

# NEH Application Cover Sheet (PW-264289)

## Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

### PROJECT DIRECTOR

---

Mr. Tim Bernardis  
Library Director  
P.O. Box 370  
Crow Agency, MT 59022-0370  
USA

**E-mail:** tim@lbhc.edu  
**Phone:** 4066383113  
**Fax:**

**Field of expertise:** Native American Studies

### INSTITUTION

---

Little Big Horn College  
Crow Agency, MT 59022-0370

### APPLICATION INFORMATION

---

**Title:** *Cultivating Ourselves: Digitization and Access to Crow Historical and Cultural Resources*

**Grant period:** From 2019-05-01 to 2022-04-30

**Project field(s):** Native American Studies

**Description of project:** Little Big Horn College is proposing a project funded through the NEH to continue to digitize historical and cultural materials related to the Crow Indians. The college holds a great deal of antiquated audiovisual materials and will create digital copies saved on a server, tape drive, and off site. Once digitized, the audio and video will be placed online via the Content Management System, Mukurtu allowing for culturally appropriate use. Along with digitization, the project proposes to create translations and transcripts to aid those who lack fluency in the Crow language. Professionals in the field will produce the transcriptions. Weaving all of this together, virtual displays will utilize audiovisual content, transcripts, and other archival materials held at the college. The project team will receive feedback and assistance from outside professionals from the Sustainable Heritage Project at Washington State University and the Montana Historical Society.

### BUDGET

---

<b>Outright Request</b>	330,422.00	<b>Cost Sharing</b>	85,906.00
<b>Matching Request</b>	0.00	<b>Total Budget</b>	416,328.00
<b>Total NEH</b>	330,422.00		

### GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

---

Mr. Tim Bernardis  
P.O. Box 370  
Crow Agency, MT 59022-0370  
USA

**E-mail:** tim@lbhc.edu  
**Phone:** 4066383113  
**Fax:**

## Project Description

The Little Big Horn College (LBHC) Library and Archives is proposing a National Endowment for the Humanities project that entails the digitization of Crow Indian cultural and historical audiovisual content. Currently, holds twenty-seven hundred reel to reel, audiocassettes, VHS, and Mini DVs that document a wide range content ranging from Crow Fair, Daytime Dance, Handgames, and numerous oral histories. These items are a historical and cultural treasures that need preservation, as they are quickly deteriorating in their current state. Beginning in 2015, the library and archives began a digitization project funded via the Institute for Museum and Library Services. During the three-year duration of this project, almost fourteen hundred items have been digitized. Also, many items have been placed online through our Content Management System, Mukurtu. Mukurtu allows for online content to be viewed in a culturally appropriate manner.

While great strides have been in regard to digitization, the remaining audiovisual items need digitization. Also, a great deal of the material is in the Crow language, which while still strong limits use by potential researchers. In order to ameliorate this, translations and transcripts of selected culturally significant collections will be prepared. Furthermore, many individuals both on and off the reservation lack the cultural fluency to appreciate the significance of many audiovisual collections. Online virtual exhibits will provide the appropriate context to fully appreciate our digitized collections. We will work with Cultural Codex operated by Davadan Systems to produce the displays. In order to facilitate these activities, LBHC will partner with technical experts and with cultural experts from the Crow community to help provide project team members with appropriate guidance and feedback.

*Cultivating Ourselves: Digitization and Access to Crow Historical and Cultural Resources*

Grant Proposal from Little Big Horn College to the National Endowment for the Humanities

Table of Contents

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page Number</i>
Table of Contents	
Project Description	
Narrative	1-13
History of Grants	14
Project Deliverables	15
List of Project Participants	16
Budget and Budget Justification	17-25
Appendices:	26 - 73
A. Screenshot For Video & Audio web interface/Mukurtu with Metadata	
B. Finding Aid Excerpt	
C. Collection Description Record Sample	
D. Oral History Release Form	
E. Transcription Sample	
F. Virtual Exhibit Example	
G. Resumes/Vitae	
H. Letters of Commitment	
I. Letters of Support	

## NEH Proposal- Little Big Horn College

### **Significance:**

Little Big Horn College (LBHC) is a tribally controlled community college located on the Crow Indian Reservation in south-central Montana. The reservation is 2.28 million acres and spans ninety miles east-west and sixty miles north-south. Currently, there are 13,600 enrolled member of the Crow Nation with approximately 9,800 or 72 percent who reside on the reservation. Fifty percent of the reservation population currently falls under federal poverty guidelines. The economy of the Crow Reservation includes agriculture, mining, and employment through tribal and federal agencies such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Service, and the Crow government. The Crow Nation sustains many cultural institutions including the Crow language, which is spoken by 60 percent of the adult population. Language and cultural preservation are one of the primary goals of LBHC and are reflected in the Crow Studies degree LBHC offers. The Little Big Horn College campus is located in the town of Crow Agency, Montana. The Crow Tribe of Indians chartered the college in 1980 and the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges (NWASC) fully accredited LBHC since 1990.

The LBHC Library was founded in 1985 and the Archives in 1986 and function as one unit under the college's structure. Crow Tribal Chairman Richard Real Bird designated the LBHC Library/Archives as the official library of the Crow Nation in 1986. The LBHC Library/Archives is the only public library on the reservation that provides print, digital, audiovisual and online resources stakeholders including Crow community members and residents of Big Horn County. In 2008, LBHC built a new Library/Archives building that dramatically increased the square footage for the Library to 9,500 square feet and the Archives to 4,200 square feet. The library is open from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM Monday thru Thursday and 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Friday during the academic year and 8:00 to 5:00 Monday thru Thursday during the summer. The current LBHC Library and Archives staff includes a Library Director, Assistant Librarian, Archivist, Archival Audio/Visual Technician, Technical Library Assistant, and a Library Aide. The library currently has 5,820 registered patrons. In 2018, the library's holdings totaled 24,451 items, including 6,592 in the Crow/Native American Collection.

To share the wealth of cultural knowledge present in the Crow community, the Library/Archives also provides public programming with a Cultural Enrichment course, which meets weekly during the academic year and deals with important themes in Crow culture and history. Most of the presenters have earned the title Eminent Cultural Scholar, who may lack a scholarly degree but possess a great knowledge of Crow history and

culture often derived from the oral tradition. These presentations are always videotaped. Based upon this background, the Library/Archives mission and goals statement includes: access to appropriate information resources, to enhance and refine Library resources, to develop and refine information literacy skills, and especially to provide and enhance materials complementary to and supportive of the Crow Studies Associate of Arts degree course work. The LBHC Library and Archives serve as locus of humanistic inquiry for the Crow community and for scholars from across American and beyond.

The Archives holds a wide range of materials that includes 1,123 feet of paper collections, maps, audio, video, microfilm, and photographs. The audio and video holdings housed in the Archives total 2,878. These are irreplaceable items that document a wide array of cultural practices, historical events, and community gatherings dating to the 1940s and they detail the culture/history of the Crows well before the reservation era. However, many of these audiovisual materials made up audiocassettes, video and audio reel to reels, VHS tapes, and Mini DVs were showing signs of wear and tear.

Since 2015, the LBHC Archives has been digitizing these items and making them available online via the Content Management System (CMS), Mukurtu. Mukurtu allows digital items to be displayed in culturally appropriate manner. For example, among the Crows certain stories should only be told during certain times of the year, particularly during the winter. Mukurtu allows for access during the appropriate times of the year. At the heart of our proposed NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources project centers around the continued digitizing of antiquated audiovisual materials in the LBHC Archives and placing them online via Mukurtu in culturally appropriate manner.

While the Crow language and culture remain strong, many younger members of the community lack the fluency to truly comprehend many of the audiovisual materials. Thirty-eight percent of students who accessed online resources via the college website specifically looked for Crow items in 2017. Maintaining this important part of the culture is paramount and is one of the three main core themes at LBHC. That said, providing transcripts with English and Crow translations would help ameliorate this barrier and allow the entire community and those outside the reservation who access digitized recordings to fully comprehend selected materials. Along with the language barrier, a large percentage of users on and off the reservation do not fully understand Crow history or tenets of its culture. In order to bridge these barriers, virtual displays will be created and placed online which will provide context along with selected digitized recordings in order to help provide appropriate understandings. Currently there is no museum or cultural center that presents archival materials or material culture from a Crow perspective. In turn, this would provide for greater access and use of materials via our CMS, Mukurtu. To achieve this aim, the project will work with Eminent Cultural Scholars, to provide

guidance regarding the cultural appropriateness of materials. Along with the Eminent Cultural Scholars, outside experts both technical and in the humanities field will work with the project staff to ensure both technical and content measures are reached. Fulfillment of all of the above needs will in conjunction allow for outreach, access and cultural literacy of Crow history/culture in a digital format across the reservation and beyond long after the project. As noted above, these material will be of significance to local members of the community and scholars nationally, they will also be of merit to educators at LBHC and in schools across the Crow Reservation and beyond. The audio and video collections provide overarching structure of our NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources proposal titled *Cultivating Ourselves: Digitization and Access to Crow Historical and Cultural Resources*. Through this project the humanistic traits including literature, music, history, and poetry will allow educators to integrate these fields into their fields to stimulate an ongoing interest in the humanities from an indigenous perspective. Finally, the continuation of the project with virtual displays and transcriptions would provide a template for other indigenous communities to produce similar projects in the future with a focus on protecting their cultural heritage.

### **History, Scope, and Duration:**

Beginning in October 2015, the LBHC Archives began an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funded project to create metadata for our audiovisual collections, digitize the holdings, and upload them to Internet via the Content Management System, Mukurtu. Mukurtu allows for local controls over viewing options, which allows the Archives to present audiovisual materials in a culturally appropriate manner. Along with the Archivist, and Audio/Visual Technician was hired for the duration of the project. This project was largely informed and based on consultations with cultural and historical leaders from the Crow community and beyond from 2009 onwards. The project aimed to digitize and make available to a broad community both locally and among outside scholars these truly significant materials. These included Crow Fair, The Crow/Shoshone Sun Dance, Crow Veterans Project, Crow Historic and Battle Sites, linguistic tapes, and broad range of oral histories describing cultural and historical phenomenon. Both scholars and community members utilize these collections. While these tapes focus on the Crow community, in many instances they provide a comparative framework to other indigenous people on the Northern Plains further bolstering their importance for scholars. Among tribal colleges and tribally controlled cultural centers, there has been virtually no attempt at digitizing and placing such a large quantity of materials on the Internet. While each collection proves unique, one collection deserves special mention. The Barney Old Coyote Collection includes interviews with Crows who lived before the establishment of the reservation. These individuals give insights that are lost to most and presented in an archaic form of Crow most community do not comprehend. Losing these materials would be a

significant loss to the history of the Crow people. This collection also served as the basis for the book *Way of the Warrior* published by University of Nebraska Press.

Prior to beginning digitization, library and archives staff received training from Sustainable Heritage Network (SHN) at Washington State University. The SHN has continued to assist us throughout the project and will continue to work with us into the future. The Archivist created twenty-three collections grouping similar items together when there was no original order for audiovisual. During the duration of the current project, the Archivist and Audio/Visual Technician created metadata for most of the materials in our collections and large numbers of video and audio recordings were digitized, along with the uploading of the digitized contents onto Mukurtu. Due to the cultural taboos, the Archives needed to place restrictions on certain collections that only allowed community access. For example, a collection that dealt with medicine bundles that gave individuals certain powers was labelled traditional knowledge in Mukurtu and placed on a restriction. Also, certain donors placed restriction for in house use only, which meant the Archives could digitize but not place online. As of June 2018, the Archives digitized 1,319 items including 338 videos and 981 audio recordings along with 1,705 items of metadata. The Archivist produced finding aids for collections after they were digitized.

Along with the IMLS grant, the LBHC Library and Archives currently has an NEH Humanities Initiatives at Tribal Colleges and Universities grant for three years. With this source of funding, instructors at LBHC are conducting interviews with community members regarding the post-World War II history of the Crow Reservation. The topics deal with political, cultural, and economic matters that helped shape the Crow people during a time of tremendous change. The participants will conduct eighty interviews over three years with transcripts produced for each interview as well. Thus far forty-three of the interviews have been conducted. Instructors will integrate these materials into their courses as individual modules. Importantly, these interviews conducted in both audio and video will be placed online via Mukurtu.

Along with the granted funded activities, the Library Director conducted an extremely thorough item level evaluation in February and March 2018 of the audio and video holdings. This led to the discovery of many significant audiovisual items and a new prioritization of what should be digitized. Many of the items are truly priceless, containing the recollections of tribal elders who have long since passed. Subjects include the history of the Crow chiefs, the development of the Crow Agency community, the New Deal on the Crow Reservation, Crow oral literature courses at LBHC, and pre-reservation oral histories by tribal elders. The assessment also located cultural events dating back to the 1950s in mediums that are no longer in use such as reel to reels. Many of these tapes did not reside in the Archives prior to 2015. Often rather than a collection the librarian identified one or two tapes on a significant aspect of Crow history. These new and significant materials

necessitate continued metadata creation, digitization through the creation of preservation and access copies, and the continued uploading of content to Internet in a culturally responsible manner. In order to facilitate usage, the Archivist will group these into related artificial collections. This librarian's assessment built on an earlier oral history assessment conducted by the Archivist in 2015 that listed and prioritized oral histories at the collection level for preservation that guided the current Archival project. The significance of these collections to both community members and outside scholars via usage request will drive both digitization and uploading to the Internet. Thirteen new collections have been identified for digitization along with a separate heading for miscellaneous tapes of significance. Overall, the Archives will have thirty-six digital collections along with files miscellaneous files.

