The Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma Archive and Research Center Project:
Building a World-Class Indigenous Cultural Heritage and History Portal

I. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The Pawnee Nation is a federally recognized Indigenous nation rebuilding from the harsh effects of dramatic social, economic, and political change resulting from U.S. expansionism, laws, and policies. Consisting of four confederated nations of Caddoan speakers and calling themselves the Chaui, Kitkahahki, Pitahawerata, and Skidi, the Pawnee Nation once claimed, used, and exerted its inherent sovereignty over a vast central plains homeland encompassing much of what is now Nebraska and Kansas. Its people sustained themselves by combining agricultural production with buffalo hunting. Since the beginning of time, followed spiritual ways of living with a seasonal round of ceremonies sanctioned by their creator Tirawahut.

As the United States pushed its settlements westward to the Missouri River and beyond, the Pawnees became the subjects of many firsthand reports by overland travelers, traders, adventurer seekers, missionaries, soldiers, settlers, photographers, newspaper correspondents, and federal officials. Although frequently marred by stereotypical depictions, the language of white superiority and Indian inferiority, and self-serving assertations, these accounts document aspects of Pawnee life, culture, and contact with others. Between 1818 and 1857, the Pawnees entered five treaties with the U.S. government that formalized political relations, regulated trade, established assimilation programs, and ceded millions of acres of land. By the mid-1870s, however, growing U.S. pressure caused the Pawnees to surrender their remaining homelands and move to a reservation in northcentral Oklahoma. They faced further political subjugation, land losses, human rights violations, and attacks on their language, sovereignty, values, beliefs, spirituality, and customary ways of living in their new homes. Their population declined sharply from tens of thousands of people in the 1700s to a nadir of about 500 in the late 1890s. This history of ethnocide, forced relocation, premature deaths, and oppression has left the Pawnee Nation largely dependent on federal support.

An enormous but scattered body of literature and unpublished documents exists about Pawnee history and culture in locations beyond the reach of most Pawnees and others. Given the Pawnee's historical prominence and rich cultural heritage, historians, anthropologists, ethnologists, archaeologists, and other scholars have written extensively about them. Library shelves often hold those studies, most of which remain undigitized. Beginning during the 1800s, researchers recorded Pawnee oral history, songs, and language speakers, placing their field notes, recordings, and manuscripts in repositories spread across the country. Museum curators compiled accession records and created provenances while acquiring sacred and secular Pawnee cultural objects. They placed those items in New York, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Kansas, California, and Illinois museums, state historical societies, and university collections. Then too, the federal archive system contains voluminous amounts of undigitized boxes and files full of correspondence and reports about Pawnees from the early 1800s to the present. Only a small portion of these sources have been microfilmed and digitized.

History and culture are critical matters to many Pawnees. Enduring a past filled with troubling outcomings, Pawnees have tenaciously maintained their identity, desire to exist as a distinct people, ceremonies, songs, dances, and cultural values. Yet, concerns exist that further cultural erosion may occur if proactive measures are not taken to counter this omnipresent threat. Creating an archive and research center with the information made accessible to them on an online portal may help alleviate those fears. The axiom that knowledge equates to individual and collective empowerment resonates loudly here.

In an enthusiastic letter of support, esteemed Pawnee elder Carol Nuttle writes, "My great grandmother, Mattie Little Eagle, walked as a young girl from our homelands in Nebraska to Oklahoma along with many other tribal members. They did this to make a way for their children and grandchildren to lead a good life. I urge you to fund this project so our younger generation and beyond may know these stories and what the generations before [us] have endured." She strongly

asserts that "We need a center with information to establish a meaningful library, museum, and cultural center. We need a center with information that will help us preserve and reenergize our history, culture, and beliefs. We also want to restore our language, which the U.S. government suppressed for many years." She sees the center as a place where non-Indians can "learn about and appreciate our history and rich cultural traditions."

