Pacific Northwest Native Americans: 
Past, Present, and Prologue 
A Guide to Selected Resources

Everett Olmstead, Indians & Streamliner, Celilo Falls, Columbia River, Oregon. April 1940, 
http://www.historicphotoarchive.com/phot/olmstead.html

Charles Wood 
Drexel University 
Info 673 with Professor Alison Lewis 
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“IT DOES NOT REQUIRE MANY WORDS TO SPEAK THE TRUTH.”

CHIEF JOSEPH

http://www.powersource.com/gallery/people/joseph.html

INTRODUCTION

There has been a surge of interest in Native American studies in the last 20 years, and a corresponding increase of scholarly developments that are worthy of the people studied. There has been a conscious effort of late, to respect and incorporate the perspectives of Native American people into the writings about their culture and history, something which wasn’t always done in the past. Native American studies are an exciting, interesting and relevant subject that can promote understanding between indigenous people and the rest of society, which is necessary for positive co-existence in the future.

The Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest are among the most unique and interesting cultural groups in the world. This guide provides selected resources which were found in public libraries, academic libraries, and from electronic resources. The research was done in Oregon, which may explain why there is more material about Oregon tribes than those from Washington, Idaho, Western Canada and Alaska. Information specific to Pacific Northwest peoples is included, but also relevant, general material that covers all the native people of North America. The term “Native American” is considered more accurate than “Indian”, but I was surprised to find that the term “Indian” is still widely used because of its long, historical use. This guide is only a beginning to the myriad of resources available on this subject, as it is not practical to list every resource. If you need more information, your local librarian will be glad to help. I hope this guide will be useful to high school and college students doing reports, teachers preparing lessons, librarians helping patrons, armchair anthropologists and historians, and perhaps even people researching their own Native American heritage.

RELEVANT LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS

Most of the items related to Native Americans in the Library of Congress classification system will be in the call number range of E-51 to E-99, so this is a good place to browse the stacks. The letter “E” and “F” represent the classification of the “History of the Americas”. There will be items located elsewhere, but it would be wise to use the catalog to find them. If the catalog sends you looking for an item in the “R” section, for example, that means the subject is medicine related. For a full list of the Library of Congress Classification System, go to:

http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/lcco/
Specific subject headings include:
Indians of North America
Indians of North America – Bibliography
Indians of North America – Biography
Indians of North America – Collected works
Indians of North America – Cultural assimilation
Indians of North America – Dictionaries and Encyclopedias
Indians of North America – Ethnic identity
Indians of North America – Handbooks, manuals, etc.
Indians of North America – History
Indians of North America – Land tenure
Indians of North America – Languages
Indians of North America – Maps
Indians of North America – Northwest, Pacific
Indians of North America – Northwest coast of North America
Indians of North America – Oregon – History
Indians of North America – Relocation
Indians of North America – Social life and Customs
Indian Painting – Alaska
Indian Painting – Northwest Coast of North America – British Columbia
Indians, Treatment of – Northwest, Pacific
Indian Women – North American
Northwest, Pacific – Race relations

RELEVANT DEWEY DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION SUBJECT HEADINGS

Most of the items related to Native Americans in the Dewey Decimal classification system will be in the 970’s. The 900’s cover History. There may be some items classified as the Social Sciences in the 300’s, or in the Religion section, the 200’s. Languages will be in the 400’s and Art will be in the 700’s. If you are looking for a Native American cookbook it will probably be in the 641’s. For a humorous way to remember the Dewey Decimal system’s major categories, go to:
http://mte.anacortes.k12.wa.us/library/dewey/deweystory.htm

ABSTRACTS/INDEXES/DATABASES

Academic Search Premiere
This is a full-text index to articles from 1250 general interest and scholarly journals. A search for “Northwest Indians” retrieved 901 results. This is a database that many public libraries subscribe to.
**America: History and Life**
This database covers scholarly literature relating to North American history from prehistoric times to the present day. It also subscribes to over 2000 journals in 40 languages. Searches on this subject returned less overall hits, but they may be more history oriented.