Over the last three years, the Archives also acquired new materials produced through the videotaped Cultural Enrichment course, Handgames recordings (an annual guessing contest), Crow Fair and a series of (sung and explained) Crow Warrior Society songs along with a National Endowment for the Humanities funded oral history project that details reservation life and issues in the post-WWII period. These along with the items identified in the recent assessment total 378 tapes that vary in length from twenty minutes up to four hours. These new audiovisual records along with the prioritized items focus of our NEH Humanities Collections and References project. The number of tapes the Audio/Visual Technician will digitize totals 1519. The Archives will continue to receive new material either generated in house or via donations during the project. The Audio/Visual Technician will place most of the digitized materials online based on recommendations from the Culturally Eminent Scholars. Those not placed online is due to either issues of cultural sensitivity or expressed wishes of the donor. Eventually the remaining unrestricted tapes will be placed online using the same parameters as outlined in the methodology and work list section of this proposal. Maintaining the current pace the Archives employees maintained over the previous three years' project, the full run of tapes should be digitized, most placed online, with virtual displays and translations and transcripts produced.

## **Methodology:**

The methodological practices that will be utilized for each activity in the project will continue or incorporate the best practices as utilized within the field of Archival management. Below the methodological practices that will be utilized for each activity of the project are presented in detail.

### **Activity 1) Metadata, Digitization, and Finding Aids**

#### *a) Metadata*



The metadata generated during the project will be created utilizing Dublin Core, which allows for interoperability via the various forms of dissemination the project will utilize. For example, the fifteen metadata elements that Dublin Core contains will aid in the production of finding aids at the LBHC Archives, creation of descriptions for OCLC WorldCat for national dissemination, and Alma for in house use and Trails, a consortium of Montana libraries. Dublin Core's elements also allow for the uploading of metadata into Mukurtu, which when synced via digitized video or audio allows for users to search an item via creator, subject, collection, or identifier. The identifiers are pre-existing call numbers or for audiovisual holdings that lacked a call number the item noted that it was audiovisual, the date, and then its location in a box and its number (see appendices 3). Other elements provide who holds the rights to a given item, which provides legal permission to grant access to users. Also, any restrictions or errors with an item can be noted to help facilitate materials not to be digitized or uploaded to the Internet. Since its inception in 1995, Dublin Core has been utilized by a wide variety of institutions to successfully interconnect metadata of photos, audio and video recordings. A wide variety of museums, Archives, and academic libraries utilize Dublin Core, which places it as the best practice for metadata production for audiovisual materials. Since 2016, the LBHC Archives used Dublin Core in spreadsheets, collection records, findings, and for digitized items uploaded to Internet via Mukurtu.

*b) Digitization, Internet Access, and Virtual Exhibits*

Digitization of audiovisual materials is the primary focus of the project due to the outdated formats in the LBHC Archives collections. As mentioned above, the Archives holds audiocassettes, reel to reels, VHS cassettes, and Mini DVs. The Archives owns each format's player and has utilized them for digitization purposes in the past. Currently, for digitization the Audio/Visual Technician uses an IMAC for digitizing audio and video using the audio capture software Audacity and for video capture Final Cut Pro X. Previously, for some digitized video, Adobe Premier Elements was used with a PC. For the proposed project, all video will be captured and transferred into .MOV and MP4s with Final Cut Pro X.

For every digitized item, a preservation copy will first be produced. For video the format chosen is .MOV. The functionality and stability of .MOV files versus their counterpart .AVI is the reason for its selection. Once the Audio/Video Technician produces a preservation copy, a video access copy is produced as an MP4. The MP4 is the format uploaded first into Vimeo and then into our CMS, Mukurtu. With audio the preservation format is .WAV, while the access copy is an MP3. As with video, the audio access copy will be the version available online. MP4s and .MP3s serve as the distribution format and .MOV and .WAV the preservation format. In order to maintain quality control, the Archivist will run checksums monthly using the software Fixity

to make sure that digitized materials maintain their integrity. Generally speaking, despite debates over .AVI versus .MOV, the methods to be employed over the course of the project entail best practices agreed upon within the Archival community. Over the course of the project, 114 audio files will be created and 1405 and video files produced in a digital format. The discoverability of digital content begins via our CMS Mukurtu, as all digitized materials have metadata assigned to it that allows for users to utilize search terms to the item level. Users can also search at the item level in Mukurtu, but other collection level resources exist as an initial point of discovery.

Digitized items will be placed on Mukurtu as MP3s and MP4s, audio can be directly loaded into the CMS, while video will be uploaded into Vimeo and then transferred into Mukurtu. Once the content resides on Mukurtu, they are placed into the appropriate collection and synced with the metadata to stimulate exploration and use. Our digitization efforts will be driven by input from the community through meetings with community cultural leaders from each of the six reservation districts. Their input from the outset will ensure the cultural appropriateness of the project. The thirty-six virtual displays will utilize the template developed by the organization Cultural Codex. They utilize a drop and click technology that allows for easy construction of the virtual displays. They will host up to one terabyte of digitized data, which will allow for us great flexibility in constructing the virtual displays.

### *c) Finding Aids*

For each of collection digitized over the course of the project, the Archivist will produce a finding to facilitate use both in house and online. Over the last five years, the LBHC has slowly integrated DACs, Describing Archives: A Content Standard as the primary system for producing finding aids. DACS is the agreed upon means of description for archival processing as stated by the Society of American Archivists. Each finding aid develops from a collection record produced prior to digitization documents basic information regarding the collection including creator, extent, collection summary, languages, and processing archivist. As more metadata is created during digitization, finding aids will be produced that include collection description, provenance, subjects, accessing the collection, and a list of files. The finding aids follow the same parameters as the Archives textual collections further illustrating best practices as delineated in the archival profession. Once completed, each finding aid will be placed online to facilitate usage.

### *Activity 2) Translation and Transcription*

As noted in the section on significance, fluency in the Crow language is declining among younger members of the community. That said, there is still a great interest in Crow culture among community members

in in cultural and historical topics. A large number of collections, particularly those produced prior to 2000 use the Crow language. In order to facilitate usage with both non-fluent Crows and outside scholar's translation of selected collections is extremely important. The individual who will perform the translations and subsequent transcripts for three of the collections has extensive graduate level training in morphology and orthography in linguistics including developing a modern syntax of the Crow language. This expertise will ensure that the translations will follow properly and reflect what the original creator of the digitized file meant. Along with translations, the selected collections will have transcripts produced in both the Crow and English languages. These three collections are among the most significant holdings in Archives and include community members who lived prior to the establishment of the Crow Reservation in 1868.

Other collections will have transcripts made only in English and will serve to provide written access for patrons in house and via our CMS. These collections are both in Crow and English. The individual who will provide the transcriptions is currently performing a similar task with our current NEH grant, which has interviews conducted in both Crow and English. Beyond her current work for LBHC, the transcriber has decades of experience with oral histories both conducting and transcribing. These two individual have the requisite experience to produce professional transcripts and translations.

## **Work List**

### Activity 1

Create metadata, digitizing audio and video collections, creating collection records, and uploading to the Internet via Mukurtu.

Activity 1.1) The Audio/Visual Technician named Jane Holds will create metadata for each item acquired or identified item since 2015 with an emphasis placed on items discovered during the recent Librarian assessment. Through the use of Dublin Core, twelve fields will describe audiovisual contents at the item level.

Activity 1.2) The Audio/Visual Technician will continue to digitize items not reached previously and those identified and prioritized during recent assessments. First, the item is inspected to see if there are any flaws with the cassette, if so, this is noted in the metadata. After the completion of digitization, preservation and access copies are created. These files are saved on a server and tape drive for multiple backups. Little Big Horn College has also entered into an agreement with the Archives at the Mansfield Library at the University of Montana to house a third copy off site in case copies onsite become compromised.

Activity 1.3) Digitized audio and video along with metadata will be uploaded to the Internet either at the item or collection level via the Content Management System, Mukurtu from the local server. The Archives Audio/Visual Technician uploads audio directly into Mukurtu, while, videos are first uploaded to Vimeo and then transferred from our private account into Mukurtu.

Activity 1.4) The Archivist named Jon Ille will create finding aids for each collection to aid patrons in locating materials for in house use. These records will include basic information such as creator, extent, format, subject headings, collection description, and use statement. The collection records reflect the Archives aim of integrating collections in all formats under a single system of description.

### Activity

Translate and transcribe significant collections from the prioritized lists from recent assessments.

Activity 2.1) As noted in the statement of need while the Crow language remains strong, many younger community members lack full fluency. Many of the most significant materials that have and will be digitized are in the Crow language. One particular collection, the Barney and Henry Old Coyote Recordings, includes forty recordings with individuals born in the 1860s and 1870s. Therefore, we will hire a translator named Dale Old Horn with the morphological experience to successfully translate and transcribe this collection in year one. He will translate and transcribe fifty-six recordings. With other collections that use the modern form of the Crow language, we will have a second person doing translation and transcription with decades of experience in the field Mardell Plainfeather. She will translate and transcribe one hundred and twenty-three recordings. This will occur at the beginning of the grant and continue through year two. As transcripts are completed, they will be placed onto Mukurtu and into relevant virtual galleries. Relevant translations in English will also engage outside scholars and non-fluent community members.

Collections to be Translated and Transcribed:

1. Barney Old Coyote Collection
2. Pretty Eagle School Collection
3. Battle of East Pryor Creek Collection
4. History of the Crow Chiefs Collection
5. The New Deal on the Crow Reservation Collection
6. Historic and Battle Sites of the Crow
7. Eloise Pease Autobiography Collection

8. Crow Oral Literature Collection
9. Chairmen of the Crow Tribe Collection
10. Crow Place Names Collection
11. Tobacco Society Presentation

### Activity 3

Promote the use of the new resources to the community through Library sponsored presentations, workshops, social media and more. Promote the resources and methods of the project to the professional world of tribal archives, libraries and museums through presentations and poster sessions at the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums (ATALM) conference, the Tribal College Libraries Institute (TCLI), and the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA.) Also, disseminate the collection records to various digital repositories to engage with outside scholars. Create virtual displays to highlight the collection and put it into proper historical context.

Activity 3.1) In Year One and Two, presentations on the new resources will be made utilizing existing forums. The Cultural Enrichment Speaker Series held by the library at LBHC every Thursday at noon during the semester and attended largely by community members will dedicate one session each semester to showing the new resources now available. The library and archives web and Facebook pages will also feature the new materials.

Activity 3.2) Presentations and poster sessions will be made each year at the annual ATALM conference. Funds requesting travel to ATALM are included in the project budget. In addition, a presentation by project staff on the project and its challenges and successes will be made at ATALM in Year Two and Three. Included will be some detail on the technical aspects of the work for institutions considering a similar project. Also, presentations will be made each year at the annual TCLI institute is attended by approximately 60 people representing about three quarters of tribal college libraries in the country. The tribal college libraries also serve as public libraries on their reservations, as does LBHC. Finally, to reach a more scholarly audience we will conduct a roundtable each year at the annual NAISA conference.

Activity 3.3) The Archivist will share the collection records as completed via various online repositories. First, the Archivist will utilize the National Union Catalog for Manuscript Collections to generate short descriptive elements that will be uploaded into OCLC Worldcat. Second, all descriptive elements will be incorporated into

Alma utilizing Trails, a Montana based library consortium, that will facilitate another layer of findability for a broad group of researchers.

Activity 3.4) In order to facilitate better understanding of Crow history and culture within the community itself and with those off the reservation the creation of digital displays using the software Cultural Codex from Davadan Systems, Inc. Throughout the three-year project, the Archivist and Audio/Visual Technician will create thirty-six digital galleries, one for each collection digitized or to be digitized, utilizing digitized audio and video. Accompanying the audio or video, the Archivist will produce text that puts the digitized material in context culturally or historically. The galleries will detail specific cultural traits, historical events, and more recent happenings on the Crow community with a focus on materials from the recent assessment. Potential galleries include Crow Fair, the Daytime Dance, the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, and Community Action Programs on the Crow Reservation. The galleries will help disseminate our materials to the broadest audience possible online and provide historical and cultural content.

#### Activity 4

Evaluate the project both during its course and at its conclusion through written surveys and consultation with outside experts and cultural leaders and practitioners as well as through technical evaluation by outside audiovisual experts, content specialists, and community members.

Activity 4.1) Annually throughout the project, technical experts the Sustainable Heritage Network member Alex Merrell will visit LBHC to analyze the digitization process for quality controls such as checksums and other technical aspects of digitization. A Certified Archivist from the Montana Historical Society named Jodie Foley will perform evaluation on the metadata annually as well.

Activity 4.2) It is important for community input on all activities in the project to inform outreach and access but particularly in the way of feedback about how items appear on Mukurtu and Cultural Codex. During each year of the project, the cultural leaders from each of the six reservation districts will informally view uploaded items and galleries of digital displays to see how they follow cultural and historical standards from a Crow perspective. The first meeting will take place shortly after the beginning of the project

Activity 4.3) During year two and three, surveys of users who visit Mukurtu and the Cultural Codex sites will provide further information. The feedback derived from these venues will inform actions taken during the project and after its conclusion particularly with facilitating further rounds of outreach.

## **Dissemination**

The primary audience for the project is members of the Crow community, along with others interested in Crow history and culture. Through activities at the college including presentations in the Cultural Enrichment Speaker Series the Library/Archives staff will engage community members in person. The Cultural Enrichment Speaker Series occurs at noon on Thursdays, the Archivist will describe the project, provide updates on the project's progression, and share digital materials with the audience. This will allow the Library/Archives to engage its audience at times that are convenient for them. During these presentations, our audience will provide feedback via surveys that will allow us to adjust the project as needed to meet the needs of the community. In addition, the Library/Archives will engage community members and individuals off the reservation via social media to maximize the reach to an even broader audience. Using Mukurtu CMS and virtual galleries via Cultural Codex, the Library will be able to create "community groups" directly through the CMS inviting community members to engage with the materials. As the project progresses, the Library/Archives will submit press releases to local newspapers discussing the project's progress. Outreach will be measured via sign in sheets at presentations, comments on social media, and subsequently measured usage of digitized audio/visual materials. Beyond the audience identified in the Needs Assessment, during each year of the grant staff will attend the ATALM conference and present a poster session on the project along with a live session each year. Also, the Librarian, Archivist, and Audio/Visual Technician will present at the Native American and Indigenous Studies and the Tribal College Library Institute each year. In order to facilitate the broadest access possible, the Archivist will utilize NUCMC to place all finding aids on OCLC WorldCat, the Trails consortium to place all finding aids on ALMA. Finally, each finding aid will be placed on the Archives section of the LBHC Library website.