Benefiting from a federal Indian policy shift occurring during the 1930s, the Pawnee Nation embarked on a recovery, healing, and nation-building journey that continues to the present. Today, the Pawnee Nation functions under the authority of the Pawnee Business Council and the Nasharo (Rêsâru'karu) Council (traditional chief's council). The Pawnee Reserve contains Pawnee government offices, the Pawnee Nation College, a health center, a gymnasium, a ceremonial roundhouse, a police department, and a court. The Pawnee Nation also maintains a small public museum and library in the nearby town of Pawnee.

Pawnee attempts to establish a museum and library extend to at least the 1960s. In 2020, the Pawnee Nation collaborated with the Oklahoma State University School of Architecture to develop a conceptual model for a new cultural center based on community needs and aspirations. By joining the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) funded "Culture Builds Communities" program and receiving Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) assistance, the Pawnee Nation expanded its vision to include the construction of a Cultural Center with a museum, library, and archive and research center. It subsequently set aside a twenty-five-acre plot of land on the Pawnee Reserve for this purpose.

The Pawnee Nation subsequentially created a five-year plan with four interconnected objectives aimed at recovering and preserving the past for present and future generations to:

- build a cultural center with an archive and research center,
- document Pawnee life, past and present, through a family history project,
- identify and acquire Pawnee cultural and linguistic materials, and
- create an online portal with Pawnee cultural heritage and history materials.

An IMLS Native American Enhancement Grant (2021–2022) allowed the Pawnee Nation to assemble a small staff to identify, acquire, digitize, create contextual metadata, and upload items to the Pawnee Portal, established in February 2022.

As with that initial grant, this request also falls under IMLS Goal 3, to "Enhance the preservation and revitalization of Native American cultures and languages." Objective 3.1, "Support the development of efficient strategic partnerships within, across, and outside Native communities," will be reached by renewing the partnership with Washington State University to host the Pawnee Nation Mukurtu platform and establishing new alliances with local, regional, national, and international repositories holding Pawnee materials. Mukurtu is a content management system and digital access tool for cultural heritage, built for and in ongoing dialogue with indigenous communities. Developed and maintained at the Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation at Washington State University, the free and open-source platform is designed to meet the specific curatorial and access needs of indigenous peoples. Mukurtu offers the ability to provide differential access to community members and the general public and to create space for traditional narratives and knowledge labels that foreground Indigenous knowledge in the metadata of digitized cultural heritage materials. Objective 3.2, "Support the preservation of content of unique and specific value to Native communities," will be achieved by expanding the free online portal with descriptive, reference, and legal metadata. Objective 3.3, "Support the sharing of content within and/or beyond Native. Communities." This final objective will be attained by allowing non-Pawnee access to the portal with possible limitations placed on viewing sensitive information.

Although a relatively small and poor Indigenous nation, the Pawnee Nation has been at the forefront of an Indigenous national movement to reclaim, repatriate and rebury ancestral human remains taken from graves without their free, prior, and informed consent. The Pawnee Nation now stands ready to establish a model pathway for other Indigenous nations and peoples wishing to attain and share their cultural heritage to follow. Project team members plan to impart information about their experiences with the challenges and outcomes in their endeavors to create the Pawnee Portal and

Archive and Research Center at a session of the 2022 ATALM annual conference on the Pechanga Reservation in California. The panel will consist of key project team members, including the project manager and part-time assistant. Additionally, project participants have discussed the possibility of co-authoring a book about this topic.

Confronting Challenges

With support from the 2021-2022 IMLS grant, the Pawnee Nation has made reasonable progress toward achieving its objectives. Most repositories contacted by the project team have responded enthusiastically, expressing a willingness to digitize Pawnee materials in their collections and partner with the project. The Autry Museum of the American West and potentially others will do so at no cost to the project. In addition to the Autry, contacted entities include the National Archives and Records Administration, National Library of Congress, University of Oklahoma, Nebraska History, Illinois University, Oklahoma Historical Society, Kansas State Historical Society, and Chicago's Field Museum on Natural History, and American Museum of Natural History. Collectively, these repositories hold hundreds of thousands of written materials, photographs, and other items of interest to the Pawnee Nation. Additionally, international repositories may hold Pawnee items in their collections that could be digitized for project use. The project team will investigate this likelihood.

