Indigenous Peoples

Decolonizing Cataloging in the 21st Century
Laboratory of Anthropology Library

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Laboratory of Anthropology Library
Museum of Indian Arts and Culture
https://library.indianartsandculture.org
Cataloging is an immense responsibility

- Recognizing power relationships
- Recognizing cataloging is a political act
- Recognizing power of LC subject headings

- Recognizing power of ‘naming’ as well as disempowerment through excluding, marginalizing, or denying
Colonization / Decolonization

Epistemological Mindsets / Worldviews

• *Colonialism, Imperialism, Manifest Destiny*
  – Eurocentric mindset, worldview
  – Practice of domination involving the subjugation of one people to another

• *Post-Colonialism + Decolonization*
  – Dismantles Eurocentric systems of thought
  – Decenters Eurocentric views, values narratives

*Decolonization is not the same as “diversity”*
Conceptual Framework(s)

**Praxis**
The act of reflecting and acting to transform and affect positive change

**Postmodern Theory**
- Deconstructionalism
  - Initial praxis from which cataloging developed to support tribal sovereignty and identity

**Decolonization Theory**
- Apply Decolonialist theory (as a rubric of Postmodern theory)
Praxis
The act of reflecting and acting to transform and affect positive change

• Process of re-evaluation

• **Enacting counter practices**

• Employing / Developing subject terms recognizing sovereignty and identity

• Practice truthtelling

• **Disrupting rules**
  Anglo-American Cataloging Rules & LC

• **Enacting process of cataloging through consultation**
Sovereignty

Tribes are sovereign nations with power and authority over their people and territory

U.S. has 568 federally recognized tribes

Construct subject terms that:

- Recognize each indigenous culture as “distinct”
- Recognize language is “identity”
- Recognize place as “identity”
- Incorporate Indigenous language terms and place names

Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975
(Public Law 93-638)

New Mexico has 23 federally recognized tribes
NM State Tribal Nation Stats
23 federally recognized tribal nations in NM counties

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<th>Print resources</th>
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Indigenous Artists & Identity

- Herrera, Velino Shiże (Ma-Pe-Wi) (Zia), 1902-1973
- Martinez, Crescencio (Te-e) (San Ildefonso), 1879-1918
- Peña, Tonita (Qua Ah) (Cochiti), 1893-1949
- Polelonema, Otis (Hopi, Second Mesa), 1902-1981
- Roybal, Alfonso (Awa Tsireh) (San Ildefonso), 1898-1955
- Velarde, Pablita (Tse Tsan) (Santa Clara), 1918-2006
Self Identity

- Velarde, Pablita (Tse Tsan) (Santa Clara), 1918-2006
  - Name Hierarchy / Sequencing
  - Flows from the artists / named person
  - Velarde is known predominantly by her Hispanic name
  - Tewa name incorporated in record
  - Signed works using her Tewa name Tse Tsan
  - Used her Tewa name outside her culture

- Cultural Affiliation
  - Tewa culture from the Pueblo of Santa Clara
Peña, Tonita (Qua Ah) (Cochiti), 1893-1949
Velarde, Pablita (Tse Tsan) (Santa Clara), 1918-2006

• 600 1 0 Peña, Tonita
• 700 1 0 Velarde, Pablita
• c (Qua Ah) (Tse Tsan)
• c (Cochiti), (Santa Clara),
• d 1893-1949 1918-2006
Artist Files

A-henna-bah (Diné) : artist file
https://library.indianartsandculture.org/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=41739

Century of Progress International Exposition (1933-1934 : Chicago, Il.)

- State of New Mexico history
- Navajo Nation history
- Navajo weavers
- Navajo women
- Biography
- Only known portrait photograph has been uploaded
- Links to newspaper coverage naming her embedded
Artist Files

Jonathan Loretto (Walatowa-Cochiti) : artist file

https://library.indianartsandculture.org/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=41735

- Named cultures and sequence of cultures are ‘artist determined’
- Walatowa > How Jemez people refer to themselves. Towa language for Jemez people
- Cochiti > contemporary spelling / usage for Kotyiti
- MIAC/LOA Library compiler
- Embedded list of reliable links to full-text resources
What makes it possible?

• What makes all of this shifting, positioning and enacting possible?
  • Technical
    Ability to personalize the Koha Integrated Library System
  • Professional Knowledge
    Databases, cataloging, thesauri construction
  • Consultants
Consultation

• Museum of Indian Arts and Culture
  » MIAC Staff - Keresan, Tewa, Diné
  » MIAC - Indian Advisory Panel (Diné, Keres, Tewa, Tiwa)

• Tribal Libraries Organizations
  – ATALM, ATALM Mentor (Travis Zimmerman, Anishinabe)
  – NM State Library Native American Libraries Special Interest Group

• Tribal Libraries
  – University of New Mexico Indian Nations Library Program
  – Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Library

• Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
  – Bernard Mora (Tesuque)

• Scholars that work closely with a tribe
  – Eg. Richard I. Ford’s lifetime work with the Tewa
  – Veronica Tiller (Jicarilla), PhD
Laboratory of Anthropology Library

It is a State of New Mexico government research library
Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Historic Sites
Historic Preservation Division, Office of Archaeological Studies

Supports research on the indigenous arts and culture of the greater Southwest and of anthropology and archaeology.

1927-1947
Laboratory of Anthropology, Inc.

1951-1981
Laboratory of Anthropology (Museum of New Mexico)

1987-2019
Museum of Indian Arts and Culture/Laboratory of Anthropology
Acknowledgements

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Sources