## **Sustainability**

The sustainability of the project is centered on LBHC's continued commitment to the perpetuation of Crow history and culture. This a key component of the college's mission statement which states, "The College is committed to the preservation, perpetuation and protection of Crow culture and language, and respects the distinct bilingual and bi-cultural aspects of the Crow Indian community." Also, as the official library of the Crow Nation there is a strong commitment to maintain cultural materials for future generations. LBHC's

infrastructure also lends itself to the sustainability of the project. As noted in the introduction, the new Library/Archives building shows a strong commitment to the work performed by the department and by including training in the grant project we ensure sustainability of the new skills and future digitization work. The Library/Archives staff also affords itself to the sustainability of the project, as the average tenure of employment is 12.7 years. In total, there is broad support within the college and the Crow community for maintaining the project after the grant's conclusion.



## **History of Grants**

- 1) IMLS Native American Libraries Enhancement grant, 2015-2018, \$150,000
- 2) NEH Humanities Initiatives at Tribal Colleges and Universities, 2017-2020, \$99,990

## **Project Deliverables**

Metadata- 1519 Entries in Dublin Core

Digitization Numbers

1. Video- 1405 (.MOV and MP4s)
2. Audio- 114 (.WAV and MP3s)

Digitization Length

1. Video- 2315 Hours
2. Audio- 178 Hours

Items Placed Online Via Mukurtu

1. 2154 Video and Audio Recordings (Previously Digitized and Newly Digitized)

Finding Aids

1. 13 New Collections
2. 26 Previously Digitized Collections

(Collection Records Will Also Be Generated for Each Collection)

Virtual Displays

1. 36 Virtual Displays

Transcripts and Translations

1. 11 Collections totaling 179 transcripts

### List of Participants

Bernardis	Tim	Little Big Horn College
Ille	Jon	Little Big Horn College
Holds	Jane	Little Big Horn College
Plainfeather	Mardell	Private Consultant
Old Horn	Dale	Private Consultant
Foley	Jodie	Montana Historical Society
Merrill	Alex	Washington State University
Heidenreich	C. Adrian	Montana State University, Billings
McCleary	Timothy	Little Big Horn College
Big Man	Alden	Battle Creek Consulting, Crow Tribe
Bull Chief	Emerson	7 Bison Cultural Consulting
Hoxie	Frederick	University of Illinois
Pease	Janine	Little Big Horn College
Viola	Herman	Smithsonian Institution
Nabokov	Peter	UCLA
Wilson	Janice	Wyola School
He Does It-Real Bird	Raphaelle	Little Big Horn College
Old Coyote	Darrin	Private Consultant
Big Day	Heywood	Arrow Creek Culture Committee
Big Day	William	Crow Tribe
Bulltail	Grant	Sacred Tobacco Society
Dawes	Marvin	Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument
Bulltail	Wales	Private Consultant
Old Elk	Daniel	Private Consultant
Old Bull	Tilton	Private Consultant

Note: Many of the private consultant are the Eminent Scholars of the Crow people, most of them elders



# Budget Form

Applicant Institution: *Little Big Horn College*

Project Director: *Tim Bernardis*

Project Grant Period: *05/01/2019-04/30/2022*

[click for Budget Instructions](#)

	Computational Details/Notes	(notes)	Year 1	(notes)	Year 2	(notes)	Year 3	Project Total
			05/01/2019- 04/30/2020		05/01/2020- 04/30/2021		05/01/2021- 04/30/2022	
<b>1. Salaries &amp; Wages</b>								
Audiovisual Technician Jane Holds	(b) (6) x 3 years	100%	(b) (6)	100%	(b) (6)	100%	(b) (6)	(b) (6)
Project Coordinator Jon Ille	(b) (6) x 3 years x 20% in-kind	20%	(b) (6)	20%	(b) (6)	20%	(b) (6)	(b) (6)
Project Director Tim Bernardis	(b) (6) x 3 years x 5% in-kind	5%	(b) (6)	5%	(b) (6)	5%	(b) (6)	(b) (6)
<b>2. Fringe Benefits</b>								
Technician	15%		(b) (6)		(b) (6)		(b) (6)	(b) (6)
Coordinator, in-kind	15%		(b) (6)		(b) (6)		(b) (6)	(b) (6)
Director, in-kind	15%		(b) (6)		(b) (6)		(b) (6)	(b) (6)
<b>3. Consultant Fees</b>								
Cultural & Academic Advisors	13 advisors x 3 meetings/yr. x 3 yrs. X \$100/meeting		\$3,900		\$3,900		\$3,900	\$11,700
Academic Advisor Dr. Timothy Paul McCleary, in-kind	3 meetings/yr. x 3 yrs x \$100/meeting		\$300		\$300		\$300	\$900
Dale Old Horn, translator/transcriber	56 transcriptions x \$375/transcript		\$21,000					\$21,000
Mardell Plainfeather, translator/transcriber	123 transcriptions x \$375		\$15,375		\$15,375		\$15,375	\$46,125

<b>4. Travel</b>							
Cultural & Academic Advisors,	13 advisors x 3 trips/yr. x		\$1,416		\$1,416		\$4,248
Mardell Plainfeather,	4 trips/yr. x 3 yrs. X 130		\$281		\$281		\$843
Project Director, Project	5 day trip (Billings to		\$3,948				\$3,948
Project Director, Project	5 day trip (Billings to Palm				\$5,136		\$5,136
Project Director, Project	5 day trip (Billings to					\$3,582	\$3,582
Project Director, Project	2 day trip (Crow Agency		\$1,545		\$1,545	\$1,545	\$4,635
Project Director, Project	7 day trip (Billings to		\$14,229				\$14,229
Project Director, Project	5 day trip (Billings to				\$6,231		\$6,231
Project Director, Project	5 day trip (Billings to					\$3,882	\$3,882
Alex Merrill, technical	2-day trip to Crow Agency		\$794		\$794	\$794	\$2,382
Jodie Foley, overall project	3-day trip to Crow Agency		\$632		\$632	\$632	\$1,896
<b>5. Supplies &amp; Materials</b>							
Consultants' (2) computers and printers	computers 2 x 800, printers 2 x 300		\$2,200				\$2,200
Analog audiovisual equipment	audio cassette player \$400, VHS/SVHS player \$500, Mini HDV player \$2,000, reel to reel player \$1,000		\$3,900				\$3,900
External hard drive			\$300				\$300
Office supplies inc. transcription equipment and supplies			\$1,000		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$3,000
<b>6. Services</b>							
Vimeo (off-site video hosting service)	\$900/yr. x 3 yrs.		\$900		\$900	\$900	\$2,700
Cultural Codex (digital archiving for virtual exhibits)	\$400/mo. X 36 months		\$4,800		\$4,800	\$4,800	\$14,400
Alex Merrill, technical evaluator, in-kind	\$500 x 3 yrs.		\$500		\$500	\$500	\$1,500

Jodie Foley, overall project	1 visit/yr. x 3 yrs. x		\$500		\$500		\$500	\$1,500
<b>7. Other Costs</b>								
iMAC Pro computer			\$7,714					\$7,714
<b>8. Total Direct Costs</b>								
	Per Year		\$133,672		\$91,748		\$87,845	\$313,265
<b>9. Total Indirect Costs</b>								
a. rate 32.9% of total direct costs	Per Year		\$43,978		\$30,184		\$28,901	\$103,063
b. Federal Agency: HHS								
c. Date of Agreement: 3/7/2017								
<b>10. Total Project Costs</b>								
(Direct and Indirect costs for entire project)								\$416,328
<b>11. Project Funding</b>								
			<b>a. Requested from NEH</b>				Outright:	\$330,422
							Federal Matching Funds:	\$0
							<b>TOTAL REQUESTED FROM NEH:</b>	<b>\$330,422</b>
			<b>b. Cost Sharing</b>				Applicant's Contributions:	\$85,906
							Third-Party Contributions:	\$0
							Project Income:	\$0
							Other Federal Agencies:	\$0
							<b>TOTAL COST SHARING:</b>	<b>\$85,906</b>
<b>12. Total Project Funding</b>								
								\$416,328

Total Project Costs must be equal to Total Project Funding ----> ( \$416,328 = \$416,328 ?)

Third-Party Contributions must be greater than or equal to Requested Federal Matching Funds ----> ( \$0 ≥ \$0 ?)

## Budget Justification

(Note: on the budget form, in-kind cost share costs from LBHC are highlighted in yellow for easy identification and convenience)

### 1. Salaries and Wages

Danetta Jane Holds/Audiovisual Technician – configuring project hardware and software, digitizing historical/cultural recordings, creating metadata, uploading the audiovisual files to the Internet (Mukurtu) or the local onsite network, co-creating virtual exhibits – 100% time paid by the grant using LBHC salary schedule = (b) (6)

Jon Ille/Archivist/Project Coordinator – permanent staff, in-kind cost share, 20% of his time supervising the Audiovisual Technician and contract transcribers, coordinating the meetings and collaboration with the district cultural leaders, co-creating virtual exhibits - (b) (6) x 20% = (b) (6)

Tim Bernardis/Library Director/Project Director – permanent staff, in-kind cost share, 5% of his time administering the project, (b) (6) x 5% = (b) (6)

### 2. Fringe Benefits

Using LBHC rate of 15% for the Audiovisual Technician from grant funds = (b) (6); 15% of the portion of the salaries dedicated to the project by the permanent staff = (b) (6), in-kind cost share

### 3. Consultant Fees

Two cultural advisors/eminent scholars from each of the six reservation districts (ideally) plus academic advisor Dr. C. Adrian Heidenreich (emeritus professor of Native American Studies and Anthropology, Montana State University Billings, culturally adopted member of the Big Day family of the Crow tribe) = 13 advisors X \$100/meeting for each of three meetings/yr. over the three years

Academic Advisor Dr. Timothy Paul McCleary (professor of Crow Studies, Native American Studies, and Anthropology, Little Big Horn College, culturally adopted member of the Whiteclay family of the Crow tribe) X \$100/meeting for each of three meetings/yr. over the three years, in-kind cost share

Translator/Transcriber # 1 Dale Old Horn –

56 transcriptions (28 Crow and 28 English transcriptions) x \$375/transcription = \$21,000

Translating/transcribing stories in archaic Crow into Crow and English transcriptions in year 1

Mr. Old Horn is one of a handful of tribal members who understands archaic Crow (Crow as spoken in the 19<sup>th</sup> century “buffalo days”) and who is also proficient in writing in the modern Crow orthography, of which he was one of the creators. He is likely the only tribal member who has the understanding of the old language and can transcribe it in a polished fashion in both languages.

Translator/Transcriber # 2 Mardell Plainfeather –

123 transcriptions x \$375/transcription = \$46,125; 41 transcriptions during each of the three years; Translating/transcribing interviews in both Crow and English into English transcriptions

#### 4. *Travel*

Cultural & Academic Advisors, various points to Crow Agency, specifics as follows for round trip miles:

Wyola 66 mi. x 2 persons

Lodge Grass 40 mi. x 2 persons

Fort Smith (Big Horn district) 90 mi. x 2 persons

Pryor 150 mi. x 2 persons

Hardin (Black Lodge district) 26 mi. x 2 persons

Garryowen (Reno/Center Lodge district) – local, 2 persons

Billings (academic advisor) 130 mi.

874 mi. for all persons/meeting x 3 meetings/yr. x 3 yrs. = 7,866 mi. x .54/mi. (GSA rate) = \$4,248

Contract Transcriptionist Mardell Plainfeather will make 4 trips/year from her home in (b) (6) to LBHC to discuss the project, her work, and load recordings onto her laptop for the transcription work; 12 trips x 130 mi. round trip x .54 = \$843

ATALM (Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums) conferences all three years – posters/presentations or panels on the project will be held/made as cutting edge/best practice examples in digitization, native Internet publishing and accessibility, and virtual exhibition that other tribal archives, libraries and museums may learn from, including both successes and challenges; all three project staff will present, each from their own position/perspective in the project and in addition, will learn from others’ experiences – flight costs from kayak.com, per diem rates from gsa.gov. The travel costs for these three meetings are broken down in the budget form. Tim Bernardis, Jon Ille and Jane Half-Holds The Enemy will be attending.



TCLI (Tribal College Librarians Professional Development Institute) institutes all three years -- posters/presentations or panels on the project will be held/made as cutting edge/best practice examples in digitization, native Internet publishing and accessibility, and virtual exhibition that the other 36 tribal college libraries and archives may learn from, including both successes and challenges; all three project staff will present, each from their own position/perspective in the project and in addition, will learn from others' experiences; held annually at Montana State University in Bozeman -- mileage and per diem rates from gsa.gov. The travel costs for these three meetings are broken down in the budget form. Tim Bernardis, Jon Ille and Jane Half-Holds The Enemy will be attending.

NAISA (Native American and Indigenous Studies Association) conferences all three years -- same but with a focus on indigenous populations and professionals worldwide -- flight costs from kayak.com, per diem rates from gsa.gov, which uses the US Department of State rates for international travel costs. The travel costs for these three meetings are broken down in the budget form. Tim Bernardis, Jon Ille and Jane Half-Holds The Enemy will be attending.

Evaluators Travel --

Audio/video archivist Alex Merrill from the Sustainable Heritage Network at Washington State University will travel to LBHC to conduct a technical evaluation at the end of each year and make recommendations for future technical practice and plans

- Cost details are in the budget form

The Archivist for the state of Montana Jodie Foley will travel to LBHC at the end of each year to conduct an overall project evaluation and make recommendations for future activities and practice

- Cost details are in the budget form

### 5. *Supplies & Materials*

Consultants' computers and printers -- laptops and printers needed for them to work from home, mainly just for word processors and which can handle audio files.