As the project team's work progressed and the number of repository partnerships increased, the size of undigitized and digitized materials grew exponentially. By contacting repositories and conducting online searches, the project team found what may amount to millions of pages of records, documents, photographs, manuscripts, field notes, and other printed materials. The National Archives in Washington, D.C., and its scattered regional archives hold thousands of boxes of undigitized correspondence and agency reports with information about the conditions of the Pawnees, allotments, trust funds, boarding schools, Individual Indian Money accounts, "civilization" status, wardship, and other matters. Although the information contained in these sources have a tremendous historical value to the Pawnee Nation, the project's limited staffing structure makes it possible only to process a small fraction of those documents in a timely and efficient manner.

Yet, dialogue is now underway with the National Archives to prioritize the digitalization of materials for Pawnee use. These materials contain embedded information of critical significance to the Pawnee Nation and its digitalization project. Further, this historic process will lead to the largest digitalization project ever undertaken to benefit of an American Indian nation!

As the project got underway, the project manager soon realized that the expanding workload would require another full-time employee (if not more) to collect, filter, and share vast amounts of digitized and untapped materials. Along with the repositories, Pawnee family histories and the Pawnee Nation records also hold information of immense value to the project. Establishing and maintaining partnerships, searching online databases, crafting emails, entering Memorandums of Understanding, creating metadata, uploading materials to the portal, and participating in virtual meetings consume a substantial portion of the project manager's daily workload. However, the Pawnee Nation expects the portal to provide a comprehensive and in-depth approach to understanding the complexities and nuances of its history and culture. This expectation means that the portal must contain many entries that are categorized and indexed systematically to make the site easy to navigate.

The initial grant only provided for a full-time project manager and three part-time Pawnee Nation College interns to conduct the project's workload. While conducting a search for qualified project applicants, the Pawnee Nation contacted Dr. James Riding In to determine his interest in the job. He applied and was hired as the project manager. A Pawnee citizen and recently retired American Indian Studies scholar with more than thirty years of faculty work at Arizona State University, Dr. Riding In has a long record of archival research about Pawnee history, pro bono service to the Pawnee Nation and Pawnee Nation College, academic program building, and professional networking. When attempts to employ the interns failed to materialize, the Pawnee Nation used those funds to hire Lindsey Chapman, a Pawnee with a master's degree in library informational science, for less than ten hours a week.

This modification has only partially resolved the understaffing problem. Unfortunately, support from the Pawnee Nation may not be forthcoming because of its lack of capital and discretionary funds. The project team will seek other sources to carry out its unfunded work.

Yet, although understaffing impedes project progress, the project team plans to close out its IMLS grant by the August 31, 2022, deadline to meet the eligibility requirements for a new grant application from this funding source.

Strengthening the Project

This proposal aims to strengthen the project's effectiveness, quality, and timeliness by hiring an additional full-time staff member. This grant will allow the project team to handle its mushrooming workload better. The Pawnee Nation will use IMLS funding to renew the contract of the project manager and increase the time of Lindsey Chapman from part-time to full-time status with the title of Associate Project Manager. It will also hire a part-time project assistant. Four steps will be necessary to achieve this objective:

- lower the project manager's salary (to which he agrees),
- discontinue the services of the federal archive specialist (who has agreed to stay on as a volunteer), and
- lessen Washington State University's role to hosting the Pawnee Portal without additional services.

Meanwhile, the project team will use social media, personal communications, and other means to acquire unpaid community stakeholder assistance. It will explore the possibility of training students at Pawnee Nation College and other institutions of high learning to attain college credit by working with the project as interns. It will seek funding from other sources to cover unmet travel, digitizing, and other expenses. Achieving project sustainability will be an ongoing objective.

