed collaboration and funding opportunities.

#### *Who staffs tribal libraries?*

Staffing varies from library to library. Tribal college libraries must meet accreditation standards and are therefore more likely to have one or more MLS librarians on staff. But often due to funding issues, many tribal libraries have no degreed staff. Tribal library budgets are often barely adequate to provide for minimal staffing, let alone for MLS staff (Engstrom, 2006). Despite this bleak financial situation, tribal libraries often have a very dedicated library staff. Many tribal librarians are passionate about their work and are always seeking ways to improve their services and collections on a meager budget.

#### *Where in the world are tribal libraries?*

Tribal libraries exist throughout the nation. There is no complete and current directory due to the difficulty of tracking contact information. This might become easier to track if more state libraries begin recognizing tribal libraries as eligible for state funding. The most complete directory, which also includes tribal museums and archives, was published in 2005 by IMLS and the Arizona State Museum (see the Related Links section). There is also a directory of tribal colleges

available on the American Indian Higher Education Consortium's Web site. For more information on tribal libraries in your area, you could contact IMLS, your state's Indian Commission, your state library, or the American Indian Library Association.

### **What YOU can do support tribal libraries**

In 2004, The American Library Association's Office of Literacy Outreach Services Subcommittee on Library Services to American Indians distributed a survey to tribal librarians via electronic lists and print mailings. The Subcommittee also gathered input at an American Library Association program featuring speakers Carlene Engstrom, library director at Salish Kootenai College, and Jane Kirby, Virtual Library Manager for the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. Results from the survey were used to create a brief tip sheet for librarians who would like to help support tribal libraries. Participants emphasized that it is essential to establish a dialogue with the tribal librarian in order to best understand the needs and priorities for each institution.

#### *Material donations*

Tribal libraries need current, quality materials, like any other library. Materials that are outdated, in bad condition, or outside the collection development policy create a burden. This is especially true for libraries lacking the staff, space, or time to weed, perform selection, and coordinate disposal of unneeded donations. Therefore, it is best to ask the librarian what is needed or to send a list of available items before donating. One example to consider is donating extra copies your library may have of best-sellers, rather than returning them to the vendor.

Tribal libraries may also be interested in furnishings. If your library is remodel-



ing, this may provide a perfect opportunity for you to dispose of unneeded furniture and thus help to make a tribal library more comfortable and attractive for users. Many tribal libraries have only government-donated furniture.

### *Monetary donations*

Direct monetary donations are always needed and appreciated. If your library holds a periodic book sale, consider working with your Friends of the Library group to donate a portion of the proceeds to a tribal library. Another idea is to subsidize the subscription cost of a magazine or journal from a tribal library's desiderata list. To make a donation to tribal libraries in New Mexico, contact:

Friends of New Mexico Tribal Libraries  
P.O. Box 2484,  
Española, NM 87532

Questions can be directed to the Native American Libraries Special Interest Group at [nalsig@yahoogroups.com](mailto:nalsig@yahoogroups.com).

### *Volunteer your time*

Volunteer assistance can be a great gift, but its value depends on the expertise, reliability, and dedication of the volunteers. Please contact individual libraries directly about current volunteer opportunities. Ways to volunteer include donating your time to assist with Web site development, cataloging, programming, and other activities. Volunteer time can be counted towards a grant match for a tribal library, and increases the library's chances for supplemental funding.

You or your institution could choose to sponsor a tribal librarian to attend a conference, including funding a substitute to staff the library while the tribal librarian is away. Most tribal librarians cannot afford the luxury of valuable professional development opportunities such as participation in ALA or other organizations. Yet another idea is

to assist tribal libraries to develop a Friends of the Library Group, or a broader state or regional advocacy group.

### *Project/program support*

Library faculty members who coordinate student field work might consider collaborating with tribal libraries on student projects and internships. This is a great way not only to assist a tribal library, but also to provide a student with valuable practical experience.

The development of long-term partnerships is also important for tribal libraries. "Adopt-a-library" programs are just one example. Although most programs have geographic limitations, long-distance partnerships are also a possibility.

Finally, share your programming ideas. Your ideas for incentives, materials, graphics, and summer youth programming could be an invaluable resource for an understaffed tribal library.

### *Training/consulting*

As previously mentioned, training and professional development opportunities for tribal librarians are rare in geographically isolated areas. In addition to inviting tribal library staff to participate in conferences and other activities, consider offering your programs at their site.

Grant writing assistance is another area where you may be able to share your expertise. Assist a tribal library to write an IMLS Enhancement Grant or other grant, or offer to review the grant once written. In addition, IMLS maintains a consultant directory. Let IMLS know you are willing to act as a consultant for tribal libraries. Most tribes are eligible for funds to hire a consultant.

### *Advocacy*

Be an advocate for tribal libraries by including them in planning discussions; make sure they are "on the radar" for your institution.



Most tribal libraries are not recognized within their states as public libraries and are therefore not eligible to receive state funding. You can help tribal libraries gain status as public libraries within their states, or assist them in working toward meeting the state criteria.