- Cost details are in the budget form

Analog Audiovisual Players --

- Audio cassette player (new) \$ 400
- VHS/SVHS player (used) \$ 500
- Mini HDV player (used) \$ 2,000

- Reel to Reel player (used) \$ 1,000

The heavy use and tremendous number of hours on our existing players gives them a limited shelf life and it is to be expected/anticipated they will need replacement, and most of these are no longer manufactured and thus we must purchase them used to begin with; in addition, our current used reel to reel audio player cannot handle our 10 inch reels that need to be transferred and thus we need another

External hard drive – a 10 TB external hard drive is needed to back up and store files off-site at the University of Montana Special Collections and Archives - \$300

Office supplies – including transcription equipment and supplies for the new transcriber to use; desktop supplies - \$1,000 per year x 3/yrs.

#### 6. *Services*

Off-Site Video Hosting Service (Vimeo) \$900/yr. x 2 years = \$1,800

Digital Archiving for Virtual Exhibits (Cultural Codex/Dadavan Systems) \$400/mo. X 36 mos. = \$14,400

Alex Merrill, audio/video archivist of the Sustainable Heritage Network (SHN) in the Archives of Washington State University will conduct a technical evaluation of the project as part of the mission of the SHN to assist tribes -- \$500 for each evaluation over three years, in-kind cost share = \$1,500

Montana State Archivist Jodie Foley will conduct an overall evaluation of the project throughout its duration and at its conclusion (both summative and formative) with reports and recommendations, 3 visits x \$500/visit = \$1,500

#### 7. *Other Costs*

For the Audiovisual Technician:

iMac Pro computer with specs as follows:

- 3.2GHz 8-core Intel Xeon W processor, Turbo Boost up to 4.2GHz
- 32GB 2666MHz DDR4 ECC memory
- 1TB SSD
- Radeon Pro Vega 56 with 8GB of HBM2 memory

\$7,714 including accessories

Computer will enhance ability to digitize and upload analog audiovisual recordings in considerably less time. Cost to lease such is prohibitive at \$3,500 per year which at a total over three years would be \$10,500, more than the \$7,714 cost of the computer. And, we would have nothing with which to continue to digitize after that point.

8. *Total Direct Costs*

Three year total -- \$313,265

9. *Total Indirect Costs*

LBHC negotiated and approved institutional rate of 32.9% three year total -- \$103,063 of which \$43,978 is cost share which is the entire indirect cost of Year 1; Years 2 and 3 costs are requested from NEH

10. *Total Project Costs*

(includes direct, indirect and cost share) over three years -- \$416,328

TOTAL REQUESTED FROM NEH: \$330,422

TOTAL COST SHARING: \$85,906

TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING: \$416,328

# Appendices

## Screenshot For Video & Audio web interface/Mukurtu with Metadata



### Historic and Battle Sites of the Crow, Tape 1

**Community:** LBHC Archives Crow Indian Historical and Cultural Collections  
**Category:** Crow Reservation History  
**Summary:** Historic and Battle Sites of the Crow, Battle of Crow Rock with the Sioux/Where Sitting Bull's Father Was Killed, 1869



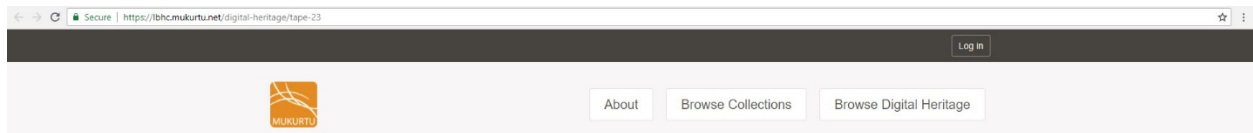
### Historic and Battle Sites of the Crow, Tape 5

**Community:** LBHC Archives Crow Indian Historical and Cultural Collections  
**Category:** Crow Reservation History  
**Summary:** Historic and Battle sites of the Crow, Battle of East Pryor Creek with the Sioux, Cheyennes, and Arapaho, 1864



### Historic and Battle Sites of the Crow, Tape 4

**Community:** LBHC Archives Crow Indian Historical and Cultural Collections  
**Category:** Crow Reservation History  
**Summary:** Historic and Battle Sites of the Crow, Commissary Ridge/Where Meat Is Made, c. 1860-1875



### Tape 23

**SUMMARY:**  
Crow Indian Veterans Collection  
Access audio

**AUDIO METADATA**

**COMMUNITY:**  
LBHC Archives Crow Indian Historical and Cultural Collections  
**PROTOCOL:**  
LBHC Archives Public Access  
**CATEGORY:**  
Crow Veterans and Military  
**ORIGINAL DATE:**  
9/7/1993  
**CREATOR:**  
William GrosVentre  
**CONTRIBUTOR:**  
Carlson Walks Over Ice  
**AUTHOR:**  
Jane Holdt

Edit Site Footer here.

# Finding Aid Excerpt

## Inventory of the Ann Big Man Collection

Little Big Horn College  
Crow Indian Historical  
and Cultural Collections

© 2011

## **Archives:** Ann Big Man Collection

Donor Name:

Accession Number: 07240301

Processor: Jon Ille

Access Restrictions on Use: None

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction: All publication rights are held by Little Big Horn College and use for publication must be approved by archivist.

Preferred Citation of Materials: The Ann Big Man Collection, Little Big Horn College Archives, Crow Agency, MT 59034.

### **Physical Description:**

Size: 7 Linear Feet

Scope: 1942-2000

Material: Correspondence, Tribal Council Material (Announcements, Agendas, Minutes, and Resolutions), published material related to Crow tribe, Crow history, and genealogy.

### **Biographical Note:**

Ann Big Man was born in Crow Agency, Montana in 1922 to Max and Cordelia Big Man. Big Man attended local schools and later took courses at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. She held a variety of positions on the Crow reservation including as a teacher's aide and a librarian at local schools. Big Man also held long tenure as a bookkeeper for the Crow tribe, where much of the material for the collection originated. After her retirement, Big Man resided in Crow Agency before she passed away in 2005.

### **Provenance:**

As a result of her professional tenure with the Crow tribe, Ann Big Man acquired a large body of material that dealt with the day to day operation of tribal government. Beyond the accrual of governmental documents, Big Man's family played a prominent role in Crow culture and politics. Her father Max wrote extensively on the Crows history and culture much of which Ann acquired after his death. Therefore, the Ann Big Man Collection reflects both on the function of tribal government over half a century, while also integrating cultural and historical representations from the middle decades of the twentieth century.

## **Series One: Tribal Administration and Governance**

Series one documents the functioning of tribal government at various levels from the 1940s to the beginning of the twenty first century. Divided into five subseries, series one documents the creation of policy and its implementation.

Subseries One- Tribal Council Agendas, Minutes, and Resolutions

Subseries one includes agendas and minutes for tribal council meetings, along with a large number of resolutions from the 1940s to 2000. The resolutions are divided into two sections based on their creation. The first is a chronological grouping of resolutions' both approved and unapproved, while the second is a subject listing of resolutions on index cards. While the subseries includes a large number of resolutions, it is not comprehensive.

Box 1

File 1- Selected Agendas, Crow Tribal Council, 1963-1999

File 2- Minutes, Tribal Council, 1942, 1948

File 3- Selected Minutes, Crow Tribal Council, Various Dates

File 4- Minutes, Crow Tribal Council, 1961-1968

File 5- Minutes, Crow Tribal Council, 1969-1972

File 6- Minutes, Crow Tribal Council, 1973-1978

File 7- List of Approved and Unapproved Resolutions, 1948-1983

File 8- List of Approved Resolutions, 1953-1976

File 9- Selected Resolutions, 1950-1960

File 10- Selected Resolutions, 1961-1964

File 11- Selected Resolutions, 1965-1970

File 12- Selected Resolutions, 1971-1974

File 13- Selected Resolutions, 1975-1976

File 14- Tabled Resolutions, Council Meeting, July 10, 1976

File 15- Selected Resolutions, 1977, 1

File 16- Selected Resolutions, 1977, 2

File 17- Resolution, Adopting and Enacting Executive Committee Plan of Operation, 1978

# Collection Description Record Sample

## Little Big Horn College Archives

Hours: M-R 8:00 to 5:00, F 8:00 to 12:00 Phone: (406)638-3182 Email: [illej@lbhc.edu](mailto:illej@lbhc.edu)

### AV 199801

## The Crow Hymns Recordings, 1960-1996

#### **Creator:**

Dave Graber, Crow Hymns Project, others

#### **Extent:**

11 Audio Cassettes, 27 Reel to Reel Tapes

#### **Collection Summary:**

The Crow Hymns recordings contain Christian spiritual songs sung in the Crow language. Several of the recordings were sung in the 1960s and 1970s, but the vast majority are part of the Crow Hymns Project from the 1985 to 1996.

#### **Languages:**

Crow

#### **Processing Archivists:**

Jon Ille and Danetta Holds



## **Collection Details:**

### **Collection Description:**

The Crow Hymns Recordings document a syncretic fusion of indigenous language and western Christian beliefs. While Christianity arrived among the Crows in force during the 1880s, individual community members had little control over its imposition. Over time, new denominations developed on the reservation and those already present granted greater freedom to merge indigenous cultural norms with the western Christian values.

The singing of Christian hymns in the Crow language reflects this fusion. The earliest hymns in the collection sung by Joe Medicine Crow in 1960 demonstrates the increased autonomy in regards to worship among the Crows. In the 1980s, the Crow Hymns Project set out to record a number of Christian hymns in the Crow language. The bulk of the recording are from this venture spearheaded by Dave Graber. The recordings illustrate the breadth of Christian hymns sung by members of the Crow community.

### **Arrangement Description:**

The recording have been filed chronologically from the earliest in 1960 to the most recent in 1996. Due to the age of the recordings they have been digitized and placed online via the Content Management System, Mukurtu. The original audio cassettes and reel to reels reside at Little Big Horn College.

### **Subjects:**

Crow- Religion

Crow- Language

## **Using the Collection:**

### **Access Statement:**

Collection is open and available for use.

### **Rights Statement:**

Copyright resides with the Little Big Horn College Library and Archives. Permission for use must be obtained from the Archivist for non-educational purposes.

**Preferred Citation:**

Tape Number, Crow Hymns Recordings, Little Big Horn College Archives, Crow Agency, MT.

# Oral History Release Form

LITTLE BIG HORN COLLEGE ARCHIVES

PO Box 370

Crow Agency, Montana 59022

## ORAL HISTORY RELEASE FORM

I hereby give, convey, and consign to the Little Big Horn College Archives as a donation for such scholarly, educational, academic, and historical purposes as Little Big Horn College shall determine, according to the governing regulations of the College, all legal title and interest in copyright in this specific recorded interview and most particularly the exclusive rights of reproduction, distribution, preparation of derivative works, public performance and display, except for those restrictions as stated below. This interview will be placed online via the Content Management System, Mukurtu, which allows material to be presented in a culturally sensitive manner.

Date of Interview/Presentation \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Agreement \_\_\_\_\_

Topic/Subject \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Interviewee \_\_\_\_\_

(Printed) Interviewee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Printed) Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

(Printed) Interviewer's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Restrictions:

---

---

---

# Transcription Sample

Crow Midwives

NEH Grant 2017-19

Geneva Whiteman (b. 1936)

Interviewed by Timothy P. McCleary

Crow Agency, Montana

July 14, 2017

Interview Length: 57:57

TM: So this is an NEH grant, National Endowment for the Humanities...

GW: Uh-huh.

TM: ...and what I'm doing is trying to find out about the last midwives in Crow.

GW: Oh yeah.

TM: Why don't we start out with, you tell me your name, your Crow name and your clans and where you're from.

GW: My name is Geneva Whiteman. I'm a member of the Bad War Deeds and I'm a child of the Ties The Bundle clan.

TM: Umm [a term used for 'yes,' and a polite way of acknowledgment that Tim is listening].

GW: What else was it you said?

TM: Your Crow name.

GW: My Crow name is Holy Road [or Sacred Road]. It was given to me by my great uncle Mattoon Old Horse who was a blind man, but he went to the school for deaf and blind in Great Falls, so he was educated.

TM: Umm.

GW: When I was a toddler, at that time, nobody had electricity or refrigeration, and we were living in Pryor at what was called The Camp. It was a bunch of log cabins all together and they had most of the people all had homes on their own lands but they had leased them out. Then in the log cabins there'd be several families living together. And I guess there was some corn on the cob there on the table and they were old and I got into it and I ate it and I nearly died. And my uncle Mattoon was visiting my parents so he doctored

me and, at that time, gave me my Indian name and prayed that I would come out of it. I guess I almost died. [chuckle].

TM: Gee whiz...huh. Do you of any midwives that worked in Pryor?

GW: Yes, it was my father's aunt, Matilda Round Face, but her maiden name was Red Shirt.

TM: Oh uh-huh.

GW: That was my grandfather Harry Whiteman's uncle, I think. There was my grandfather Harry Whiteman and I don't know this Red Shirt's first name, Matilda's father. Then there was a Singer, Adam Singer's father.

TM: Oh okay.

GW: They were all brothers, same mother, different fathers.

TM: Umm.

GW: She delivered practically all the babies in Pryor and, at the time, it was considered taboo to go in the hospital. They didn't have any faith at all in the doctors and I remember that the women who were pregnant made sure that Matilda would be home. You know, they would keep checking.

The Walls, I remember, Alma Wall, she lived with my family, see today, well, her first borne was Arthur Wall. And, then, my mom said that she had a bunch of children, a bunch of babies that she lost, you know, right after they were born. She didn't say whether they were stillborn or what happened, but she prayed an awful lot and fasted and finally was able to bring children, you know, in to this world.

When she was giving birth and they put a mattress right on the floor and, at that time, Arthur must have been 4 or 5 years old and I must have been about 6 or 7 and my brother, younger brother, Norman, he was there and they shooed us out of the house. [laughter] And they went ahead and brought Matilda after she was screaming and really at various times, she would be angry and she would cuss [laughter] Bill Wall out, too. And, finally, she had the baby and it was Josephine Wall who lives in the same housing unit where I live in Pryor now. And I remember they told us, "You can come in now, and Arthur and you can see the baby. You have a little sister." And we went in the house and we were looking at the baby and all of a sudden, Alma started screaming. I guess it was the after birth still in her stomach and it was trying to come out and Arthur said, "What is it, Mama, are you going to do it again?" [laughter]

But I was told by Matilda's daughters that she had a little notebook and she recorded all the babies that she delivered. And I was trying to find that but I understand that her daughter-in-law Julia, who died recently, that she had it but that family is in a lot of turmoil right now. And the men in the family, there are three of them, they threw out their sister and then their sister-in-law. I guess they're drinking a lot since they lost Julia. So I wasn't able to get a hold of that notebook, but I'm going to keep trying to see if....so I can look through it because I would be in there, too, because she delivered me.