Target Group and Other Beneficiaries

The project's target group will remain Pawnee Nation citizens, including students, scholars, community members, and others interested in learning more about their cultural heritage and history. Recent demographic data shows an enrollment of 3,701 Pawnees, with 580 living within Pawnee County, which once composed the largest portion of the Pawnee Reservation. While many Pawnees now live in surrounding counties and towns, others have scattered throughout the country for various reasons.

The magnitude of the Pawnee diaspora makes this project even more imperative. Its outcomes will enable Pawnees everywhere to maintain and strengthen their cultural ties, identities, language knowledge, and values by accessing the Pawnee Portal. The information on the portal will allow Pawnee museum staff to plan new exhibits and enable the Pawnee Nation Business Council to make informed decisions about repatriation, cultural landscape protection, grant writing, language revitalization, and other many matters. Pawnee Nation College faculty can develop curricula about Pawnee cultural heritage to enhance their students' knowledge, academic proficiencies, and life skills as future leaders in various occupations. Other possible scenarios will become evident as the portal's use grows and more Pawnee stakeholders develop a sense of ownership over the project.

The Pawnee Portal will be shared with others to create greater awareness about Pawnees in historical and contemporary settings. Non-Pawnee scholars, researchers, students, teachers, history buffs, and lifelong learners wanting to study Pawnee history and culture will have access to the site. Digitized materials placed on the portal and physical books housed in the Pawnee Nation Library will provide reliable information about Pawnee history and culture to a wide range of people.

Creating cultural consciousness is a function that permeates this project. As Judi gaiashkibos, the Executive Director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, notes in her support letter, "This grant proposal with definitely provide our agency and others with an invaluable tool as we continue to work toward greater cultural awareness and

knowledge of the rich history of Nebraska and Plains tribes. This grant application has the unqualified support of our agency and will have widespread significance."

II. PROJECT WORK PLAN

Project Staffing and Activities

$150,000 is requested in IMLS funding to enable the Pawnee Nation to develop further its Pawnee Portal and Archive and Research Center for a one-year period with adequate staff support. Project Manager Dr. James Riding In will continue his leadership in planning, implementing, and managing the project. He will organize project team meetings, supervise staff, work as a staff member on the project, monitor all budget expenditures, evaluate the project outcomes, engage in dialogue with community members and partnering repository personnel, and seek funding to conduct short- and long-term project activities. Attaining project sustainability will be a major focal point of his work. He will provide progress reports to Herb Adson, the Pawnee Nation Cultural Resource Division Director, and Matt Reed, the Chair of the Pawnee Museum Board. Associate Project Director Lindsey Chapman will assist with administrative functions and communications, conduct online and on-site repository searches to identify relevant Pawnee materials, upload items, create metadata, organize events at Pawnee gatherings, and provide Mukurtu training to Community Curation Team (CCT) and community members as needed.

Cultural Resource Division Director Herb Adson will monitor the project's progress, supervise the project manager, and guide the CCT's work. Consisting of six volunteer Pawnee historians, scholars, and professionals, the CCT will identify non-federal materials within their respective areas of expertise, prioritize acquisitions, and prepare a cultural sensitivity protocol. They will upload materials to the Pawnee Portal after receiving Mukurtu training. The Pawnee Business Council will monitor the project's work to ensure that progress occurs on time and professional standards of excellence are upheld.

The CCT membership includes

- Herb Adson, the Pawnee Nation Cultural Resource Division Director, a cultural specialist and noted singer of Pawnee songs;
- Walter E. Echo-Hawk, the Pawnee Nation Business Council President, a noted legal scholar, attorney, judge, and historian;
- Roger Echo-Hawk, a historian, artist, and scholar specializing in ancient Pawnee history, oral traditions, and family histories;
- Matt Reed, the Pawnee Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, a Chief of the Pawnee Nasharo Council, and the Chair of the Pawnee Nation's Museum Board;
- Dr. Deanne Grant, an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Native American and Indigenous Studies at Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, and a specialist in language revitalization, Indigenous feminisms, and decolonization; and
- Will Riding In, an author, artist, researcher, museum curator, and a member of the Pawnee Nation's Board of Museum with a master's in Museum Studies from the University of New Mexico.