**JSTOR**
“With participation and support from the international scholarly community, JSTOR has created a high-quality, interdisciplinary archive of scholarship, is actively preserving over one thousand academic journals in both digital and print formats, and continues to greatly expand access to scholarly works and other materials needed for research and teaching globally”. A search for “Indians of the Pacific Northwest” retrieved 8841 results.

**ERIC**
“ERIC provides free access to more than 1.2 million bibliographic records of journal articles and other education-related materials and, if available, includes links to full text.” It also subscribes to American Indian Quarterly, and the American Indian Culture and Research Journal. This is a good resource because many students and teachers are interested in this subject, and ERIC is “the education database”.

**Project Muse**
“Project MUSE is a unique collaboration between libraries and publishers providing 100% full-text, affordable and user-friendly online access to over 380 high quality humanities and social sciences journals from over 60 scholarly publishers”. It subscribes to American Indian Quarterly. A search on “Northwest Indians” yielded 776 results.

**ALMANACS**


This work provides historical and contemporary information about the Native people of North America. It presents current information about the art, education, health, politics, and economy of the indigenous people in the United States and Canada. It is designed to help students and the general public, understand and appreciate Native North Americans.


This almanac tries to show the diversity of the Native American community and lists information about topics such as religion, education, treaties, history, sports, art and economic development.
ATLASES


Looking through this atlas is like stepping back in time. The maps have great aesthetic value as well as being useful. This atlas has maps with the following titles: “North American Paleo-Indian Migrations”, “Indian villages, fishing grounds, and trails”, “Native Population Density 1780”, “Indian tribes and languages 1825”, and “Indian epidemics of Washington & Oregon 1775-1853”.


In the Human Geography section, on pages 10-11, there is a brief history of Native Americans in Oregon. There are also 4 maps that showed where individual tribes lived, what languages were spoken and where villages were located.


This atlas is unique because the there are more articles than maps. This atlas is completely dedicated to the history and culture North American Indians, unlike the others which are good, but only partially cover the topic. This volume has extensive articles on all the tribes of North America and showed where they were located on maps.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES


This volume lists 682 entries that are owned by the University of Washington Libraries. It lists monographs that document the reaction of Pacific Northwest explorers and travelers before 1900. It is useful for the serious scholar looking for primary sources.


This bibliography is the result of an effort to evaluate and annotate the more comprehensive bibliographies on this subject such as those found in the Oregon Historical Quarterly and the Ethnographic Bibliography of North America. Since there are several thousand books on this subject, this is indeed a useful book.

This volume has listings of historical interest that are in the Oregon State Library’s collection.

**BOOKS/MONOGRAPHS**


This work uses archaeological findings to recreate the history of development of the tribes of the Northwest coast. The area had been populated for 11,000 years, but the stabilization of sea levels 4,000 years ago allowed civilization to progress. The spread of rain forests made giant cedars available for canoes and houses. Permanent villages emerged alongside a social hierarchy. This book has a perspective that many lack, as they focus primarily on the end result of this evolution.


This is the story of a traditional community changed by the construction of the Dalles Dam in 1957. For thousands of years Celilo Falls was a place for Northwest tribes to fish, barter, socialize, and honor their ancestors. The town still survives today as the oldest town in Oregon, but the traditional uses of the area that sustained thousands is lost.


The authors interviewed nine people who live on the reservation about their ideas and concerns. This is a good book for people with an interest in anthropology and sociology.


This anthology brings together commentary by Native Americans about the events affecting their lives in Oregon.


This book brings together 17 essays about the 9 federally recognized tribes in Oregon. It contains essays on geography, federal Indian relations, language, art, and personal experiences. This book tries to correct decades of racially biased history to show the Native Americans of Oregon as they are today.

This book strives to tell the true story of Sacagawea, the teenage Shoshone guide of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Though the myths of her efforts are complimentary, the true story is even more amazing. This well-reviewed book is a good place to start learning about the real Sacagawea.


“The Puget Sound area was one of the most populated regions north of Mexico City, before the coming of the white man, and the Indians who lived there were prosperous”. The book describes the life of these Native Americans, and what happened after white settlement began.