My father was working for the... it was one of the programs under Roosevelt, I think, CCC, Civil Conservation Corps, and they were building the road between St. Xavier and Pryor. And my father worked on the roads as did most of the men in Pryor and I guess my parents would, along with the other families, they would set up a tent and then, keep moving towards St. Xavier and when we were... when they were settled at Hay Creek, this is where the Landes live now, that's where I was born. In a tent.

TM: Ummm.

GW: And Maxine Russell LaForge, you know, the LaForge boys of, well, they're going by Enemy Hunter, but their mother was a young girl and she said that they hung around the tent when my mom was giving birth to me. Then, in the midst of a terrible rain storm, I was born. [laughter] They always would tell me that whenever I say it.

TM: When was Matilda a midwife, like what, what years was she a midwife?

GW: Probably all of her life and I was born in 1936.

TM: Umm.

GW: And she was the midwife then and my grandfather... I don't really know where he went to school. His name was Harry Whiteman, Apadappachésh [Wide Nose], that was his Indian name. But he said that the, this I learned later, that the IHS or the BIA, somebody was interested in sending Matilda to, sending her away to get more training so that she would become a nurse but she wouldn't leave and her family wouldn't allow her to, to go.

TM: Umm.

GW: I remember she was a beautiful woman and, in those days, they had wooden coal stoves and she was one of the few women, aside from my grandmother, Sarah Goes Ahead, but for every meal, they would prepare biscuits in the oven. [chuckle] And they were...it was a way of pleasing their husbands.

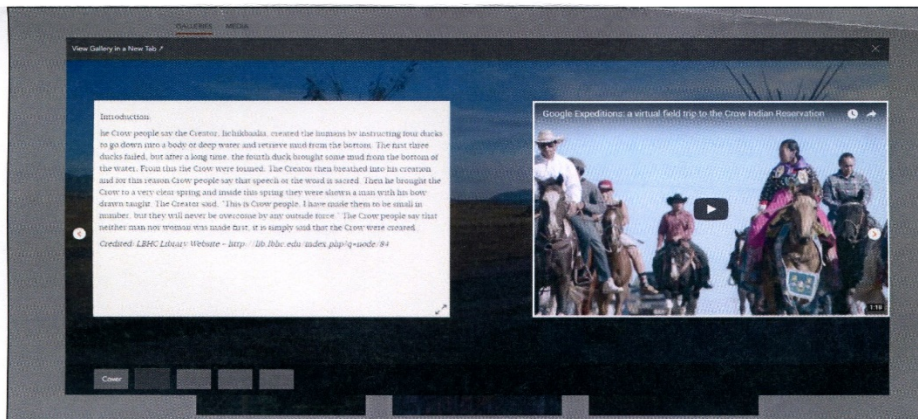
TM: Uh-huh. Huh.

# Virtual Exhibit Example

## LBHC EXHIBIT CODEX MOCK UP



## EXAMPLE EXHIBIT – CROW INDIAN RESERVATION ELDER STORY



# Resumes/Vitae

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**TIMOTHY ALAN BERNARDIS**

**ADDRESS:**

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

**PHONE:** (b) (6)

638-3113 work, (b) (6)

**FAX:** (b) (6)

**E MAIL:** work: tim@lbhc.edu

personal: (b) (6)

**EDUCATION:**

Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana

M. Ed. Adult and Higher Education, 8/87

Concentrations: Library User Instruction, Minority Higher Education, Library Services to Minorities

University of California, Berkeley

B.A. History, B.A. Native American Studies, 12/81

Concentrations: History of the American West, Northern Plains Tribes and Wars, Federal Indian Law, Ancient History



Western Archives Institute, University of California, Los Angeles

Two Week Intensive Course, August 1988

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - LIBRARY/ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT:**

LIBRARY DIRECTOR, Little Big Horn College, Crow Tribe, Crow Agency, MT. Direct, administer, and coordinate library and information services. Responsible for staff supervision, budget development and administration, print and electronic collection development, staff and patron training, planning library/information services development, promotion of information on services and outreach, archives supervision. Work with Board of Trustees, president, Dean of Academic Affairs, department heads, and faculty. Participate in functions of Division of Academic Affairs and college committee work. Coordinate public library functions. May 1985 to present.

LIBRARIAN ASSISTANT, Native American Studies Library, University of California, Berkeley. Responsible to assist students and faculty in their research. Managed the day-to-day operation of the library. Appraised current library holdings and purchased current key materials. Performed bookkeeping duties for library periodicals. January 1982 to June 1982.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - NATIVE AMERICAN RESEARCH AND CONSULTING**

CONSULTANT, Fort Peck Community College, Starting An Archives workshop and consulting. Worked with library staff in assisting their planning efforts to establish a new archives as part of a new library-archives building. Reviewed construction specifications, preservation concerns, environmental controls, collection development policy, authority to collect policies, staffing, and more. December 2010.

PROJECT COORDINATOR, Friends of Chief Plenty Coups Advisory Council. Coordinate the Respectful Management of Crow Artifacts at the Chief Plenty Coups State Park NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) Phase I and II projects. Administer grant

activities, coordinate oral history interviews, organize and host project symposia, write project documents and reports, organize meetings. 1998 to 2004.

RESEARCH INTERNSHIP, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Anthropology, American Indian Program, Crow Tribal Catalog Project. Researched and described Crow related manuscript and photographic holdings in the various Smithsonian museums, particularly the National Anthropological Archives in the Museum of Natural History, for inclusion in a Crow Tribal Catalog and program website. Summers 1989, 1990, 1993, 2002.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP, Crow Indian Historical and Cultural Research, Montana State University Bozeman Center for Native American Studies. Researched and copied Crow materials for Little Big Horn College Archives at Newberry Library, Chicago, September 1988; at American Museum of Natural History and Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian (Heye Foundation), New York, and National Archives, Washington, D.C., summer 1989.

RESEARCH CONSULTANT, Bilingual Materials Development Center, School District 1 & 17H, Crow Agency, MT. Researched and wrote reservation area teacher's guide to Crow tribal history. October 1984 to 1986.

HISTORICAL INTERPRETER/RESEARCHER, Little Bighorn Battlefield (then Custer Battlefield) National Monument, Crow Agency, MT. Conducted daily programs on the Battle of the Little Big Horn and Plains Indian history and culture. Assisted in arranging archival collections and compiling catalog of photographs. Conducted field and documentary research in response to park and public request. Received visitors at park reception area. June 1983 to September 1984.

Jon Ille

Department of History

(b) (6)

1212 HMNSS Building

(b) (6)

University of California, Riverside

(b) (6)

Riverside, CA 92521

illej@lbhc.edu

(951) 827-5401

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. student in History, University of California, Riverside, In Progress.

M.A. in Public History, Native American focus, University of California, Riverside, December 2005.

B.A. in History with Classical Civilization and Political Science minors, New York University, August 1997.

GRADUATE STUDY:

Doctoral Fields- Native American History, Twentieth Century American History, World History 1500-Present, Public History.

Doctoral Research- Crow Indian culture as a mechanism of resistance to economic and political consolidation from 1870-1930.

Doctoral Committee Chair- Rebecca Kugel, Professor of History, University of California, Riverside; Clifford Trafzer, Professor of History, University of California, Riverside, Co-Chair.

## TEACHING/PROFESSIONAL HISTORY:

January 2011- Present- Archivist and History Instructor, Little Big Horn College, Crow Agency, MT

August 2008-December 2010- Adjunct Professor of History, San Bernardino Valley College, San Bernardino, California.

2007- Research Assistant for Professor Rebecca Kugel, University of California, Riverside

September 2005- August 2010- Teaching Assistant, Department of History, Univeristy of California, Riverside.

June 2005-September 2006- Archival Assistant, Riverside Metropolitan Museum, Riverside, California.

August 2000- July 2004- Instructor of History, Native American Studies, Political Science, and Humanities, Little Big Horn College, Crow Agency, Montana.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Managed Little Big Horn Archives with duties that included processing collections, creating finding aids, identified and conducted preservation, provides access to the public, and supervised employees. 2011-Present

Performed regular teaching duties that included composing and delivering lectures and class presentations, conducting discussions and review sessions, writing examinations, grading course assignments, and supervising independent student research projects. Little Big Horn College- 2000-2004, 2012-Present, San Bernardino Valley College- 2008-2010

Conducted an oral history project about the Navajo Five Year Program, at the Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, California, 2005; Integrated oral histories into doctoral dissertation on Crow Indian Political Economy and cultural resistance.

Academic Advisor, Liberal Arts, Little Big Horn College, September 2000 to August 2002. Oversaw academic progress of up to fifty students per semester, monitoring progress towards Associate's degree.

Faculty Advisor, Knowledge Bowl, American Indian Higher Education Consortium, 2001 to 2003. Trained and monitored students as they prepared for an annual competition at a nationwide Native American educational conference.

Faculty Academic Tutor, Big Horn Teachers Project, Little Big Horn College and Montana State University, Billings, 2001-2003. Worked with teacher education students transitioning from two-year to four-year institution.

Administered technology grant through Montana State University, Billings at Little Big Horn College with duties including managing financial resources, purchasing technologies for classroom and student use, and hiring and supervising student assistants from 2000 to 2003.

Developed curriculum for course at Little Big Horn College that trained Native American students in Geographic Information System and Arcview software through photographing and researching cultural landscapes on the Crow reservation, 2003.

# Danetta J. Holds

## Summary

- Enjoy working with public
- Expert in Microsoft programs
- Networking
- Inventory
- Digitize, Edit and preserve multimedia materials
- Audio Visual technologies
- Data processing

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Audio/Visual Technician Little Big Horn College Library/Archives 8645 S. Weaver Drive, Crow Agency MT. 59022	April 2016- Present
Network Specialist/Full-Time/ Crow Tribe Water Resource Crow Tribe of Indians 189 Heritage Road Crow Agency MT.	April 2012- December 2016
Restaurant Manager/Full-time/ Little Big Horn College Cafe 8645 South Weaver Dr. Little Big Horn College Crow Agency MT. 59022	September 2011-April 2012
Technology Coordinator/Full-Time/ STEM-TCUP 8645 South Weaver Dr. Little Big Horn College Crow Agency MT. 59022	May 2009 - September 2011
Computer Technician/ Full-Time/IT Dept. 8645 South Weaver Dr. Little Big Horn College Crow Agency MT. 59022	August 2003 - May 2009
Data Processor/ Full-Time / TRiO Dept. Little Big Horn College 8645 South Weaver Dr. Crow Agency MT. 59022	May 2002- July 2003
Plato Software Administrator/ Full-Time Hardin Middle School Hardin MT. 59034	August 2001-May 2002
Computer Technician/Full-Time/IT Dept./ Network MT Grant Little Big Horn College	March 1997-August 2001

## EDUCATION

Little Big Horn College

Majors: Information Systems – Computer Science, Business Administration-Data Processing

AA 1997

MSU Billings, Montana

Major: Business Administration-Information Systems

BS In-Progress

**Resume**  
**Mardell Plainfeather**

(b) (6)

**Educational Background**

Post Graduate, Native American Studies, Winter Quarter, 1986, Montana State University, Billings, Montana.

Graduate of Rocky Mountain College, Billings, Montana, Bachelor's Degree in history, Cum Laude, May 1979

Attended Phoenix Junior College, Phoenix, Arizona 1976-1978, Major: Medical Records Technology

Graduate, Butte Business College, Butte, Montana 1965, Medical Stenography

Graduate, Hardin Senior High School, Hardin, Montana, May 1963

**Employment History**

*Transcription Specialist, Little Big Horn College, July 2017 to Present*

Translate and transcribe oral history interviews from an oral history project funded through the National Endowment for the Humanities. Created transcriptions for forty interviews documenting aspects of Crow Indian history from the post-WWII period.

*Crow Field Director, American Indian Tribal Histories Project, Western Heritage Center, Billings, Montana, September 2003 to December 2006*

Interviewed approximately 80 Crow Indian Tribal members, most of whom were Elders, filmed the interviews, transcribed them, organized selection of interviews, photographs and topics for five visual DVDs on the history of the Crow Tribe. I also headed the committee to photograph and organize a display of photographs of contemporary Crow Indians for a traveling exhibit of prominent representatives of the Crow Tribe. I supervised a selected committee of three to design a temporary museum exhibit entitled "Parading Through History" at the Western Heritage Center, 2006.

*Extension Agent, (Tourism & Small Business), Little Big Horn College, Crow Agency, Montana from Summer 1998 to Fall 2000*

Trained college students as summer tour guides for the Crow Reservation and for honoring a contract with the National Park Service, Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument, Crow Agency, Montana to provide tours. I was also the Supervisor of the Tribal Business Information Center which included training and seeking loans for small businesses among tribal members. I partnered with the Dull Knife Memorial College of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, the Department of Agriculture and the Indian Health Service to provide training. The Extension Agent of the Dull Knife Memorial College and I formed the American Indian Tribal Tourism Alliance to work with the Montana State Tourism Department for promotion of all seven of Montana's reservations for tourism.

*Supervisory Park Ranger of Interpretation & Visitor Services, Fort Smith National Historic Site, Fort Smith, Arkansas, National Park Service, October 1990 to September 1997*

This site was a military fort which protected the United States at the eastern edge of civilization. It was located on the banks of the Arkansas River which bordered the Indian Territory (Oklahoma), later it was the destination point for the Five Civilized Tribes who were forced to live in Indian Territory (known as the Trail of Tears). I retired from Federal Service in 1997.



