

Plateau Portal Project
Principal Investigator: Dr. Kimberly Christen
Washington State University
NWACC Proof of Concept Grant
Progress Report: September 12, 2008

I. Project Goals:

The goal of the Plateau Project is to create a web-based environment that allows the Plateau People's cultural materials in Washington State University's special collections to be curated, catalogued, and accessed by students, faculty, and Native individual and organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest. Specifically our curatorial methodology is based around collaboration from the three Tribes involved in this project: Umatilla, Yakama and Coeur d'Alene. The collaboration is aimed at directing both the technical aspect of the project and the curation process.

II. Progress to Date:

Positions Filled:

- Lead Developer (web application): Craig Dietrich, University of Maine
- Graduate Student Assistant: Shawn Lamebull, Washington State University

Expenditures:

- PI: Dr. Kimberly Christen \$2,500 (summer salary: 1839 +655.35 benefits)
- Grad. Assistant: Shawn Lamebull: \$ 1,000 (collection, digitization and liaison work with the Tribes)

Work Completed:

- Content chosen for the site for all three Tribes. This was done over the course of the summer in meetings at WSU and at on the Tribes' reservations. We first worked with Museum and Library staff at WSU to narrow down the content. We then presented it to the Tribes at WSU. Then in meetings at their home reservations the tribes decided on the final content in a series of meetings.
- Systems requirement document completed for the technical team—this included specifications for the database design, web 2.0 features and administrative control features.
- Created template for the database system architecture.
- Tribes decided on preliminary categories for the root database system. These categories will function as the main "paths" through the portal.
- Decided with Tribal consultation on the design of the two main pages for the portal.

Timeline for Completion:

1. September 15-December 30
 - a. Final digitization.
 - b. Graphic designer begins interface design in consultation with technical team and the specifications for the portal paths and interactive features
 - c. Technical team secures structure of the database and interactive features
 - d. Link content and narrations to the specific paths in the portal in consultation with the Tribes.
 - e. Library and Museum metadata entered for each piece of content.
 - f. Tribes provide narratives for each piece of content.
2. January-February
 - a. Get feedback on design and content curation with Native communities
 - b. Tribes input their narratives and metadata.
 - c. User tests with WSU students
3. March-April
 - a. Implement any changes from user tests
 - b. Finalize content curation with Tribes—making any changes from winter consultations.
 - c. Launch site (April 10)