While many books focus on well-documented incidents of conflict, this book focuses on peaceful times as well to tell a more complete account of how things were. He documents Native American relationships with whites from the fur trade era to the Rogue River War. It explores relationships between white men and native women and the removal of the tribes to the Siletz and Grand Ronde reservations.


This book analyzes the origins, meaning and context of Chief Seattle’s famous 1887 speech. Understood as a plea of understanding from the Chief to the new settlers of the region, the author considers how this plea could be answered today.


This book was written with the help of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. It is a travel guide to visit reservations and other Native American sites of interest. It lists many activities including rafting with the Hupa tribe, attending a powwow, or eating traditional cuisine.


Sacajawea has more statues of her than any woman in U.S. History. This is one of the many books that are written about the Shoshoni guide to the Lewis & Clark expedition. This particular book focuses on the difference of opinion among historians about when she died.

“Published here for the first time ever are original myths and legends of the Tenino, Umatilla and Cascades (Watlala) Indians. The oral narratives remind us that the tribes once occupied prominent sites along the Columbia River. These fascinating myths and legends also allow us a brief glance into the mental life of these Indian tribes”.


The Nez Perce (pierced nose) or Nimiipuu lived in what is now Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The author describes their attachment to the land and the changes that western expansion of the United States brought upon them. This is a recent book with the latest information from renowned historian Alvin M. Josephy Jr..


This book has two citations because it was recently reprinted in paperback format by a different company. This book is considered a classic with continuing relevance. It is considered the definitive book about the history of the Nez Perce Indians.


This book studies another aspect of Northwest Coast Indian art that along with totem poles and masks has a very distinctive and recognizable style. House front paintings used to measure status and wealth of a family and were similar in meaning to European family crests. The author describes the history of this art that was once discontinued due to government, missionaries, and other modern factors in great detail and provides many photographs and recreated prints. There has been a resurgence of interest in Native art forms, and this book is a great resource for those who are interested.


This work represents the work of John Peabody Harrington’s work on native languages and cultures of Northwest Indians from Alaska to Oregon. Serious scholars interested in linguistics and culture might enjoy this work.


The reviews of this biography state that this work is written with great empathy and emotion for Chief Joseph and his people. This book is advertised as “A landmark biography of a misunderstood hero”.


This book expands on the popular format of “place names” books by giving descriptions of native tribes who lived there before white settlement. It also tells colorful stories about the early days of the towns. It covers the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska.


The author examines ideas people have had about “real Indians”. She looks at the concepts of “Indian versus white”, “traditional versus modern”, and “uncivilized versus civilized”. She considers who gained and what limitations were created by the “politics of authenticity”. To do this she draws upon and illustrates the societies of Native Americans who lived on the Northwest coast of North America.


This book contains many stories of the people who live on Warm Springs reservation with accompanying photos. This book show an in-depth look of life on the reservation that is most known for its Kahneeta hot springs resort. The reservation has people from three tribes that did not speak the same language, and the book reveals their struggles.


This epic, historical fiction novel imagines what it would have been like to be Sacajawea. This novel has been required reading in college classes, but at 1408 pages, it is not a light read.

**CATALOGS**

(Northwest) and (Native American) Special Collections. Retrieved June 13, 2008, from University of Washington Libraries Catalog Web site: [http://tinyurl.com/4d6q2y](http://tinyurl.com/4d6q2y)

This is a URL of search results on the University of Washington Libraries Catalog. I shortened the URL at [www.tinyurl.com](http://www.tinyurl.com) for convenience purposes. It may be a good place to start searching the University of Washington’s extensive collection. The front page URL for their catalog can be found at: [http://catalog.lib.washington.edu/search-](http://catalog.lib.washington.edu/search-)

The University of Washington’s special collections are open to the public, but are non-circulating in order to prevent damage to rare items.
DICTIONARIES


This work has 1,154 entries about indigenous tribes within North and South America, along with valuable maps, explanatory essays, and illustrations. It describes different cultures within regions. For instance Northwest Indians could be from Northwest coast, Plateau, or Great Basin cultures. This is a good first source for information on this subject.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS/EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES


“This digital collection integrates over 2,300 photographs and 7,700 pages of text relating to the American Indians in two cultural areas of the Pacific Northwest, the Northwest Coast and Plateau. These resources illustrate many aspects of life and work, including housing, clothing, crafts, transportation, education, and employment. The materials are drawn from the extensive collections of the University of Washington Libraries, the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture (formerly the Cheney Cowles Museum/Eastern Washington State Historical Society), and the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle”. Another useful URL for this collection is for “Teacher Resources”. You can find it at: [http://international.loc.gov/learn/collections/pacific/history.html](http://international.loc.gov/learn/collections/pacific/history.html)


This collection is the same as the one above, except that it has more of everything. There are more photos and accompanying essays, and resources for K-12 teachers. There are links to museums with Pacific Northwest Native American Collections. A URL to the digital map section of this collection is: [http://content.lib.washington.edu/aipnw/maps.html](http://content.lib.washington.edu/aipnw/maps.html)

DIRECTORIES


This directory has 417 pages of Native American related listings. It lists artists, businesses, colleges, events, libraries, social services, and much more. This is an impressive and useful resource.
Even though this work has the word “encyclopedia” in its title, I believe it is more of an extensive, annotated directory. It seems as if every government agency, organization, website, film, bingo hall and art shop in the United States and Canada is listed. This is an indispensable resource.


This is a resource directory published by the State of Oregon. It list resources offered by the state and says who is eligible. It also describes the issue of tribal sovereignty. It covers Indian Education and Title V programs. Here is the link for the 2003-2005 online version: [http://www.leg.state.or.us/cis/directory2003.pdf](http://www.leg.state.or.us/cis/directory2003.pdf)

**DOCUMENTARIES**


“Tribal leaders share their rich histories and current challenges in this series”. Volume two of this six volume set covers the Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest.

**ENCYCLOPEDIAS**


This encyclopedia shares the remarkable history and cultural aspects of Native Americans. It has a modern attitude of respect towards Native Americans which its entries reflect. Its perspective is that Native Americans are still here, and their population and power are growing, so understanding them is beneficial to all. This work is extensive and a good place to start searching for information about Native Americans.


This work seeks to clarify the distortions that have clouded the history of Native Americans in the past. Scholars have made an effort to replace myths with more plausible explanations, largely by taking the Native American perspective into account. This work seeks to rectify over-simplified understandings of Native Americans to foster more equality in today’s society.

This biographical encyclopedia lists over 100 largely unknown but important Native American women. Native American women have been forgotten or ignored by history, and this book tries to change that. The women described participate in activism, writing, politics and medicine. This book was included in this guide to make sure women are fairly represented.

**GUIDEBOOKS**


As you might tell from the title, this book fits well with the scope of this subject guide. It has in-depth essays of all the tribes of the Northwest, and would be a good place to start one’s research on this topic. The book is arranged in a convenient alphabetical format.

**HANDBOOKS**


This item was described by a librarian as “the” source for information on Native Americans. Volume 7 is dedicated entirely to Northwest coast cultures. There are many different essays on the different peoples in this group as well as on language, history, human biology, and the Northwest environment. This is a wonderful resource.

**JOURNALS**

*American Indian Culture and Research Journal*. (1971-). Los Angeles, American Indian Culture and Research Center, University of California.

“In print since 1971, the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* is an internationally renowned multidisciplinary journal designed for scholars and the general public. The premier journal in Native American studies, it publishes book reviews, literature, and original scholarly papers on a wide range of issues in the fields of history, anthropology, geography, sociology, political science, health, literature, law, education, and the arts.”

[http://www.books.aisc.ucla.edu/aicrj.html](http://www.books.aisc.ucla.edu/aicrj.html)
American Indian Quarterly, (1974-). University of Nebraska Press.
American Indian Quarterly is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal covering anthropology, history, religion, and art. It strives to present the best of scholarship in the field. It also prints book and film reviews.
http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/American-Indian-Quarterly.673174.aspx

Wicaso Sa Review, (1985-). University of Minnesota Press, 1985-
This is a journal of Native American Studies. Its aim is to help indigenous people with their intellectual pursuits. Each issue has articles, interviews, literary criticism and scholarly research.

