

Appendix 11.2

Cultural Diversity and the Digital Humanities: First Assignment

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The first assignment is a five-page critique of one or more of the digital archives collections listed on the *National Archives' Indians/Native Americans* page, <https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/native-americans.html>. There are several dimensions of critique that should be included in your analysis:

- To engage in the decolonization critique that is currently the most prominent theme for DH scholars working in the area of Native American studies.
- To utilize the terminology of digital design. More specifically, you should consider the following points:
 - the interface of the collection (stereotypical, culturally sensitive, aesthetically pleasing?)
 - the navigation system (ease of use, clarity, reflective of cultural content?)
 - the metadata schema (Eurocentric, modifications to reflect cultural content; do descriptions include sufficient information about culture or people being represented?)
 - the cultural context (or lack thereof) provided by the site (are there interpretive essays; if so, are they effective; if more cultural context were to be added, what would you advise?)
 - You may also consider comparing the site to others such as the *California Language Archive*, <http://cla.berkeley.edu/>, which has a map interface; or the metadata at the American Philosophical Society for the image in the A. Irving Hallowell collection entitled, "Oskaabewisag," <http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/islandora/object/graphics%3A6610>. (Click on link and then click on "view metadata.") As you will see, the metadata includes the names of all the Native people in the photograph. This is an example of what we are calling culturally sensitive metadata. The anthropologist Maureen Matthews and I created this metadata.