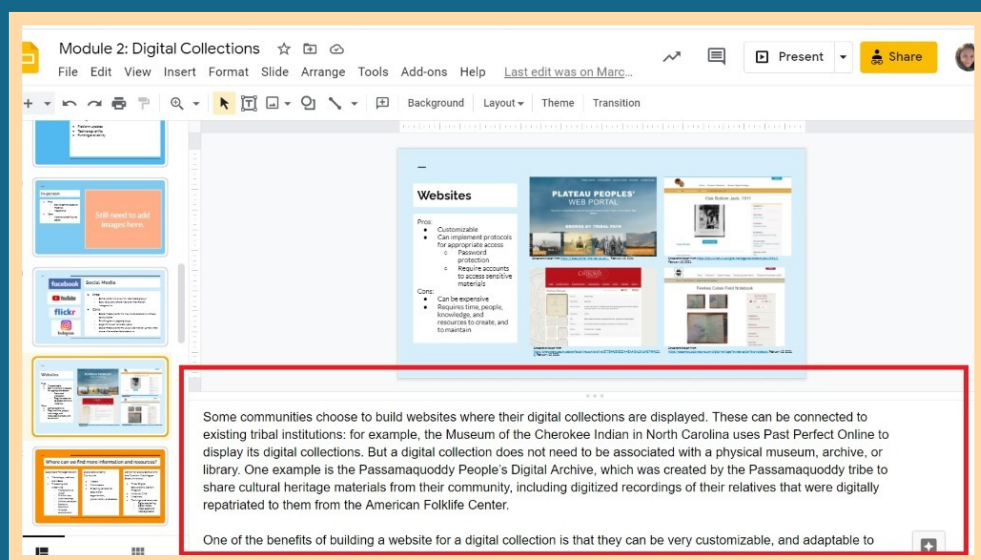


# Modules for Filling Information Gaps Among AI/AN Communities

## Some tribal leaders and communities may not have access to the information they need,

or even the time to compose a presentation or module about topics that are important to communicate. This is especially relevant regarding academic literature. There are many factors at work here, including unreliable internet access, paywalls and academic jargon, limited resources, and much more. At the same time, the pressure is on tribal communities and governments to respond to pressing issues like climate change, water security, global pandemics, data sovereignty, and more. In this project we are creating modules that can be used by the public with tribal citizens as our core audience. We hope that by developing and sharing these modules, we are placing information in the hands of communities so they can share and disseminate this knowledge as they wish.



In order to serve tribal communities, these modules adapt Open Educational Resource (OER) principles, to ensure that presenters can freely and easily **access** them, edit and **adapt** them for their own needs and context, and **redistribute** them without fear of copyright issues.

### Module Credits & Attribution

This presentation is based on the module attributed below.

The modules project was developed by Clarita Lefthand-Begay during the course of her work with tribes in the Pacific Northwest.

You can find more modules on her website at <https://claritalb.org/modules/>. For questions and more information, you can email Professor Lefthand-Begay at [clarita@uw.edu](mailto:clarita@uw.edu).

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**Note to module developers:** Please drop your Creative Commons License into this space! You can select your license, and create a label for your module at the Creative Commons website, using their [Choose a License tool](#).

## We don't always have the opportunity to work directly with AI/AN (American Indian/Alaska Native) communities.

Relationship- and trust-building asks not only ourselves, but potential partners, to give a great deal of time, effort, and labor (physical, intellectual, and emotional). Developing modules is also a way for students of any discipline to practice communicating their work with a non-academic audience, and **to serve tribal communities in a non-intrusive way.**

But this does not mean that developing modules is not collaborative! Because the modules are 'open,' and intended for presenters to edit, adapt, and remix as they wish, **publishing a module doesn't represent the end of its development: in fact, it is only the beginning.**

Thank you to Janine Ledford of the Makah Cultural and Research Center for all of her time and knowledge in creating the Digital Collections module series. Her feedback and expertise were essential in developing this series to its greatest potential.

My thanks and deepest gratitude go to Clarita Lefthand-Begay, who first developed the idea for this project, and who spent many hours patiently guiding and advising me. She has generously shared her time, effort, knowledge, resources, and expertise with me over the past year, and has been a bright example not just of professional and academic excellence, but of what it means to be a good community member, friend, and human being. If any part of this project resonates with you, please consider taking her classes on Indigenous Systems of Knowledge: LIS 598E (Data Sovereignty and Indigenous Knowledge Systems: Sovereign Rights, Protections and Protocols) and INSC 598A (Applied Indigenous Research Methods).

Finally, I thank my friends, and I thank my family for their unwavering support, and for all they have done to make any of this work a possibility for me.

In my future work, I look forward to developing pathways for building more respectful, reciprocal relationships with communities that increase accessibility, and share and disseminate knowledge.



## Digital Collections

[Weekday, [Month] [Day], [Year]  
[Presenter's Name]

**Modules** are short slide decks (10-15 slides) with accompanying speaker notes that can be used by a tribal leader or community member to present to their community about a topic they require information about. They address potential information gaps, or areas where the audience has very little prior knowledge, or has had very little opportunity to access information.

### What is needed to care for Digital Collections?

- Digital Asset Manager
  - Metadata Specialist
  - Cataloger
  - [Please insert 1-3 local examples from your particular community.]
- [Please insert 1-3 local examples from your particular community.]

In addition to the **Digital Collections module series**, we developed a **Guidebook for Creating Modules**, and an **assignment for LIS 598E: Data Sovereignty and Indigenous Knowledge Systems: Sovereign Rights, Protections and Protocols**, that asked students to create their own modules over the course of the quarter. This added an additional five modules to collection, and laid the groundwork for future and ongoing collaborations to create modules with UW students and others.

Take a look at the [modules website](#), or view the [Scholars' Studio Lightning Talk](#) about the project given by Tasha Gross on February 25, 2021.