The project's objectives include:

Objective 1 (Months 1-12): Put the project team in place to carry out specified activities.
1) Renewing the project manager's full-time contract to ensure the completion of all project objectives. **($55,000)**
2) Upgrading Lindsey Chapman's contract to a full-time position with the job title of Associate Project Manager with commensurate administrative and project responsibilities. **($45,000)**
3) Hire a full-time Project Assistant to identify, digitize materials, upload, and create metadata. **($27,500)**

Objective 2 (Months 1-12): Contract with Washington State University (WSU) to host the Pawnee Portal for a one-year period.

4) Contracting with WSU to host the Pawnee Portal using the Mukurtu platform. **($5,000)**

Objective 3 (Months 1-2) Project assessments

5) Submitting monthly reports about project activities to the Pawnee Nation, Chair of the Museum Board, Director of the Cultural Resource Division, and CCT members.

Objective 4 (Months 1-12)

6) Providing in-house Mukurtu training to CCT and community members as needed.
7) Offering Mukurtu refresher training as needed

Objective 5 (Month 2) Participate in the ATALM conference.

8) Sharing information about project objectives, mitigating risks, utilizing minimal resources efficiently, best methodology practices, partnering with federal and public institutions, and creating descriptive metadata to a 2022 ATALM conference audience on the Pechanga Reservation in California **($3,000)**

Objective 6 (Months 3-4). Engagement with international repositories

9) Sending letters of inquiry to international repositories with Pawnee collections.

Objective 7 (Months 3-6) Travel to repositories

10) Identifying materials to be digitized by the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and Chicago's Museum of Natural History. **($6,000)**

Objective 8 (Months 3, 6, 12) Engagement with Pawnee Nation citizens.

11) Engaging in Pawnee community members in project matters using social media best practices, face-to-face meetings at cultural gatherings, listservs, sponsored events, and press releases. **($1,168)**

Objective 9 (Months 1-2) Ensuring project sustainability

12) Developing sustainability plans in conjunction with others.

Objective 10 (Months 1-2) Equipment need. ($750)

13) Purchase digitizing equipment, camera, and lens.

Service Provider

Washington State University will host the Pawnee Portal using the Mukurtu Content Management System without providing additional training and support services. Developed with IMLS funding, Mukurtu is the premier platform for managing, sharing, protecting, and storing Indigenous cultural heritage. For site information, see mukurtu.org.

Mitigating Known Risks

The most significant risk facing the project remains the COVID pandemic. Because of public safety concerns and repository closures, the project team has not traveled for work-related purposes. The project team has also mitigated this risk by conducting online Pawnee material searches and consulting with repositories via virtual meetings, email correspondence, and telephone calls. When repositories open again, the project team will carry out scheduled travel activities to identify and digitize materials for project use.

Planning, Implementing, and Managing the Project

The responsibilities of planning, implementing, and managing the project are a systemic process aimed at efficient operations, lessening the possibility of mistakes, and reducing failures stemming from technological and human causes. In doing so, the project manager with consult with CCT members, repository curators, and other knowledge sources. The project manager and associate project manager will implement the grant's work plan and manage the project's day-to-day operations. They will engage in planning sessions with the CCT to carry out project objectives more efficiently.

The project team will share its best practices for establishing an online portal during a panel session at the 2022 ITALM conference. Additionally, the Pawnee Nation president and the project manager will co-author a study detailing the project's challenges, solutions, and achievements.

The Pawnee Nation will follow its established methodological approach utilizing effective ways to collect, process, and filter materials. It will:

- Determine the value of Pawnee government records for preservation and digitization for possible portal uses;
- Assess the digital repatriation potential of new Pawnee materials found in various repositories under a digitalization policy developed by the CCT;
- Acquire, index, catalog, resolve copyright and permission concerns, and upload digitized federal and non-federal materials to the Pawnee Portal;
- Create metadata descriptions; and
- Engage Pawnee citizens about the project using social media postings, printed sources, and cultural events. The project team will hold an event at the annual Pawnee Homecoming Powwow (July); disseminate information using the Pawnee Nation webpage and local newspapers, including the *Pawnee Chief*, a weekly newspaper, and Pawnee Nation College listserv. Community members will be encouraged to identify photograph subjects, share documents in their possession and family histories, and provide metadata.