*Oral Historian, Friends of Chief Plenty Coups State Park, Pryor, Montana, 1998-1999, 2001-2004*  
Contract to conduct oral histories of 30 Crow elders about the Crow religious objects in the collection of the Park. Translated and transcribed interviews, made recommendations to the Park on the handling and care of these sacred and sensitive objects.

*Adjunct Professor, Little Big Horn College, Crow Agency, Montana, 1986 to 1988*

Courses taught were United States History and Montana State History

*Plains Indian Historian Park Ranger, Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument, National Park Service, Crow Agency, Montana, May 1979 to October 1990*

Supervised summer Rangers for interpretive programs and walks. Managed the library, recruited volunteers through the Student Conservation Organizations, gave programs at schools and other organizations throughout the immediate area.

*Intern Park Ranger at the Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area, National Park Service, Fort Smith, Montana, Summers of 1977 & 1978*

Worked mainly in the library doing research papers as part of the internship and at the Visitor Center giving area information and occasional interpretive campfire programs on the history and geology of Big Horn Canyon.

### **Awards**

Hero in Humanities Award from Humanities Montana, June 2016.

Horace Albright Award, National Park Service, 1986 & 1989

Dale Drew Old Horn

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

## EMPLOYMENT

### CROW TRIBE

Chairman's Advisor March 2013 to December 2016

Provided advice, insight and service on Crow Language Retention, clean coal technology, economic development, legislation, social issues and native cultural practices of the Crow Tribe.

Crow Tribal Historic Preservation Officer May 2005 to November 2011

Provided administration, technical reporting and supervisory service for technical staff. Assisted promulgation of pertinent legal documents for the protection of archaeology and antiquities on the Crow Reservation within the purview of the laws on ground disturbance while providing cultural sensitivity training including Crow Language place names to participating populations.

General Consultant and Grant Writer Summer and Fall 1998

Provided technical assistance for various departments and research in demographics, work force analysis and seeking funding sources.

Director of Education Services August 1976 to June 1979

Held administrative duties, developed educational programs in printing, nursing, community health and vocational agriculture. Assisted promulgation and ratification of the Little Big Horn College charter in 1980 to further Crow language acquisition and retention.

### LITTLE BIG HORN COLLEGE

Native American Studies and Crow Studies

Instructor Fall 1998 to 2005

Department Head August 2000 to August 2002

Department Head June 1983 to September 1996

Held Administrative duties of the department while providing instruction in Crow language acquisition and literacy, native culture teaching, history, and contemporary issues in government and social issues.

#### EASTERN MONTANA COLLEGE

Native American Studies

Department Head 1976 to 1979

Assistant Professor 1974 to 1979

Instructor 1971 to 1974

Held administrative duties of the department and provided academic instruction in Crow language acquisition and literacy, native culture descriptions, legal issues in Tribal, Federal and State relations, history and contemporary social issues.

#### BILINGUAL-BICULTURAL PROGRAM, SCHOOL DISTRICT 17-H CROW AGENCY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Language Specialist and Program Developer 1969 to 1974

Held duties in Crow language research and instruction in syntax, phonology, morphology and vocabulary acquisition for the program staff and teachers. Assisted development of the Crow language orthography. Developed literacy materials and provided literacy instruction in the Crow language.

#### EDUCATION

Montana State University, Bozeman Montana, Doctoral Fellow Adult and Higher Education

Completed 61 Credit Hours in course work focusing on Native American populations and learning styles.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge Massachusetts, Department of Foreign Literature and Linguistics

Completed required course work and thesis titled "Some Complements in the Crow Language". Earned a Master of Science degree in Linguistics awarded in 1974.

#### CONSULTANCIES

Consultant, American Indian Religious Freedom Project pursuant to PL 95-341 American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Rights Fund, 1978 to 1979

Sole Source and Panel Consultant and Display Narrative, National Museum of the American Indian, Bronx N.Y. 1998, Suitland Md. 2004, Washington D.C. 2004 and 2005. Display narrative ongoing.

Consultant, Montana Indian Language Preservation Project, Crow Tribe Executive Branch, May to December 2016.

Consultant and Display Narrative, Museum of the Rockies, Montana State University Bozeman Montana. Display and Narrative ongoing.

#### LANGUAGE RESOURCES, PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDINGS

Baa Anniile - The Path of the Sun, Bilingual Development Center Crow Agency Montana 1983

Apsaalooke Family and Social Structures, Little Big Horn College publications, 1996

Music and Dance of the Crow Indians, Little Big Horn College publications, 2000

And numerous audio and video recordings in the Crow language and native culture.

# Jodie A. Foley

---

(b) (6)

(b) (6); [jofoley@mt.gov](mailto:jofoley@mt.gov)

---

## EDUCATION/TRAINING:

- 2017**      **Society of American Archivists Digital Assets Specialist Certification**
- 1992**      **NARA** Modern Archives Institute
- 1990**      **University of Montana** M.A. course work, History Department, (35 credits)
- 1988**      **University of Montana** B.A., History, high honors (196 credits)
- 1990-**      **Professional training:**
- **SAA** workshops in Advanced Appraisal, Arrangement and Description, Collection Development, and Essential Records.
  - **Oral History Association** workshops in Digitizing Oral History Collections, Using Oral History in the Classroom, and Advanced Ethics and Law in Oral History;
  - **CoSA** training for SERI (State Electronic Records Initiative) beginning and advanced, PERTTS (**Program for Electronic Records Training, Tools, and Standards**);
  - **AIIM Electronic Records Practitioner and Specialist Courses; Taxonomy Specialist.**
- 

## WORK EXPERIENCE:

- 2005 –**      **State Archivist, MHS Research Center**
- Supervise daily work and schedules of Archives Bureau staff, consisting of four professional archivists, and numerous volunteers and interns;
  - Determine, write and implement policies and procedures;
  - Manage the Archives budget;
  - Manage overall development of MHS Archives collections;
  - Appraise collection, establish collection policy and review potential donations of public and private records for fit;
  - Manage MHS Archives electronic information systems;
  - Advise local and state government agencies regarding historically significant records and ensure the transfer of those records to the State Archives when appropriate; and
  - Serve as State Coordinator and chair for the State Historic Records Advisory Board; and serve on State Records Committee and the Local Government Records Committee, on behalf of MHS director.
- 1994-2005**      **Archivist, MHS Research Center**
- Create and maintain accessions for all manuscript collections;
  - Process manuscript collections;

## Alex N. Merrill

Office: Terrell Library 1G Box 645610  
Washington State University  
Pullman, WA 99164-5610  
(509)335-5426 Fax (509)-335-6721  
merrilla@wsu.edu

---

### Education:

*Master of Arts in Information and Library Science, December 2004*  
School of Information Resources and Library Science, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona  
Areas of Concentration: Information Technology Management, Metadata, Statistics

*Bachelor of Science in History, July 2000*  
Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana

Areas of Concentration: Computer Science, Latin American History

### Recent Library Experience:

Washington State University Libraries (WSUL), Pullman, Washington, 2005 – present

*Head of Systems and Technical Operations – August 2014 - present Assistant  
Dean for Operations (Interim) - July 2013 – August 2014  
Head, Systems (Interim) – July 2013 – August 2014*

*Access Services Manager, August 2011 – July 2013  
Systems/Operations Manager, July 2007 – August 2014  
Digital Initiatives Librarian, August 2005 – August 2014*

### Selected Recent Grants:

*Culturally Responsive Indigenous Science (CRIS): Connecting Land, Language and Culture for  
Indigenous STEM (ISTEM) Education*

Merrill, Alex (Collaborator)

Amount Funded: \$2,481,274.00

09/1/2017-08/31/2021

*Mukurtu Shared: Connecting Communities and Collections through Collaborative Curation*

Merrill, Alex (Co-PI)

Amount funded: \$555,000.00

Agency: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

10/1/2017-09/30/2020

*Tribal Digital Stewardship Cohort Training: Cultural and Collaborative Curation Models and Methods*

Merrill, Alex (Co-PI)

Amount funded: \$449,726.00

Agency: IMLS

10/1/2017-09/30/2020

#### **Contributed Software Release:**

Christen, K. A., Merrill, A., Taylor, S., Wynne, M. K. B. (2017). *Mukurtu 2.0.8*.

<https://github.com/MukurtuCMS/mukurtucms/releases/tag/2.0.7>

Christen, K. A., Merrill, A., Taylor, S., Wynne, M. K. B. (2017). *Mukurtu 2.0.7*.

<https://github.com/MukurtuCMS/mukurtucms/releases/tag/2.0.8>

#### **Selected Publications:**

Christen, K. A., Merrill, A., Wynne, M. K. B. (2017). A Community of Relations: Mukurtu Hubs and Spokes. *D-Lib Magazine*, 23(5/6).

Blakesley, E.A. & Merrill, A. (eds)( 2011) *Public Services Quarterly: Library 2.0*, 7(3/4).

Merrill, A, & Cornish, A.K. (2010)Enabling Integrated, Online Access to Special Collections. *Technical Services Quarterly*, 27(2), 151-163.

Cummings, J., Merrill, A., & Borrelli, S. (2010) The Use of Handheld Mobile Devices: Their Impact on Library Catalogs. *Library Hi Tech*, 28(1), 22-40.

#### **Selected National Presentations:**

Merrill, A., American Library Association Annual Meeting, "Giving Voice To Diverse Collections Through Digitization (Panel)," American Library Association. (June 25, 2017).

Merrill, A., & Henry, R. (2015). Using CasperJS and Nagios to gather real world (and real-time) performance data. ELUNA, Minneapolis, MN

Cornish, A.K., & Merrill, A. (2008) *Where Libraries and Special Collections Meet Web 2.0: Building Next-generation Archival Tools*. Poster session presented at the ALA Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA.

Galbraith, B.J., O'English, M.R., & Merrill, A. (2008, January and February) *Podcasting Made Easy. A part of OCLC Western's Keep Up Series (webcast)*.

#### **Professional Society Membership:**

Association for Information Science & Technology Association  
of College and Research Libraries



Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries & Museums

American Library Association

Library & Information Technology Association

Northwest Archivists

# Letters of Commitment



***Little Big Horn College***  
**Library**

8645 S. Weaver Dr. – P.O. Box 370  
Crow Agency, MT 59022  
Ph: (406) 638-3123  
Fax: (406) 638-3170



July 19, 2018

Grant Review Committee Members  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
Washington, DC

Colleagues:

Please consider this to be a letter of commitment for the following individuals to work on our Collections and References Resources project *Cultivating Ourselves: Digitization and Access to Crow Historical and Cultural Resources*, to wit.


Myself, Tim Bernardis, Library Director and Archival Supervisor – 5% of my time from 2019-2022


Jon Ille, Archivist – 20% of his time 2019-2022

Jane Half-Holds The Enemy, Audiovisual Technician – 100% of her time 2019-2022

We are most excited to continue our work of digitization, placing online, and transcribing while taking up the new work of creating online virtual exhibits, our audiovisual Apsaalooke (Crow) Indian cultural and historical resources. These will be great resources for scholars, the general public and the Apsaalooke people to access and use. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Tim Bernardis  
Library Director

  
Jon Ille  
Archivist

  
Jane Holds  
Audiovisual Technician

July 16, 2018

Tim Bernardis, Library Director  
Jon Ille, Archivist

Dear Sirs,

Please accept this letter of my commitment to participate in the transcription, translation and interpretation of the Plain Feather, Crooked Arm and Old Coyote tapes as is outlined in your proposal to the NEH.

This very valuable process is extremely important to the preservation of the cultural knowledge expressed by these Crow Indian cultural treasures. These Eminent Scholars speak a high level of proficiency in the Crow language and they use a vocabulary which is mostly beyond the knowledge of most Crow Indians. This is because of culture loss and the attendant language loss, as well, due to political and socio-economic pressures from the dominant society.

While I humbly offer my expertise and services, it may be important to note that I am fortunate to have grown up in a home with parents who spoke Crow and English at a high level of proficiency with a vast vocabulary. With this experience and teaching, I am familiar with the language spoken on the recordings of these above mentioned Eminent Scholars. The Crow Nation has mostly recognized my expertise as I have been entrusted to conduct several ceremonies that require in-depth cultural and historical knowledge.

To name of a few of these ceremony rights, I am an Announcer and Singer in the Tobacco Society; Singer, Tail Feather Chief and Announcer of the Day Time Hot Dance Ceremony; Teacher and Facilitator of the Retrieving of the War Bonnets; Teacher, Facilitator, Singer and Announcer of the Warrior's Homecoming Ceremony and its attendant military genre songs.

I was a Language Specialist in the Crow Agency Bilingual Program, Professor Emeritus – Native American Studies, Eastern Montana College (now Montana State University-Billings); Native American and Crow Studies and Department Head at Little Big Horn College, Crow Agency, Montana. I was also a teacher of the Crow Language at LBHC and the Crow Tribe's Language Preservation Project.

To support the teaching of the Crow Culture, I wrote some documents which were used as texts at LBHC including Crow Socio-Familial Kinship, Music and Dance of the Crow Indians plus Language Learning Guides and Dictionary addendum. I was also instrumental in developing the Crow orthography as I have a Master of Science in Linguistics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

I hope this effort will result in strengthening the Crow Indian Culture and Historical knowledge because this knowledge will help the interested individual in their quest to understand what it means to be a Crow Indian and possibly elevate their self esteem. This would only help to alleviate some of the dysfunctional problems that many are experiencing today.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dale Old Horn

July 16, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of commitment and support for the grant Little Big Horn College Library and Archives is submitting for *Cultivating Ourselves: Digitization and Access to Crow Historical and Cultural Resources*. I will be participating as a translator/transcriber of oral histories and stories.

My name is Mardell Hogan Plainfeather. My background is varied but since my retirement from the federal service, I have made it a personal mission to try to be involved in as much activity as I can to the efforts of institutions such as Little Big Horn College, the Plenty Coups State Park and the Western Heritage Center to interpret history and to preserve any materials in any form relevant to the Crow Tribe. I am a member of the tribe and I speak the language fluently, which has coincidentally been an asset to the efforts mentioned.

