Digital Return

Digital Stewardship Curriculum

"Digital Return"

The transfer of cultural heritage materials back to a community in a **digital form**

Sometimes called "digital repatriation"
links to NAGPRA

Digital Return in your Communities

- Knowledge sharing
  - Intergenerational, regional…
- Expanding use
  - Digital materials can be more accessible
- Building partnerships with other depts/units
  - Creating curriculum, language materials, summer programs etc

Digital return: planning ahead

- circulation of materials
  - How and for/to whom?
- copies (and more copies)
  - Who has additional copies?
- What is the legal status?
- where is the metadata?
  - What metadata can you add?
  - Does everyone have access?

Digital Return in your Policies

- Within your Strategic Goals for Digitization
  - Collaborations you want with other institutions
  - Goals for use of materials
    - Priorities for returned collections (top 5)
- Digitization Policy
  - What digital materials do you accept?
    - What **terms** for return (legal, social etc)
  - Who makes the decisions to initiate digital return
    - Tribal council your department? …

Defining Steps

- Working with institutions and individuals
  - Define who
  - MOU or MOA to guide **partnership**
    - Not just "getting" digital files
- What legal work may need to be done?
  - Who legally owns collection?
  - Are there restrictions on reproductions?
- Will there be a cost?

Discussion

- What digital return projects are you involved with, or would like to start? (list 2-3)
- List questions you need answered
  - Legal questions
  - Cultural issues (access or use)
  - Institutional workflow (get MOU, meet with tribal council, etc)

Digital Return Contact Sheet

- Add known universities, libraries, archives, museums, etc with your community's cultural heritage materials.
  - List people you know
  - List collections or materials you know
- List repositories in your region or nationally that you would like to contact.

Examples

Plateau Peoples' Web Portal (regional)
Dane Wajich: Dene-zaa Stories (scholars collection)
Smithsonian X3D
American Folklife Center recordings (national institution)