3. PROJECT RESULTS

The one-year project will build a stronger team with the addition of another full-time staff, which will enable the Pawnee Nation to build a world-class portal and archive and research center, providing:

- a rich assortment of physical and digital Pawnee cultural heritage and historical materials to Pawnee and non-Pawnee users;
- quick and easy access to the portal's information using various devices;
- protection from exposing culturally sensitive materials;
- a user-friendly portal with indexes, cataloged entries, and cross-referencing capacity;
- community input regarding family histories, identification of photography subjects, and traditional knowledge; and
- information leading to maintaining and strengthening Pawnee cultural traditions, identity, language, values, and beliefs.

Methods devised by the project team to evaluate the project's efficacy, quality, and timeliness will remain in place, including virtual and in-person meetings, user surveys, program assessments, and the project manager's monthly reports. Success will be determined by the number of participants at sponsored events; the number of materials collected, digitized, and uploaded with metadata; the number of photographs, documents, and stories shared by family members; and written and verbal feedback from stakeholders. The assessments will include information about the quality of portal entries and the meeting of program objectives per established timelines.

Tangible Products

This product has four tangible outcomes. First, as demonstrated by this proposal, the Pawnee Nation will create a model portal and archive and research center with numerous curated digitized materials and accompanying metadata from multiple sources about Pawnee history and culture. Second, the Pawnee Nation will document and share its digital repatriation, documentation, and collaboration practices other Native Nations and Indigenous people wishing to pursue similar activities. Third, it will preserve rare information for ongoing Pawnee uses. Fourth, a co-authored study will be written about the project; however, this product is a long-term objective. In conclusion, these products will benefit Pawnees and others with online and physical resources containing a rich body of Pawnee cultural heritage and historical materials.

Sustainability Measures

The Pawnee Nation remains committed to facilitating and enhancing the growth of the Archive and Research Center, the Pawnee Portal, and the Pawnee Nation Library. In addition to seeking funding from the Kellogg Foundations and other philanthropic organizations, it will submit requests to the American Council of Learned Society, National Historical Records Advisory Board, the National Endowment for Humanities, the National Park Service, and others. It

will enlist community stakeholder support to further enrich the Pawnee Portal with new materials and sustain its use for the sake of ensuring cultural survival, strengthening identities, preserving traditional knowledge, informing decision-making processes, and promoting language revitalization.

4. CONSULTED SOURCES

Digital Frameworks

- Mukurtu: An Indigenous Archive and Publishing Tool; Best Practices for Planning Digitization Projects; A Framework for Building Good Digital Collections; Standards for Digital Imaging; and
- Digitizing Historical Records Projects FAQs | National Archives.

Model Programs

- Huna Heritage Foundation (hunaheritage.org).
- Passamaquoddy People (wsu.edu).
- Plateau Peoples' Web Portal (wsu.edu)
- Catawba Archives (catawbaculture.org).

SEP 1, 2022 – AUG 31, 2023	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
Project Director commences work	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Associate Project Director commences work	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Post job ad for Project Research Assistant	X											
Project Research Assistant commences work		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Community Curation Team meetings	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
WSU/Mukurtu commences work of hosting Pawnee portal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Visit repositories with significant Pawnee collections	X	X	X									
Community engagement activities at Pawnee cultural events			X				X				X	
ATALM conference presentation, training, and networking		X										
Inquiry letters sent to international repositories with Pawnee materials	X											
Ongoing partnering with U.S. repositories holding substantial Pawnee materials	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sustainability plan developed for submission to philanthropic organizations and federal agencies	X	X	X									
Collecting, filtering, digitizing, accessioning, creating metadata, and uploading items to Pawnee portal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Provide Mukurtu training to CCT members	X	X										
Develop comprehensive library enhancement plan	X	X	X									
Reporting and evaluation assessments	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