NEWSPAPERS

Indian Country Today, Canastota, NY
http://www.indiancountry.com/index.cfm
“Since 1981, Indian Country Today has been a persuasive voice in American Indian journalism, leading the way with accurate and timely reporting, incisive analysis and pointed commentary. Indian Country Today publishes more original journalistic content on American Indian issues than any other news source”.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND IMAGES

The North American Indian by Edward S. Curtis
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award98/ienhtml/curthome.html
Edward S. Curtis is the most famous photographer of Native Americans, and most controversial as well. He has been criticized for “staging” photographs instead of more natural portrayals. But recently he has been widely accepted as doing the best that he could for his time, and his extensive work documenting the tribes of North America is remarkable. Here the Library of Congress has made more than 2000 photos available, searchable by region and tribe.

READY REFERENCE

These volumes cover entries from acorns to Zapotec civilization. The volumes are concise and lists “sources for further study” after each entry. This resource not only has definitions of cultural importance, but has a number of lists for web resources, sound recordings, feature films, documentaries, museum archives and libraries, festivals, and educational programs.
TRIBAL WEBSITES

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
http://www.atnitribes.org/
“In 1953, farsighted tribal leaders in the Northwest formed the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and dedicated it to tribal sovereignty and self-determination. Today, ATNI is a nonprofit organization representing 54 Northwest tribal governments from Oregon, Idaho, Washington, southeast Alaska, Northern California and Western Montana”.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
http://www.warmsprings.com/
The tribes on this reservation have a rich history. They are also well known for their Kahneeta Hot Springs Resort.

Makah Tribe
http://www.makah.com/
This is the official website of the Makah tribe, who have been in the news recently for their controversial whale hunts.

“As an urban Indian agency, NAYA Family Center serves over 1,200 youth and their families from over 300 tribal backgrounds annually. We have provided educational services, cultural arts programming, and direct support to reduce poverty to the Portland Metropolitan Area’s American Indian and Alaska Native Community for over 30 years.”

Nez Perce Tribe
http://www.nezperce.org/content/
This is the official site of the Nez Perce tribe. This tribe is famous for Chief Joseph, who spoke against the United States government’s treatment of Native Americans.

Suquamish Tribe
http://www.suquamish.nsn.us/
Chief Seattle was once the leader of this tribe.
UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

The Evergreen State College Longhouse Education and Cultural Center
http://www.evergreen.edu/longhouse/

“The Longhouse provides the opportunity to build a bridge of understanding between the regions' tribes and visitors of all cultures. The primary public service work of the Longhouse is to promote indigenous arts and culture.”

Oregon State University Longhouse
http://www.mu.oregonstate.edu/longhouse/

“The Native American Longhouse is one of four cultural centers on the Oregon State University (OSU) campus. The Longhouse has computers, an Indian-related issues library, tribal newsletters, a kitchen and relaxation areas. While the Longhouse is used primarily by American Indian/Alaska Native students, this cultural center is open to everyone on campus and to the general public.”

Portland State University Native American Student and Community Center
http://www.nativecenter.pdx.edu/index.php

This is a center where Native American, Alaska Native, and Pacific Islander students can find academic and social support. About 20,000 residents with these backgrounds live in the greater metropolitan area, and this center serves as a link between students and this community.

Portland State University Native American Studies Program
http://www.nas.pdx.edu/
Portland State University currently offers this program as a minor course of study. This program is for students with an interest in Native American history, or who wish to work in Native American Affairs.

Southern Oregon University Native American Studies Program
http://www.sou.edu/NATAM/

University of Oregon Many Nations Longhouse
http://www.uoregon.edu/~committees/longhouse/

The 3,000 square-foot longhouse is a haven for native students and a hub for the Native Studies programs and events.

University of Washington American Indian Studies Program
http://depts.washington.edu/native/