In regards to formal education, I graduated cum laude from Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana with a degree in History. The majority of my professional background has been in the U.S. National Park Service as a Plains Indian Historian, Little Big Horn National Monument. After an early retirement, I worked as an Extension Agent in Tourism at the Little Big Horn College and, last, as the Crow Field Director for the American Indian Tribal Histories Project, Western Heritage Center, Billings, Montana. I have taught U.S. and Montana State History at the Little Big Horn College and Native American History at Rocky Mountain College. I have been involved with several United States government agencies, Montana and Wyoming State Parks, private organizations, schools and library programs in interpretation, interviewing, photographing, filming Crow Tribal members and/or transcribing interviews from audio recordings, many of which were from the Crow language to the English language for students and others for research. Currently, I am transcribing interviews of Crow tribal members on a variety of subjects for the NEH-funded Little Big Horn College Oral History Post WWII project.

I hope that the grant proposal will be seriously considered as we are losing our language rapidly. Many members of our community, students as well as other interested people from elsewhere, have become more and more dependent on the Little Big Horn College for information and for many things which will help them in learning about our history, culture, and language.

Sincerely,

*Mardell Plainfeather*

Mardell Plainfeather



*Historic Preservation  
Museum  
Outreach & Interpretation  
Publications  
Research Center*

July 17, 2018

National Endowment  
for the Humanities  
Division of Preservation and Access  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20506

Dear NEH Staff and Grant Committee Members,

I am writing in support of and to express my desire to participate in the Little Big Horn College (LBHC) Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant for 2019.

As the official library of the Crow Nation, LBHC has the richest and most extensive collection of Crow cultural and historical resources in the world including extensive audio/visual resources centered on the understanding and preservation of the Crow language and culture. This project seeks to build on current efforts to bring these resources to the largest possible audience in a culturally appropriate manner. Beginning in 2015 the LBCH archival program has worked with the Sustainable Heritage Network at Washington State University as part of an IMLS grant to inventory, appraise and prioritize their audio/visual collection in preparation to digitize, capture/create preservation metadata, properly store and ultimately provide access to their unique recordings based on current best practice. Their efforts to date have resulted in over 1300 digitized items.

This project would facilitate the next stage of priority digitization which includes 1205 audio files and video files. The unique content of the project (both historic, and current scholarship) documents Crow Fair celebrations, Crow Warrior Society songs and reservation life in post - WWII era. The grant will also support the creation of finding aides and cataloging (via OCLC) based on DACs, as well as key word searchable translations to facilitate use by the largest audiences possible and facilitate continued Crow language usage and preservation. And finally, the recordings will become part of a series of online digital displays that provide viewers with cultural and historical context thus reaching larger audiences than the traditional academic user.

I believe this project has every possibility of success. It is well thought out, and is based on the proven track record of their past IMLS grant. I have had the pleasure of working with many of the staff at LBCH, including the project manager, Jon Ille, who served on the Montana State

225 North Roberts Street  
P.O. Box 201201  
Helena, MT 59620-1201  
(406) 444-2694  
(406) 444-2696 FAX  
montanahistoricalsociety.org

Historic Records Advisory Board for many years. As the SHRAB coordinator for Montana, I worked with Jon and other members of the Board to provide archivists across the state with guidance, training and advocacy support. Jon was unwavering in his support of the profession, and his knowledge of his community and its collections.

The content covered in the project is excellent and unique. Providing access to recordings will provide support for Crow language preservation, local history, life ways, and teaching at the tribal level and beyond. The materials are a perfect fit for the state's award winning Indian Education for All program within the Montana Office of Public Education. This program integrates Native American studies elements into all public schools in Montana, k-12.

The promotion plan, by focusing on presentations at regional and national conferences, provides a template for others to follow in preserving significant A/V materials containing tribal language and cultural content in a culturally sensitive manner and based on Digital Preservation best practices. User surveys for the exhibits will likewise add to the understanding of how researchers, Native and non-Native interact with the material and will be useful well beyond this project.

Given all this, and the tremendous support LBHC has in Montana, it is my hope that this project is given every consideration. I would be very excited to serve as a consultant on this project.

Sincerely,



Jodie Foley  
Montana State Archivist  
Montana Historical Society  
225 North Roberts  
Helena MT 59601  
[jofoley@mt.gov](mailto:jofoley@mt.gov)



Center for  
Digital Scholarship and Curation

July 17, 2018

National Endowment for the Humanities  
Division of Preservation and Access  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20506

Dear NEH Staff and Grant Panel Members,

I am writing to confirm my support of the Little Big Horn College (LBHC) Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant for 2019.

Through my involvement with the LBHC through a previous IMLS grant, which included extensive collaboration with the Sustainable Heritage Network (SHN) that covered the full lifecycle of archival practice and digital preservation, I have come to know the staff at the LBHC and believe they are poised to succeed in bringing their rich collection of Crow cultural heritage items to the wider world in a culturally relevant and sustainable manner.

The digitization workflow is well-defined and has a proven track record of success. The LBHC is well aware of the technical issues with digitizing and preserving A/V formats and are well situated to bring all the accumulated knowledge and experience gained from the previous project to this grant. Through our previous experiences I am well aware of the level of technology support available at LBHC and believe, as a whole, the LBHC is ready for this project

The access and dissemination plan is appropriate and well considered. The careful selection of online access platforms and tools shows an acute awareness of the strengths and limitations of each and, when used together, should provide a rich online experience for users.

I would be excited to be a technical evaluator on this project and am eager to see this content preserved and accessible for future generations

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Alex Merrill".

Alex Merrill  
Technical Director  
The Sustainable Heritage Network  
Head of Systems and Technical Operations  
Washington State University Libraries  
Director of Technology  
Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation  
Washington State University  
Pullman, WA 99164

PO Box 645610, Pullman, WA 99164-5610  
509-335-1895 | [cdsc.info@wsu.edu](mailto:cdsc.info@wsu.edu) | [libraries.wsu.edu/cdsc](http://libraries.wsu.edu/cdsc)

## Battle Creek Consulting



(b) (6)

July 18, 2018

Dear Selection Committee,

This is a letter of support for the Digitization Project proposed by Little Big Horn college of Crow Agency, MT. As a former student, current researcher and contributor to the LBHC Archives, I have come to greatly appreciate the value of the materials housed in the Archives. My research has included Nineteenth Century Native American History and Culture and have had great success in finding relevant materials in the archives. I have also researched major events such as the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876, Crow Scouts, Native American Veterans, Oral History, Sweat Lodge Culture and currently am writing a book on the Historic Crow Water Settlement of 2010. The Archives team has greatly assisted in these projects, but to expand the reach of the collections, a digitization would go a long way to include much of the Plains Indian Culture into historical texts.

I am also honored to serve as a member of the Cultural Team that LBHC has recruited to serve as board members for this project. With my in-depth knowledge of historical, technical and Data related research I am confident I can make significant contributions to the existing materials to assist other Indian and Non-Indian researchers who may want to utilize the Collections at LBHC.

I currently own my own consulting firm here on the Crow Reservation, and I have come to rely heavily on the content of the Archives at Little Big Horn College. With the Digitization effort put forth by Mr. Bernardis and his staff, I am confident the collections





will greatly contribute to current and future researchers and business owners that may want to conclude work on the Crow Reservation.

Warm regards,  
Dr. Alden Big Man Jr.  
Battle Creek Consulting





Timothy McCleary, Ph. D.  
Little Big Horn College  
July 25, 2013

National Endowment for the Humanities  
Grant Review Team

Dear Grants Review Team:

My correspondence with you is in reference to the Humanities (NEH) Collections and Reference Resources grant submitted by Little Big Horn College Library and Archives. I heartily support this grant submission for the digitization and preservation of the Crow history and culture collection held in the college Archives.

**I am committed to participate in the Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant project as an Eminent Cultural Scholar and a cultural advisor.**

My eminent scholarship is in Crow Star Knowledge, Crow Indian Rock Art, the Horse in Crow Culture, Crow Country Place names and the history of the Crow Tribal government. It is my intention to share this scholarship with the project. The digitization of the Archives audio and visual collections presents a rich potential to greatly expand the humanities courses I instruct, including The Horse in Crow Culture, Anthropology of the American Indian, United States History I and Crow Indian History Post 1851. This project will greatly benefit the students' classroom experience for our Crow Indian students. Here are some specifics to illustrate the benefits:

1-The Archives has a collection that is Crow Music and Dance, that includes the Warrior Society songs and the Crow Music collections. This is a collection of highest value in its content to the Crow Music and Dance course which is instructed every fall semester. The current day Apsaalooke performing artists are not always available for the experiential aspects of this course which we prefer to provide as half of the course presentations. The eminent scholarship is sometimes limited in certain genres. For example an intensely scripted music and dance reenactment is the Crow Day Time Dance. Some of the song holders for this dance may be unavailable to assist with the class when the time is scheduled in the course. With this collection digitized, the entire complement of singers and dancers will always be available and premier in quality. Students will have an optimum opportunity to interact with and experience the songs and the dance with classic performers.

2-The college Archives holds the Henry Old Coyote course on Crow Oral Literature, from the 1980's. Henry Old Coyote was an elder in the 1980's, who pursued Crow story tellers and recorded their stories, even taking them throughout Crow Country to the actual places of their literature. He interviewed Plainfeather and many children and grandparents children of the Buffalo Days People. This collection takes the literature recitation and discussion back three, four and even five generations, to the

National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Review Team  
July 19, 2018  
Page 2

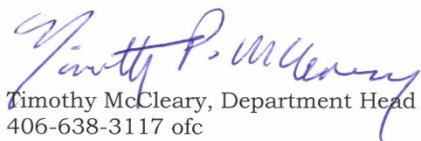
time of the Crow mobile life on the plains. For the students in the Crow Oral Literature class, their study of Crow Oral Literature rises to a first or second person experience. The benefits further include the archaic Crow language with terms for places and characters seldom used by today's storytellers. This Crow language exposure broadens the students' Crow language experience, use and understanding. This collection, transcribed and translated, will take this study from one that is "about" Crow Oral Literature to the "my grandfather was there" version, enlivening it to bring out the vital essence of these works of Crow literature.

3-The Crow History Post Settlement is a course I instruct each Spring semester. The course as instructed by Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow is surely a course instructed by an historian, but with the addition of first hand participation in the era, and enriched by the first person narrative from Dr. Medicine Crow's immediate family members, advisors, and from the Chiefs and elderly Crow People with whom Dr. Medicine Crow's grandparents associated with. This course pertains to a highly formative era in Crow Indian history, wherein the actions and reactions of the Crows in their land and with their government lay down a foundation on which our current day society resides. A mainstay purpose of the Humanities is to build the student's perspective --- life in the eyes of many key players and from times past, in the case of history. For the students in this course in 2018, the access to this rich perspective of "life and time" of the post settlement days is quite well-furnished and reflective of the times.

These are key examples of how the Archives collection holdings, once transcribed, digitized and translated, will bring the voices of the Crows of the past, present past generations' views directly, with multiple perspectives appropriate to the topical area. Although these collections have been on hand in the Archives, it was my role to visit them, interpret and bring the experience back to the students. With the digitization project, this middle role will no longer be needed, and will have the privilege of facilitating student experience, to expand their engagement with the literature, making the immediate accessibility direct and enriched.

It is with great anticipation that I look forward to this proposal coming to implementation. I am totally committed to this project and my participation as an eminent scholar and an advisor with the project team.

Sincerely,



Timothy McCleary, Department Head  
406-638-3117 ofc  
Little Big Horn College  
8645 Weaver Drive  
Crow Agency MT 59022  
Email: baaxpa@lbhc.edu



Department of Social Sciences  
& Cultural Studies;  
Sociology, Political Science,  
Native American Studies and  
Environmental Studies

17 July 2018

To: National Endowment for the Humanities  
Grant Committee Members

From: C. Adrian Heidenreich, Ph.D. (1971) & M.A. (1967), University of Oregon  
Professor Emeritus, Native American Studies/Anthropology, Montana State University Billings

Re: "Collections and Reference Resources" project proposal  
by Little Big Horn College (LBHC) Library and Archives.

This letter supports the "Collections and Reference Resources" project proposed by Little Big Horn College. It is (1) commitment to serve as a cultural and academic/scholarly adviser to the project, and 2) to support the project as a whole.

The project goals are to continue digitizing LBHC Library archival holdings of selected Crow historical and cultural interviews, and audiovisual recordings from the approximately 2,500 items held in the Archives. That will preserve copies of the items as they will exist in digital format. Some items will be placed online and utilized through virtual exhibits on the Library's website.

Much of the material is in the Crow language, which limits use by potential researchers. Crow scholars who understand the language will do new transcriptions and translations in English and modern Crow orthography. Some will be selected parts of recorded oral histories never before transcribed. Such work will establish procedures for future transcription/translation, and publication in articles and books. Individuals both on and off the reservation will have access to cultural information and perspectives.

Community involvement will help guide the project in a culturally appropriate manner. I will participate as a cultural scholar with expertise in Crow culture and history. In this role, I will meet periodically with the project team to give feedback and assistance as the project proceeds, especially what to digitize and what to put online, and what should be used to create virtual exhibits.

There is much value of such manuscript and audiovisual materials for scholarship and the classroom for Native American Studies, Anthropology, and History, providing information and insights as told by traditional storytellers and cultural practitioners from a Crow perspective. In the past, such materials have been useful in various projects. As a Board member of Friends of Chief Plenty Coups State Park (1996-present), I have seen such materials, including historic and contemporary photographs and interviews, used in exhibits and community events such as Day of Honor. I served as a member of the writing/facilitating team for a project on "Respectful Treatment of Crow Sacred Objects at Plenty Coups State Park, Montana: Working Successfully with a Native Community – Process as Product" a Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) grant to Friends of Chief Plenty Coups Association, Little Big Horn College, and Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, funded by U.S. National Park Service (1998-1999 & 2002-2005). The LBHC collaboration of outside scholars and Crow tribal scholars and interviews about medicine bundles and other objects held by the Park provided insights into Crow spiritual and educational practice and resulted in a "Sacred Object Care and Treatment Manual."