DIGITAL PRODUCTS PLAN
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Type
The majority of the digital products acquired for the digital library will consist of digitized copies of the original documents held by federal archival systems, state historical societies, museums, and university collections. The Pawnee Nation has established collaborative partnerships with a growing number of those institutions to support its digital project. Because the aim is to expand the Pawnee Mukurtu Portal, launched in February 2022, with information about Pawnee culture and history, there is an incentive to collect a diverse and broad range of digital items explicitly related to the Pawnees. Item types of interest for inclusion in the Pawnee Portal consist of still images, photographs, documents, scholarly articles, artwork and paintings, digital books, federal records, audio files, music, recordings, and a limited number of videos. It is anticipated that approximately 600 items will be added to the collection.

Mukurtu CMS supports various file formats for images, audio, files, and videos. The best practice and standard recommended for the sustainability of the Pawnee Portal is to add the recommended and appropriate file formats best to utilize the storage space for the digital library.

This project's other digital content will be materials housed within various Pawnee Nation departments. The quantities of these collections will be determined through assessment by the Project Manager and Pawnee division heads under Human Resource policies and procedures. The work will evaluate endangered collections and their priority status.

Availability
The digital content will be made available through the Pawnee Portal developed with Washington State University support, consisting of public and access-controlled delivery strategies. Most materials will be available online, although members of the Pawnee Nation will be the primary audience. However, Mukurtu allows indigenous communities to make certain items that are culturally sensitive to be accessed solely by Pawnee citizens when deemed appropriate. The plan is to educate different audiences about Pawnee culture and history; therefore, students, scholars, researchers, historians, and others interested in Pawnee history will benefit from the project. There is no special software needed to use the content.

Access
The digital products created from this grant belong to the Pawnee Nation and its library. They will be available as a resource accessible by patrons of the Pawnee Nation Archive and Research Center based on its Access and Use policies as well as original donor conditions provided at the time of the accession of the materials. For items not originating from the Pawnee Nation, permissions will be sought by the holders of the materials, provided copyright is held by the organization holding the materials. The Pawnee Nation uses Creative Commons. The Access and Use policy of the Pawnee Nation is being developed in consultation with Washington State University. It states clearly that some culturally sensitive materials may be restricted to patrons based on tribal memberships and other unique identifiers.

The Pawnee Nation and its library will assert ownership of digital products it creates from original materials originating from the Pawnee Nation. Conditions of Access and Use will be determined for each digital product based on previous terms and conditions set forth by the Pawnee Nation Business Council, the Museum of the Pawnee Nation Board, and the Cultural Resources Board. The Pawnee Nation utilizes the Mukurtu Content Management System that identifies restrictions and adds Traditional Knowledge Labels, which will further explain Pawnee values of attribution.

The Pawnee Nation faces privacy and cultural sensitivities in the everyday use of collections. It addresses these concerns through its policies and, if needed, by consulting with tribal leadership, tribal historians, and others.

Sustainability
The Pawnee Nation IT Department, staffed with trained professionals, is responsible for advising the library on preserving and maintaining all digital assets, as will the contract project manager. Additionally, the Pawnee Nation will continue working with Washington State University to develop a Digital Preservation Plan specific to the materials available through the Pawnee Portal and determine the best practice and standard for the Life-Cycle Management and Digital Preservation of all digital format items. The Pawnee Nation will be responsible for preserving and maintaining the

metadata belonging to the digital products during and after the award period of performance. It will work with Washington State University to define a long-term strategy. The majority of collected items will require a long-lived, permanent preservation plan rather than collecting items that only be retained for a short term since it is within the scope of the mission to preserve information about Pawnee culture and history. Due to the concern of holding items permanently, the Pawnee Nation will eventually need to find and acquire a hosting service that will be able to provide storage space needs. Washington State University is currently the hosting site, but other hosting services at more affordable costs will be researched to meet the needs of the website and Pawnee Nation.