### *Other ideas*


Since most tribal libraries serve user communities of 2-3000 or less, consider sharing your library or consortium database purchases with tribal libraries. For most tribal libraries, OCLC is beyond their monetary capacity. Offer OCLC for free or a reduced price through state consortia. You can also help by giving tribal libraries generous inter-library loan privileges.

Another way to provide support is to work with the tribal librarian to create an Amazon or Barnes and Noble gift registry or wish list for the library, and then invite others to purchase the items as gifts.

These are just a few practical ways to help tribal libraries and to preserve these vital treasures for new generations of users. Developing a relationship with a tribal library will help generate other creative ideas. A simple way to get to know tribal library staff in your area and to open up communication is to offer to pass along information about professional development/training opportunities, grants, etc. You can also report back on information you learn at conferences when the tribal librarian can't attend. Your involvement in any of these areas will be appreciated.

Finally, join The American Indian Library Association (AILA) to stay in touch with people interested in the improvement of library services for American Indians and Alaska Natives. As a member, you will receive a quarterly newsletter and have access to an electronic discussion list. AILA-L is a wonderful place to post vacancy an-

nouncements, and allows your institution to publicize opportunities to an audience you may not have had a way to reach in the past. Personal memberships are just \$15 per year, and institutional memberships are \$30.

There are many simple ways that anyone can help to support tribal libraries. Developing a relationship with a tribal library in your area can be very rewarding for both partners. 

### *Resources*

Biggs, B. (2001). *Tribal Library Census and Needs Assessment Project Final Report*. Library of California, Tierra Del Sol Region. Available at <http://www.csusm.edu/bbiggs/loc/report.html>

Engstrom, C. E-mail to author. September 14, 2006.

Oregon Blue Book 2006. Available at: <http://bluebook.state.or.us/national/tribal/tribal.htm>

### *Related links*

American Indian Higher Education Consortium, <http://www.aihec.org/>

American Indian Library Association, [www.ailanet.org](http://www.ailanet.org)

Institute of Museum and Library Services, Basic Grants, <http://www.imls.gov/applicants/grants/nativeAmerican.shtm>

Tribal Archive, Library and Museum Directory, [http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/aip/leadershipgrant/directory/tlam\\_directory\\_03\\_2005.pdf](http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/aip/leadershipgrant/directory/tlam_directory_03_2005.pdf)

This article is based on a publication of the OLOS Subcommittee on Library



Services to American Indians, chaired by Kelly P. Webster.

*Special thanks to Carlene Engstrom, Director, Salish-Kootenai Tribal College Libraries, and Dr. Lotsee F. Patterson, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Oklahoma.*

## Warm Springs Library

Continued from page 11

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Today, the library employs a part-time Library Aide and is administered by the K-12 Education Support Services department. Funding continues to be a challenge. The facility is provided at no cost by the tribal government. Our primary funding source is IMLS. We have received cash support for personnel from the Warm Springs Community Action Team. Thanks to generous book donations from Sunriver, Tygh Valley, Maupin, and Jefferson County libraries, we have books on our shelves. The Willamette Writers organization and private donors from New York City and Connecticut

frequently send new or nearly new books and donations. An organization, Libraries of Eastern Oregon, donated equipment for loan to our patrons.

Now, my dream is that our library will provide the opportunity for tribal community members to access information and apply knowledge in order to reach their full potential for the benefit of our reservation and future generations. 🌿

IMLS Native American Library Services Grants: <http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/nativeAmerican.shtml>

## ALA and Tribal Libraries

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suggestions. Finally, please consider nominating yourself or a colleague to serve on an ALA committee. You will find my online

committee appointment volunteer form at <http://cs.ala.org/roy/volunteer.html>. 🌿

## Oregon Collaborative Project

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Institute of Museum and Library Services, sponsored by the Western Council of State Libraries, and hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. 🌿

For more information about the Oregon Collaborative Project, please contact MaryKay Dahlgreen at: [marykay.dahlgreen@state.or.us](mailto:marykay.dahlgreen@state.or.us) or (503) 378-5012.



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# OLA Quarterly Publication Schedule 2007

The *OLA Quarterly* is an official publication of the Oregon Library Association. Beginning with volume 3, number 4 the *Quarterly* is indexed in Library Literature. Each issue of the *OLA Quarterly* is developed by a guest editor(s), on a topic decided by the Publications Committee. To suggest future topics for the *Quarterly*, or to volunteer/nominate a Guest Editor, contact any member of the Publications Committee or click on the appropriate e-mail link on the OLA Web site.

Vol./No.	Theme	Deadline	Pub. Date	Guest Editor
Vol 13 • No 1 Spring 2007	<i>New Voices, New Views: The next wave of librarians</i>	February 15, 2007	March 15, 2007	Anne-Marie Deitering and Janet Webster
Vol 13 • No 2 Summer 2007	<i>President's Conference Issue</i>	May 15, 2007	June 15, 2007	Aletha Bonebrake



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