As a university teacher and researcher at Rocky Mountain College and Montana State University Billings since 1968 (Emeritus, 2006), I have used the LBHC archives and library for materials to enhance lectures and writing papers for publication, as well as encourage students. One of my current projects is as lecturer and panelist for the symposium "Treaties That Live: Sesquicentennial of Crow (Apsaalooke) Indian Treaties of 1868 at Fort Laramie, Wyoming, and Fort Hawley, Montana" on 14-15 September 2018 (sponsored by Little Big Horn College and held on campus; partially funded by Humanities Montana).

I am an adopted member of the Heywood and Mary Lou Big Day family in Pryor, with a Crow name: *dúxxiia dée itche* = "Goes to War in a Good Way" given to recognize cultural advocacy and diplomacy. As a participant who has been intimately involved with the Crow community as well as teacher, researcher, and published scholar for 50 years, I cannot stress more the value of this proposed project. The digitized collections will be of value and use to the scholarly world as well as to the Crow community.

# 7 Bison Cultural Consulting

**Dr. Emerson Bull Chief**

Owner

HC 36 Box 360  
Saint Xavier MT 59075  
406.208.6670

(b) (6)

**Timothy Bernardis**

(b) (6)

07/16/2018

Dear Tim,

This is my commitment to participate in the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Collections and Reference Resources grant project to continue to digitize and thus preserve the approximately 2,500 Crow history and culture audio and video cassettes in the holdings of the LBHC Archives.

The collection is a valuable asset to the college. The collection serves as a clearing house for both fluent Apsáalooke speakers and non-speakers. Traditional knowledge keepers like myself have an archive to expand our knowledge.

While conducting my doctoral research I was able to use the archive to find stories that were pertinent to my questions. I was also able to use the archives during my tenure as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer while conducting ethnographic studies. Ethnographic studies are an integral portion of cultural surveys and my company will continue to use this resource in the future.

Likewise, I will be using the archives for all of my future endeavors for research and writing. Because of this, academic researchers and Apsáalooke tribal members will use this resource for their own purposes. I look forward to working with the Little Big Horn College n this project as an advisor and helping with the project when needed. If you have any question feel free to contact me. Thank You! Aho!

Sincerely,

*Emerson Bull Chief*

Dr. Emerson Bull Chief



**7 Bison Cultural Consulting**



# Letters of Support

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Department of History  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
309 Gregory Hall, MC-466  
810 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801



July 16, 2018

To Whom It May Concern  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Colleagues:

I am delighted to add this letter of endorsement to the Little Big Horn College (LBHC) College and Archives's application for support for the digitization of Crow Indian cultural and historical materials. This is a unique opportunity for the Endowment to support an educational institution that is doing outstanding work in the fields of preservation, access and public scholarship. Over the past three decades I have witnessed the growth of the LBHC Library and Archives from a small, hastily-assembled collection of secondary resources to its current position as a vital center for historical and cultural scholarship. The collection has grown and taken shape, the management of the institution has been professionalized, and the tribal archives—little more than a dream a generation ago—is now attracting scholars to Montana from across the nation and beyond. The LBHC Library is a model tribal institution that provides essential cultural and educational services to this underserved reservation community. Finally, the holdings of the LBHC Library and Archives have grown enormously over the past decades so that its collections of interviews, documentation of the rich cultural life of the Crow community, and Crow language materials has become a vital part of any research project on the tribe. Support for this project at LBHC will promote a model educational institution while communicating to the larger world of libraries and research centers that even tiny, underfunded organizations can do great things.

I first became involved with the LBHC Library and Archives in the mid 1980s when I began research on a project that ultimately became Parading Through History: The Making of the Crow Nation in America, 1805-1935 (Cambridge University Press, 1996), my book on the tribe's history. (I later donated all of my research files including tapes of oral history interviews, to the LBHC archives. Upon my retirement from Illinois, I also donated my professional library to the college.) Library and college personnel welcomed me to the community and guided me to elders and other important figures who graciously assisted me in my research. Two NEH "Travel to Collections" grants enabled me to spend several weeks with the rich trove of materials housed in the National Archives and at the young LBHC Archives. Later, an NEH Faculty Fellowship supported a year of writing that enabled me to produce a draft of the manuscript. I should add that in the process of preparing my book and developing ties to the Library and the Crow community, I approached LBHC to participate in an NEH-sponsored conference on tribal history that was held at LBHC at Crow Agency in 1994. (I directed that project during my tenure as Director of the D'Arcy McNickle Center for the History of the American Indian at the Newberry Library.) These experiences not only enriched my academic understanding of Crow history and culture—and Native history more broadly—but they repeatedly underscored how professional

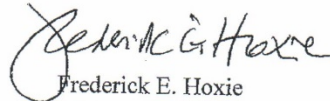
and professionally ambitious the LBHC Library and Archives staff had become. Never insular. Never defensive. Never anything but welcoming, curious and supportive. These are precious qualities.

My latest collaboration with the College will be in mid-September of this year at a symposium supported by Humanities Montana on "Treaties that Live: Sesquicentennial of Crow (Apsaalooke) Indian Treaties at Fort Laramie, Wyoming and Fort Hawley, Montana where I will be giving a presentation.

We are now firmly into the second or third wave of the "New Indian History" in the sense that Native topics and tribal histories are a commonplace in the academic world but we are still struggling to understand Native American experiences. Not only how Native people have responded to and interacted with outsiders—both Native and nonnative—but also how Native people understand their own histories and changing values. In all of these new arenas of inquiry, indigenous resources and indigenous research institutions like LBHC are vital guides to scholars. NEH support for this project will provide an additional boost to this outstanding humanistic institution.

Should you wish further detailed comment, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Frederick E. Hoxie  
Professor Emeritus



Janine Pease, D. Ed., Faculty Member  
Little Big Horn College  
July 17, 2018

Dear National Endowment for the Humanities:

I am a member of the faculty in the Humanities and Social Sciences here at Little Big Horn College. As a matter of structure, courses in the humanities and social sciences have at least one-third of the content dedicated to building knowledge and understanding of the Crow culture, history and lifeways, from the distant past to the present. The archival collection in the college library/archives is a rich repository for appropriate content in these disciplines. However, the accessibility to the finest cultural information (oral history and literature) is seriously limited by their media format. Some items in the collection are ideal for topic and student experience, if they were digitized. Some examples are:

1. Battle of East Pryor Creek – this story has come to be told in our community, however the finest telling of this epic battle between the Crow Apsaalooke People and the Lakota is one by World War II Veterans whose grandparents and in a few cases their great grandparents told them their first hand narratives of the battle. The portraits of community, leadership, chiefly honors, the role of women and children are all key aspects of the HU 101 Survey of the Humanities, in topics of mythology, justice, morality, community and love. Further, the students in 2018 have limited fluency in the Crow language, making much of this recorded materials inaccessible for them. Translation and transcription, along with digitization makes this narrative key to the course.
2. The History of the Chiefs is a course instructed many years back by Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow. This course profiles the Apsaalooke chiefs at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century up until 1910. Uniquely, the chiefs are known individually for their war deeds, the means by which they each achieved chief status and their war strategy. These profiles provide a lens on levels of warrior commitment, leadership styles, and patterns of achievement from incidents of coups counting and a history of battlefield deeds. This is Crow history in a depth that makes the pathways taken by various Crow bands stand to reason.
3. Child Raising Interviews were recorded by elders during the 1980's, primarily by persons who were raised by their grandparents. This view of child raising assists the student to engage with the Crow people of four or five generations back from the present and gain knowledge of their approach to raising Crow children. This is particularly key to topics in the Introduction to Sociology SS 101 that I instruct – Socialization, The Family and Education. Without digitization, this series of interview remains in tapes that are only used by obsolete technology.
4. Tobacco Society Presentation by Dr. Barney Old Coyote. I instruct HU 136 World Religions, and have a cursory chapter on Native American Religion. I this invaluable Tobacco Society presentation was digitized, I could install it into the content of this highest interest chapter.

It is with great enthusiasm that I support this digitization of the Crow Indian cultural and historical audiovisual content in the LBHC Archives.

Best wishes,

  
Janine Pease, D. Ed., Humanities and Social Science Faculty at Little Big Horn College





Smithsonian  
*National Museum of the American Indian*

DATE: 17 JULY 2018  
TO: NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES  
FROM: HERMAN J. VIOLA, CURATOR EMERITUS  
SUBJ: LITTLE BIGHORN COMMUNITY COLLEGE ARCHIVES

I would like to provide my strongest endorsement for this application by the LBHC Archives. In many respects the collections in the archives have been the mainstay of my historical and ethnographic research and it is a fulfillment of my life's work. In brief, I began my career at the National Archives in 1967 as an archivist with the records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 1972, I became director of the National Anthropological Archives at the Smithsonian Institution. The NAA is the repository of the nation's finest Native American ethnographical collections. As director I initiated a program to assist reservation communities in establishing their own archives drawing on copies of photographs, art, documents, and sound recordings in the custody of the NAA. One aspect of the program was training tribal members as archivists and historians.

Several tribal archives flourished and I am pleased to say the best and richest is the LBHC Library and Archives thanks to its director, Tim Bernardis, and the sustained support of tribal members, especially Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow, the tribal historian, who died two years ago at age 102. He was raised by pre-reservation Indians and the first male Crow to graduate from college. It was Joe, who I met shortly after coming to the Smithsonian, who had a profound impact on my ethnographic career. Together we collaborated on numerous books, among them *From the Heart of the Crow Country*, *Little Bighorn Remembered*, *Counting Coup*, and *Memoirs of a White Crow Indian*.

Joe's phenomenal memory astonished me and convinced me of the need to collect the oral histories of America's native peoples, an effort that continues to this day in my work assisting the National Museum of the American Indian in establishing a memorial on the Mall for Native American veterans. The LBHC Archives contains a complete set of Joe's recordings as well as numerous other tribal members and they are an invaluable resource to everyone doing research on Native American topics, especially Plains Indians. In fact, because of the importance of its unique and invaluable collections I encouraged the Crow tribal government to establish the archives and I served on the original advisory board at the inception of the archives in 1986.

The LBHC Archives merits NEH support. If provided, scholars around the world will benefit. If more information is needed please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. Thank you.



DEPARTMENT OF WORLD ARTS AND CULTURES

July 18, 2018

To: National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Program

From: Dr. Peter Nabokov, Professor, UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures and American Indian Studies.

Re. Strong Support for Little Big Horn College Application for Continued Digitization and Putting Online Its decades of collecting Traditional Narratives, Oral histories, Interview Translations and Other Primary Source Materials from a Range of Evolving Recording Devices to be Used For the Development of Virtual Exhibits, Other Tribal Purposes and Outside Scholarly Usages.

I write this extremely strong letter of support for Crow College's application from a number of perspectives. First, as a scholar who began his work on Crow Indian culture and history a half century ago, I am familiar with its inspirational evolution and especially the growth and increased sophistication of its library and archival program. Today it stands as perhaps the leading national exemplar of an educational institution that serves as a centerpiece of not only Crow Indian cultural heritage and on-going society-strengthening activities and as well as a repository of the cultural heritage of one of North America's moist traditional native communities, but as a beacon for other American Indian reservation institutions as well. Central to that development has been the library, where, under the guidance of Tim Bernardis, young Crows have enjoyed access to unparalleled main collections on Crow and Plains Indian cultural, historical, political and linguistic works. But in addition, Bernardis and the tribe have created apprenticeship programs in the library and archival arts where young Crows can develop career paths in these fields. So consistent and sophisticated have become the library's programs for documenting 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century life within the tribes three major communities that major national scholars have donated their papers to the College's archives. Nowhere in the country, Washington, D.C. included, can one find a single repository with this depth and range on the lifeways and key personalities of the Plains Indian world, most richly, of course, centered on the five-hundred year Crow Indian experience.

My intimate knowledge of the value of this institution also comes from deep personal experience. My first book was based on the life history of a 19<sup>th</sup> century Crow warrior, Two Leggings, which took me from 1962-67 to research and complete – before the LBH College was even a gleam in the eye of its founding figure, Janine Windy Boy Pease. What a change some twenty years later when my UC-Berkeley doctoral dissertation also dealt with Crow Indian history and religion – and I was able to delve into the

Glorya Kaufman Hall • 120 Westwood Plaza, Suite 150 • Box 951608 • Los Angeles, CA 90095-1608  
(Phone) 310-825-3951 • (Fax) 310-825-7507



Library holdings as a major research contribution to my arguments. Since then my interactions with other Plains Indian scholars – Crow elders, archaeologists, ethnologists, historians and row elders, DEPARTMENT OF WORLD ARTS AND CULTURES

linguists – has led us all to add our documentary material, notes, audio recordings and photographic collections to this archive in an effort to enrich and safeguard the primary source record of the amazing persistence of this unique tribe.

In researching my writings on not only Crow topics, but on native architecture, native physical development practices, the purposes of oral narration and Indian-Anglo relations, the College library and its archives have proved increasingly invaluable to me. In my courses for our American Indian Studies Program at UCLA I have consistently held up this Crow example for our own Masters degree students hailing from a host of tribal communities across the country as a model of what can and must be archived if the full-bodied culture history of North America is to be documented – from the experiences of the most representative women and men of their constituent reservations up to the more notable, famous and influential tribal members.

The grant application lists specific collections involving all manner of audio recordings, from reel-to-reel tapes to micro-cassettes, that it has preserved from lengthy conversations with notable Crow intellectuals such as Joseph Medicine Crow, Eloise Pease, Barney Old Coyote and a range of other Crow notables. This grant will allow the continued preservation, through the most up-to-date digitizing methods, of a professional process that began three years ago. This priceless cultural legacy includes records of such additional topics as Crow Fair, the detailed careers of folkloric and oral traditions, music and dance practices, the annual round of secular and ceremonial activities that make the Montana tribe something of a pilgrimage center for native students, native educators, native scholars from across the plains and indeed from around the country.

I stand in awe of what the Little Big Horn College library and archives have achieved and I am a fervent supporter of its indigenous and, indeed, America-wide importance and mission. I stand ready to augment this letter of recommendation in whatever way that might further its critical program.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Nabokov". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "N".

Peter Nabokov, UCLA Professor of World Arts and Cultures and American Indian Studies